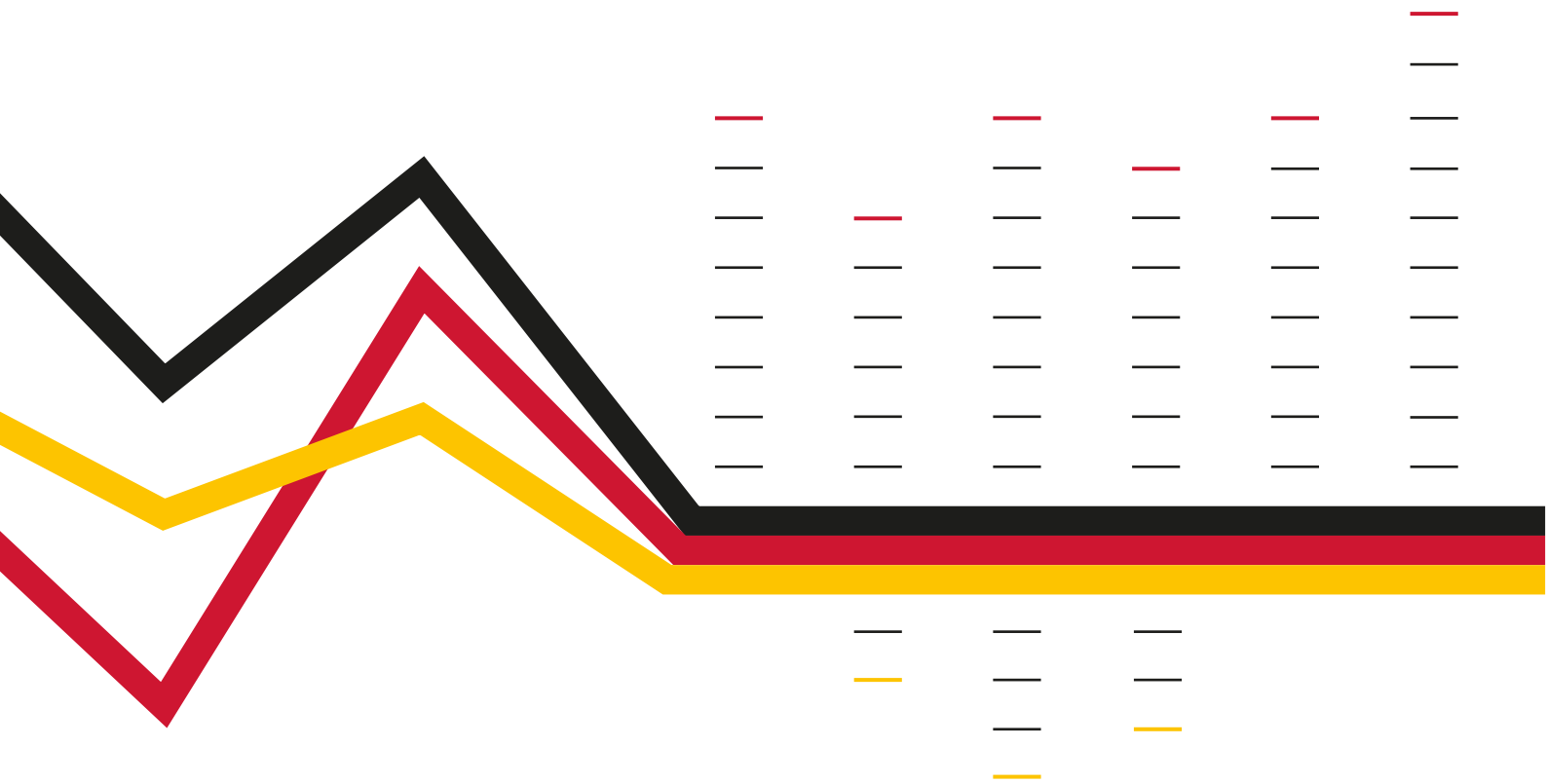


# YOUR BENEFIT. OUR MISSION.



#### Published by

Federal Statistical Office (Destatis)

[www.destatis.de](http://www.destatis.de)

Published in December 2020

Order number: 0000214-20900-4

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# Foreword

By Dr. Georg Thiel, President of the Federal Statistical Office



## DEAR READER,

The system of official statistics in Germany provides information collected in a functionally independent and methodologically well-based manner for fact-based decision-making – for citizens, business and industry, science and policy-makers.

With the second issue of our publication “Your Benefit. Our Mission.” we would like to give you an overview of the work of the Federal Statistical Office as well as our present thematic priorities and goals. We also look back on the most important developments in federal statistics since 2018, when the latest issue was published.

In Chapter One, we introduce ourselves, our objectives and our services and provide an overview of our partners with whom we work together at the national, European and international levels.

As an innovative, user-oriented information provider, we are constantly enhancing our statistics. Therefore, in Chapter Two we focus on the most important trends and goals today for the further development of federal statistics: digitalisation, experimental data, geo-referencing, open data and reduction of the burden on respondents by increased register use.

The Federal Statistical Office took over the chair of the Council Working Party on Statistics at the beginning of Germany’s Council Presidency on 1 July 2020. We will seize this opportunity to press ahead with legislative proposals pertaining to EU statistics as effectively as possible with Germany taking the role of an honest intermediary.

The third, programmatic chapter focuses primarily on the needs of our users. For example, we focus on our major policy-relevant topics, which provide detailed information about the living conditions, the economy and the environment in Germany and thus contribute to evidence-based policy-making.

In collaboration with the statistical offices of the Länder, the Federal Statistical Office provides high quality, comprehensive statistical information about Germany – make use of this knowledge!

I wish you a stimulating read.



Dr. Georg Thiel  
President of the Federal Statistical Office



# 1 The Federal Statistical Office at a Glance

Data and analyses: our service for you. The Federal Statistical Office is the first point of contact for statistical information on society, the economy and the environment. You will find out how we work and what services we offer on the following pages.



Facts & correlations



Consulting & analysis



Online offers



Objective –  
independent –  
high quality

# *The Federal Statistical Office is the guarantor of independent, quality-assured information and part of a sustainable data infrastructure in Germany.*

As we are a reliable producer of statistics, our core competency relates to data.

Our core task is to provide policy-makers and society with neutral, objective and functionally independent statistics so that everyone can have a well-founded grasp of Germany and so that democratic decision-making is based on high-quality official data. In this context we support business and industry, the civil society and non-profit-making institutions by providing them with equal access to our data.

We live in a digital society. Our goal is as follows: “We uphold the trustworthiness and enhance the usefulness of our results”. To this end, we are building a digital data management system. This means we are developing into a digital, user-oriented information provider.



## 1.1 This is us

The Federal Statistical Office has about 2,400 persons employed (as of June 2020). About 25 percent of the staff have an academic education, primarily in economics, social sciences, mathematics, law, geography and computer science.

The head of the Federal Statistical Office is President Dr. Georg Thiel. The President is also traditionally the Federal Returning Officer. He is thus responsible for preparing and conducting the elections to the German Bundestag and the Members of the European Parliament from the Federal Republic of Germany. As chairman of the Federal Electoral Committee, the President also establishes the election results of Bundestag and European elections. In addition, the President is head of the Constituency Commission, whose task it is to report on changes of population figures in the electoral area, and to indicate whether and what modifications of the electoral area structure they deem necessary in this regard.

Alongside the President, eight heads of department form the senior management of the Federal Statistical Office.

### The Federal Statistical Office in figures, 2020

Wiesbaden	1,809
Bonn	545
Berlin	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,381</b>

Employees	70
Public officials	28
Apprentices	2
Women among persons employed	58
Women among executives	39

## 1.2 Our mission – our goals

Our mission is to provide and disseminate statistical information. This information must be objective, independent and of high quality. It is available to all: politicians, public authorities, the business community and all citizens. The Federal Statistics Act defines the responsibilities of the Federal Statistical Office.

Since the state and administration in Germany are organised federally, we conduct the nationwide statistics together with the statistical offices of the Länder. Hence, the system of federal statistics is largely decentrally organised.

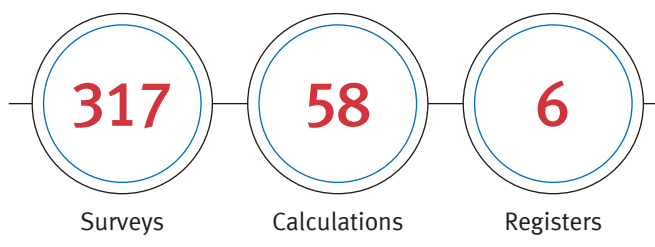
The Federal Statistical Office ensures that the federal statistics are free of overlaps and are produced according to uniform methods and on schedule. For this reason

- › we prepare the individual statistics methodologically and technically,
- › we continuously further develop the programme of federal statistics,
- › we coordinate the statistics with each other,
- › we compile the federal results and publish them.

We are the leading provider of high-quality statistical and official information about Germany. We aim to continuously improve the benefit and added value of official statistics for our users.

Our tasks also include the provision of European and international comparative figures. Thus, we provide important contextual information for the responsible assessment and evaluation of Germany's situation.

### Number of federal statistics (June 2020)



The statistical offices of the Länder are responsible for producing about two thirds of the statistics (251) and their processing up to the respective Land result. Just over one third of the statistics (130) are centrally produced by the Federal Statistical Office.



### 1.3 Official statistics: data with a seal of quality

We deliver reliable data and are part of a sustainable data infrastructure in Germany. We follow the requirements of our users and in doing so meet the international quality criteria of relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability, accessibility and clarity. We are constantly improving the range of data we offer and data access in compliance with data protection requirements.

The European Statistics Code of Practice, a self-commitment of the statistical institutes at national and European level defining and strengthening their independence, integrity and accountability, is decisive for our work. The aim is to produce official statistics in all Member States of the European Union (EU) and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) free of political interference and according to recognised scientific methods. The 16 principles of the Code of Practice thus form a unique quality framework for the European Statistical System (ESS).



### 1.4 Great responsibilities demand reliable partnerships

The statistical offices of the Länder are indispensable partners for us. However, we also cooperate with other national and international partners in order to improve the information and services offered together with them and to further develop statistics at European and international level.

Our partnerships with public authorities, ministries, science and businesses and industry also serve this purpose - to provide even better statistical information for everyone.

Throughout Europe, we are closely linked by legislation with the statistical institutes of the EU Member States and Eurostat. In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics the Federal Statistical Office is responsible for coordinating activities of national agencies contributing to European statistics and acts as the sole contact point for Eurostat.

Respondents are also indispensable partners for the Federal Statistical Office, whose interests we take into account. Their data form the basis of every survey carried out by the statistical offices. As important as these data are for society, we realise that providing information is also perceived as a burden. We are working on minimising this burden on enterprises and private individuals, but without jeopardising the methodological quality and information value of our statistical products.



- Locations of the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis)
- Locations of the statistical offices of the Länder

See page 71 for a more detailed portrayal and more information about the statistical offices of the Länder

## 1.5 Our services for you

### Online, interactive and up-to-date

“Online only” is also the credo for the publication of information by the Federal Statistical Office. You should therefore go to our website [www.destatis.de](http://www.destatis.de) first, no matter if you use a fixed or mobile device. Among others, you can retrieve data and publications by theme in an interactive form or read our daily press releases. In our [GENESIS-Online \(www.destatis.de/genesis\)](http://www.destatis.de/genesis) you will find all the data of the Federal Statistical Office updated daily in two languages. Our result tables are available in Excel, HTML and CSV format.

Follow us on Twitter  [@destatis](https://twitter.com/destatis)

In addition to our press releases we publish tweets with event-related information to make ongoing debates more objective.

Our [central information service](#) is available at all times at [www.destatis.de/contact](http://www.destatis.de/contact) to all statistics users. The more detailed your inquiries are, the more targeted the information we can deliver to you.

### Press

For journalists we offer a comprehensive, fast and media-tailored information service on all statistical questions. Our press office will find you competent interviewees from the statistical departments

Contact: +49 (0) 611 / 75 34 44  
[www.destatis.de/contact](http://www.destatis.de/contact)

### Special evaluations

In addition to our standard publications, the Federal Statistical Office also draws up special evaluations commissioned by third parties. A special evaluation is a tailored evaluation of data not already available from the standard programme.

Contact: +49 (0) 611 / 75 45 74 or  
[www.destatis.de/contact](http://www.destatis.de/contact)

### Competent advice for policy-making decisions

The capital city service of the Federal Statistical Office in Berlin advises political and policy-related institutions on all matters relating to the data provided by the Federal Statistical Office. A service office in the German Bundestag provides parliamentarians and committees with statistics on many political topics. Embassies, federal authorities and associations also use our information and service offer in Berlin.

### Come see us:

#### Service Office for Statistics at the German Bundestag

Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus / MELH 4.334  
Contact: +49 (0) 30 / 22 73 73 10 or  
[bundestag@destatis.de](mailto:bundestag@destatis.de)

#### Berlin Information Point: capital city communications

Friedrichstraße 50 (Checkpoint Charlie)  
D-10117 Berlin  
Contact: +49 (0) 30 / 1 86 44 94 34 or  
[i-punkt@destatis.de](mailto:i-punkt@destatis.de)

### Service Centre: Equal Living Conditions

A service centre to support the Commission on Equal Living Conditions was established at the Federal Statistical Office in September 2018. It advises the relevant parties about data-related issues and intensifies the exchange with other data-holding agencies. The aim is to make data services offered such as the “Interactive Atlas for Germany, 2020” published by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community more needs-oriented and offer context-related analyses.

Contact: +49 (0) 228 / 9 96 43 88 87 or  
[lebensverhaeltnisse@destatis.de](mailto:lebensverhaeltnisse@destatis.de)

## 1.6 Our record for 2019

### Inquiries

- 789** inquiries made by the German Bundestag to the capital city service
- 17,171** telephone inquiries on our service numbers
- 17,877** written inquiries to the central information service

### Press

- 578** press releases
- 7** press conferences and background briefings (not including those by the Federal Returning Officer)

### Twitter

- 1,435** tweets
- 24,000** followers

### GENESIS-Online

- 296** available statistics
- 1.1 billion** available figures
- 5.2 million** table retrievals

---

### Statistics are always evolving

In order to remain the leading information service provider for quality-assured data and statistical information in Germany in the twenty-first century, the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder are taking advantage of the opportunities of digitalisation.

Further development of the statistical infrastructure is crucial to making statistics processes more efficient and the new technological possibilities offer potential for data acquisition and processing.

---

# 2 Statistics Today

We learn from crises, develop official statistics further and use numerous new options for that purpose. Digital technologies, experimental methods and register-based data collection enable new insights and evaluations. They also contribute to further reducing the burden of bureaucratic obligations. Thus the statistics agencies respond in a targeted way to current needs and requirements of their users.



Coping with crises



Digitalisation



Experimental data



Register use



Europe

## Our goals

“We uphold the trustworthiness and enhance the usefulness of our results” - this is the goal of the Federal Statistical Office which will serve as our strategic orientation as we move forwards. With our statistical results, we not only depict the here and now, but also provide basic information on **trends** in society, the economy and the environment. Digitalisation and globalisation shape global economic activity and the ways of life of our modern society. This changes both the information needs and the requirements of the users for access to information and the further utilisation of data.

To meet these requirements – to represent life’s reality appropriately and with the most up-to-date data – is the mission of the Federal Statistical Office. Since spring 2020 we have had to cope in particular with the unprecedented situation of a global pandemic and its impact on all aspects of our daily lives. It is not least because of such phenomena that we must constantly review, further develop and adapt our methods and working procedures to be able to contribute relevant up-to-date official data for political decision-making and public opinion shaping in a timely manner.

This chapter describes selected methods and techniques as well as new paths the Federal Statistical Office will pursue in the coming years so as to respond to the new challenges of a digitalised world.

The following topics are the focus for this:

- › Coping with crises and learning from them
- › Digitalising statistics through innovative approaches and methods
- › Shaping the future using experimental data and methods
- › Continuing to reduce the burden on respondents by setting up a modern landscape of registers
- › Further intensifying European collaboration

## 2.1 Coping with crises and learning from them

The corona pandemic is presenting Germany and the entire world with enormous challenges. Especially at the beginning of the pandemic, the Federal Statistical Office received legitimate requests from users mainly from the worlds of politics, business, science and the general public for up-to-date, relevant and reliable information on the impact of the pandemic. The latest data on the short-term economic development but also death figures became the focus of public attention. Official statistics agencies had to supply facts and figures even more rapidly than usual, with framework conditions aggravated by the overall pandemic situation, which had an impact also on the staff resources in the statistical offices.

The Federal Statistical Office has rapidly developed new sets of statistics which allow it to fulfil its mission under such difficult circumstances. New digital data sources and experimental data such as the daily truck toll mileage index have increasingly been used to inform the public quickly (see Chapter 2.3 Shaping the future using experimental data and methods).

This was done to secure and enhance the data offered by the Federal Statistical Office. In addition, the timeliness of many existing statistics has been increased through the introduction of first releases and nowcasts. The timeliness of statistics is a very important criterion for data users from politics, business and science especially in times such as the coronavirus pandemic. Being able to react rapidly and flexibly to their various data needs is just as essential.

However, these activities could not provide all the information required by politicians. The pandemic has shown that some sets of statistics have to come even closer to the current point in time. Data availability gaps appeared in the official statistical programme; greater resilience and flexibility are needed in statistical data collection and processing.

Despite the new situation and the wide range of challenges faced by the Federal Statistical Office, the pandemic should be interpreted also as an opportunity to readjust and enhance official statistics. Although crises are mostly unpredictable, have very different causes and can take many forms, the ability to react more rapidly and more flexibly to challenges such as COVID-19 and other situations of crisis is among the goals of the Federal Statistical Office. This necessitates above all some legal, programmatic and organisational changes:

### › Close data gaps

To provide policy makers with relevant data on the effects of crises, it is necessary to close existing gaps and improve the timeliness of the information available. Apart from closing gaps that have been found in the statistical programme, it is decisive here to use other alternative data sources (experimental and new digital data) and produce (early) indicators for this purpose.

### › Make the statistical programme more flexible

Instead of gaps being closed afterwards, it would be even better if a modern system of official statistics were able to react rapidly and in a well-targeted manner to data requirements so that gaps do not occur in the first place or are closed immediately. The framework conditions of the statistical programme have to be made more flexible to achieve this purpose. This would enable additional representations, variables and periodicities to be integrated more rapidly in existing surveys. If legislation focused on the output by specifying the required results instead of the sample sizes, the flexibility of official statistics would also be increased substantially in the long term.

### › Register modernisation

There are plans to modernise registers and merge the numerous decentralised registers in Germany as an additional measure. This would make it possible to largely base German statistics on register evaluations so as to be able to offer needs-oriented and crisis-proof services to citizens, businesses and politicians. Register modernisation is an important pillar of digitalisation of the entire administration in the Federation, Länder and municipalities by which the response burden can be further reduced (see Chapter 2.4 Continuing to reduce the burden on respondents by setting up a modern landscape of registers).

## 2.2 Digitalising statistics through innovative approaches and methods

The increasing digitalisation in all areas of our lives brings about a growing demand for ever more and newer data. To meet this demand, the official statistics agencies have to evolve, close gaps in the range of data they offer and use new approaches. One focus of our work therefore is the research and development of new methods for collecting, processing and using data. We exploit digital possibilities to carry out projects for the use of machine learning to promote automated data editing, for example, or on web scraping, the direct collection of suitable data from internet sites.

Web scraping makes it possible, for instance, to monitor dynamic pricing in online trade and to integrate it in calculating the consumer price index (CPI) and the inflation rate. It is a technology which can contribute to the automation of work processes also in other areas such as the retrieval of information on economic branches or insolvency announcements. This enables us to process larger quantities of data in a more timely and more varied manner and provide an even more precise picture of the social developments in Germany.

The [PRISMA programme](#) for process-supporting integrated statistical data management was launched at the end of 2019 to ensure that the Federal Statistical Office as a statistics producer and information provider will be able to cement its role in the digital society. By modernising our data infrastructure completely, we will develop other modern digital data sources in addition to administrative data and integrate them effectively into the process of statistics production. Data laboratories are integral parts of PRISMA and essential in achieving that goal. It is planned to use them for all suitable sets of statistics. In the data lab, stocks of data are linked and analysed, and new use cases are tested. The improved data exchange and the integration of new data sources into the process of statistics production enable the Federal Statistical Office to fulfil its role as a digital data manager in a sustainable way.

Apart from enhancing its methods, the Federal Statistical Office is adjusting the communication of its data and results to digital change. It is planning the development, operation and maintenance of innovative digital data portals by means of [data dashboards](#) to meet the dynamic information needs of politicians and the public. Irrespective of time, place or device used, these portals are designed to provide access to timely fiscal, economic and socio-political data in the form of aggregates with a practical orientation. This will ensure that information can be procured rapidly and flexibly – for example in times of crisis – and thus increase both the relevance and added value of official statistics.

## 2.3 Shaping the future using experimental data and methods

To fulfil their legal mandates, statistical institutes worldwide must develop in both technical and methodological terms. Therefore, the use of **experimental data** has been promoted at European level to especially serve short-term data needs in an innovative manner. Numerous studies based on new digital data and methods are emerging also in Germany and if they are a success, their results will be integrated into the continuous calculations. Both the degree of maturity and quality of experimental data (**EXDAT**) differ from those of “official statistics”, for example regarding harmonisation, coverage and methodology. They nevertheless are results of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder, which have been published since the beginning of 2020 and opened up interesting new perspectives on the various subject areas of statistics.

In addition to meeting the transparency requirement, the aim is to receive varied user feedback on the relevant methods and procedures. As is often the case with innovations, not all experimental data and methods will prove to be useful. Current data on the economic development provide an important basis for political decisions with far-reaching consequences, especially in times of crisis. To meet this demand for timely data, the Federal Statistical Office is working on innovative, experimental solutions together with some partners.

### 1 Daily data for the truck toll mileage index

The truck toll mileage index developed in cooperation with the Federal Office for Goods Transport reflects the development of the mileage of large trucks (with four or more axles) on German motorways and is calculated from digital process data of the truck toll collection system. The (non-experimental) monthly results of the truck toll mileage index have been used in the production of short-term statistics by the Federal Statistical Office since 2019. The index has been updated every working day since the 2020 corona crisis started. As there is a strong connection between truck mileage and industrial production, the truck toll mileage index can provide an indication of how industrial production is developing in Germany at a very early point in time. Since truck mileage fluctuates considerably over the course of the week, the index figures are offered also in calendar and seasonally adjusted form, with the seasonal adjustment being carried out by Deutsche Bundesbank. The procedure used for the seasonal adjustment of daily data is still under development. Therefore, these data are called experimental.

### 2 Scanner data in price statistics

Digital point-of-sale data of the retail sector, also referred to as scanner data, are a promising data source for price statistics, as they may supplement and possibly replace the current manual price collection by price collectors on site in shops and service enterprises. Prices are usually collected in a specific shop or service enterprise on one day per month. The accuracy of results can be increased and additional evaluations made possible over a longer period of time through the use of scanner data, which involves more observations. In contrast to web scraping (see Chapter 2.2 Digitalising statistics through innovative approaches and methods), scanner data have not been employed in official consumer price statistics to date because completely new methodological, organisational and technical challenges arise when they are used. We are working on solutions to adequately exploit the potential of scanner data in the ongoing production.

### 3 Nowcast of the overall economic development

Collecting and processing official short-term economic data is very time-consuming. First official results reflecting the overall economic development in Germany are currently available when the gross domestic product (GDP) figures are released 45 days after the end of the quarter; from the second quarter of 2020 they will be available even earlier – 30 days after the end of the quarter. Public interest is however focusing on more recent yet robust and reliable data on the short-term economic development. Since 2018, the Federal Statistical Office has been working on first test calculations for an early indicator of the overall economic development based on the GDP and other short-term indicators in order to provide such information. That indicator is to provide a first assessment of the short-term economic trend in Germany a few days after the end of a quarter. As such an early indicator is based on numerous estimates, it can be regarded as a **nowcast**. The experimental data offered are to provide some insight into the development of this nowcast and invite the discussion of the data and methods used, and of the quality.



#### 4 Remote sensing data for official statistics

Remote sensing methods (such as satellite data or aerial images) make it possible to capture large areas of the earth's surface at short intervals and, after further processing of the image data, derive information on harvest products, business cycles, residential environments, and stocks of buildings and dwellings. An obstacle to the use of optical satellite data is, for instance, the cloud cover, which may cause gaps in the data series and thus affect the analysis of the image data. Evaluation options also strongly depend on the spatial resolution; obtaining high-resolution data (with a large number of pixels) can be very expensive. Nevertheless, there is a vast potential to be exploited as they are rapidly available and do not depend on administrative framework conditions. For this reason, the Federal Statistical Office is undertaking feasibility studies to analyse the potential of remote sensing data for official statistics in cooperation with the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG).

With funds from the EU, the Smart Business Cycle Statistics project studied, among other things, to what extent economic activities leave traces that can be seen on satellite images and then be quantified. Images showing the number of ships and containers in harbours can, for instance, be used as indicators of trading activities and production figures. The number of cars parked and parking spaces occupied adjacent to large shops shown on high spatial and temporal resolution images can provide an indication of current sales figures. The aim is to prepare a nowcasting indicator based on the satellite images so as to identify comprehensive changes at an early stage.

Satellite data and remote sensing methods can also be used to assure the quality of data on buildings and dwellings for the register census, which is currently being designed. Intervals between image data may be larger for this purpose. An analysis of change can, for instance, identify newly built-up areas when high-resolution data are employed.

Another feasibility study analyses the potential of linking satellite data with microdata of official statistics. For that purpose, environmental data such as temperature and vegetation (and possibly air quality) are linked with microcensus data at grid cell level so that analyses can be made of the (ecological) quality of life.

#### 5 Mobile phone data representing the population

Reliable information, at the lowest possible geographical level, on the distribution of the population and the number of inhabitants in a country is required for evidence-based policy-making, not only in times of crisis. Traditional survey data of population statistics cannot adequately reflect dynamic (meaning current) changes. Due to their high temporal and spatial resolution, mobile phone data can contribute to reflecting population dynamics and providing more timely information on the population. Since 2017, the Federal Statistical Office has therefore conducted feasibility studies on the use of mobile phone data in official statistics in cooperation with partners from the telecommunications sector and in consultation with the Federal Network Agency and the Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information. The aim is to provide a valid picture and estimate of the daytime and resident population in all of Germany by means of mobile phone data.

The data used in the feasibility studies were fully anonymised and aggregated before being processed further. Thus, the identification of individual mobile devices or persons can be ruled out. The studies have so far been limited to data of two mobile providers for a specific test area and compared with population data from the 2011 Census. Initial findings of the feasibility studies show that data on mobile phone activities can provide more precise information on the regional distribution of the population in the course of the week and at specific times of day, at district level. It has to be considered here and in further analyses, however, that the socio-demographic characteristics reflect the customer structure of the mobile providers and that the latter partly extrapolate the data with their own methods. As it is essential that the data are representative for all of Germany, further steps have to be taken to obtain, if possible, the data of all mobile providers in Germany in the future.

## 2.4 Continuing to reduce the burden on respondents by setting up a modern landscape of registers

The respondents are important to us because their data form the basis of our work. Wherever possible, the burden of surveys should be further reduced. For this purpose, statistical offices in Germany have implemented various measures in recent years. For example, we have discontinued entire sets of statistics, omitted the collection of individual characteristics, extended the periodicity of surveys, reduced the number of respondents and noticeably relieved respondents of statistical reporting obligations through rationalisation measures. We will not rest there, but consistently continue to follow this pathway.

In an interministerial working group of the Federation and the Länder set up by the Federal Government, measures to [reduce statistical obligations](#), especially in economic statistics, were developed in 2018 and 2019. In its final report the working group recommends, above all, the introduction of a basic register of enterprise master data together with a standard business identification code for Germany. The data now kept in many separate, individual registers and with different identification codes will be linked for each enterprise and maintained centrally in keeping with the once-only principle. This makes it possible to reduce the statistical reporting obligations of enterprises and use the potential of digital administration efficiently. The Federal Statistical Office, the statistical offices of the Länder and other federal and Land authorities are involved in the preparations for establishing such a register.

The example of the basic register of enterprise master data shows that a variety of “levers” can be identified to further reduce the burden of statistical and reporting obligations on respondents:

› Wherever possible, we aim to further reduce the burden of existing surveys by, for example, eliminating surveys or variables, extending periodicity, reducing sample size or adjusting cut-off limits. However, we do not want to focus solely on this, because the national economic statistics are already predominantly geared towards a one-to-one implementation of European binding standards. This sets limits to our reduction potentials.

› Instead, we are also focusing on other measures to lastingly reduce the burden of statistical obligations so as not to violate European requirements and not to risk too much information loss for the users. These include [optimisation \(in particular simplification\) of reporting channels and increased use of alternative data sources](#), such as administrative data and new digital data. To this end, the [landscape of registers](#) in Germany [has to be modernised](#) fundamentally. As a first step, we have developed an information platform for data available at authorities, which will be extended further. The statistics agencies use it for reference purposes and for discussing the usability of existing data sources. The information platform can also identify redundant information for politicians and administrative authorities and help to avoid redundancy in the future. We thus offer a tool for data reduction and reporting in accordance with the once-only principle.

The demands on the census and demographic statistics are also subject to profound change nationally and internationally. In future, results need to be available in georeferenced form each year and on a small scale. This is undoubtedly another major challenge that the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder are addressing with a view to future requirements.

Here, a first step is the provision of register-based population figures from 2024 as part of the [register census](#). It is planned to obtain the information required for this purpose in full from administrative registers, in compliance with data protection provisions and keeping the burden low. This will make supplementary surveys unnecessary.

In order to achieve these objectives, prerequisites must be created for linking existing registers in a simple manner and in compliance with data protection regulations. Moreover, the establishment of new registers is necessary in some areas. For example, an educational register will help to procure the census variables on educational attainment and to create flow statistics across educational fields (see Chapter 3.2 Education, research and culture). A register-based source for the collection of data on buildings and dwellings will be created to cover this central area of the census and relieve owners of buildings and dwellings from the need to provide information.

## 2.5 Further intensifying European collaboration

In our globalised and increasingly complex world, the need for transnational statistical information is rising. In order to be able to respond effectively to new national and international challenges for official statistics, joint work in the [European Statistical System \(ESS\)](#) is of great importance to the Federal Statistical Office alongside national cooperation in the network of statistical offices. Only with cross-border cooperation and a coherent statistical system can we provide the necessary answers to forward-looking questions. For example, how new digital data and administrative data sources can be used for official statistics through new methods and collection procedures or how data and IT services can be exchanged efficiently with partners in the ESS.

The focus is on developing and providing high-quality statistics for implementing EU policy measures in economic, social and ecological subject areas. During the corona pandemic, new needs for action have been identified, for example, in improved measurement of the impacts of globalisation and digitalisation on EU economies and businesses and EU citizens, expanding migration statistics, modernised population and housing census programmes and population statistics as well as intensified use of geodata and geographic information management in statistics production.

[Legislation regarding EU statistics](#) will also be made more efficient and future-oriented by further reducing the administrative burden and standardising the now heterogeneous individual statistical regulations. This would enable better, and above all faster responses to political data demands. This is being done by merging existing (single) statistical regulations in framework regulations for specific statistical areas. For example, the following European framework regulations have been adopted:

- › Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) for social statistics
- › Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS) for business statistics
- › Regulation on Integrated Farm Statistics (IFS) for agricultural statistics

In addition, two European framework regulations are being prepared:

- › Statistics on Agricultural Input and Output (SAIO) for agricultural statistics
- › European Statistics on Population (ESOP) for population statistics

Apart from the development of new statistics that provide answers to topical issues, the main focus at EU level is to modernise the official statistics of the Member States themselves, to utilise the opportunities of digitalisation more intensively, to continuously adapt the publication of information to new user needs, and to exploit technological opportunities for the data infrastructure. In solving these and other challenges, we benefit from the close [cooperation with our partners](#).

On 1 July 2020, Germany will take over the presidency of the Council of the European Union for a period of six months. During the German EU Council Presidency in the second half of 2020, the Federal Statistical Office will prepare and chair the meetings of the Council Working Party on Statistics and play a part in shaping the European Statistics Programme. The Council Working Party on Statistics is the central body to discuss EU legislative acts in the field of statistics. It will be chaired by the President of the Federal Statistical Office, Dr. Georg Thiel.

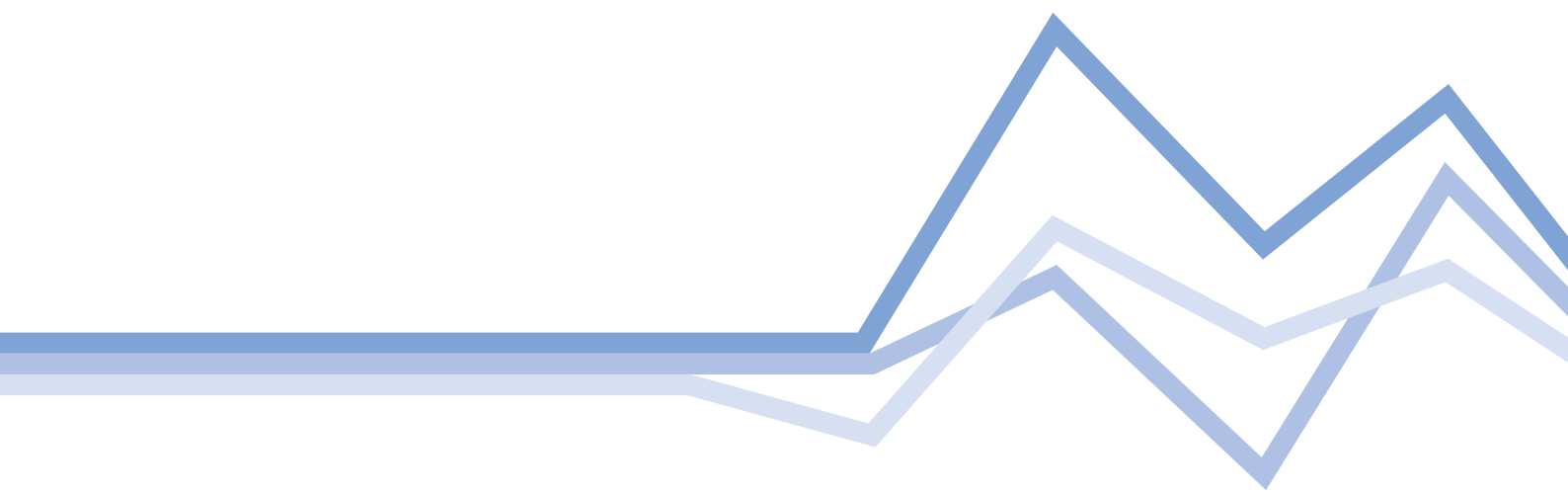
High-quality statistics have special features apart from being robust: they identify open data requirements and close these gaps, provide the relevant information as timely as possible and also ensure a resource-efficient implementation for all concerned.

Therefore, the German EU Council Presidency will use the attention it is receiving from the general public to increase the relevance of official statistics for robust and quick decision-making. As the corona pandemic has shown, the established production, coordination and communication processes need to be adjusted to enable a more efficient and flexible reaction to a crisis. For example, exploiting the benefits of digitalisation to the full is essential for rapidly providing information that is required at short notice. The German EU Council Presidency provides the framework for bringing developments into focus which are necessary to close gaps. In view of the corona pandemic developments, the German EU Council Presidency is also supporting a coordinated approach within the ESS so that a high-quality European Statistics Programme can serve as a foundation of sustainable decisions. The lessons we have learned will be the basis for being adequately prepared for comparable situations in the future.

## 2.6 Summary and look ahead

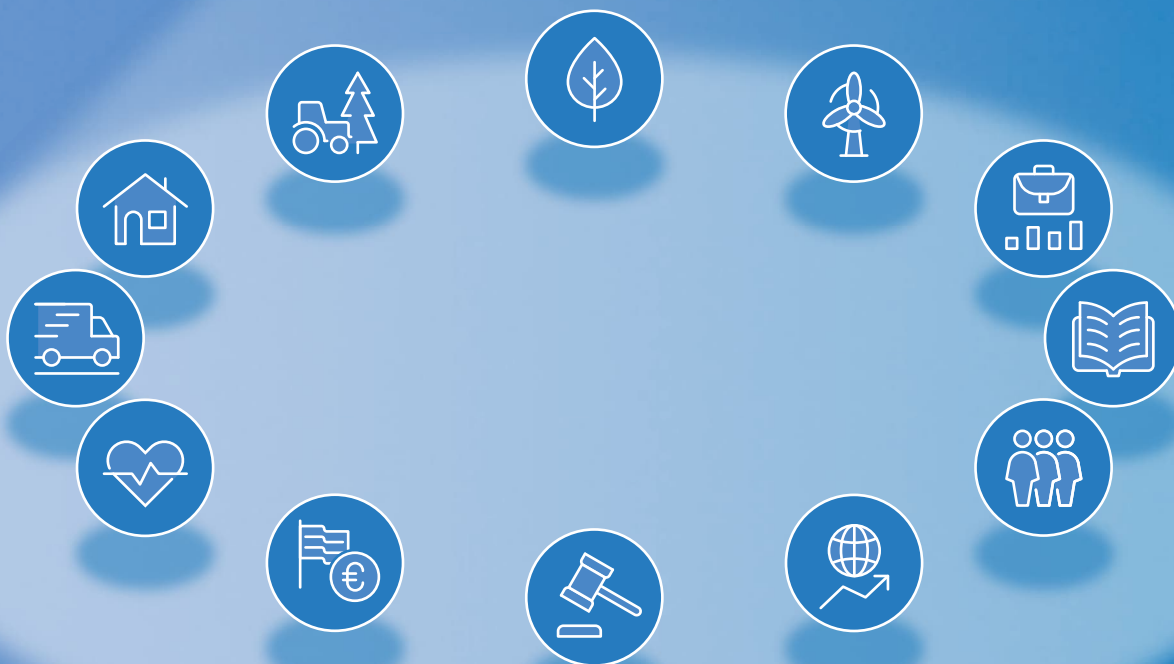
Learning from crises, digitalisation, offering experimental data, reducing the respondent burden and register modernisation, collaborating at the European level - these are some of the groundbreaking areas of action that the Federal Statistical Office is strategically pursuing, thereby helping to continuously develop and improve official statistics. In addition, there are numerous development needs and potentials in our specialised statistical programmes that the following chapter will go into in detail.

Identifying challenges and making use of potential for further development are the basic prerequisites for the Federal Statistical Office together with the statistical offices of the Länder to continue to remain the leading information service providers for quality-assured data and statistical information in Germany in the twenty-first century.



# 3 In Thematic Focus

For us, it's all about providing people and policy-makers with high-quality data on the living conditions, the economy and the environment in Germany. In this chapter, we offer insights into the many different statistical areas and the relevant developments as well as an outlook on our future development potential.

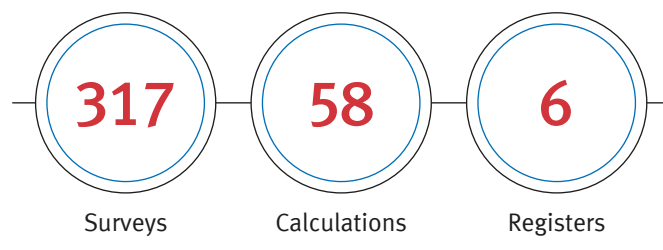


## The work programme of federal statistics

Federal statistics are a **joint product**. They are produced mainly by the 14 statistical offices of the Länder and the Federal Statistical Office, which together form the **network of statistical offices**. The work programme presently comprises 381 sets of statistics (as of June 2020). Of these, about two thirds are produced by the statistical offices of the Länder following the principle of **regional decentralisation** in the network of statistical offices.

The Federal Statistical Office is responsible for providing a basic supply of official statistics. One focus is to research and develop methods and techniques for federal statistics. The acquisition of new data and the necessary creation of a corresponding national legal basis require extensive preparations in which the Federal Statistical Office is involved at an early stage. It is particularly important to take the interests of the different users appropriately into account, to determine the best and at the same time most economical methods and digital procedures for obtaining the desired data and to ensure that the burden on the respondents is limited to the absolutely necessary level.

### What we now offer (as of June 2020)



Data are not collected for all sets of statistics but obtained in a variety of ways: we use surveys, calculations and registers.

More than 80 percent of the 381 sets of statistics are based on **surveys**. Just over half of these 317 surveys are primary surveys, that is, the statistical offices of the Länder or the Federal Statistical Office collect the data originally for the respective set of statistics. For the remaining surveys, the statistical offices compile data for the respective statistics that were originally collected for other, non-statistical purposes (secondary survey). Here, the statistical offices use **data that are already available** from administrative processes.

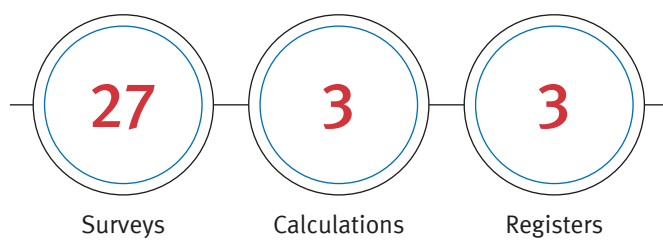
**Calculations** account for 15 percent of the work programme. These are evaluations of data collected for other purposes; this is done, for example, in national accounts. Thus, new statistical information is obtained from survey results using a variety of calculation and estimation techniques.

The total of six **registers** are collections of data that primarily serve as survey support. By means of these registers, the reporting groups of a survey – i.e. the respondents – are determined according to mathematical statistical methods. The registers are also used for evaluation purposes. For example, all information for the reports on crafts comes from the Business Register for Statistical Purposes (Statistical Register) and is therefore based entirely on administrative data.

In this chapter, we provide information about the individual subject areas for which statistical information is available. You will learn for what purpose this information is used, what the developments have been in the last two years, and what challenges the Federal Statistical Office will face in the coming years.

## 3.1 People in Germany

### What we now offer



In the subject area of [population](#), the latest figures and historic time series are available from intercensal population updates. In addition to the number of inhabitants, there are population data broken down by age, sex and citizenship for the entire federal territory, the federal Länder and the administrative districts. [Population projections](#) provide information on future population developments in Germany as a whole and in the Länder. The [List of Municipalities](#) contains data at the municipality level, such as on the number of inhabitants, area and population density, and on non-administrative territorial units such as planning, labour market or spatial planning regions.

The microcensus collects information on [households and families](#). Among other things, information is available about the type and size of households. In addition, household projections provide information about the future development of households. The microcensus also contains data on the population broken down by living arrangements. Thus, information is available on unattached people, couples without children, and families with underage and adult children by family forms (couples, lone parents, etc.). Another socially important focus is the situation of older people, about which an informative programme – also in conjunction with [demographic change](#) – is being developed. Population statistics analyse and evaluations from the microcensus supplement the statistical information on the economic and social situation of the population in the household and family context.

The subject area of [migration and integration](#) offers data on people with and without migrant backgrounds. It also provides information on the foreign population, on persons seeking protection and on naturalisation. Furthermore, indicators measuring integration (e.g. naturalisation rate) are available from 2005.

Data on migratory flows to and from foreign countries by age, country of destination and origin as well as the citizenship of immigrants and emigrants are offered in the subject area of [migration](#). Immigration and emigration by Germans is also included. In addition, migration flows within Germany are depicted, for example, between the Länder or between the eastern and western parts of Germany.

[Birth statistics](#) provide information on live births and stillbirths. Data on live births are available by variables such as sex, month of birth, age and citizenship of the parents as well as birth order and birth interval. They also report on the average age of mothers at birth, the total fertility rate (birth rate) and the completed fertility per woman.

The subject area of [deaths, life expectancy](#) offers data on the deceased by sex, marital status, age and citizenship as well as infant mortality. Death statistics thus provide the basic demographic information required to assess mortality, life expectancy and population ageing. Also, the [current life tables](#) are available with information on life expectancy. Among other things, they provide information on probabilities of death and the sex-specific average life expectancy at birth and for individual age years.

The subject area of [marriages, divorces, life partnerships](#) supplies information about the population's marriage behaviour, for example by age and previous marital status, about the spouse's sex, divorces and dissolution of registered life partnerships.

A [census](#) provides basic data on the population of a country as well as on their employment and housing circumstances. Only part of the census results can be updated. Since errors cannot be avoided completely over the years, an "inventory" is required from time to time. With its 2011 Census, Germany has successfully joined the ten-year census rounds that are customary at international level. From 2013 to 2015, results of that census were published and the procedure was evaluated in detail. In accordance with the applicable EU regulation, the next census round for Germany will be in 2021, for which methodical, organisational and legal preparations have been underway since 2015. Further tasks include advising the national legislators as well as planning the IT architecture and staffing.



[Intercensal population updates](#) continuously provide current population figures in the years between two censuses, based on the latest census. Preparations are underway to switch the base of intercensal population updates to the results of the 2021 Census. This includes subject-related and technical preparations and analyses of user needs.

The demands on the census and on population statistics are changing considerably. Users are now requiring results to be more timely, geocoded and available at shorter intervals. A framework regulation is currently being prepared at EU level which will provide for annual supply of population data at the level of geographical grid cells as from 2024. In the medium term, the model of the 2021 Census and the intercensal population updates based on it will not be able to meet these emerging new requirements. This is why the Federal Statistical Office is doing intensive preparatory work already now to conduct the 2031 Census as a register census which will allow to obtain the data from registers without having to conduct additional surveys.

The [continuous household budget surveys](#) capture in detail the income and expenditure of households in Germany and their equipment with selected consumer durables. The results of the [sample surveys of income and expenditure](#) provide insights into the correlations between income, expenditures, capital formation and indebtedness as well as the equipment and housing circumstances of households. The [statistics on over-indebtedness](#) report about the situation of persons and households that are over-indebted or at risk of such.

The data collected as part of the new [microcensus](#) on [income and living conditions](#) provide detailed information on income poverty and distribution as well as non-monetary aspects of social exclusion and deprivation.

The [time use surveys](#) offer information about how people in private households spend their time and shape their everyday lives.

The [information and communication technologies \(ICT\) survey](#) provides information on the distribution and use of modern information and communication technologies in private households.

## For what are the data used?

The data from the census, including intercensal population updates, serve as a basis for political and economic planning, as a basis for population figures and, consequently, for the distribution of finances at Land and municipality levels, and as a sampling and extrapolation frame for samples.

The results of the microcensus are used as a basis for political, social and economic planning and decision-making as well as for research, science and policy advice. They are basic information for other statistics and surveys (for example, employment statistics) and serve to inform the public.

Continuous population statistics, including population projections, serve as a basis for family, social, health and migration policy decisions as well as for estimating the economic and social impact of demographic development in a national, European and international context. There is a large group of users, ranging from pension committees to the general public. Also, the results of intercensal population updates are used as a reference variable. For example, this is done to calculate per-capita data in national accounts or to gross up sample data and, in administration, for fiscal equalisation and to conduct elections. The territory of Germany determined every month is the indispensable data basis for all statistics with a regional breakdown.

The household surveys are used as a basis for economic and political planning as well as for the identification of socio-political indicators in the framework of the macroeconomic imbalance analysis to combat poverty and social exclusion. They provide important results for poverty and wealth reporting and national social reporting. They also serve to adjust the standard needs in accordance with the Social Code, Books II and XI and to determine the cost of living for children. They are used as basic information for other specialised statistics and statistical satellite accounts.

## Developments since 2018

### Expansion of the data programme on migration and integration

The expansion of the data programme on migration and integration focusses on the goal of assessing integration needs and the integration progress of persons seeking protection in Germany.

The legal basis for transmitting additional information from the Central Register of Foreigners was created in August 2019. This includes, for instance, information on education and language skills of persons seeking protection. First data were transmitted in spring 2020.

In addition, machine learning procedures to link the microcensus and the Central Register of Foreigners have been tested for their potential to reflect the socio-economic situation of people seeking protection. The results obtained so far were presented at the International Forum on Migration Statistics in early 2020.

Concepts of using the Central Register of Foreigners for assessments over time have been examined, for example, to study the regional mobility of persons seeking protection. At the international level, the results were integrated in the recommendations of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) for setting up longitudinal analyses in migration statistics.

Based on new analyses of the data quality of the Central Register of Foreigners, quality reporting for our users has been improved considerably.



### Representation of marriages of same-sex couples

Since October 2017, it has been possible for people of the same sex to marry (“marriage for everyone”). The accompanying laws required for this new regulation were adjusted later; for example, the Population Statistics Act (BevStatG) that is relevant for the coverage of marriages was adjusted in late 2018.

Same-sex marriages were shown for the first time in the results of marriage statistics for 2018 (published in August 2019), with the cases of 2017 being included there. At the same time, the publication programme in marriage statistics is being adjusted to take account of the new situation.



## Challenges and potential for development

Our main focus for improving population statistics is on implementing a flexible evaluation system. Far-sighted planning to rearrange population figures in intercensal population updates serves to prepare efficient processing and dissemination of updated population data after the 2021 Census.

Our main focus for improving the household surveys is on implementing the Microcensus Act for the 2020 Microcensus and further developing the diary-based household surveys against the background of international and national requirements.

### Focal points of further development

#### Modernising household surveys with the 2020 Microcensus

The transition to the 2020 Microcensus will create a coherent system in which various household surveys will be integrated. This refers to the microcensus (including the labour force survey), the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and the survey on the use of information and communication technologies (ICT), which currently are conducted separately by the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder. The integration will extend from the sample selection to the survey instruments, the processing procedure and the evaluation programmes.

The purpose of the modernisation is to achieve greater homogeneity between the surveys and with international statistical suppliers such as Eurostat, but also to accelerate the provision of data in the future, to avoid excessive burdens on respondents and to save costs by using uniform structures and procedures. In addition, the analysis and evaluation options will increase significantly, which, among other things, corresponds to the increasing political needs for better and more comprehensive data on the living conditions of private households.



06 / 2021

#### Further development of the 2021/2022 Time Use Survey

The Federal Statistical Office is actively supporting the European Time Use Survey Working Group, which is developing content and methodological recommendations for the next round of the Harmonised European Time Use Survey (HETUS). Eurostat plans the next HETUS data round for 2020.

In 2019, a project to prepare and conduct the survey was initiated in consultation with the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ). A legal basis (law) will be created which will then enter inter-ministerial consultation and the parliamentary procedure. The law will govern all time use surveys as from 2022 (ten-year survey periodicity). The legislative procedure is expected to terminate in March 2021.


Based on the experiences from the previous time use surveys, a methodological and technical/organisational development will take place. Draft requirements for reprogramming the administrative program and the collection/processing program for the 2022 Time Use Survey are available (technical concept and specifications). The programming contract was awarded in June 2020. A detailed programming schedule is to be developed.



12 / 2021

## Focal points of further development


Further development of the diary-based household surveys (starting with the 2022 Time Use Survey and the 2023 Sample Survey of Income and Expenditure)

 12 / 2022

To improve the quality of the surveys, special applications are being developed for data collection in the diary-based household surveys (sample survey of income and expenditure, continuous household budget surveys, time use survey). Essentially, this is a new concept developed for the future use of IT tools in an application for mobile devices and desktop PCs. Taking increasing digitalisation into account, further development of the IT tools is absolutely necessary.

In future, the respondents will be given the opportunity to enter their information on consumer spending or activities easily and conveniently from any device, so even on-the-go via a mobile device such as a smartphone. With this, the Federal Statistical Office is responding to increasing digitalisation and respondents' desire for appealing and timesaving survey methods. The use of these new technologies is expected to improve the quality of data collection, to relieve respondents and to increase their willingness to participate.

Coverage and representation of people who are neither male nor female

 12 / 2022

In continuous population statistics, the surveys will be adjusted to the four sex-related values - male, female, diverse, no information under "sex" in the register. According to current knowledge, the case numbers are too small to allow detailed representation. It is therefore planned for detailed presentations to distribute the cases of new values among "male" and "female" so that the total number can be shown. The number of persons or cases with the new sex-related values will be shown separately.

Only after the 2021 Census will it be possible to show the total of third-sex people (diverse) as the census will for the first time take stock of the people concerned.

Evaluation system for continuous population statistics

 12 / 2022

Over the medium term, a modern and highly flexible system for evaluating continuous population statistics will be developed and provided centrally that meets the Federation and Länder needs for evaluation.

Further development of address register

 06 / 2023

In accordance with Section 13 (2) of the Federal Statistics Act (BStatG), the Federal Statistical Office maintains a register of addresses to prepare and produce federal statistics. The address register comprises all addresses in Germany, including their geo-coordinates and other variables. It is planned to enhance the address register as one of the registers within the system of statistics so that it will be able to provide information across statistical domains for the purpose of preparing, producing and analysing individual sets of statistics.

In the future, the centralised address register will contain high-quality addresses to be used for statistics, it will document changes in the stock of addresses (historisation) and provide additional variables to be used for preparing and producing statistics. In addition, it will be used as a data basis for geocoding in the register census.

## Focal points of further development

### 2021 Census

Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses requires the provision of comprehensive population and housing data at ten-year intervals. The first reference year was 2011; the other reference years are set by the Commission (Eurostat) and fall at the beginning of each decade. As a result of the first EU-wide census round, one of the objectives of German statistics was to shorten the processing times and thus improve the timeliness of the results.

The 2021 Census Preparation Act (ZensVorbG 2021) created the legal basis for preparing the 2021 Census. The Census Act, as a framework for the surveys, entered into force on 3 December 2019. As one of the main outcomes of evaluating the 2011 Census, the sampling model has been revised for the coming 2021 Census. In the 2021 Census, a household sample survey will be conducted in all municipalities, irrespective of their size, to determine the number of inhabitants. One of the focuses of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder is on implementing the goal “online first” in primary surveys. As it will be possible to comply with the obligation to provide information online, the burden on respondents can be reduced, resources be saved and, at the same time, higher data quality be achieved.



12 / 2027

### Register census

The demands on the census and on population statistics are changing considerably. Users are now requiring results to be more timely, geocoded and available at shorter intervals. By conducting the register census project, we are preparing for the time after the 2021 census round. The goal of the register census is to obtain all necessary data from administrative and statistical registers. That procedure involves little bureaucracy and low costs and avoids conducting additional primary surveys. With the existing systems, it is not possible to implement purely register-based data collection.

Changing over to a register census means that the current register-based census model and the method of intercensal population updates will be replaced by integrating them into a new common system.

The first step towards the register census will be the provision of geocoded population figures as from reference year 2024. This will meet a central requirement from the future EU framework regulation for censuses and population statistics. A complete changeover to the register census is planned for reference year 2031.

As of that reference year, the results on the other census themes will also be determined in a purely register-based manner. This regards households and families, buildings and dwellings, educational attainment, labour market participation and housing circumstances of the population.



12 / 2032

## Focal points of further development

Further development of demographic analyses and of the range of relevant data on demographic change



Long-term task

Based on the 14th coordinated population projection, further forecasts will be performed. First of all, it is planned to perform projections of households and the people living in them and of the labour force.

The 2018 Microcensus is evaluated for an analysis of fertility and childlessness. For this purpose, an improved imputation method for nonresponse regarding questions on a woman's children is developed.

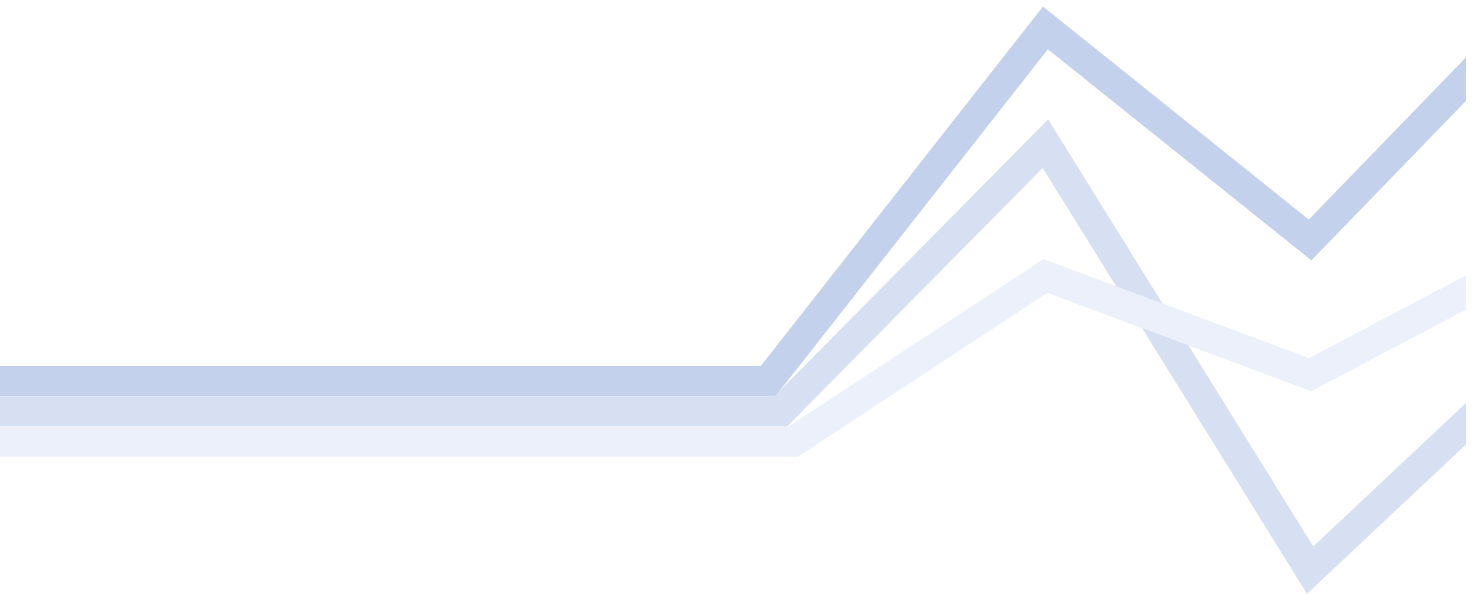
The data are provided on our web page „Demografischer Wandel“ ([www.destatis.de](http://www.destatis.de) > Gesellschaft und Umwelt > Bevölkerung > Demografischer Wandel).

Integration of administrative data and survey data



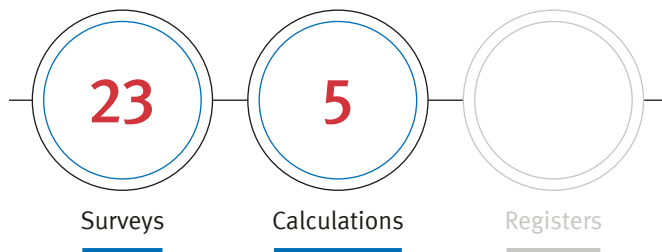
Long-term task

Administrative data on persons seeking protection can be evaluated from the Central Register of Foreigners based on their status under residence law. However, that source does not provide much information on socio-economic variables such as labour force participation. In contrast, the survey data from the microcensus provide a wealth of socio-economic variables, while humanitarian migration is covered less reliably. In an explorative study, the Federal Statistical Office examines various methods to integrate the two data sets. Classification algorithms from the area of machine learning are particularly promising here.



## 3.2 Education, research and culture

### What we now offer



The Federal Statistical Office provides information about the educational system, activities in research as well as about cultural institutions and events in Germany.

The [educational level](#) of the population is ascertained from the results of surveys of the microcensus. For this purpose, data are offered about general school education and vocational training. They are made available broken down by, for example, migrant status, citizenship and employment status. [School statistics](#) comprise data on schools of general and vocational education. They also gather information about pupils, such as enrolment, repeated grades and graduations, and about teachers. Under [vocational training](#), information is available on apprentices and the most frequently chosen vocational training occupations. Data on apprenticeship contracts newly concluded or prematurely dissolved and on final examinations are also provided. [Higher education statistics](#) collect data on students, doctoral candidates, habilitations and examinations at the state-recognised higher education institutions and at vocational academies, as well as on the staff and finances of these institutions. In addition, indicators of higher education statistics are calculated. Among other things, official statistics provide information on [continuing vocational training](#) of the labour force, on the further training offered by enterprises and on participation rates among employees. As regards the [promotion of training and career advancement](#), data pursuant to the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG) and the Upgrading Training Assistance Act (AFBG) are collected.

[Research and development](#) provides information on the scope, structure and development of the financial and human resources used to conduct science, research and development. Among other things, there are data by sector (general government and private non-profit institutions, higher education institutions and businesses) as well as by Länder.

[Cultural statistics](#) provide information, among other things, on cultural expenditure of public budgets, cultural venues, media use, visits to cultural places and events and employment in cultural occupations. In addition, the nationwide cultural statistics project aims to expand and improve the cultural statistical data offer.

The [educational budget](#) provides an overview of the resources of the educational system and shows educational expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product. Central key figures are the expenses per pupil and the current basic resources per student. As regards the promotion of education and training, data are available on government promotion of education and training (Federal Training Assistance Act) and on upgrading training assistance (assistance pursuant to the Upgrading Training Assistance Act). Information refers to the number of people receiving assistance and the expenditure made. Data on the number of scholarship holders and the funds passed on to them are available for the Germany Scholarships.

The [child day care](#) subject area has information about children in day care as well as the percentages of children in such care. Data on educators and other persons employed in day care facilities are also available here.

On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder, the Federal Statistical Office annually prepares the Education Finance Report and continuously contributes to the National Education Report. It is also involved in the National Report on Junior Scholars and the OECD publication “[Education at a Glance](#),” in which indicator-based information is published annually about the performance of educational systems in the OECD states and their partner countries.

### For what are the data used?

The statistics form the foundation for planning and shaping policies for the educational system as well as the cultural sector and are used for international educational and cultural reporting. They also serve as a basis for research policy decisions, national research reporting and international comparisons.

## Developments since 2018

### Creating a data pool for study progress statistics



To represent study progress, a database has been set up in which abbreviated individual data sets from the statistics of students and examinations are gradually stored as of summer semester 2017 as well as from the new statistics of doctoral students. The database has been available to the statistical offices since July 2019 for first evaluations regarding students changing their university or study course.

### Devising and conducting a survey among providers of upgrading training



On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, a survey pursuant to Section 7 of the Federal Statistics Act has been conducted among upgrading training providers, collecting data on participants and teachers and on the finances of those providers. The data are needed to comply with international delivery obligations pursuant to Commission Regulation (EU) No 912/2013 of 23 September 2013 implementing Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning.

### Depicting the geographical sites of academic locations



To represent geo-referenced data on research locations, the data of higher education statistics and the statistics of public and publicly supported research institutions have been combined and the relevant coordinates have been added. A visualisation of research locations and a few analyses on metropolitan regions and distances were published for the first time in July 2019 and will be included in regular continuous reporting.

## Challenges and potential for development

Our main focus for improving educational statistics is on making them more user-oriented by implementing the Higher Education Statistics Act and by establishing an educational register.

## Focal points of further development

### Establishment of a flexible and up-to-date evaluation database for higher education statistics



06 / 2021

Section 8 of the amendment to the Higher Education Statistics Act (HStatG), which came into force on 1 March 2016, regulates the establishment and operation of a central evaluation database for higher education statistics. The database is located at the Federal Statistical Office and provides flexible access to the edited individual data of higher education statistics to the responsible units at the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder. The database, that is currently being developed, enables the offices to carry out the regular evaluations and releases efficiently and coherently, while allowing them to make special evaluations when and as needed.

### Setting up statistics pursuant to the Ordinance on the Funding of Vocational Training for Care Professions



2021

Based on Section 55 (1) of the Care Professions Act (PflBG) and Part 2 of the Ordinance on the Funding of Vocational Training for Care Professions (PflAFinV), an annual survey has been ordered to produce federal statistics to be used to present and assess vocational training for care professions and to assess legal measures. The survey will be conducted for the first time in 2021 for reference year 2020. The agencies responsible pursuant to the PflBG are obliged to provide information to the statistical offices of the Länder.



## Focal points of further development

Implementing the changes from the amendment to the Vocational Training Act in vocational training statistics



Due to the amendment to the Vocational Training Act (BbIG), new variables (e.g. apprenticeship pay) will be added in vocational training statistics, and some variables will be extended or specified (e.g. daily coverage of training-relevant events). Further variables will be added by linking the statistics with the statistical business register.

Feasibility study on R&D and innovation in enterprises



The goal is to adjust external statistical reporting on research and development and innovation to the requirements of the EU Regulation on statistical units. The technical and legal opportunities to combine the existing data with the statistical business register and to reaggregate them in accordance with the European enterprise concept are examined in this context. If the project is successful, a legal basis will be created to allow a procedure to be introduced that can be applied permanently.

Transforming the educational budget into a time series calculation



The education budget is an accounting system used to calculate education expenditure in Germany and thus to meet international data delivery obligations and the national data demand. The goal of the transformation is to enhance timeliness and to better meet data demand. For this purpose, the existing accounting system will be transformed into a time series calculation.

Establishment of an educational register



Educational statistics are structured very heterogeneously due to the federal structures in educational policy.

An educational register still to be set up could allow differentiated analyses of participation, achievement and levels of education and thus support educational decision-making processes. With the help of an educational register, the data required for the future census could also be provided from a statistical register, thus fulfilling reporting obligations to international institutions such as the EU, which otherwise could only be served with very complex primary surveys.

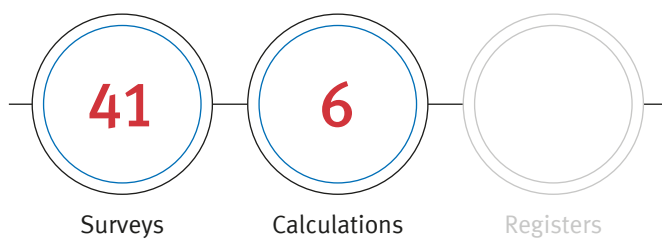
Survey of income and expenditure of non-government child day care centres



There is currently no official statistics of income and expenditure of non-government child day care centres. However, such data are needed for the educational budget and international delivery of educational data. Since a survey pursuant to Section 7 of the Federal Statistics Act (BStatG) was conducted for reference year 2010, the data have been updated regularly. To safeguard data quality, a new survey pursuant to Section 7 of the BStatG will be conducted in 2021, with results being expected for 2022.

## 3.3 Labour market and social issues

### What we now offer



Labour force participation plays a central role in our society. It secures livelihoods and allows individuals to find their place in the social fabric. It also contributes to economic growth and prosperity. Official [labour market statistics](#) and their sources are correspondingly diverse.

The employment accounts form the basis for data on [persons in employment](#). They are compiled in the national accounts on the basis of all important labour statistical sources, in particular the statistics of employees subject to social insurance contributions, the microcensus, the statistics of public service personnel and the statistics for economic branches. The internationally comparable [labour market statistics according to the concept of the United Nations International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#) also are of central importance.

The [statistics of registered unemployed](#), which are very much in the focus of national public interest, come from the Federal Employment Agency.

[Earnings](#) are income that employees regularly receive for their work. For employers, such earnings are costs. Together with non-wage costs they form the [labour costs](#). The data on earnings and labour costs thus also provide insights into the cost situation of business and industry and its changes.

[Social benefits](#) include all monetary and non-cash benefits granted to private households or individuals by the state, bodies governed by public law or enterprises to meet social needs. They provide social protection against risks and serve other social policy tasks, such as public children and youth welfare, public assistance, or the support of people in need of long-term care or with disabilities.

[Housing allowance statistics](#) provide information on the number and structure of households receiving housing allowance. In addition, they comprise information on the subsidy towards housing costs funded half by the Federation and half by the Länder and granted to low-income households.

### For what are the data used?

The statistics on the labour market and persons in employment serve labour market monitoring at a national and international level and are used as short-term economic indicators for the labour market and employment. They also contribute to the national accounts.

The data from the earnings and labour cost surveys are important information bases, for example for short-term economic analysis and monetary policy. They are needed for socio-economic analyses of wage differentiation (e.g. minimum wage, low wage sector, gender pay gap) and for monitoring current labour costs and earnings (e.g. for collective bargaining or location comparisons).

The results of social statistics are used as a basis for policy decisions, for research and science as well as for government reports of the Federation and the Länder (above all social and poverty reports, reports on children, young people and families, and education reports).

The data from the various statistics of public children and youth welfare and from the statistics on federal parental allowance provide valuable information on socio-political issues such as work and family balance, early childhood education and educational protection of children and young people.

Statistics on public assistance provide data on subsistence payments and on basic security benefits in old age and in cases of reduced earning capacity. Together with the statistics on benefits for asylum seekers and the benefits for people entitled in accordance with the Act on Benefits for Asylum Seekers (AsylbLG), they allow an overview of public transfer payments from the minimum social security systems, of the social budget and of the discussion on the socio-economic subsistence minimum. In addition, the statistics on benefits for asylum seekers are used for issues regarding the integration of refugees.

The housing allowance statistics provide data on the social budget and are the basis for assessing the impact of the Housing Allowance Act (WoGG) and for the discussion on affordable housing and limiting the increase in rents.

## Developments since 2018

Opening new digital data sources (big data) for labour market statistics



Practical experience in the integration of information from big data into official statistics was lacking in the past. The aim of the Webscraping Job Vacancies project by the European Statistical System Network (ESSnet) was to design a possible supplement to the official statistics on this topic in the sense of a feasibility study. The feasibility study was successfully completed in 2018. The follow-up project on online job vacancies, which is also part of the Big Data ESSnet (2018 to 2020) is aimed at implementing the new digital data source of Online job portals into the statistics production process. The aim of the project is to develop and publish suitable indicators regarding the online job market. As limited data quality is expected, the publication will be labelled as “experimental statistics” at first.

Establishing sub-annual ILO labour market statistics as part of the 2020 Microcensus



Based on the new legal bases for the microcensus from 2020 and the new EU framework regulation for the production of European statistics on persons and households and the EU implementing regulation for the labour force survey, the household surveys (microcensus, labour force survey, European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), survey of information and communication technologies in households (ICT survey)) will be converted to an integrated system (see also Chapter 3.1 People in Germany “Modernising household surveys with the 2020 Microcensus”). This will create the methodological prerequisites for a national reporting system of quarterly results as part of the internationally comparable ILO labour market statistics. The sub-annual labour market statistics provide the data basis for short-term economic reporting and thus supplement the annual reporting on structural relationships in the labour market.

Earnings survey to evaluate the earnings situation after implementation of the second adjustment of the statutory minimum wage



The Federal Statistical Office conducted a representative survey of earnings in Germany in April 2019 jointly with the statistical offices of the Länder and on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS).

The survey pursuant to Section 7 (1) of the Federal Statistics Act (BStatG) serves to measure the earnings situation after the second adjustment of the statutory minimum wage was implemented. The data collected provide important information for an evaluation of the short-term effect of the second minimum wage adjustment and, at the same time, form a central basis for the next decision on adjusting the minimum wage.

The survey is voluntary and covers local units selected by stratified sampling. Data are collected on earnings and hours worked by the persons employed. Based on the survey data and using imputation and extrapolation methods, representative results on the earnings situation in the context of the minimum wage are made available to policy-makers and scientists. The final report will be submitted to the BMAS in summer 2020.

## Developments since 2018

### Increasing the timeliness of social statistics



By optimising processes between the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder, the results are to be presented sooner, without media disruptions and in high quality. The processing time for statistics of public assistance in the Federal Statistical Office (including statistics on benefits for asylum seekers) has been shortened since 2017.

Further optimisation of processes can be reached by the introduction of an input control system in the centralised statistics of basic security benefits in 2020 and activities to implement automated confidentiality procedures in the statistics of public assistance, benefits for asylum seekers and housing allowance.

For all statistics of public assistance (including statistics on benefits for asylum seekers), the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder have agreed on reference year 2019 as a test phase in which first measures are to be implemented that can contribute to improving the timeliness of the statistics. Based on the experience acquired in the test phase, it will then be examined whether supply deadlines can be advanced.

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### Automated data editing/imputation in the survey of earnings



Automation of data editing is indispensable as it is envisaged to treat 7 million data sets every month in the planned new digital earnings survey (see “Further development of earnings statistics”). Machine learning procedures have the potential to allow such automation. The performance of such procedures will be compared with established nearest-neighbour imputation procedures.

The HoloClean machine learning procedure was tested in a pilot phase until March 2019. With machine learning, this program can use existing rules of data editing and automatically correct erroneous information. On the whole, however, HoloClean did not meet the requirements for usage in the new digital earnings survey. This is why alternative procedures have been tested in the further course of the project. For the concrete requirements of the new digital earnings survey, a nearest-neighbour procedure (CANCEIS) has been found for the imputation of erroneous values. That procedure was already used in official statistics for the census of buildings and housing (as part of the population census); it meets the requirements for usage in the new earnings survey.

## Challenges and potential for development

Our main focus for improving labour market statistics is on testing new methods for data collection. We are enhancing social statistics with a view to the reforms planned for public children and youth welfare legislation.

### Focal points of further development

Implementing the European regulation's requirements for the labour force survey in the 2020 Microcensus



2020 – 2021

Based on the new legal basis for the microcensus from 2020, the new EU framework regulation for the production of European statistics on persons and households and the EU implementing regulation for the labour force survey from 2021, the household surveys (microcensus, labour force survey, EU-SILC, ICT survey) will be converted to an integrated system (see also Chapter 3.1 People in Germany “Modernising household surveys with the 2020 Microcensus”). It is important to ensure that the provisions of the European regulations are taken into account in the design of the integrated system of household statistics (2020 Microcensus). This applies to new and changed variables as well as to methodological provisions for the survey and for the extrapolation of results.

Implementing the reform of the Social Code, Book VIII in the statistics of public children and youth welfare



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The current project of reforming public children and youth welfare legislation, in particular the planned transfer of benefits pursuant to the Social Code, Book XII (public assistance) to the Social Code, Book VIII (public children and youth welfare), means that a comprehensive rearrangement of the statistics of public children and youth welfare is required. The purpose is to close existing data gaps and to improve the quality and accuracy of the individual sets of statistics of public children and youth welfare. The Federal Statistical Office is closely cooperating with the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the institutions responsible for public and non-government youth welfare, science, and the statistical offices of the Länder. By the optimisation of processes - achieved as part of further development - between the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder, the results are to be presented sooner, without media disruptions and in higher quality after the reform was implemented.

## Focal points of further development

### Further developing earnings statistics

At present, the quarterly survey of earnings provides quarterly short-term economic data and the structure of earnings survey supplies four-yearly structural data on earnings in Germany. The structure of earnings survey collects data on all local units, based on individual data regarding employment relationships. In contrast, the quarterly survey of earnings compiles aggregate information for employee groups of local units with ten or more employees subject to social security contributions in all sections (with the exception of the “Agriculture, forestry and fishing”).

To fulfil new data requests – expressed, for example, by the Minimum Wage Commission and the Conference of Ministers for Women and Gender Equality – the periodicity of the structural data needs to be shortened. This is to be achieved by linking the quarterly survey of earnings with the structure of earnings survey, provided that the Earnings Statistics Act (VerdStatG) is modified. The quarterly survey of earnings will be converted to monthly individual data for employees, and the as yet unconsidered micro enterprises as well as the “Agriculture, forestry and fishing” section will be included in the survey to improve consistency.

By reducing the list of variables and stringently delimiting the variables to be covered to the information available in the businesses’ accounting systems, this is to be achieved without placing additional burdens on the respondents. The results of the new monthly surveys (complemented by estimation models and the use of further administrative data/statistical sources) will be largely used to meet the delivery obligations to Eurostat. This means that only a small number of data will have to be additionally collected at intervals of several years. To meet the data demand of the Minimum Wage Commission for reference year 2021, a one-time survey is planned for April 2021. The regular monthly survey will start in January 2022.

The thus newly designed new digital earnings survey requires new, if possible entirely automated data processing procedures from official statistics. For this purpose, a machine learning procedure for the imputation of erroneous values (CANCEIS) has already been tested successfully (see also “Automated data editing/imputation in the survey of earnings”).



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### Further developing reporting on the quality of employment

The presentation of the report by the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission (2009) and international labour market research have significantly increased the importance of indicators of the quality of paid work in recent years. Since 2012, an expert group of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has developed recommendations for the operationalisation and interpretation of indicators on the quality of employment, which are now being implemented. It is intended to disseminate the information in the Handbook on Measuring Quality of Employment as well as on successful national approaches to the publication of data. The indicator set for reporting will also be further developed. This includes the specification of the recommendations for compiling and interpreting existing indicators as well as the development of new indicators (e.g. on changes in working conditions through digitalisation). The work is coordinated by a UNECE expert group.

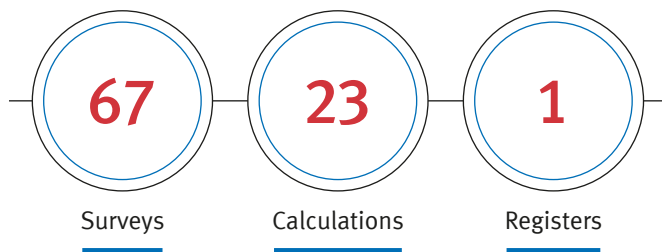
The Federal Statistical Office will continue to participate in the work of this group and where possible implement the recommendations in the existing reporting system on the quality of employment.



Long-term task

## 3.4 Economy and energy

### What we now offer



The German economy and corporate landscape is dominated by small and medium-sized enterprises. This includes the vast majority of craft enterprises.

Information about the number of enterprises and the structure of the economy is taken from the [Business Register for Statistical Purposes \(Statistical Register\)](#). It thus forms the infrastructure for all economic statistics. This register primarily uses administrative sources and thus relieves businesses from avoidable reporting burdens. The Statistical Register is also used to gather information about foreign-controlled enterprises. Among other things, this makes it possible to observe the global market influence on globally interlinked enterprises in Germany.

[Manufacturing, mining and quarrying](#) are part of industry. The monthly production surveys and monthly reports (including new orders) are used for short-term reporting in this area. In addition, important indicators (e.g. production index and new orders in manufacturing) are calculated to monitor short-term economic development in Germany, based on the above information and other data sources. They are supplemented by quarterly surveys, which provide additional information on the structure and volume of goods production. The structural surveys supply information about the additions to and disposals of fixed assets (investments and sales of tangible fixed assets) as well as the cost and performance structures and materials and goods received. The results of the structural surveys often form the basic data for further secondary statistical calculations used, for example, to ascertain the contributions of the individual economic branches to the gross domestic product (GDP). Fertiliser statistics and woodworking statistics, which are presented as separate sets of statistics, also fall into the area of manufacturing.

The truck toll mileage index provides approximate indications of the development of industrial production in Germany at a very early stage. It reflects the development of the mileage of large trucks (with four or more axles) on German motorways (see Chapter 2, Section 2.3 Shaping the future using experimental data and methods).

The [crafts sector](#) is defined by the Crafts Code (HwO). Craft enterprises are active in nearly every branch of economic activity, not only in the construction industry and manufacturing, but also in trade and services. According to the Crafts Statistics Act (HwStatG), information about the crafts sector is contained in a set of short-term economic statistics (quarterly report on crafts) and in a structural survey (census of crafts). The crafts statistics are entirely based on administrative data.

The [statistics of business notifications](#) provide information about all registrations and deregistrations of commercial enterprises and local units. Amongst other things, start-ups and closures can be identified from the business notifications. The closures also include business deregistrations due to corporate insolvencies.

Extensive information about insolvencies is available from [insolvency statistics](#). The monthly statistics on filed insolvency proceedings provide information on insolvencies as soon as the decisions of the local courts on the requests for insolvency proceedings are available. The annual statistics on insolvency proceedings completed and discharge of residual debt provide information on the outcome of insolvency proceedings, for example on the proportion of claims that the creditors were reimbursed for, as well as on the reorganisation success of corporate insolvencies.

The subject area of [domestic trade, accommodation and food services](#) contains results for motor vehicle trade, wholesale trade, retail trade, and accommodation and food service activities. Monthly data are released on turnover and employees (short-term economic data). In addition, structural statistics on the above areas provide information on longer-term developments, for example, annual information on the number of enterprises and persons employed, on remuneration and turnover. The German economy is highly export-oriented and therefore export-dependent. At the same time, Germany, as a country low on raw materials, is reliant on imports, especially in the energy sector (crude oil, natural gas).

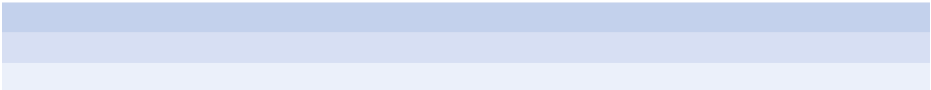
**Foreign trade statistics** reflect cross-border trade in goods with foreign countries. Important survey variables are the direction of trade, i.e. import or export, the type of goods and the partner country. The development of foreign trade data reveals what goods and trading partners are gaining or losing importance.

In the service sector, business **services** in particular have expanded in recent years. Telecommunications services, electronic information procurement and processing, logistics and leasing are increasingly shaping the structure and development of the economy, because – as the division of labour increases – they provide services to safeguard competitiveness. This also applies to the diverse services with advisory character and not least to financial services. In view of the increasing life expectancy of the population, healthcare is another important service area. Amongst other things, cost structure statistics provide information about the economic situation of medical and dental practices, massage practices, the practices of psychotherapists and nonmedical practitioners.

**Energy and water supply** and **waste management** are part of industry. The surveys in this area cover all enterprises in electricity, gas, heating, cooling and water supply as well as wastewater and waste disposal. These statistics receive particular attention because of the strategic supply and security aspects to be considered in the energy and water supply of a national economy, and because of their environmental significance. Federal statistics present two different aspects of the energy industry. The first is the economic study of the energy sector, that is, the short-term economic development and the enterprise structures. The second is physical energy production; it is measured how much energy is produced and used.

In **price statistics** results of price comparisons over time are shown in the form of indices. In its structure, the German system of price statistics follows the steps that goods can take on their way from import or production to final consumption or export. The indices refer to the economic stages of import, production, trade, private consumption and export. Absolute average prices in euros are calculated in official price statistics only for energy sources such as heating oil, gas and electricity (semi-annual average prices) as purchase values of building land and of agricultural land.

The **national accounts** are an indispensable tool for economic monitoring. They convey a comprehensive quantitative picture of the economic situation. The national accounts consist of the domestic product calculation, the input-output accounts, the income approach and national wealth accounts as well as the employment, labour volume and financial accounts.





### For what are the data used?

The Statistical Register is the infrastructure for the planning, preparation and execution of surveys of enterprises and local units. It is used as a sampling and extrapolation frame and as a basis for the replacement of censuses and specific surveys. Furthermore, it provides structural data about enterprises.

Economic statistics are the basis for economic, monetary, labour market and regional policy measures. They are considered short-term economic indicators and provide important information or basic data for the national accounts. Reporting in the scope of the EU structural business statistics regulation (Regulation (EU) No 275/2010) and the Regulation on the common industrial production statistics PRODCOM (Regulation (EEC) No 3924/91) is based on these data, as is the market monitoring of all economic branches.

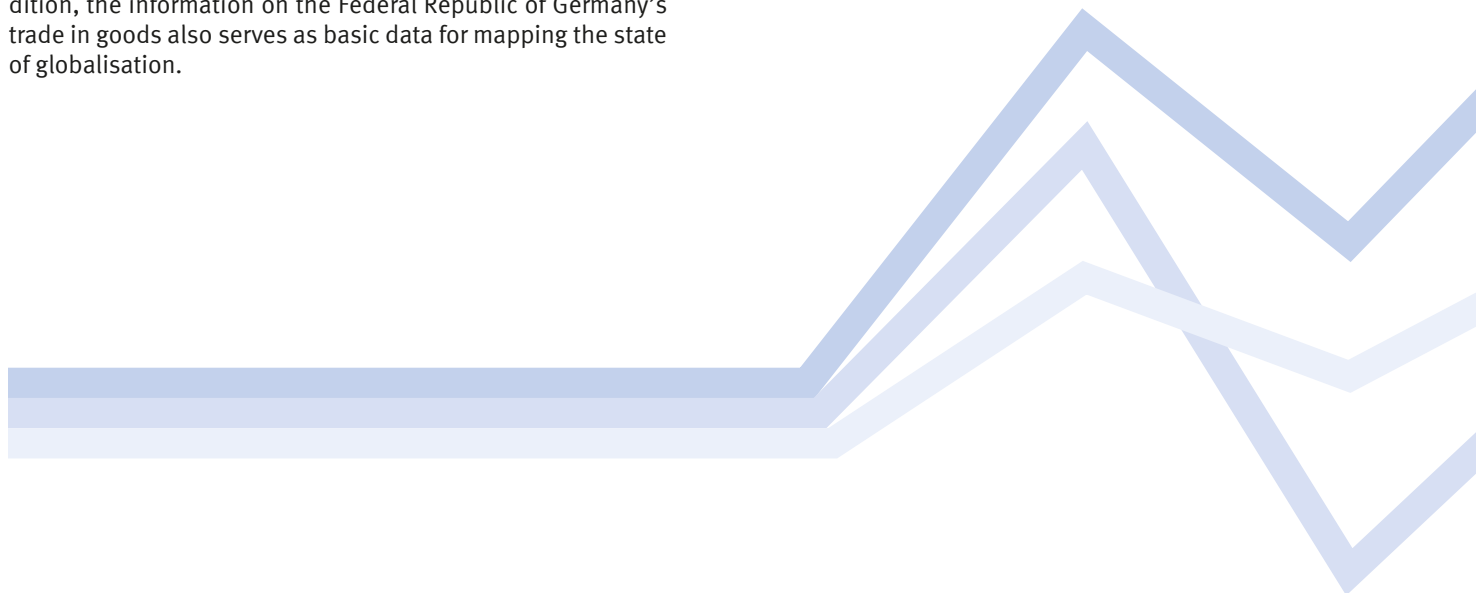
Energy statistics offer information for ensuring a sustainable energy and water supply and provide important basic data for the environmental-economic accounts. In addition, energy statistics are the basis for shaping framework conditions in energy policy. Data from energy statistics are needed for energy balances and are used as a basis to monitor climate policies and the transformation of the energy system in Germany as well as at the European and international levels.

Foreign trade statistics are among the indicators of the Dissemination Standard of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The results are an important source of information for the balance of payments statistics and the national accounts. In addition, the information on the Federal Republic of Germany's trade in goods also serves as basic data for mapping the state of globalisation.

The results of service statistics are used as indicators for benchmarking with regard to the Digital Agenda of the Federal Government.

The price indices serve as the basis for economic and monetary policy decisions. For example, the national consumer price index (CPI) is a key indicator for assessing monetary value development in Germany. Also, price indices in the form of stable-value clauses are often part of contractual agreements on current payments in private and commercial contracts. In addition, price indices are used to adjust nominal economic variables such as gross domestic product (GDP) for price changes in order to determine real growth rates.

The data of the national accounts are used to describe and analyse Germany's economic situation. They are also used for pension adjustments and for the calculation of Member States' own resources payments to the EU and to verify compliance with the objectives of the EU Stability and Growth Pact. In addition, they provide the data basis for other accounting systems and satellite accounts (such as regional accounts of the Länder, environmental-economic accounts, household production, health, tourism) and are used for the analysis of socio-economic developments and the measurement of well-being.



## Developments since 2018

### Globalisation – conducting a pilot project examining multinational enterprise groups



New challenges have emerged in the course of European discussions on globalisation. The early identification and consistent treatment of cross-border multinational enterprise group restructuring, which also manifests itself in changes in commodity and cash flows, requires new solutions in economic statistics and in the national accounts.

Against the background of the European Court of Auditors' criticism of possible risks in the determination of gross national income, Eurostat initiated a pilot project to study 25 multinational enterprise groups. For this purpose, the consistency of the coverage of value added and intellectual property was examined across countries in view of cross-border relocations of the economic activities of multinational enterprise groups, based on the example of those 25 enterprise groups.

The results of the studies terminated in June 2019 were submitted in a report to the European Court of Auditors in late 2019. In the pilot project, joint analyses were conducted by all national statistical institutes in the EU. In terms of content, this involved the question of adequately recording cross-border supply and value-added chains within the framework of the national accounts. In the medium and long term, this will require robust organisational approaches, appropriate data sources and legal opportunities for EU-wide micro-data exchange, so that national statistical institutes can adequately capture the activities of multinational enterprise groups. Linking these activities with the project on setting up a Large Cases Unit (LCU) is meaningful.

### Modernising the short-term economic statistics in trade and services



The short-term economic statistics in trade and services are processed separately with different IT applications. In the course of modernisation, almost identical requirements will be imposed on the short-term economic statistics in both economic branches as from reference year 2021. As there are only few survey variables and almost identical requirements, the methods of data collection, processing and analysis in short-term statistics have been harmonised for both areas. In the period from 2021 to 2023, the methodological changes will be implemented in several steps. The short-term statistics in the service sector will be extended to include the branches of “68 Real estate activities”, “77 Rental and leasing activities”, “81.1 Combined facilities support activities” and “81.3 Landscape service activities” and they will be converted to monthly periodicity. Then the short-term statistics in trade and services will be converted to cover the activities of legal units. The goal is to provide the monthly short-term results in a more detailed breakdown by branch of economic activity. An index of services production will be released for the first time at the beginning of 2024.

## Developments since 2018

### Introducing the EU enterprise definition and profiling

The EU action plan for the introduction of the EU enterprise definition will lead to a comprehensive change in structural statistics. The task of profiling is to identify enterprises as part of enterprise groups and determine core variables such as domicile and economic branch. For this purpose, the Federal Statistical Office coordinates and supports profilers in the statistical offices of the Länder and enhances the profiling methods.

The first real-time profiling was carried out for the 2018 reference year. Results were available in late April 2020. The knowledge gained through profiling are stored in the Statistical Register and provided for use within the statistical offices. The necessary expansion of the database has already taken place. The information will then be used for the actual introduction of the EU enterprise definition in structural statistics from the 2018 reference year.

Methods development and realisation were carried out by joint project groups of the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder. The first data from structural statistics based on the EU enterprise definition for reference year 2018 were transmitted to Eurostat on 30 June 2020.



### Redesigning energy statistics, in particular expanding the areas of renewable energies and heat

The amendment to the Energy Statistics Act (EnStatG) of 2017 closes important gaps in the data stock of official energy statistics and thus also in national energy accounts. In-depth surveys on heat generation, combined heat and power processes and renewable energies are used to extend existing surveys. In addition, important new areas have been added with the surveys on storage facilities and the mineral oil trade. In particular, the expansion of the supply of data on renewable energies has led to an increase in the importance of official energy statistics.

First results of the monthly surveys (as from reference month January 2018) were published in spring 2018. The annual surveys were conducted for the first time for the 2018 reference year due to the close integration of monthly and annual surveys. The results were published in the autumn of 2019.



## Developments since 2018

### Average prices of electricity and gas



Regulation (EU) 2016/1952 on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices obliges EU Member States to report, on a biannual basis, average prices for electricity and gas charged to final consumers. Data are provided for household and non-household customers, consumption bands and price components. The respective quantities are also included in the weighting.

To comply with the regulation, a national legal basis had to be created. By adopting the Act Amending the Price Statistics Act (PreisStatG) of 10 December 2019, the relevant provisions were included in the Price Statistics Act. First results on that basis were transmitted to Eurostat for the first time in late March 2020, using a new data collection and processing system. Administrative data, too, are used for the production of results to reduce the burden on the energy suppliers, which are obliged to provide information.

### Feasibility study on GDP flash estimate (t+30)



In Germany, the gross domestic product (GDP) for a quarter of a year is currently published for the first time about 45 days after the end of the quarter (t+45 days). Since 2016, Eurostat has released a Preliminary Flash Estimate of the GDP in the EU and the euro area as early as 30 days after the end of the quarter (t+30 days); Germany supplies internal data for this. As the GDP early estimate of the Federal Statistical Office has been continuously optimised, the European quality criteria for an earlier GDP release are now met. The first national release of the German GDP at t+30 days is planned for GDP of the second quarter of 2020.



## Challenges and potential for development

Our main focus for improving economic statistics is on implementing the requirements of the EU Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS), ensuring correct integration of globalisation effects, and introducing the EU enterprise concept in structural statistics.

Our main focus for improving energy statistics is on the improved and thorough harmonisation of the variable definitions of the various surveys.

Our main focus for improving price statistics is on the use of digital data.

Our main focus for improving the national accounts is on preparatory work for accelerated national GDP publication as well as on methodological analyses, for example on the consequences of globalisation and digitalisation for statistics.

### Focal points of further development

Digitalisation in price statistics (use of scanner data and web scraping)

The trade landscape is presently changing at a very fast rate, and in particular the on-line trade is showing strong growth rates in certain areas. Also, the product range is being further differentiated and sometimes product and price changes are made more and more quickly (dynamic pricing). The manual price collection on the internet and the price surveys conducted on site by price collectors are thus increasingly reaching their limits.

As part of the digitalisation of price statistics, internet price collection will be expanded, automated and standardised by means of web scraping in order to collect more prices than before in a more efficient way. For price collection regarding travel services, web services have been created which retrieve offer prices from a computer reservation system. The prices collected in an automated way will gradually be integrated into index calculation. In addition, transaction data from enterprises (e.g. scanner data) are being examined for their potential use in price statistics. Since spring 2020, first results based on scanner data have been published for the consumer price index (CPI). With these new methods of data acquisition, the quality of the results is to be permanently ensured and probably even improved.



02 / 2021

Establishing Large Cases Units (LCU)

The basic idea behind Large Cases Units (LCUs), as already established in various statistical institutes in the EU, is the special monitoring and gathering of information on large enterprise groups with high economic importance. LCUs are used above all for quality assurance in national accounts and the underlying economic statistics as regards coherent and consistent inclusion of statistical data on large multinational enterprise groups in line with.

The focus at national level is on studying the coherence between different economic statistics, including the balance of payments statistics and the national accounts. Also, structural changes of these enterprise groups are to be detected at an early stage and the necessary adjustments in the various economic statistics are to be ensured. Bilateral and multinational cooperation of course plays a major role in these activities.

As part of the LCU project, it has to be examined how a potential LCU can be integrated in the existing circumstances of official statistics in Germany, or to what extent these circumstances are modified by the project.



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## Focal points of further development

### Modernising Intrastat

In line with Vision 2020 of the European Statistical System (ESS), intra-EU trade statistics (Intrastat) are to be enhanced so as to reduce the burden on responding enterprises across Europe while maintaining the high level of quality. The main item is the compulsory exchange of microdata between the EU Member States on intra-EU exports as from January 2022.

This involves adjusting the coverage when collecting import data. For reasons of data quality and timeliness, it is not planned in Germany to completely abandon the collection of intra-EU import data; instead, a reduction of coverage is planned in the medium term. The reduction depends on the extent to which the mirror dispatch data of the partner countries can be used to supplement the national data collection. This requires comprehensive analysis of the partner data which will be available for the first time when the compulsory microdata exchange has been introduced in 2022. Basic technical and methodological questions in the context of microdata exchange are currently being settled and the national legal bases are created.



12 / 2021

### Early provision of data on energy production in industry

Earlier data provision is required for national and European purposes of energy reporting. As monthly surveys are conducted for energy production, solid estimates are available already in spring of the subsequent year. Data on energy use, however, are available only in autumn of the subsequent year. The project will examine various approaches to providing such data earlier.



02 / 2023

### Implementing the EU Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS)

The basic FRIBS legislation entered into force in late 2019 and will have to be applied as from 1 January 2021. The aim of FRIBS is to expand the coverage of business statistics and to develop business statistics as a whole into a more flexible and consistent subsystem of the European Statistical System (ESS).

Currently the focus is on national implementation. This includes in particular legislative processes and IT adjustments as well as methodology developments aimed at implementing the considerable expansion of the transmission programme while keeping the burden low.

The project will terminate when the new system has completely been implemented in summer 2024, that is, when the short-term economic statistics have been rebased to base year 2021 and the last data series of the stable business statistics have been changed to meet the new requirements. Then dynamic business statistics will have to be adjusted, in particular the statistics on global value-added chains; this, however, will not be part of the project. The adjustments of foreign trade statistics, too, will be managed in a separate project.



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### Further development of national accounting methodology (international) and implementation in the national context

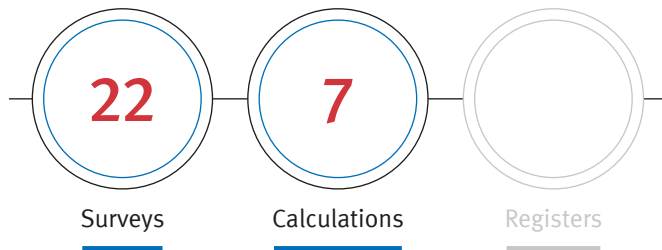
The further development of national accounting methodology at the international level is driven and controlled above all by the Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts. It is planned that preparatory work at the national level to implement the new SNA 2025 (System of National Accounts) and, derived from it, the new and legally binding European System of Integrated Economic Accounts (ESA) will start as part of the next Europe-wide 2024 revision of national accounts.



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## 3.5 Environment

### What we now offer



The [environmental surveys](#) provide important basic data for the assessment of the environmental situation, the ecological burdens and their changes. There are two types of surveys. The first type monitors resource management in water abstraction and the environmental impact of emissions through surveys in the areas of waste management, wastewater management and air pollution control. Increasing social and political awareness of environmental protection and resource conservation is also creating a higher demand and thus increases the production of environmental protection goods. The second type of survey documents the investment activity of business and industry in environmental protection as well as the resulting current expenditures. It informs about the economic factor of environmental protection as well as resulting employment effects.

Demonstrations for environmental protection and the global discussion on sustainability show how important it is to link information on the environment, economy and society more closely and to process and communicate it in a neutral and consistent manner for political debate. With the [environmental-economic accounts](#), the Federal Statistical Office comprehensively portrays the interaction between economic activities and the environment in a single accounting system comparable with the national accounts.

It provides, for example, information on physical material, resource and energy flows as well as emissions and monetary accounts for environmental taxes or environmental protection expenditures. These are supplemented by specially processed sector accounts for different subject areas such as transport or forests. The basis for the environmental-economic accounts is the international standard of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).

### For what are the data used?

Environmental statistics serve the direct evaluation and monitoring of environmental policies. They are also an important basis for different scientific analyses and accounting systems.

From the comprehensive system of environmental-economic accounts, which depicts the relationships between economic activities and the environment, a wealth of new information and numerous indicators are derived that are necessary for the assessment and design of a policy oriented to the sustainability objective. They thus form one of the foundations for reporting on the Sustainable Development Strategy of the Federal Government and on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda.



## Developments since 2018

### Georeferencing / providing geoinformation

The goal of strategic priority planning of the network of statistical offices to georeference all possible statistics by the end of 2019 has been achieved for environmental statistics. The applications of georeferenced statistics include, in addition to the creation of grid maps, an immovable location reference (as opposed to changing area boundaries based on administrative data), the calculation of distances from points of interest as well as the linking of various statistics through the grid cell ID to describe spatial communities.

The amendment to the Federal Statistics Act (BStatG) has allowed the processing of georeferenced results, i.e. the use of small-area references in the production processes of official statistics. Geocoding of environmental-economic statistics is to be carried out after the survey using a copy of the Statistical Business Register, which is updated every autumn. For this purpose, the Federal Statistical Office has developed a Statistical Analysis System (SAS software), which has already been tested in selected statistical offices of the Länder. The tests were successful and the SAS programs have been made available to the statistical offices of the Länder.

A very similar procedure is used for the survey of non-public water supply and waste water disposal. By means of the geographical coordinates contained in the copy of the Statistical Business Register at branch establishment level, all reporting units are assigned both a river basin district unit and a grid cell. This information will be added to the individual data material of the research data centres (FDZ) in order to be available for evaluations in the long run. Technical implementation is based on the SAS statistics software.



### Reporting on environmentally related taxes

The proportion of environmentally related taxes is broken down by Member State by the EU Commission and is a political steering instrument for it. A large proportion of revenue from environmentally relevant taxes in total revenue is considered positive although it may be a sign of poor environmental behaviour. However, the concept of tax is neither nationally nor internationally uniformly defined. The Federal Statistical Office examined whether and how new or additional taxes (including Land and municipal taxes) have to be included in the environmental-economic accounts and to what extent data in official registers are already available in a breakdown as needed for reporting.





## Challenges and potential for development

Our main focus for improving [environmental statistics](#) is on standardising and optimising the efficiency of the processes. We are optimising the processes of [environmental-economic accounts](#) and open new themes by linking up additional data.

### Focal points of further development

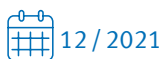
Supply and use tables in the area of environmental protection



At present, the supply and use sides of goods and services that serve environmental protection or the protection of natural resources are reported from different sources. Although each of these data sets is of high quality, they are not coordinated.

The Federal Statistical Office therefore plans to present these data in an integrated system of supply and use tables as part of the environmental-economic accounts. Although this does not make any present primary survey obsolete, it will increase the overall comparability of the results and permit new, additional information to be derived.

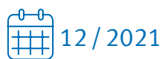
Ecosystem Services



Ecosystem services are material and immaterial services provided by the environment to the economy and society. They comprise not only the material supply services, which have been in the focus so far (e.g. provision of food, drinking water and raw materials), but also the regulation services coming more and more into the focus of public debate (e.g. pollination of crops, climate regulation and water filtration) as well as cultural services (e.g. nature for tourism).

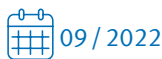
This is why the Federal Statistical Office plans as a first step to completely and coherently cover existing ecosystems so that ecosystem services can be added to environmental-economic accounts. Their condition and potential services will be determined in further steps.

Sustainability of tourism



Tourism has manifold social, economic and ecological effects. It is therefore planned to show tourism as a separate economic sector in the existing environmental-economic accounts. This requires many detail changes in the accounts regarding energy, emissions, traffic, material flows, environmental protection expenditure and taxes.

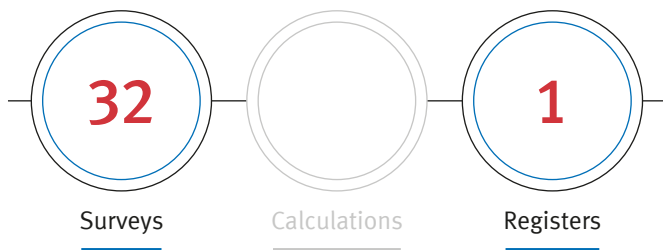
Environmentally related subsidies



Environmental-economic accounts so far have shown only the taxation of activities that are partially harmful to the environment. To complete the picture, the Federal Statistical Office will expand the calculations to include subsidies that have both potentially positive and negative effects on the environment.

## 3.6 Agriculture

### What we now offer



Farmers produce plant and animal-based foods, cultivate the landscape and preserve natural habitats. Despite its small share of total economic output, agricultural production is of great importance for ensuring an adequate food supply for the population. In addition, environmental effects and the consumption of resources by agriculture play important roles.

Official [agricultural statistics](#) are intended to record the structural and social adjustments of agriculture to changing market and agricultural policy conditions and to present them as soon

as possible. Agricultural censuses take place at ten-year intervals; intermediate farm structure surveys, which are currently conducted every three to four years, complement them. Statistics on agricultural land use, livestock, animal production and harvest are produced with annual or shorter periodicity.

The subject area of agriculture is supplemented by results on [forestry](#) and [fisheries](#) as well as on [land use](#) in Germany. Among other things, the latter data provide information about land consumption.

### For what are the data used?

The results are used to plan and monitor the effectiveness of measures in the European and national agricultural, market and pricing policies, the rural development policy and the environmental policy and to forecast agricultural expenditure under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The information collected is also used in the calculation of agricultural environment indicators, climate protection reporting, economic accounts for agriculture and national accounts and the Agricultural Policy Report of the Federal Government.

### Developments since 2018

#### Amending the Agricultural Statistics Act (AgrStatG)



The Agricultural Statistics Act (AgrStatG) has been amended, which has created the legal basis for implementing the existing requirements for the coming years. The Act amending the AgrStatG entered into force on 8 July 2019.

#### Area Atlas



The map-based atlas of the area survey was published in December 2019. It shows small-area results of the "survey of areas by type of actual use" for the whole of Germany. It contains thematic maps on the proportion that forests, agriculture and housing and transport areas have in the total area of the individual municipalities. As an additional indicator, the settlement density (housing and transport area per inhabitant) of the individual municipalities is shown in maps. The results are published on the website of the Federal Statistical Office and on the joint federal and Länder platform (Statistics Portal).

## Developments since 2018

### Redesigning the meat inspection statistics



After the meat inspection statistics and the relevant list of variables have been revised, the new survey process has been introduced up to the publication of the result for the first half of 2019. By the end of 2020, the survey process has to be implemented correctly in technical and thematic terms, room for interpretation has to be eliminated, and data collection has to be firmly established for further survey periods. This will be evaluated afterwards.

### Study on the use of satellite data to estimate crop yields (SatAgrarStat project)



In the SatAgrarStat project, experience has been acquired regarding the use of remote sensing-based crop yield estimations using Copernicus satellite data for the field crops of winter wheat, winter rape and spring barley in four Länder. The yield estimates produced by the Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) are based on an approach that allows to estimate the potential agricultural yield from stock data derived from remote sensing during the entire growing season. Yield estimates were produced at plot and administrative district levels and validated using real data at both geographical levels. To validate the calculation models, the JKI used yield data – determined by the involved statistical offices of the Länder through a special survey –, additional area-related information in the involved Länder, and results of official statistics. The project results show that remote sensing-based yield estimates can provide useful results for specific crops.

## Challenges and potential for development

Our main focus for improving agricultural statistics is on harmonising various statistics, on testing and using new data sources (remote sensing data, administrative data) and on automating processes.

## Focal points of further development

### Redesigning the agricultural statistical system (regulation on integrated farm statistics, statistics on agricultural input and output)

The statistics on agricultural input and output (SAIO) are included in the second comprehensive European framework regulation for agricultural statistics (after the integrated farm statistics regulation). It envisages grouping together four existing legal bases, various gentlemen's agreements and arrangements within the European Statistical System (ESS), as well as incorporating new delivery variables because of their relevance to obligations relating to environmental and climate reporting and to requirements of different Directorates-General.

The chief objectives of the SAIO framework regulation are:

- › to harmonise different and in part existing statistics
- › to expand content with as little additional burden as possible
- › to increase the efficiency and flexibility of the statistics
- › to use new data sources/to reuse data sources multiple times

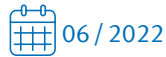
Additional national goals of the measure are the best possible inclusion of national interests in the development of the SAIO framework regulation, the meaningful implementation of the framework regulation taking into account national requirements as well as the development of IT processes that are as efficient as possible.



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## Focal points of further development

Conducting the 2020 Census of Agriculture as part of the European and World Census of Agriculture every ten years



Censuses of agriculture have been taking place roughly every ten years since 1930 and are part of a global agricultural census initiated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The survey is carried out in all EU Member States and thus provides comparable data for the entire EU.

The decentralised 2020 Census of Agriculture is carried out as a direct survey (online questionnaire) combining a complete enumeration and a sample survey. To reduce the burden on respondents, data are taken from various administrative data sources. National and European legal bases have been adapted as part of survey preparation.

Introducing the extended catalogue of use types in official area statistics (redesigning area statistics)



The nomenclature of actual use that is currently applied is a mixed classification. Its definitions use terms from land use and land cover. The two new classifications of land cover and land use apply a clear semantic distinction between cover and use of land, which is not the case in actual use. This allows to clearly describe the earth's surface, which is a marked quality improvement as ambiguous interpretation of the object types used so far in actual use is avoided. The catalogue of use types will be adjusted to allow land use to be derived from actual use.

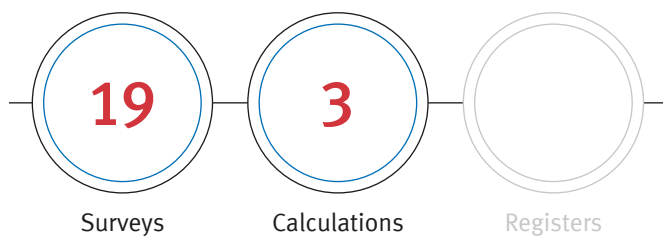
Continuing the SatAgrar-Stat project (remote sensing-based yield estimation)



Compared with the previous project, various improvements have been implemented in SatAgrarStat PLUS: the reference and validation data have been extended to improve the method, also with a view to the weather-related extreme values during the period of the first project (hot summer of 2018), the crop portfolio has been extended (winter barley), things have been consolidated at the regional level, and processes have further been automated. Also, studies on yield forecasts will be performed, based on the deadlines of harvest forecasting, within the scope of crop production reports. Examining additional opportunities to integrate satellite images in the statistical processing process or to extend the product portfolio is of particular importance for official statistics. The goal is to identify quality improvement potentials and to increase the regional availability of crop yield estimates.

## 3.7 Construction and housing

### What we now offer



**Construction statistics** portray the construction process from the planning of construction projects and the use of production factors through to the finished building from different perspectives. The surveys of the **construction industry** provide statistical information about the short-term economic situation and the structural development of the construction industry. The **main construction industry** and **building completion work** are considered here.

The **census of buildings and housing** in the 2011 Census determined the stock of dwellings and residential buildings. After the next census of buildings and housing has been conducted as part of the 2021 Census, building and housing data will be collected on a register basis (register census). For this purpose, a register of buildings and dwellings has to be set up; the Federal Statistical Office is strongly involved in the preparations.

**Building activity statistics** provide information on the approval and completion of construction work, the unfinished building projects and the demolition of buildings and dwellings. For this purpose, administrative data are used, which are acquired during municipal building supervision. Building activity statistics thus provide important information on the future development of the construction industry (in particular building construction). They allow the observation of the medium to long-term development of the building stock and its structure and update the stock of residential buildings and dwellings up to the next census of buildings and housing.

As part of the microcensus, information on the **housing circumstances of households** in Germany is collected every four years. Information is gathered on the structure of occupied buildings and dwellings, the energy sources used for heating and hot water, ownership, housing costs and, since 2018, certain variables of accessibility. The additional programme of the microcensus thus represents the most comprehensive data source regarding the housing circumstances of the population. The annual “Leben in Europa” statistical survey (German name of the European Union statistics on income and living conditions

– EU-SILC) enquires also information on the housing circumstances and, in a more detailed way than the microcensus, on housing costs. Another focus is on the objective and subjective burden of housing costs and the residential environment of the households participating in the survey. The sample survey of income and expenditure determines the housing-related (consumption) expenditure on a voluntary basis. In contrast to the microcensus, EU-SILC and the sample survey of income and expenditure also collect information from the owners of residential buildings and dwellings on their housing costs.

**Price statistics** comprise various indices on construction and housing. For example, the development of rents, which make up a large part of private households’ consumer spending, is shown in the consumer price index. Construction price indices measure the average development of the prices of construction operations regarding new construction and maintenance of buildings. The price trends for the purchase and possession of dwellings as well as single-family and two-family houses are represented by the house price index and the owner-occupied housing price indices. Information on purchases and sales of building land is published in the statistics of purchase values of building land. Absolute average prices of building land are also shown here. The price development of building land, adjusted for regional structural shifts, is reflected in the price index for building land.

### For what are the data used?

The data of construction statistics are the basis for housing policy decisions and for planning in the housing and construction industry. They are included in short-term economic and market monitoring and in the national accounts and are used for reporting under the EU structural business statistics regulation (Regulation (EU) No 275/2010).

The price indices serve as the basis for economic and monetary policy decisions. Also, price indices in the form of stable-value clauses are often part of contractual agreements on current payments in private and commercial contracts. In addition, price indices are used to adjust nominal economic aggregates such as gross domestic product (GDP) for price changes in order to determine real growth rates.

## Developments since 2018

### Modernising the statistics of building activity



The Federal Statistical Office will continue to contribute to the development of the XBau exchange standard by the building authorities. The new standard makes it possible to describe processes and regulations of public building law in a “technical language”. When it will be introduced in 2020, it will be possible for the statistical offices of the Länder – at first in Hamburg – to obtain data required for the statistics of building permits, of construction work completed and of building losses from the building authorities without media disruptions and thus to modernise the statistics production processes.

### Providing regional results for the rent and house price indices



Due to the high proportion of expenditure for housing, the topics of rent and residential property prices have been a major factor in public and political discussions for many years. Also, regional trends differ considerably in this respect.

Up to 2019, price statistics provided indices of rents in a breakdown by Land for the consumer price index. The development of purchase prices of residential property is reflected in the house price index (HPI) for the whole of Germany. As the samples of these indices have been improved substantially in the past few years, it is now possible to provide results in more detailed regional breakdowns. The house price index was published by settlement structure-related district type for the first time at the end of June 2019. In the future, the regional indices will be published together with the quarterly release of the Germany-wide house price index. Rents were published in a breakdown by settlement structure-related district type for the first time in February 2019 within the scope of revising the consumer price index for Germany. The information will be updated every year.

### Improving the timeliness of the results of the micro-census additional module on “Housing” and closing data gaps



An optimised processing process allowed to provide the results of the 2018 micro-census additional programme on “Housing”, which is conducted every four years, already one year after the survey.

In order to better show the demand for housing against the background of an ageing society, information on accessible housing was collected for the first time by the statistical offices as part of the 2018 additional programme.

## Challenges and potential for development

Our main focus for improving the construction and housing statistics is on modernising the production processes.

### Focal points of further development

EU project on developing new indicators on the start of construction work, construction work completed and vacancy rates



09 / 2021

To allow early identification of systemic economic risks in the real estate sector, the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB), Eurostat and the European Central Bank (ECB) recommend the development and provision of additional sub-annual indicators on the start of construction work, construction work completed and vacancy rates.

Against this background, feasibility studies (EU grants) on the development of such indicators have been conducted since October 2019 in various EU Member States (including Germany). After the project will have been terminated and the results positively assessed, it is planned to gradually include these indicators in the EU data transmission programme as from 2022.

Introducing nationwide homelessness statistics



06 / 2022

The introduction of nationwide, legally anchored homelessness statistics has been the subject of political discussions for several years. The national data on homeless people that are currently available are based on estimates of the Federal Association for Help to the Homeless (BAG W).

The Act Introducing Homelessness Reports and Centralised Statistics of Homeless People Accommodated (WoBerichtsG) entered into force on 1 April 2020. It will improve the reports on poverty and wealth of the Federal Government and provide an information basis for political decision-making. The annual stock survey of the statistics of homeless people accommodated will be conducted for reference date 31 January of every year, and for the first time for 31 January 2022.

Extending the range of variables of the census of buildings and housing

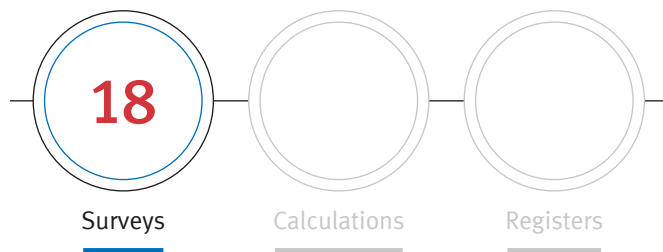


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The 2021 Census Act (ZensG 2021) extends the range of variables of the census of buildings and housing to include the variables “vacancy” (duration and reason), “energy source” and “net rent exclusive of heating expenses”. This will close major data gaps in official statistics. The vacancy of dwellings is a major variable for assessing housing supply in tight markets and for designing targeted funding programmes. There are no data on rents for the whole of Germany, either collected officially or otherwise, although they would be an important basis for effective and targeted housing and urban development policies. Information on rents of existing tenancy agreements provides a major contribution for targeted provision / distribution of publicly assisted housing, housing construction subsidies and accommodation costs. Together with energetic information on the building, it also provides a basis for determining total housing costs.

## 3.8 Mobility and transport infrastructure

### What we now offer



Transport services statistics are a focus of official transport statistics. They show the transport volumes and quantities in **goods transport** as well as the transport performance (tonne-kilometres). The data are broken down by regions and goods. Goods transported are shown by their gross weight (including packaging). The transport performance additionally takes into account the distances covered.

**Passenger transport** includes public transport by bus, train or plane, as well as private transport by motor vehicles, by bicycle or on foot. Official statistics provide above all information on public passenger transport. Data are available, among other things, on the number of passengers carried and the transport performance.

The **enterprises, infrastructure and vehicle stocks** area provides data on new motor vehicle registrations, vehicle stocks and the transport infrastructure. These data are also available broken down by Land. For inland waterways transport and aviation enterprises, among other things, the turnover and the number of vehicles are shown.

In **traffic accidents** a distinction is made between road, rail and aviation accidents. Road traffic accident statistics provide data on the number of accidents, the parties involved, the casualties, the causes of accidents and the severity of the consequences of accidents (e.g. accidents involving personal injury or material damage). In the case of rail accidents, data on the number of accidents and casualties are available for rail and tram transport.

**Consumer prices** are collected monthly regarding the use of the various means of transport such as rides in short and long-distance rail transport, in transport networks, on long-distance coaches, taxi rides, in air transport and in water transport. In consumer price statistics, price developments for the different means of transport are published in the form of indices.

**Prices of goods transport** are collected quarterly for road, rail, air and sea freight transport are part of producer prices of services. The price development there is also published in the form of indices. Indices are available for the price development of services of economic branches in the transportation section and for individual services.

### For what are the data used?

The available data are used as the basis for transport policy and business decisions as well as for traffic safety analyses. The consumer price indices for goods and services in the transport area are included in the consumer price index. The consumer price index is a central indicator of inflation trends in Germany. Price indices are also used to adjust nominal aggregates of economic statistics for inflation effects.



## Developments since 2018

Testing the use of data from the River Information Services (RIS) for the statistics of freight transport on inland waterways

The Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV) has been developing the River Information Services (RIS) for several years. The data obtained on transport on inland waterways are a potential source for the statistics of freight transport on inland waterways. The 3rd Amendment of the Inland Shipping (Federal Competences) Act, adopted in 2017, granted official statistics access rights to RIS data. The WSV is implementing a data management concept for the RIS data.

The WSV provided data in May 2018 and examined them for usability in the statistics of freight transport on inland waterways. It turned out that the content of RIS data is smaller than the list of variables in inland water transport statistics. In addition, RIS currently do not cover all inland waterways.

A working group chaired by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) and the Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency has been set up in which the Federal Statistical Office and selected statistical offices of the Länder are participants. Its task is to develop a concept for purely electronic data collection for the inland water transport statistics.



## Challenges and potential for development

Our main focus for systematically improving transport statistics is on testing alternative data sources.

## Focal points of further development

EU pilot study on passenger transport on inland waterways

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1365/2006 on statistics of goods transport by inland waterways in combination with Regulation (EU) 2016/1954, it must be examined whether passenger transport on inland waterways can be statistically covered.

The Federal Statistical Office carried out a pilot study at the request of the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI). Inland waterways transport is the only mode of transport in which passenger transport has not yet been covered. In particular, river cruises and day trips are expected to see strong growth in passenger numbers, which will have an impact on port infrastructure and traffic on inland waterways. At the Euro-pean level, additional demand is seen for information on accidents on inland waterways. The measure thus has the following goals:

- › determining data availability for passenger transport on waterways (river cruises, day trips, ferries and public short-distance passenger transport) and for accidents on inland waterways
- › sources to be used (shipping companies, ports, skippers and others)
- › determining the costs of data collection and processing
- › assessing data quality

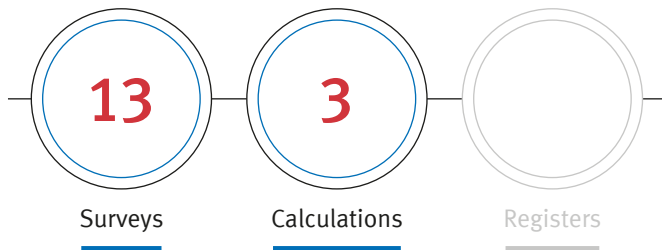
The results of the national pilot study will be documented in a report to Eurostat. Together with findings from pilot studies in other Member States, they will form the basis for subsequent discussion at the European level.



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## 3.9 Health and long-term care

### What we now offer



The [health expenditure accounts](#) show which institutions of funding (public budgets, statutory health insurance, private health insurance, etc.) pay for health expenditure in what facility for what services. The [financial accounts](#) supplement the health expenditure accounts by showing how health expenditure is financed through the individual funding institutions. Funding institutions are general government, enterprises, households and non-profit institutions serving households. The [cost-of-illness accounts](#) cover the costs directly related to an illness. The [health personnel accounts](#) provide information on people employed in the health sector – including their age, sex and occupation. Information on the cost structure data in the medical sector is also available.

[Health status statistics](#) provide data on the ill and accident victims, on the smoking behaviour of the population as well as on body size and weight.

Information on facilities, beds and patient flows, medical and non-medical personnel, diagnoses relating to patients who receive full in-patient treatment, as well as surgeries and procedures performed is available for hospitals and prevention or rehabilitation facilities. [Hospital statistics](#) also provide data on caesarean sections as well as on the costs of hospitals.

[Abortion statistics](#) provide an overview of the number and development of abortions. They cover selected personal circumstances of the affected women, such as age and marital status. In addition, the statistics provide data on the legal requirements for termination of pregnancy and the type of intervention.

The [causes of death statistics](#) cover all deaths in Germany and their causes. In addition to the number of deceased, data on the most common causes of death are available for men, women and children. The same applies to information on maternal mortality and sudden infant death syndrome. Furthermore, the statistics provide more detailed information on individual causes of death such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers or suicides. In addition to data on deaths, the [statistics of deaths](#) also include information on the average life expectancy of women and men.

The [statistics of severely disabled people](#) include information about the number, age and sex of severely disabled people. Also, data are available on the kind, cause and degree of disablement. Additional information on people with disabilities has been collected annually in the microcensus since 2017.

The [statistics on long-term care](#) provide information about those in need of long-term care. Home care and home assistance services and nursing homes provide information on the facilities and persons employed.

### For what are the data used?

The data serve as the basis for health policy decisions and as a reference for health-related target discussions and assessments. They are used as a data basis for health reporting, national and international health indicator sets, and poverty and wealth reporting. Furthermore, they are a source for the establishment of a European health statistics system and the fulfilment of international reporting obligations.

## Developments since 2018

### Reforming hospital statistics



On 1 January 2018, the Second Ordinance Amending the Hospital Statistics Ordinance (KHStatV) took effect, which improves the data basis above all for planning purposes. For example, staff microdata sets have to be transmitted based on the compulsory variable “year of birth”. The goal is to exactly represent the age structure of persons employed in the facilities. Another example is the coverage of out-patient services in hospitals.

### Adjusting the statistics on long-term care to legal changes



As from reference year 2019, the new home assistance services have been integrated in the statistics on long-term care and the additional nursing staff of the nursing homes have been shown separately. This is required for assessing the effect of the latest amending acts (Act to Strengthen Nursing Staff [PpSG], Appointment Service and Healthcare Supply Act [TSVG]).

## Challenges and potential for development

Our main focus for improving the statistics in the health system is on establishing digitised and automated causes of death statistics.

## Focal points of further development

### Setting up hospital statistics on the basis of the list of locations

In accordance with Section 293 (6) of the Social Code, Book V (SGB V), and based on the agreement pursuant to Section 2a (1), first sentence, of the Hospitals Financing Act (KHG), the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Funds (GKV) and the German Hospitals Federation have maintained, as from reference year 2020, a nationwide list of locations of approved hospitals and their outpatient departments. In contrast to the existing hospital statistics, which use economic units as respondents, this will allow to show the actual distribution of the individual facilities and their structures.

Data on the variables listed below will then be shown by location, among other things:

- › number of beds
- › special facility
- › medical-technical large-scale equipment
- › dialysis places
- › places for part-time in-patient day or night treatment
- › type of departments without beds
- › type of pharmaceuticals supply
- › patients with full in-patient treatment discharged from a hospital or prevention or rehabilitation facility with more than 100 beds
- › patients with pre-admission, post-discharge and part-time in-patient treatment and billing days for part-time in-patient treatment
- › number of patients with out-patient treatment
- › level of participation in in-patient emergency care
- › deliveries and births
- › billing days and bed occupancy days
- › patient days in prevention or rehabilitation facilities



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## Focal points of further development

### Analysing small-area geodata in hospital statistics



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The amended Federal Statistics Act (BStatG) opens up new possibilities for presenting georeferenced results on the basis of geocoordinates and grid cells also in hospital statistics.

In March 2020, the Hospital Atlas was published in the statistics portal ([www.statistik-portal.de](http://www.statistik-portal.de)), the central access point to data offered jointly by the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder. It serves the cartographic visualisation of selected aspects of the medical care situation on the basis of geocoded hospital locations in Germany. This is intended to visualise (calculated) accessibility zones related to hospital locations according to selected variables, in particular calculated distances to the nearest hospital (in kilometres/minutes) differentiated according to specialist departments/specialisations of hospitals and region types. The application also allows linking to other basic geodata, such as census-based population data.

### Establishing electronic causes of death statistics



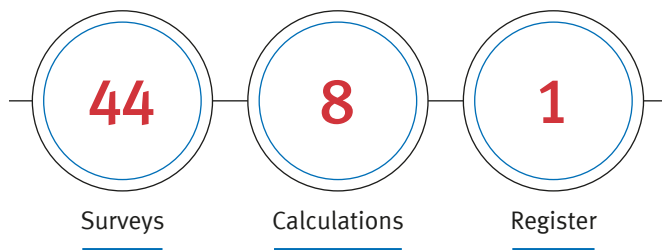
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The Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) has commissioned the Federal Statistical Office and the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices with piloting an electronic death certificate (eTB) that is standardised for Germany. It is planned to terminate the project by 31 December 2022. It comprises four work packages.

- I. Feasibility study on eTB portal: The goal is to demonstrate, in cooperation with a municipal IT service provider, that setting up an eTB portal is feasible that realises the process chain from physicians performing the post-mortem examination and registrar's offices to the public health offices that are obliged to provide information to the statistical offices.
- II. Defining the piloting dataset that is standardised for Germany: A standard dataset for all of Germany is coordinated with relevant actors. The requirements of the World Health Organization (WHO) are taken into consideration.
- III. Specifying the eTB portal: A technical specification of the eTB portal is developed to allow participants in the pilot phase (hospitals/medical practices, registrar's offices, public health offices and statistical offices of the Länder) to adjust their software systems and interfaces. Existing technical standards of digitalisation of authorities are used.
- IV. Implementing and testing the eTB portal: A test and evaluation approach for piloting is developed. In municipal pilot regions, death certificates are electronically captured by physicians, digitally processed by the authorities involved, and electronically coded in the relevant statistical offices of the Länder. Effects on data quality and multicausal indicators that are relevant for health policy are evaluated and assessed. It has to be taken into account that the Länder are responsible for funeral and cemetery law.

## 3.10 Government and finance

### What we now offer



**Public finance statistics** regularly provide a comprehensive and detailed picture of all public finances. They show the sources and volume of public revenue and the extent to which public expenditure could be financed. The difference between revenue and expenditure is used to calculate the financial balance as defined in public finance statistics. The public assets situation is represented by public debt statistics and public financial assets statistics. The data of the financial statistics of the overall public budget show the finances of the core and extra budgets of the Federation, Länder, municipalities and municipal associations and social security funds as well as the financial shares of the European Union.

Since the mid-1980s, the overall picture of public finance statistics has been adversely affected by outsourcing tasks from public core budgets and continuing them under private or public law. In order for public finance statistics to fulfil their basic task of fully reflecting public finances, these units are included not only in debt statistics, but also in the statistics on the annual accounts of public funds, institutions and enterprises. These include, among others, municipal enterprises without legal capacity, federal and Land enterprises without legal capacity, and also all private-law institutions and enterprises in which the public sector directly or indirectly holds more than 50 percent of the nominal capital or voting rights. Public funds, institutions and enterprises that are part of the general government sector according to the rules of the European System of Integrated Economic Accounts (ESA) are additionally recorded quarterly and included in public financial assets statistics on an annual basis.

Taxes are the main source of government revenue. In the case of **tax statistics**, a distinction is made between the short-term recording of cash tax revenue, the annual surveys of the tax assessment bases and the current data on excise duties. The statistics of cash tax revenue show the payments from taxes and customs duties received by the Federation, Länder, municipalities and municipal associations. The surveys of the tax assessment bases cover income, net worth and turnover taxes. Amongst other things, excise duty statistics reveal the tax burden and the quantities sold of certain semi-luxury goods and mineral oil products and electricity. In addition, aviation tax statistics provide, for instance, an overview of the number of air passengers carried.

Statistical information on the public service is provided by **public service personnel and public service pensioner statistics**. As employees with an employment contract under public law are not subject to compulsory social insurance, the statistics of public service personnel are the only comprehensive data source for public officials. The Federal Employment Agency additionally collects statistical information on employees subject to social insurance contributions. The personnel statistics of the public budgets provide information on both the personnel and the public service pensioners. Public service personnel include public officials, judges, career and fixed-term military personnel and employees. Public service pensioner statistics cover the beneficiaries of the public-law pension system for public officials and career soldiers. Public officials' pensions and related benefits are paid to recipients of retirement benefits, widows and widowers and orphans.

### For what are the data used?

The results of public finance statistics provide an overall picture of public finances and serve as the basis for economic, financial and sectoral policy decisions. They are basic data for the national accounts (general government account, income approach) and for the EU Stability Pact.

Tax statistics serve as the basis for tax policy decisions, regulatory impact assessments and the associated budget planning as well as the federal and Länder tax estimation. Furthermore, they form the basis for the distribution of tax revenue to the territorial authorities (e.g. wage tax distribution, distribution key for the municipal share of income tax and turnover tax revenue), they provide information on general economic development and the corporate landscape. Institutions of higher education and other institutions tasked with independent scientific research have regulated access to microdata of tax statistics through the research data centres of official statistics.

Public service personnel and public service pensioner statistics are used as the basis for policy decisions on the development of regulations relating to public service, remuneration of public officials, collective bargaining and public service pensions, for collective bargaining in the public sector and as a benchmark in the municipal sector and at Land level. They are basic data for labour market statistics, the employment accounts in the framework of the national accounts and parts of the labour cost and earnings survey. Furthermore, they are used to forecast future public service pension expenditures (e.g. for the Federal Government's Pensions Report and the medium-term financial planning of the Federal Government and the Länder).

## Developments since 2018

### Expanding the overall tax statistics system

The focus in tax statistics is on continuing the development and optimisation of the current and standardised tax statistics system (StSys) on the basis of annual federal statistics. The StSys is a central application in which all advance tax return and tax assessment statistics are processed. The comparison of tax statistics with each other offers efficiency gains and improvements in the quality of the statistical results. The integration of tax statistics into the StSys is done module by module.

The following modules are presently integrated into the StSys:

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#### Statistics of pension benefit notifications

There are no comprehensive data in official statistics on the receipt of old-age pensions and other benefits in old age and the accumulation of benefits from multiple sources. Section 22a of the Income Tax Act (EStG) provides for a standardised electronic pension benefit notification procedure aimed at ensuring the correct and complete taxation of retirement income. In the context of income taxation, comprehensive administrative data are thus available on this topic. In order to improve the data situation, the data gap is being closed by means of a statistical evaluation of the pension benefit notifications.

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#### Wage tax statistics (declarations)

With the Act to Strengthen Occupational Pensions (BRSG), which came into force on 1 January 2018, the Bundestag introduced a new set of statistics to record wage tax declarations. The survey variables for wage tax statistics (declarations) will be transmitted by the tax authorities for the first time in 2020 for the 2018 declaration year. The new statistics was processed as the 11th module in the StSys.



## Challenges and potential for development

Our main focus for improving public finance, tax and personnel statistics is on making use of new administrative data.

### Focal points of further development

#### Country-by-country reporting



12 / 2020

The Act implementing the EU Directive on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation and further measures against base erosion and profit shifting of 20 December 2016 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 3000) provided, among others, for a new Section 138a to be inserted into the German Fiscal Code (AO), which obliges multinational enterprise groups to compile and submit country-by-country reports. If the conditions mentioned therein are met, a country-by-country report must for the first time be submitted for business years beginning after 31 December 2015. After that, it has to be submitted annually. A legal basis is being established for transmitting the data from the Federal Central Tax Office to the Federal Statistical Office and for federal statistics to be compiled centrally by the Federal Statistical Office.

#### Ensuring the quality and transparency of public finance statistics as a chief contribution to sustainable management by the Federal and Länder governments



12 / 2020

The diversification of public budgets and the diversity of accounting systems make it very difficult to draw a comprehensive, coherent and consistent picture of public finances. Although such a picture is the indispensable basis of sustainable fiscal policy, its monitoring instruments are differently structured at the Land, national and EU levels. The finer these surveillance regimes are and the more financial statistical indicators they use, the greater the need for explanation of these indicators, especially in communication with the ministries of finance as actors of fiscal policy.

A package of measures therefore aims for both internal quality assurance and better explanations of the results to the outside.

#### Establishing and compiling procurement statistics



06 / 2021

The goal is to set up and compile procurement statistics based on the amended Public Procurement Statistics Ordinance (VergStatVO) of 2 April 2020 in the form of administrative statistics of the Federal Statistical Office on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi). The procurement statistics is to continuously collect comprehensive data on the award of public contracts and concessions in Germany in order to provide reliable information on the scope and structure of public procurement.

Until April 2020, the Federal Statistical Office developed the instruments and applications needed to cover all stages of procurement statistics production (registration of reporting units via IDEV forms; electronic data collection by means of IDEV and .CORE procedures; data processing, evaluation and provision). Basically, the standard instruments of the statistical offices (SteP tools) are used for the purpose. Data collection using IDEV and .CORE procedures is expected to start in the reporting units from October 2020. First results will presumably be published in autumn 2021.

## Focal points of further development

Expanding the overall tax statistics system



10 / 2021

### Electronic balance sheet

Electronic balance sheet data are a supplemental statement of the balance sheet and the profit and loss account, which taxpayers submit to the tax authorities in the taxation procedure. These data are not only of interest for regulatory impact assessments and the national accounts, but generally are an as yet unexplored alternative administrative data source also for other users.

Statistics of values assigned to real property, agricultural and forestry property for real property tax purposes



12 / 2023

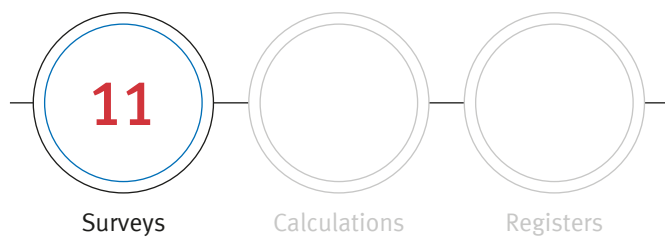
The Property Tax Reform Act (GrStRefG) of 26 November 2019 reforms the valuation legislation determining the values assigned to real property, which will replace the obsolete assessed values, as a basis for imposing real property tax. To this end, the Property Tax Reform Act provides for a general assessment on 1 January 2022 with a revaluation of approximately 36 million plots of land. Real property accounts for just under 32 million units and agricultural and forestry property for a good 4 million units. The technical implementation has already started at the tax authorities and is to be completed by 2023. This also includes the delivery of data to the official statistics agencies. The Property Tax Reform Act also provides for an amendment of the Tax Statistics Act (StStatG), which lays down in Section 1 (1) no. 5 that the statistics of the values assigned have to be produced as federal statistics. Pursuant to Section 2 (5) of the Tax Statistics Act, the statistics has to be compiled in connection with the general assessment.





## 3.11 Justice

### What we now offer



Justice statistics provide information on the volume of work and the work completed by courts and public prosecutors. In addition, they provide data on defendants adjudicated and de-

fendants convicted by final judgment, on convicted prisoners and persons under probation. The various justice statistics are obtained and processed by the statistical offices of the Länder in cooperation with the Land ministries of justice. The Federal Statistical Office then compiles these results and publishes federal results.

### For what are the data used?

The data serve as information for planning and monitoring the use of funds by judicial bodies, the evaluation and further development of laws and legal policy measures, as well as national and international crime reporting.

### Challenges and potential for development

Our main focus for improving justice statistics with our partners at the federal and Land levels is on creating an Act on Criminal Justice Statistics. We are involved also in preparing the Periodical Report on Crime and Crime Control.

#### Focal points of further development

##### Creating an Act on Criminal Justice Statistics

The Coalition Agreement of the Federal Government for the 19th legislative period provides for an Act on Criminal Justice Statistics to be passed in cooperation with the Länder to increase the informative value of the criminal justice statistics maintained at the Federal Statistical Office.

In the long run, crime and criminal justice statistics will be merged into a set of flow statistics, for which a feasibility study is to be commissioned. The Federal Statistical Office, in cooperation with the statistical offices of the Länder, will support policymakers in creating such an Act.



##### Periodical Report on Crime and Crime Control

In the policy field of crime prevention, the Coalition Agreement also stipulates the strengthening of socio-scientific and criminological security research and a speedy updating of the Periodical Report on Crime and Crime Control for the objective of evidence-based crime control policy.

The Periodical Report on Crime and Crime Control, the latest edition of which was published in 2006, is to provide an overall picture for monitoring and analysing the phenomenon of crime in Germany. A wide range of data sources are tapped for that purpose, for instance the police crime statistics of the Federal Criminal Police Office and the various justice statistics of the Federal Statistical Office, but also research into unreported crime. The Federal Statistical Office is thus contributing to the Periodical Report on Crime and Crime Control.



## 3.12 Indicators

### Our indicators

By compiling relevant indicators, the Federal Statistical Office can depict various life situations of people and the economic situation in Germany down to a very detailed regional level, thus providing a fact-based basis for decision making for politicians, business and industry, and society.

### Short-term economic indicators

Economic development can be monitored and evaluated using a variety of short-term economic indicators. Extensive tables with monthly or quarterly results, partially supplemented by calendar and seasonally adjusted values, as well as an interactive Business Cycle Monitor provide an overview of the short-term economic situation.

Short-term economic indicators are available for the following subject areas on the website of the Federal Statistical Office ([www.destatis.de](http://www.destatis.de) > Our topics > Economy > Short-term indicators):

- › Accommodation and food service activities
- › Building permits
- › Construction industry
- › Consumer prices
- › Foreign trade balance
- › Gross domestic product
- › Gross fixed capital formation
- › Import prices
- › Job vacancies reported
- › Labour costs
- › New orders index
- › Persons in employment
- › Private consumption expenditure
- › Producer prices
- › Production index
- › Rate of registered unemployed
- › Retail trade
- › Services
- › Truck toll mileage index
- › Turnover index
- › Wholesale trade

### Sustainability indicators

The Federal Government has voluntarily committed itself to the United Nations [2030 Agenda](#) (A/RES/70/1), that is, to meeting the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets of the United Nations and to reporting regularly on national goal achievement. To this end, 244 sustainability indicators were prepared by an international working group with the participation of the Federal Statistical Office and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The coordinating role in providing national time series to the United Nations was transferred to the national statistical institutes in the relevant UN resolution (A/RES/71/313). The Federal Statistical Office for the first time submitted a comprehensive report on the state of the SDGs in Germany in the context of the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development with the [data for Germany](#), and it updates this report regularly. Based on this, the Federal Statistical Office provided access to an online platform on the SDG indicators in 2019 (<https://sustainabledevelopment-deutschland.github.io/>). It provides German statistical data and metadata on global sustainable development in a processed form and in an interactive environment. The platform is based on a common open-source standard of several national statistical institutes which will jointly develop it further, sharing the work at an international level.

Building on the 2030 Agenda, the Federal Government adopted the new version of the [German Sustainable Development Strategy](#) in January 2017 and updated it in 2018. At present, the German sustainability strategy includes 65 social, environmental and economic indicators for all 17 SDGs, and more indicators on additional topics are currently under discussion. A revision of the Federal Government's strategy, which will also integrate further indicators into the reporting process, has been scheduled for 2021.

According to a cabinet decision, the Federal Statistical Office is responsible for the analysis and monitoring of the indicators. Since 2006, the Federal Statistical Office has been publishing the [Indicator Report](#) on sustainable development in Germany every two years. The Federal Statistical Office has provided the indicators of the German sustainability strategy also on its online platform on sustainable development ([www.dns-indikatoren.de](http://www.dns-indikatoren.de)) in an interactive environment and in visual form since the beginning of 2020.

## Globalisation

**Globalisation** is understood as the process of increasing international interdependence in all spheres of life, which has been going on for centuries. However, unlike in earlier phases of globalisation, its pace and scale have increased rapidly in recent times. Technological progress has drastically reduced transport and communication costs. This has not only promoted international trade but also led to an increasing internationalisation and division of labour in production processes. Money, goods and know-how are transferred worldwide to a degree that was previously unknown and unimaginable.

As an open economy, Germany is to a large extent internationally oriented and thus integrated in worldwide globalisation. **Exports** have long been the engine of the German economy. At the same time, as a country poor in natural resources, Germany is reliant on **imports** – in particular in the energy sector.

The globalisation indicators published by the Federal Statistical Office are derived from official statistical data and are intended to shed light on economic aspects of globalisation. They are structured according to the categories of foreign trade, enterprises, transport and environment.

**More indicators** are available for the following subject areas:

- › Quality of employment
- › Report on poverty and wealth
- › Report on education
- › International indicators of education
- › Culture
- › Health monitoring system
- › Science and technology indicators
- › Structural indicators, regional atlas

## Bureaucracy costs

**Bureaucracy cost measurement** focuses on the bureaucratic burden which acts and regulations of the Federal Government place on citizens, businesses and the public administration. Compliance costs are the most comprehensive measure of bureaucracy and the basis of measurements. They include the time and costs incurred in complying with a legal requirement. In the course of the introduction of new legal regulations, the Federal Government is obliged to determine their impact on compliance costs. Continuous documentation of compliance costs is carried out by the Federal Statistical Office. Apart from quantifying compliance costs, the **bureaucracy cost index** makes bureaucratic burdens on enterprises tangible and shows how they evolve over time. The index aims at classic “paperwork”. This includes applications, notifications, identifications, statistics or verifications. The **barometer of burdens** answers the question of how much effort statistics reporting causes for enterprises. That is the basis of the continuing simplification of surveys and, consequently, the reduction of response burdens. In fact, many of the official statistics on economic development in Germany would be unthinkable without the involvement of enterprises.

In addition to measuring bureaucracy costs in purely quantitative terms, the Federal Statistical Office surveys, on behalf of the Federal Government, how citizens and businesses perceive public administration services. In doing so, contacts with authorities and offices in various life situations such as marriages, the birth of a child or unemployment are examined. Regarding enterprises, for example, the focus is on the contacts when starting up a business, developing a new product or closing a business. The results of the life situation surveys are provided on the Federal Statistical Office’s website as part of the information on the government initiative “Official and simple – Public administrative services within easy reach” ([www.amtlich-einfach.de](http://www.amtlich-einfach.de)).

## Developments since 2018

Expansion and enhancement of the data platform on sustainable development for reporting on the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The Federal Government has voluntarily committed itself to the United Nations 2030 Agenda, that is, to meeting the 17 SDGs and 169 targets and reporting regularly on national goal achievement using at present up to 244 indicators.

For this reporting, the Federal Statistical Office established a national reporting platform in 2019 which is based on a common standard of several national statistical institutes. It was supplemented by the indicators of the German sustainability strategy, which have also been mapped, where possible. This reduced the data transfer effort on both the national and international side and ensured the coherence of national and global data. At the same time, the Federal Statistical Office would be able to offer an easily accessible and transparent source of information for civil society.

## Challenges and potential for development

Due to the current political discussion on the development of sustainability, this publication focuses on the development potential of the indicators on this topic.

## Focal points of further development

Establishing ecosystem accounting



12 / 2025

National accounts represent reality in model form by means of a consistent system of accounts and serve as a tool for analyses and policy impact assessment. As a supplement to national accounts, environmental-economic accounting shows the interaction between economic activities and the environment. Ecosystem accounts, an essential component of environmental-economic accounting, have not been implemented for Germany yet. They serve to reflect the state of the environment and the services it provides to the economy and society. It is planned to set up ecosystem extent accounts to record the size of ecosystems in Germany as a first step towards the implementation of ecosystem accounting. On this basis, the condition of ecosystems (condition accounts) and the services they provide to the people (service accounts) will be presented in a system compatible with environmental-economic accounts.





Baden-Württemberg  
Statistisches Landesamt Baden-Württemberg  
[www.statistik-bw.de](http://www.statistik-bw.de)

Bayern  
Bayerisches Landesamt für Statistik  
[www.statistik.bayern.de](http://www.statistik.bayern.de)

Berlin und Brandenburg  
Amt für Statistik Berlin-Brandenburg  
[www.statistik-berlin-brandenburg.de](http://www.statistik-berlin-brandenburg.de)

Bremen  
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Hamburg und Schleswig-Holstein  
Statistisches Amt für Hamburg und Schleswig-Holstein  
[www.statistik-nord.de](http://www.statistik-nord.de)

Hessen  
Hessisches Statistisches Landesamt  
[www.statistik.hessen.de](http://www.statistik.hessen.de)

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
Statistisches Amt Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
[www.statistik-mv.de](http://www.statistik-mv.de)

Niedersachsen  
Landesamt für Statistik Niedersachsen  
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Nordrhein-Westfalen  
Landesbetrieb Information und Technik NRW  
[www.it.nrw.de](http://www.it.nrw.de)

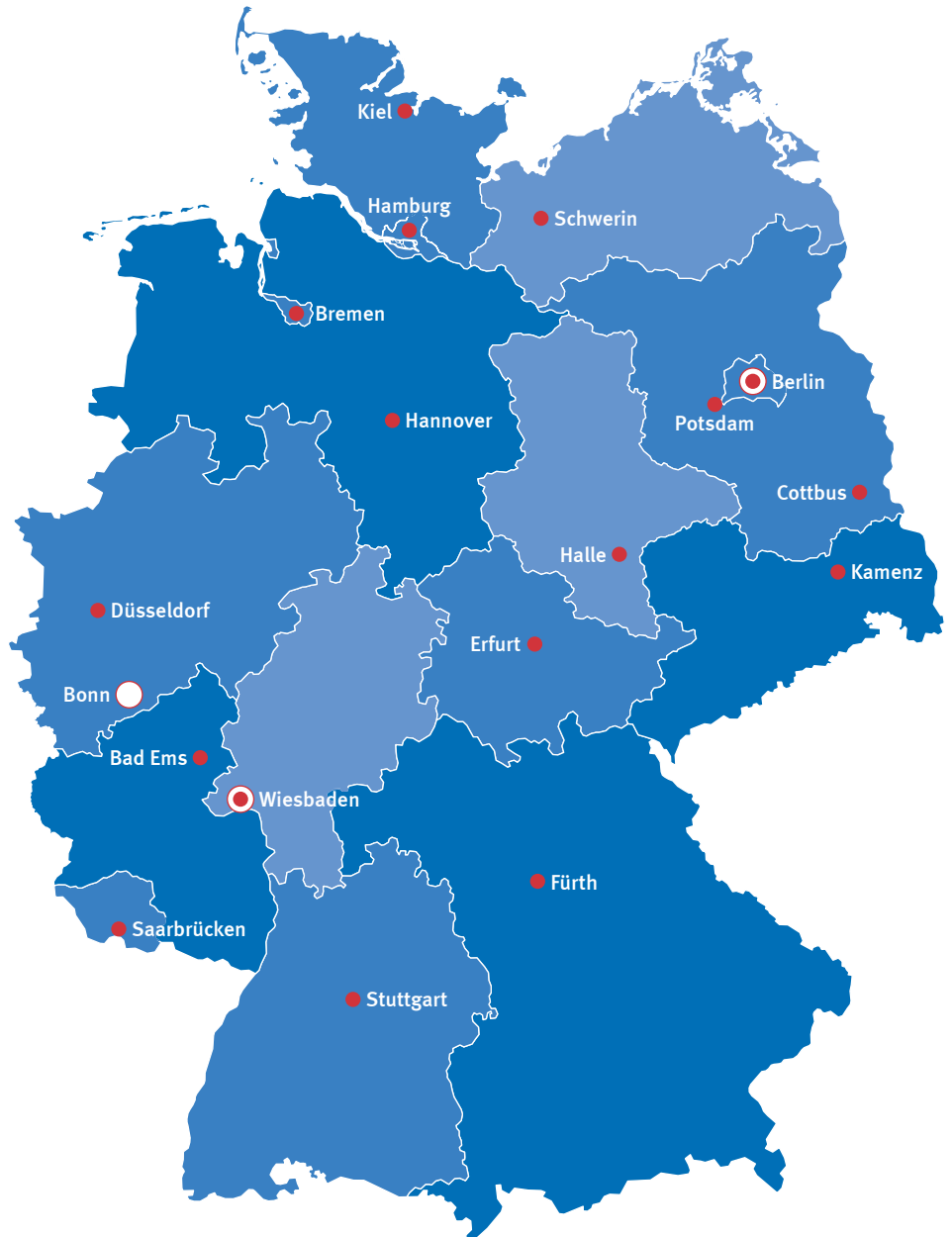
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Thüringen  
Thüringer Landesamt für Statistik  
[www.statistik.thueringen.de](http://www.statistik.thueringen.de)



-  Locations of the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis)
-  Locations of the statistical offices of the Länder