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ANNUAL REPORT 2008

deral Statistical Office of Germany

Dear reader,

The Annual Report 2008 of the Federal Statistical Office gives you an up-to-date overview of the major focuses and results of our activities, of reforms and innovative developments in the past year. Articles from nearly all areas of our Office provide information on important developments in the specialised statistics and on new information offered as well as on central issues of co-operation at the European and international levels. We also report on internal modernisation steps made in the staff and administrative spheres.

A special event of last year was certainly the visit of the Federal President to the Federal Statistical Office in late October 2008. What also started last year is the preparation of the 2009 elections to the European Parliament and to the German Bundestag, which is now continuing at full speed. Another major event will be a register-based census to be conducted in the Federal Republic of Germany in 2011. The activities of the Federal Statistical Office in 2008 also focused on the presentation of results obtained from measuring administrative burdens on businesses; that measurement is performed by the SCM unit of our Office, commissioned by the Federal Government.

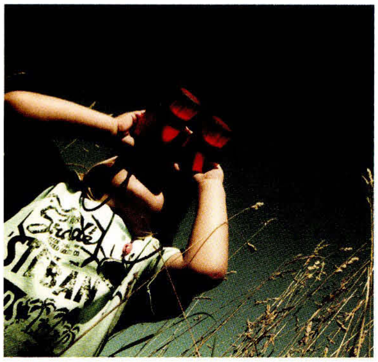
Considering the financial and economic crisis, reliable statistical data are in higher demand than ever. Official statistics is staying abreast by publishing for the first time data on the interaction of German businesses with foreign countries, on the trend of atypical employment (fixed-term employment contracts, temporary work, part-time work or minor employment) and on the quality offensive in public finance statistics. Also, in the new series "Demografischer Wandel in Deutschland" (Demographic change in Germany), topics are examined which are important for social policy.

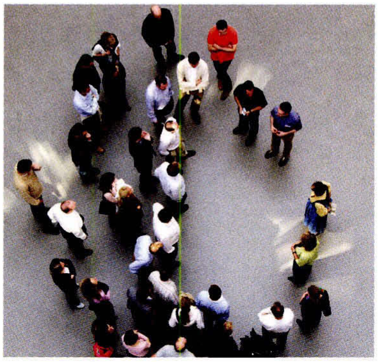
Following extensive preparatory work, the Regulation on European Statistics, which is a milestone for European statistics, has now entered into force. Two new high-level advisory bodies will give additional impetus to the European Statistical System.

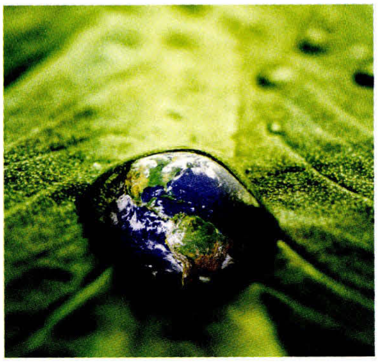
The Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder wish to remain the leading official information providers in Germany. I hope that this publication will further stimulate the dialogue with our partners.

Your

Roderich Egeler
President of the Federal Statistical Office







The use of knowledge – our services

Results of the Federal Statistical Office are in demand

In 2008, too, the Federal Statistical Office continued its intensive press activities: More than 500 press releases on the most different topics from A („Accomodation in internal tourism“) almost to Z (“Youth welfare offices: children under custody“) were published, a total of ten press conferences and press briefings were held in Berlin and Frankfurt/Main, and many radio and TV interviews and performances were organised. The Federal Statistical Office is perceived as an objective institution whose statistical results are used to add facts to many current political, economic and social discussions. This is also shown by the wide media coverage achieved in 2008. Press coverage alone – measured by the number of articles in important print media referring to a press release of the Federal Statistical Office – increased by over 10 % compared with the previous year. Especially topics which were the focus of public interest last year – such as inflation, the financial crisis and its impact, migration and demographic change – were used by the Federal Statistical Office to provide new results for the discussion. Here are some highlights of press work in 2008 in a chronological order:

January: At the traditional press conference on the gross domestic product, a 2.5 % economic growth was reported for 2007. Growth was based mainly on the high export surplus and the increase in fixed capital formation in machinery and equipment. Real final consumption expenditure of households, however, decreased slightly.

February: Annual results of the new statistics of parental allowance were presented for the first time. According to those figures, over 571,000 requests for parental allowance were granted in 2007, including about 10.5 % requests of fathers.

March: The robust short-term economic trend of the years 2006 and 2007 was also demonstrated by the fact that the number of business insolvencies was down to 29,160 in 2007; compared with the previous year, that was a decrease by nearly 15 %.

April: The Federal Statistical Office reported that labour costs in the German private sector amount to EUR 29.10 per hour worked. In a European comparison, Germany ranked seventh, while an hour worked was most expensive in Denmark (EUR 35.00).

May: In the category “Figure of the Week”, it was reported that about 30 % of all children born in 2006 were born outside marriage. There were considerable regional differences. The highest rates were recorded for Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Sachsen-Anhalt with 63 % each, while the lowest rate was observed in Baden-Württemberg with 20 %.

June: The issue that dominated the first six months was inflation, which was fuelled by rising energy prices. The year-on-year rate of price increase reached the highest level of 2008 in June (+3.3 %) and by the end of the year it was down to +1.1 %.

July: There was good media response to a press conference held in Berlin and entitled “Germany – a country for families”, where cross-section data on the situation of families in Germany were presented. For example, in about half of the families with two parents in Germany, both the mother and the father actively performed a gainful activity in 2007. 35 % of the couples arrange their working life according to the traditional role pattern where only the father works.

August: Energy prices and relevant expenditure made the headlines again: Between 2002 and 2006, energy prices, which have increased markedly in the last few years, led to a total increase in household expenditure on housing energy and motor fuels by about 28 %. Model calculations show that, with unchanged energy consumption, households in 2008 have to spend another 21 % more on energy than in 2006.

September: In a press briefing in Frankfurt/Main which attracted much attention, the Federal Statistical Office presented data on new forms of employment (for example fixed-term and minor employment). While the number of persons in so-called normal employment was down by 1.5 million from 1997 to 2007, the number of persons in new or atypical forms of employment rose by 2.6 million in the same period.

October: At a press conference, the Federal Statistical Office presented results of the new statistics on over-indebtedness for the first time. According to those data, the main reasons for overindebtedness of individuals are unemployment (30 %), separation, divorce or death of the partner (14 %), and illness, addiction or accident (10 %).

November: In the third quarter of 2008 the gross domestic product (GDP) was down by a price, seasonal and calendar-adjusted 0.5 % from the second quarter. As the GDP decreased already in the second quarter compared with the previous quarter, many media consider that trend as the beginning of a recession.

December: On the occasion of a press conference in Berlin, the Federal Statistical Office informed about new results of hospital statistics. Apart from structural and development data of hospitals and patient-related results (age structure, diagnosis and treatment data), model calculations were presented on how demographic change will affect the range of diseases and the number of hospital treatments. According to that information, for example, the number of hospital cases is expected to rise by 12 % until 2030.

First address for statistics: www.destatis.de

Today the internet is the main dissemination channel for data of the Federal Statistical Office. All publications are available online. Apart from the classic standard publications, more and more interactive applications and web publications are offered. What should particularly be mentioned is the following new developments:
The category "indicators" presents short-term economic indicators in a new and user-friendly way. Time series and charts perfectly show the long-term developments at a glance. Further indicator systems are connected to that. The Business Cycle Monitor is a new interactive application that allows researching the current economic situation in the business cycle.

The number of page views at destatis.de has exceeded the threshold of 5 million per month.

With its STATmagazin, the Federal Statistical Office addresses the general public, including statistical laypersons. Through short texts and illustrative charts, statistical background knowledge which is the focus of public discussion is presented in a reader-friendly way.

For the users of official statistical data, **www.destatis.de** is becoming the first address in Germany. The number of page views at destatis.de continues to increase and has exceeded the threshold of 5 million per month. The range publications offered for free download in the publication service are used more and more often, too: In 2008, an average 93,000 publications per month were downloaded free of charge. Hence the number of downloads has doubled since 2006. The issues which are on top of the download hit list are "demographic change" and "producer and consumer prices".

Interactive calculation tool for stable-value clauses in consumer price statistics

Price indices are part of many contractual agreements on continuous payments and are included in tenancy, lease, delivery, pension and other agreements. Such arrangements are to ensure that the creditor will continue to receive an amount which in value terms corresponds to the financial amount initially settled for. Where long-term payments are protected against inflation in this manner, this is referred to as stable-value clauses.

Stable-value clauses are frequently used, for example, in tenancy agreements. It is laid down in the German Civil Code that, for index-linked tenancy agreements, the development of rents should be based on the consumer price index of the Federal Statistical Office. In practical application of that provision, however, the contracting parties frequently face questions of detail. The price statisticians in Wiesbaden receive some 20,000 enquiries every year specifically on the issue of stable-value clauses.

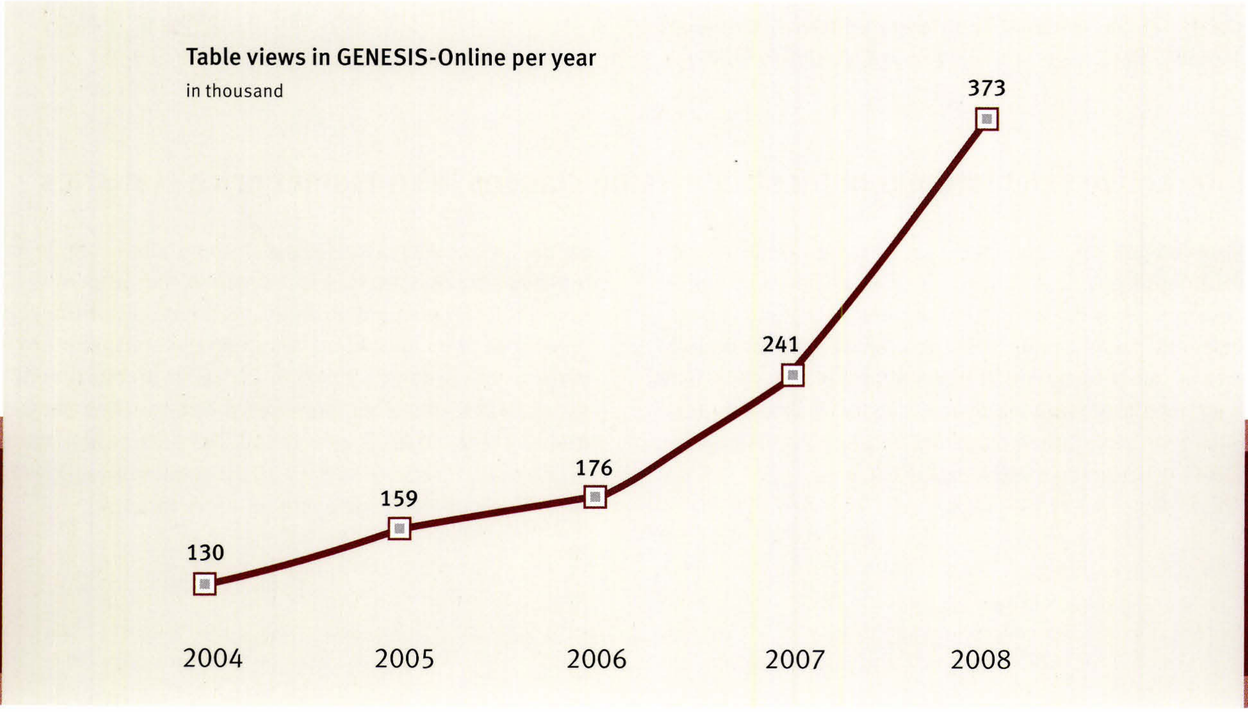
For example, a typical caller wishes to calculate whether his/her basic rent has correctly been adjusted by the landlord. Answering such enquiries often takes much time because in nearly all cases detailed advice is required on how to properly calculate the adjustment of rents and on how to use the services specifically offered for this purpose.

On its website, the Federal Statistical Office offers an interactive calculation tool for users of stable-value clauses. In spring 2008, additional functions were added to that calculation tool. From January to August 2008 that tool was accessed more than 100,000 times. As another service, the Federal Statistical Office offers to calculate upon request the adjustment calculation for tenants or landlords.

www.destatis.de › Prices › Price indices in contracts

GENESIS-Online: User-friendly and free

In October 2008 a new version of the internet database GENESIS-Online was launched. Since that time, all tables in GENESIS-Online have been available free of charge. Many other measures have considerably improved the user-friendliness of the database: In addition to new navigation and search features, it is now possible to visualise results in charts and regionally structured tables as well as on a map of Germany. Registered customers have the option to use web services in GENESIS-Online to automate data access. Altogether, the GENESIS-Online database of the Federal Statistical Offices provides 90 million table values from 175 statistics. The new offers have already proved successful: Since October, the database has been used much more intensively.



Data Report 2008: Social report in a new format

The "Datenreport" (Data Report), which has been published regularly for nearly 25 years now, is a joint project of the Federal Statistical Office, the Social Science Research Center Berlin and the Social Science Infrastructure Services Association (GESIS). With its combination of data from official statistics and from social research, it has become a standard work of social reporting in Germany. It offers a wealth of information on the social and economic situation in Germany and in Europe and describes how the people subjectively perceive and judge their quality of life. The 2008 edition of the Data Report provides important background information on the current reform discussions: How much does the government spend on the social security systems? How much confidence do citizens have in the welfare state? How do people judge their health status and how much do they spend on health? What has been the labour market development over the last few years and what about equal opportunities in the educational system? Other topics deal with the living and income conditions in Germany: How much money do households in Germany have at their disposal and what consumer goods are they equipped with? What has been the development of income distribution over the last few years?

With its new edition, not only the layout and format of the Data Report have changed. The previous institutional structure of the articles has been abandoned for a subject-related structure in order to show contexts in a transparent and reader-friendly way. A coloured guidance system helps in distinguishing between the articles of the Federal Statistical Office and those of social research. The Data Report can be obtained through the Federal Centre for Political Education and is available for free download from the website of the Federal Statistical Office at **www.destatis.de**.

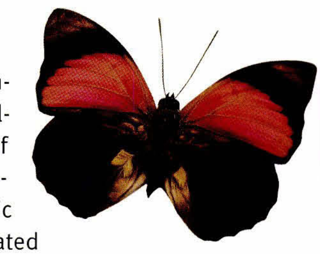
Variety of topics in print publications

The publication "Die Bundesländer – Strukturen und Entwicklungen" (The Länder – Structures and Trends) describes structures and trends of social life and of the economy in the 16 German Länder. It outlines Germany's federal landscape, using the topics of education, health, economy, transport and finance. The results show, for example, that expenditure per pupil at public schools is highest in Hamburg and that Nordrhein-Westfalen has the largest share of pupils at private grammar schools. In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern the share of holdings with ecological farming in all agricultural holdings is largest. Baden-Württemberg has the largest earnings gap between men and women. Many other comparisons reveal – sometimes surprising – differences between, and common features of the Länder. This is the second edition of the publication, which is in great demand.

The "Themenhefte" (thematic issues) are a new publication series taking up special topics that are the subject of social debate and treating them in a cross-statistics way in texts, tables and charts. In 2008 the thematic issue "Vom Erzeuger zum Verbraucher – Fleischversorgung in Deutschland" (From producers to consumers – meat supply in Germany) was published. That publication provides information on agricultural businesses, their conditions of production, and the importance of meat products as goods for resale. Actors examined in the meat supply chain are not only producers (agricultural holdings with livestock keeping) and meat processing units but also consumer behaviour.

Demographic change in Germany

Demographic change, especially the ageing population, the falling birth rate and a decreasing number of inhabitants, has become one of the most discussed issues in the last few years. What is examined is especially its impact on Germany's economic competitiveness and the future of the social security systems. Based on the population projection, the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder for the first time compiled joint forecasts regarding the consequences of demographic change. In the new series "Demografischer Wandel in Deutschland" (Demographic change in Germany), subject areas are illustrated which are strongly affected by demographic change. Number 1 of that series examines not only the population development but also the development of the number and structure of households. The impact of demographic change on the number of patients treated in hospitals on an in-patient basis and the number of persons in need of long-term nursing care is illustrated in number 2. Number 3 shows the development of the number of pupils and the demand for childcare places for pre-primary pupils.



Brief and informative: Selected brochures

In 2002 the Federal Government adopted its national strategy for sustainable development in Germany. To allow measuring the effectiveness of that strategy, 21 indicators on the economy, the society and the environment were selected at the political level and relevant targets were fixed. In 2008 the Federal Statistical Office published the second indicator report on "sustainable development in Germany". The report informs in a concise form on the status of the various indicators and gives assessments on whether the targets can be achieved under the present framework conditions. What is the current state of affairs regarding the climate protection targets, the reduction of pollution, the protection of the diversity of species in Germany?

What about health and eating habits of the Germans? What targets should be achieved in the educational sector? What indicators can be used for integration and equal opportunities and are the targets being achieved? For anyone wishing to get quick and comprehensive information on the sustainability targets in Germany, this brochure is the right choice (see also page 22).

The effectiveness and efficiency of the law enforcement agencies' efforts to fight crime are regularly and publicly discussed and are crucial items for the agencies' acceptance. With their statistics on justice and on the administration of criminal justice, the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder offer a wide data basis on criminal prosecution by the courts and public prosecutors. The brochure Justiz auf einen Blick (Justice at a glance) published in 2008 gives a quick overview of trends and structures of German justice: What is the distribution of charge rates and discontinuation rates for investigations? Are there noticeable offence structures in individual Länder? How are sanctions in criminal law relating to young offenders applied? In which Länder is probation applied most frequently? How high is the recidivist rate? These and other interesting questions on justice are answered through texts and charts in the brochure. The information from official statistics is complemented by results of crime statistics of the Federal Criminal Police Office.

Archiving online publications – Publications server

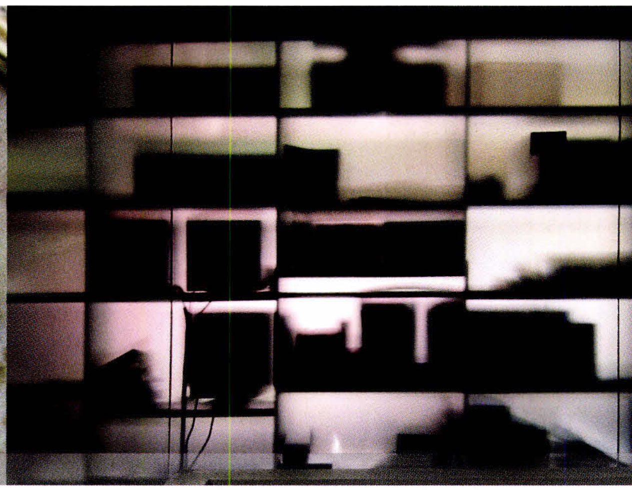
The Federal Statistical Office operates Germany's largest specialised library for statistics. Altogether, the library stock comprises some 500,000 media units such as books, volumes of periodicals or CD-ROMs. This includes print publications of the Statistical Office of the German Reich and of the Statistical Office of the former GDR as well as many publications of the statistical offices of the Länder, some of them of the pre-war period.

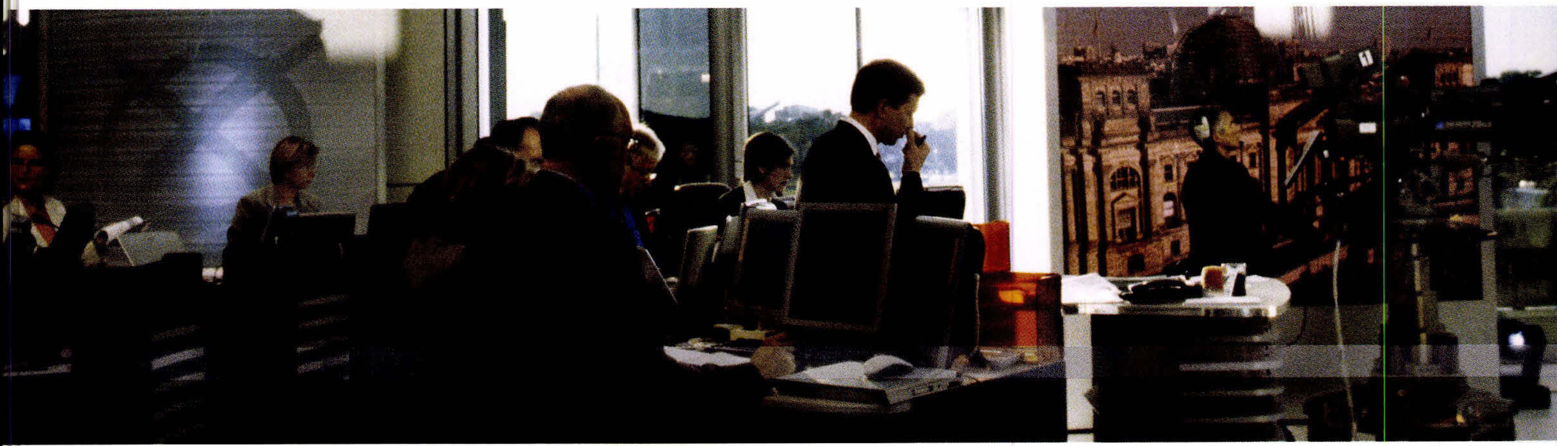
The library is open to the staff of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder and to external customers. They may research the stock direct in the reading room or via internet and order or borrow media. What is becoming more and more important in the range of products offered by the library is electronic resources such as online publications, databases or electronic newspapers (e-papers).

For some years already, the Federal Statistical Office has offered its publications also – or only – as electronic versions. The trend towards publication only in a digital form will increase in the next few years due to the Office's new communication concept. Since the middle of 2008 the online publications of the Federal Statistical Office have been catalogued and archived on a publications server. Currently the Office's digital publications of 2008 are available; the online publications available of previous years will now be covered successively.

Through an easy-to-use, web-based user surface, users can directly access the online publications in the pdf format. Many search options and a thematic structure enable users to easily find the desired information.

The publications server – the software applied is CONTENTdm – can be used only by staff of the Federal Statistical Office and by reading room visitors. In the medium term, it will be used as a common archiving platform for the digital publications of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder, so that common, internet-based access to all online publications of the statistical system will be possible.





Preparation for the double election year: Election to the European Parliament and Bundestag election in 2009

2009 will be a "super election year": The election of the Federal President will be held on 23 May, the election to the European Parliament on 7 June and the Bundestag election on 27 September; in addition, there will be five elections to Länder parliaments and municipal elections in eight Länder. After 1994, this year will be the second time in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany that the Federal Statistical Office faces the big challenge of a double election year: Preparing and holding elections to the European Parliament and to the Bundestag are tasks of the President of the Federal Statistical Office in his function as Federal Returning Officer.

Last year already, the Federal Statistical Office started the organisational and IT preparation of that "Herculean task". Apart from work caused by many changes of the relevant legal bases, the main activities focused on the change-over of the seat allocation method from the "Hare/Niemeyer" to the "Sainte-Laguë/Schepers" method, involving reprogramming work. The core part of the preparatory work performed so far is the new and completely revised website of the Federal Returning Officer, whose address is still the same: **www.bundeswahlleiter.de**.

The wide range of information offered by the Federal Returning Officer is structured into various parts: Press, elections to the European Parliament, elections to the German Bundestag, elections to Länder parliaments, future elections, political parties (including information on election participation), information "about us", a new link list and online orders of publications. In addition, there is a glossary which explains technical terms concerning elections and which is an extension of the former ABC of elections.

With its new structure and extended range of data, the website now is even more easy to use. For all elections, starting with the first Bundestag election in 1949 and the first election to the European Parliament in 1979, even more data of election statistics are available now which can directly be processed. For elections to the European Parliament and to the Bundestag, all legal bases are available for download. What is new is the collection of documents of the Federal Returning Officer offered for download, comprising about three quarters of all political party documents. All pages are offered in German and English and, on any page, users may directly change the language.

In good time for the elections to the Bundestag and the European Parliament, the two online election atlases have been revised, which offer better presentation of selected structural data and election results on a map of constituencies.

Visit of the Federal President

As part of his regional visit to Hessen, Federal President Horst Köhler also visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden on 29 October 2008. He was accompanied by his wife and the Hessian Minister President Roland Koch and his wife. “The Federal Statistical Office does a very good and solid job. I have come here to tell you that”, Federal President Horst Köhler told the President of the Federal Statistical Office, Roderich Egeler, who welcomed him.

Horst Köhler is the first Federal President to have visited the Federal Statistical Office after German unification. Before, the Federal Statistical Office had been visited by Gustav Heinemann in 1971 and Richard von Weizsäcker in 1986.

President Egeler and Dr. Hans Bernhard Beus, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, accompanied the guests in a flying visit to the twelve staff members of the Wiesbaden Workshop for Disabled Persons who work for foreign trade statistics. The integration of disabled persons was a thematic focus of the visit of the Federal President to Wiesbaden.

President Roderich Egeler met the Federal President as a renowned expert in statistics: After finishing his studies, Horst Köhler was an academic assistant at the Institute for Applied Economic Research in Tübingen for seven years and subsequently he worked at the Policy Principles Directorate-General of the Federal Ministry of Economics for five years. Later his career took him to the

Federal Ministry of Finance where he advanced to become State Secretary. The experience he acquired also during his activities in the financial sector from 1993 – as President of the German Savings Bank Association, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London and Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. – make the Federal President an expert in issues of finance and economic statistics.

Federal President Köhler obtained information, among other things, on methodical research, on the contact between the Federal Statistical Office and the scientific community and on how the Office copes with the change from old to new tasks. Regarding the topic "integration of disabled persons", the Federal Statistical Office had processed data as a basis for the exchange of ideas.

New President

In April 2008 the European Commission appointed the then President of the Federal Statistical Office, Walter Radermacher, Director General of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). Walter Radermacher took his new office in August 2008 (see interview on page 46). Roderich Egeler, who up to that time had been Director of the Procurement Agency of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, was appointed President of the Federal Statistical Office with effect from 1 August 2008.

At a celebration event held in the canteen of the Federal Statistical Office on 29 September 2008, the Federal Minister of the Interior, Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble, introduced the new President to his office and discharged Walter Radermacher from that position. Many guests who are closely connected with official statistics through their involvement at national, European or international levels had accepted the invitation to the celebration event.

Selected workshops and conferences for statistics users

In 2008 the Federal Statistical Office again used a number of conferences and meetings to further enhance the exchange of information with statistics users.

In April 2008 the Federal Statistical Office, jointly with Deutsche Bundesbank and the Council for Social and Economic Data, organised a conference on "External economic relations in times of globalisation – Opportunities and limits of statistical measurement" in Wiesbaden. The purpose of the event was to examine causes and effects of globalisation as well as opportunities of statistical coverage at the national and international levels and contribute to intensifying the dialogue between data producers and data users regarding the mechanisms of globalisation.

In parallel sessions, the approximately 150 participants had occasion to listen to a variety of speeches, each of which was followed by a brief discussion. Topics included the further development of foreign trade statistics and possible consequences, the interaction between the German economy and other countries, the measurement of globalisation through suitable indicators, and the labour market in a globalised world.

The Council for Social and Economic Data, together with the Federal Statistical Office, organised the 4th Conference for Social and Economic Data on 19 and 20 June 2008. This year's conference focused on the issues of education, population, mortality, internal security, economy, environment and the media. New Council members were elected and scientists as well as representatives of data production had occasion to exchange views on current trends in further sessions.

The 17th Scientific Colloquium on "Observing health – Utilisation, integration and enhancement of existing data sources", organised jointly by the German Statistical Society and the Federal Statistical Office, was held In Wiesbaden on 20 and 21 November 2008. The annual scientific colloquium and the workshop on "Data bases for health research in Germany", which had been held for the first time two years ago together with the Robert Koch Institute, were organised in a common framework. The focus was on the quantitative and qualitative coverage of health by means of various data and indicators. Concrete research projects in empirical health research were presented and theoretical possibilities and wishes were shown. The feasibility study on statistics of out-patient morbidity, the electronic coding of causes of death, the electronic collection of health data and the health microdata were the focus of interest. Other papers added important information on health data outside the statistical offices.

With the Official Statistics University Day held in November 2008, the Federal Statistical Office continued the intensive dialogue between data producers, universities and the scientific community. Through the series of lectures on "Economic statistics – Data production and analysis in official statistics", the Federal Statistical Office is already present at German universities and, among other things, deals with basic methodical aspects of official statistics.

The series of lectures was already held at the universities of Freiburg and Dortmund. In winter semester 2008/2009, it is held at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main; in March 2009 the same series of lectures is planned at the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich.

In early December 2008 a meeting of the specialist committee on "Prices and earnings" was held in Wiesbaden on the topic "Current trends and results of earnings and labour cost statistics".

The specialist meeting was attended by some 50 representatives of the statistical offices, associations, politics, the scientific community, the administration and businesses. The statistical offices provided information, among other things, on the results of the new quarterly

4th Conference for Social and Economic Data in Kurhaus Wiesbaden earnings survey and the structure of earnings survey. Major issues were the importance of special payments for the development of earnings and gender-specific differences in earnings. The users welcomed the features presented and the intention of the Federal Statistical Office to set up a database of agreed wages and salaries. That database will allow, among other things, publishing an index of agreed wages and salaries including special payments and thus will take account of proposals made in the specialist committee. Also, the specialist committee members were asked to give their opinion on a proposal of the Federal Statistical Office regarding better international comparability of German labour cost statistics.

In addition, the specialist committee dealt with the possibilities and results of scientific work on the basis of the earnings surveys. What was particularly interesting was the lectures of external scientists on current topics of German labour market research such as the potential employment and wage effects of a minimum wage and agreed flexibilisation potentials.

"Observing health" –
Scientific Colloquium 2008

2008 Gerhard Fürst Award of the Federal Statistical Office

This year, the Federal Statistical Office for the tenth time granted the Gerhard Fürst Award for outstanding scientific work. That award is granted every year for scientific papers which either treat a theoretical issue closely related to the range of tasks of official statistics or examine an empirical problem by making intensive use of official statistical data.

The organisational frame for awarding the Gerhard Fürst Award was the 17th Scientific Colloquium on "Observing health – Utilisation, integration and enhancement of existing data sources".

On the first day of the event, and based on the recommendations of the panel of independent jurors chaired by Prof. Dr. Brachinger, the Vice-President of the Federal Statistical Office, Peter Weigl, awarded the 2008 Gerhard Fürst Award to two scientific papers.

In the category of "diploma/master's dissertations", a diploma dissertation on "Small Area Estimation: The estimators of Fay-Herriot and Battese-Fuller-Harter" was regarded by the jury as an outstanding achievement and awarded the 2008 Gerhard Fürst Award.

In the same category, a master dissertation entitled "Analyses of unemployment using microcensus data" was judged by the jury as equally outstanding and worth an award. Both papers were thus awarded the 2008 Gerhard Fürst Award for diploma/master's dissertations; the prize money is EUR 2,500 for each of the winners.

Granting the Gerhard Fürst Award and other activities have contributed to strengthening the co-operation of the Federal Statistical Office with the scientific and research community over the last ten years and to supporting the treatment of issues of official statistics within the scope of higher education.

For further information on the Gerhard Fürst Award please refer to the category "Scientific forum" on the website of the Federal Statistical Office **www.destatis.de**.

New data offers for science and research

The research data centre of the Federal Statistical Office allows the scientific community to have controlled access to official microdata. That range of data offered in response to user wishes was further expanded in 2008: Data of the third European Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS 3) and longitudinal data of the cost structure survey and of the monthly report in manufacturing were made available as Scientific Use Files.

Scientists may now use the anonymised data to perform analyses on their own workstation. Also, the microcensuses of 1985 and 1987 were processed to obtain Scientific Use Files as part of the retrieval of microcensus stocks.

The Scientific Use Files of the cost structure survey and of the monthly report in manufacturing are a special new part of the data offer because longitudinal data for local units and enterprises had not been available in that form before. The reason is that anonymising the data while, at the same time, maintaining sufficient analysis potential is highly complex for longitudinal data of economic statistics. The provision of the two Scientific Use Files was made possible by a research project carried out by the research data centre of the Federal Statistical Office together with co-operation partners.

New data were offered to the scientific community in 2008 also through other ways of access: The taxpayer panel, which can be analysed at a safe centre or through remote data execution, allows performing interesting analyses with income tax data.

Through a new Public Use File, anonymised data of a sample survey of persons insured under statutory health insurance schemes of 2002 have become available. A Campus File of CVTS 3 is intended for higher education.

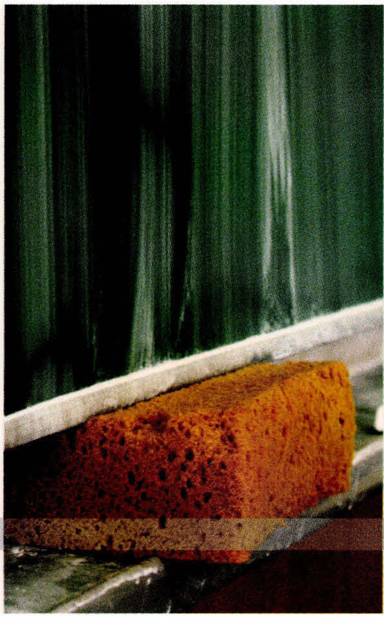
Making bureaucracy visible

Commissioned by the Federal Government, the Federal Statistical Office measured administrative costs for businesses caused by government information obligations. The results were published in December 2008. According to those data, the businesses in Germany spend over EUR 47 billion on complying with government information obligations that are based on federal legislation. At the same time, the ministries submitted many simplification measures and are thus making good progress towards achieving the target of reducing the current cost burden on businesses caused by government information obligations by 25 % by 2011.

With a view to a lasting reduction of burdens, costs are estimated not only for existing laws and ordinances but also for all new ones. The Standard Cost Model unit of the Federal Statistical Office thus documents the creation and reduction of burdens caused by government information obligations and the current stock of administrative burdens. The results of measuring administrative costs are available to the parties involved through a web-based database that has been developed. The competent ministries just as independent expert users or interested individuals may research the database.

In addition to the long-term task of measuring administrative costs for businesses, the unit started in 2008 to create a similar basis for the information obligations caused by legal provisions for citizens and the administration. The Federation, Länder and municipalities act in concert here. On behalf of the Federation, the Federal Statistical Office supports several pilot projects of the Länder network on bureaucracy reduction and of the Regulatory Control Council. The Federal Statistical Office proves to be not only an important partner of the Federal Government regarding the programme on "Bureaucracy reduction and better legislation". The Office also gives advice for the Action Programme on reducing administrative burdens initiated in parallel by the Commission of the European Union and makes available both the data collected and the methodical experience acquired.

German businesses spend over EUR 47 billion per year to meet 9,230 different administrative obligations. 162 of those obligations are due to official statistics. This results in annual costs of EUR 350 million for the businesses, which is just 0.7 % of the entire administrative burden on businesses.



Federal Statistical Office involved in preparing reports of the Federal Government

For many years already it has been one of the tasks of the Federal Statistical Office to support the Federal Government in preparing selected reports in various political fields.

Since 2006 the Federal Statistical Office has been entrusted with the statistical analysis and description of the development of specific indicators as part of sustainability reporting. Based on those indicators, the successes of the Strategy for Sustainable Development, submitted by the Federal Government in 2002, are measured and documented every two years.

In March 2008 a delegation of the German Council for Sustainable Development visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden for an exchange of information. One of the goals of the Council for Sustainable Development is to involve citizens, the government and businesses more closely in the sustainability discussion. Topics of the discussion were, apart from the indicator report 2008,

- the indicator-based measurement and representation of progress in a society,
- suitable indicators to represent "sustainable consumption", and
- the sustainability of public finance.

The indicator report 2008 updates the 2006 report, which was met with very good response in the general public.

To present the results in a reader-friendly manner, the indicator report 2008 for the first time contains a summary table in which the extent to which the targets have been achieved for the various indicators is indicated by four different symbols. For about one third of the total of the 35 individual indicators, the target has already been achieved, or has even been exceeded in some cases, or will be achieved by the target year. For another 16 indicators, the trend moved in the right direction, although with different degrees of success. The remaining fifth of the indicators, however, were headed in the wrong direction, they moved away from the target. That concerned the indicator on the diversity of species, two indicators each in the fields of education and mobility, the indicator "share of people with adiposity" in the area of health and nutrition, and the indicator "earnings gap between women and men" in the context of gender equality.

The table is the result of a calculatory continuation of the previous trend; it is neither a political assessment nor a forecast. The indicator report is available on the website of the Federal Statistical Office at **www.destatis.de**.

Creating an effective educational system – including adequate financial resources – is one of the key tasks of the government and the society. The Federal Statistical Office was therefore commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, in agreement with the Standing Conference of Länder Ministers of Education, to submit a report on education finance for the first time in 2008 and then annually until 2010. As an objective and neutral source of information, the report does not contain any political judgments or recommendations.

The data-supported analyses of education finance in that report focus on the education expenditure of public budgets. About three quarters of total education expenditure in 2005 were made by the Federation, Länder and municipalities. When put in relation to the overall public budget, the public budgets in 2005 spent 17.4% on education. While the education expenditure of the Federation, Länder and municipalities has increased continuously since 1995 (from EUR 75.9 billion in 1995 to EUR 86.7 billion in 2005 or by 14%), its share in the gross domestic product was down from 4.1% in 1995 to 3.9% in 2005. When shown per inhabitant, the public budgets in 2005 spent EUR 1,052 on education (of which Federation: EUR 52, Länder: EUR 781, municipal level: EUR 219).

With a view to the up-to-dateness of the results, information on budgetary planning in the current budget year (2008) was included, too. Where permitted by the data situation, the interaction of public and private expenditure on education was also shown. For the benefit of coherent and user-friendly presentations regarding the statistics of education finance, the report on education finance was combined with the education budget and

other publications and data of official statistics. To take account of the rising demand for internationally comparable results, data based on international definitions were included in the report on education finance.

With the report on education finance, the Federal Statistical Office continues activities of the Joint Federal-Land Commission for Educational Planning and the Promotion of Research ("Bund-Länder-Kommission für Bildungsplanung und Forschungsförderung – BLK") which, until it was dissolved in the context of the federalism reform, had compiled a report on education finance every year. The working group on the report on education finance advised the Federal Statistical Office in compiling the report. The report on education finance is structured in five chapters, each of which comprises a commented text with charts and summary tables. More detailed tables, classifications, methodical notes and information on data sources are contained in the annex to the report. Further detailed tables in the Excel format are available for download from the website of the Federal Statistical Office at **www.destatis.de**.

How much is spent in Germany on education? What is the age of the educational staff in educational institutions? What share of the population has an academic degree? These and many other questions on education in Germany are answered by the second national report on education indicators in Germany published in June 2008. It contains indicator-based information on all areas of education – from education in early childhood, the schools of general education, vocational training, and institutions of higher education to continuing education of adults. A major focus in the 2008 report on education indicators is the transitions between school, vocational training, higher education and the labour market. Where possible, time

series, comparisons between Länder and international comparisons have been included in the report, too.

The institution responsible for the report on education indicators, whose compilation is commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Standing Conference of Länder Ministers of Education, was the German Institute for International Educational Research ("Deutsches Institut für Internationale Pädagogische Forschung – DIPF"), as was the case for the first report on education indicators in 2006. Institutions involved in compiling the report were, apart from the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder, the Higher Education Information System ("Hochschul-Informations-System GmbH"), the Sociological Research Institute at Göttingen University and the German Youth Institute ("Deutsches Jugendinstitut"). The responsibility for the report on education indicators lies with a group of authors who compiled it while maintaining their scientific independence and co-ordinating their activities with the steering group of the Federation and the Länder "to assess the effectiveness of the educational system in an international comparison and regarding relevant reports and recommendations" (Article 91b paragraph 2 of the Basic Law).

The statistical offices were responsible for the two chapters on framework conditions of, and basic information on the educational system of the report on education indicators. In addition, they provided the participating institutions with the data required from official statistics.

A download version of the 2008 report on education indicators and additional material and information on educational reporting are available via the internet.

Interview with Professor Dr. Charlotte Höhn,

former head of the Federal Institute for Population Research

Director and Professor Dr. Charlotte Höhn was in charge of the Federal Institute for Population Research from 1988. From 1970 to 1973 she had worked as a member of the academic staff at the statistical seminar of Frankfurt/Main University. Then she joined the population statistics unit of the Federal Statistical Office, before she moved to the Federal Institute for Population Research in 1980. At the end of 2008 she retired.

Prof. Höhn, when was the Federal Institute for Population Research founded and what is its function?

The Federal Institute for Population Research – or BIB – was founded in 1973 as a federal authority without legal capacity within the sphere of responsibility of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. It is managed jointly with the Federal Statistical Office and is located in Wiesbaden. In its scientific research activities, the BIB is accompanied by a joint board of trustees consisting of nine expert members of academic staff, seven representatives of federal ministries and two representatives of the Länder. In our corporate vision, we have summarised our function according to the ordinance setting up the institute: Demographic research – information – advice (Bevölkerungswissenschaftlich Forschen – Informieren – Beraten).

What are the concrete tasks performed by the institute and what are its purposes?

The task of the Federal Institute for Population Research is to do scientific research on population and related family issues as a basis for the activities of the Federal Government, to advise the Federal Government on population issues, and to collect and publish important research results in that area. It supplies information and interprets demographic topics, among other things, for members of parliament, the education sector, businesses and the press. Results of its activities are made available to the general public in several publication series of the BIB and in external publications. The Federal Institute supports the Federal Ministry of the Interior in its population-related co-operation at the international level, especially within the framework of the United Nations.

Demographic change has a fundamental impact on our society. What are the main causes of the ageing of the population and how can that trend be characterised in terms of statistics?

Demographic change is one of the most radical developments of the society in Germany and has far-reaching effects on our social security systems. Since the 1970s, the death rate has been exceeding the birth rate in Germany. As a result of the low fertility, the parent cohorts are far from being completely replaced by the birth of children. This leads to a faster ageing of the population and finally to a population decrease.

Today, being married and having children is no longer part of every life plan. Where families are founded today, this often happens later in life. Also, there is a large number of divorced marriages and ever more children grow up in patchwork families or with lone parents.

Second, the people in Germany are getting ever older and the number of years spent in good health is growing. When the baby boom generation (born between 1955 and 1970) will reach retirement age, both the number of the elderly and the period of their staying in the social security systems will necessarily increase.

What is considered the third cause is today's age structure of the population, which has become a driving force of ageing because the baby boom generation advances to higher age groups and is followed by ever smaller cohorts. By the way, immigration would become more important for ageing only if a very large number of young people came to Germany every year.

Research is a major activity of your institute. What research projects are you currently engaged in and what is the role of international contacts here?

The BIB performs research commissioned by the federal ministries, especially by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, and usually concerning current scientific or political debate. The goal of the research projects is to represent the complexity of demographic change, to study specific questions and to look for approaches to political solutions. In the medium term, three research focuses can be distinguished: Demographic change, relations between the generations and living arrangements in the course of life as well as permanent monitoring of demographic processes in Germany, Europe and the world.

At the international level, among other things, the BIB participates in research projects such as the "Population Policy Acceptance Study (PPAS)" or the "Generations and Gender Survey (GGS)". The PPAS-DIALOG study supported by the European Union is based on two surveys which were conducted in the early 1990s and about ten years later in various European countries. It shows in an international comparison how demographic change is perceived and assessed in the relevant population what the acceptance of political actions is like. The BIB's task in the international PPAS-DIALOG study was to co-ordinate the project, to analyse, compare and publish the results.

The GGS is an international comparative panel study, in which many European states as well as Australia, Japan and Canada are involved with large-scale surveys. The study, whose aim is to collect current data on family relations in industrialised countries, was performed in Germany for the first time in 2005 by TNS Infratest Sozialforschung, commissioned by the BIB.

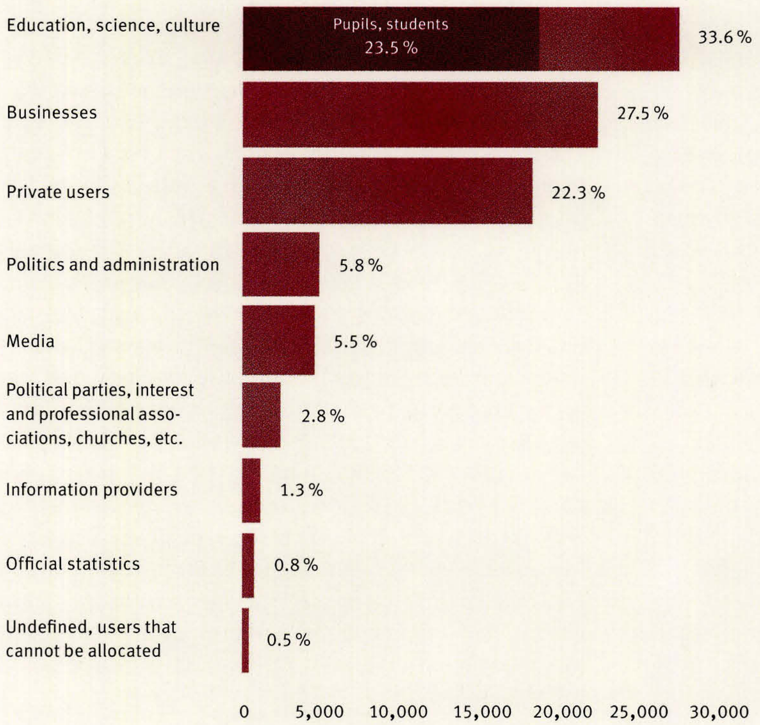
The population survey focuses on examining major factors to explain fertility, partnership development, and relations between the generations. The relatively new and highly productive field of research of inter-generational relations deals with contacts and exchange relations between children, parents, grand parents and great grand parents in multi-generation families, whose number has increased as a result of higher life expectancy in the last few years. Another focus of current BIB research on the GGS data basis is the question of whether older people in need of help can use the help of their adult children and how those opportunities in Germany differ from those in other countries.

Are there current publications that have been compiled in co-operation with the Federal Statistical Office?

In April 2008 a new edition of the brochure "Population – Data, facts, trends on demographic change in Germany" (Bevölkerung – Daten, Fakten, Trends zum demografischen Wandel in Deutschland) was updated, extended and published with the support of the Federal Statistical Office. In that publication, authors of the two federal agencies show in thematically structured articles causes and consequences of demographic ageing.

Customers by user categories

2008



Customer management system extended to include analysis tool

Who are the customers of the Federal Statistical Office? What are the wishes of users and what questions are asked frequently? How can the Office further enhance its range of products and services? Evaluating the customer contacts in the CMS gives the answers; specific surveys are no longer needed.

The customer management system (CMS) of the Federal Statistical Office, used to answer written enquiries, was extended in 2008 to include an analysis tool. The tool directly accesses the customer database where all customer contacts are stored, including the user enquiries that have been answered. This allows performing analyses and calculating up-to-date indicators in an easy and rapid way.

Apart from studies covering all units of the Office, intra-unit analyses can be performed, too, so that the various information units can tailor their answers to individual customers.

The figures show that over 33 % of the customers of the Federal Statistical Office came from the areas of education, science and culture, for example pupils, students, research institutes, universities, schools of general education, or libraries. The most frequent occasions for contacting the Office are writing a paper or a diploma or doctoral thesis.

Visitor service of the Federal Statistical Office: On-the-spot information service

For many years already, the Federal Statistical Office has been offering a special service for people interested in getting information on official statistics and current topics direct on the spot. That service is not really aimed at individual visitors, who generally find the desired information in the library of the Federal Statistical Office or are put into contact with experts in the specialised departments. It is more about organising information events for groups of visitors.

Various interest groups, such as professional associations or recreational organisations and especially school classes and student groups use that service of the Office.

In 2008 the visitor service looked after 14 groups. Most visitor groups come from Wiesbaden or its vicinity.

Apart from general information on the activities of the Federal Statistical Office and on the channels of accessing statistical data, the visitor service also tries to comply with special information requests. Results that were in high demand in 2008 were consumer prices, population projections and microcensus data on persons with a migration background. Here, the general visitor service is supported by statistics experts from the specialised units.

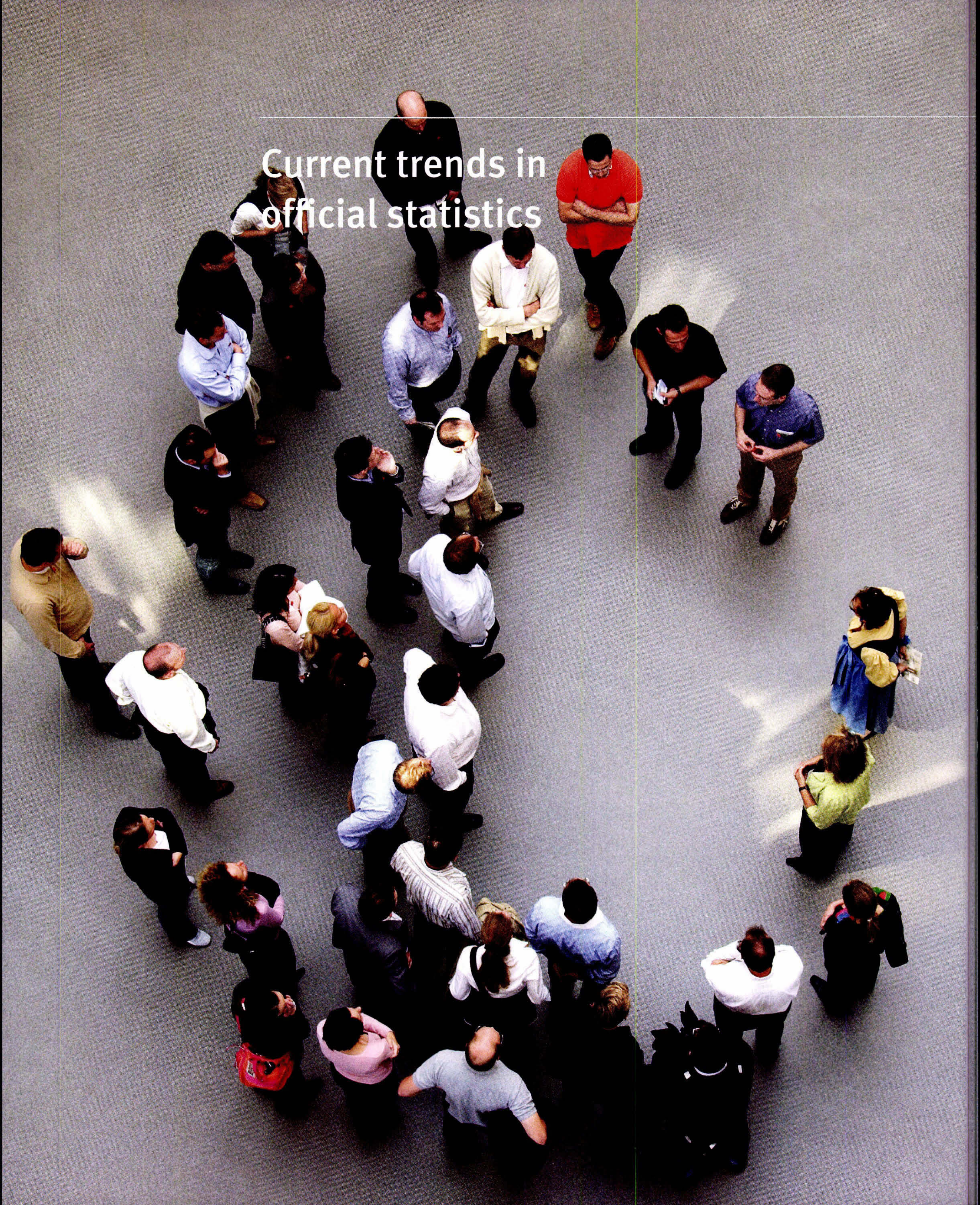
German Bundestag using statistical articles for core hour debates

Since 2005, the service office of the Federal Statistical Office at the German Bundestag in Berlin has provided statistical articles on topics dealt with in the core hour debates of the parliament. Such articles are part of the dossiers of the Research Services which are made available to all members of parliament via the intranet of the Bundestag administration at the beginning of the parliamentary weeks.

In 2008 the service office provided articles on 14 dossier topics. The members of parliament and the Bundestag staff were particularly interested in the articles of the Federal Statistical Office on the issues of “Treaty of Lisbon”, “youth crime”, “long-term nursing care insurance”, “China policy” and “the United States after the elections”.

Official statistics can supply data on about every second dossier topic. For that purpose, the service office compiles tables and charts from the Office’s range of data and, where suitable, includes European and international comparative data.

Current trends in official statistics



Census 2011 – Knowing what will count tomorrow

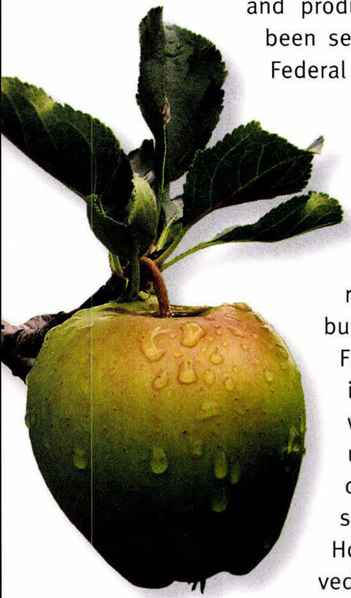
In 2011 the Federal Republic of Germany will conduct a census of population, buildings and housing and thus participate in the EU-wide round of censuses. In contrast to the last population census of 1987, the census 2011 in Germany will be based on registers, which means that data of the population registers, the registers of the Federal Employment Agency and other registers of public administration will be used. Information on buildings and dwellings, for which there are no overall administrative data, will be collected by post from the owners of buildings and from condominium owners' associations. Other questions, such as on education and training, will be asked to just a small part of the population by means of representative sample surveys.

zensus2011
Wissen, was morgen zählt

To prepare the census 2011, data of the registration offices, the Federal Employment Agency and the land surveying offices have been processed at the Federal Statistical Office and combined in a Germany-wide register of addresses and buildings since April 2008. That register will be the basis for the various surveys of the census 2011.

Setting up the register of addresses and buildings is based on the census preparation act 2011 and is divided into two phases. First, the street names in the various data sources are subjected to a time-consuming data profiling procedure and, in the second phase, the matching steps are performed at the address level. Checking for inconsistent street names was finished in 2008. To prepare the second phase, standardisation and matching routines were developed, which have been applied to the data sources since December 2008. Since spring 2009 a first version of the register of addresses and buildings has been available to determine the respondents for the census of buildings and housing, which will be conducted as a complete enumeration among the owners.

Impetus of the Statistical Advisory Committee bearing fruit



For many years already, the Statistical Advisory Committee, which is the body of users, respondents and producers of federal statistics and has been set up according to Article § 4 of the Federal Statistics Law, has submitted to the Federal Government recommendations on the further development of federal statistics.

The Statistical Advisory Committee is particularly interested in reducing the statistical reporting burden on respondents – a target the Federal Statistical Office has set for itself. What is pointing the way forward in this context is an increased use of administrative and register data suitable for statistics to replace selected primary-statistical surveys. However, the specific problems involved in using such data sources, such as statistics depending upon the administration and its process organisation, must not be disregarded. Data transmission from respondents to the statistical offices has been simplified, too. It turns out here that new transmission channels will help reduce burdens only if many respondents accept and use those channels. This can have only an indirect impact on official statistics. Today as many as 30 software producers offer statistics modules for automated data transmission from business accounting systems. So the number of data deliveries transmitted in an automated way will probably continue to increase. Another factor contributing to that trend is the public relations work of the Federal Statistical Office, which has succeeded in recruiting associations and businesses as multipliers. The online reporting channel eSTATISTIK.core was presented by the Federal Statistical Office, among other things, at five trade fairs and ten chamber of commerce and road show events.

Basically, it turns out that reducing burdens on respondents requires co-ordinated cross-statistics and cross-office concepts which have a direct impact on the methodology of statistics. At present, there are various such tools – raising threshold values, sample rotation, automated data delivery and substitution of primary data by secondary (administrative) data. Not all approaches are compatible with each other. They can be applied in a co-ordinated way only after a trade-off has been found between the reduction effect and the impact on data quality.

Covering employee pension schemes

Together with the Statistical Advisory Committee, the Federal Statistical Office developed a concept on how to close data gaps in the coverage of employee pension schemes. The relevant recommendation of the Committee had been taken up by the Federal Government and an ordinance had been adopted which allows testing major parts of the concept now. Already in 2009 some 30,000 employers will be questioned on employee pension schemes of their employees as part of the labour cost survey. At the same time, the coverage of other variables will be suspended to avoid additional burdens on the responding enterprises. The new results on the spread of employee pension schemes are expected to become available in mid 2010.

It is also intended for 2009 to start working on a feasibility study for a survey of individuals on employee pension schemes, commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The survey of individuals on employee pension schemes would complement the labour force survey, so that a comprehensive picture of the status of employee pension schemes in Germany could be presented. The goal of the feasibility study is to explore possibilities of implementing such a survey of individuals and to develop relevant recommendations.

Reducing burdens on respondents by reforming business statistics

Together with the statistical offices of the Länder, the Federal Statistical Office is carrying out a project on reforming business statistics as part of the Master Plan. The goal is to enhance business statistics to obtain a methodically and conceptually harmonised and consistent system across all economic branches (coherent system) which would better meet the changing information requirements.

A major contribution to reforming business statistics should be provided by using administrative data, instead of surveys, for short-term economic statistics. Such administrative data are data of the fiscal administration obtained from the advance turnover tax returns of the enterprises and data of the Federal Employment Agency on employees subject to social insurance contributions and on persons in minor employment obtained from the information reported to social insurance institutions. Studies at the federal and Land levels on various quality dimensions of the administrative data have shown that it is not possible to give an overall assessment of the suitability of the administrative data for purposes of short-term economic statistics. When measured by the requirements of short-term statistics, administrative data involve clear shortcomings, which must be eliminated through appropriate estimation and processing procedures.

The question of whether this can produce results with sufficient quality depends not only on the extent of the shortcomings of the administrative data in the areas examined and on the possibilities of compensating for such shortcomings but also on the specific user requirements at federal and Land levels.

In the service sector, the use of administrative data allowed exempting over 30,000 small and medium-sized enterprises from the quarterly short-term survey in mid-2007. Since the beginning of 2008 the quarterly crafts statistics, too, for which some 41,000 crafts enterprises had been questioned in the past, has completely been based on administrative data (see also chapter 4, p. 75). According to recent studies, a considerable reduction of burdens through the use of administrative data is expected also for the monthly surveys in retail trade of motor vehicles and in wholesale trade. However, there are limits to the use of administrative data for the monthly surveys in retail trade and the hotel and restaurant industry: In those areas, burdens on respondents caused by surveys cannot be reduced because the administrative data do not allow producing short-term results with sufficient up-to-dateness and quality.

Simplification and rationalisation in intra-Community trade statistics

In Germany, there are currently just under 570,000 enterprises which are engaged in intra-Community trade of the European Union. Due to the declaration threshold of EUR 300,000, referring to any year, as many as 87 % of those enterprises are exempted from reporting for intra-Community trade statistics. Nevertheless, intra-Community trade statistics causes substantial efforts and costs for the enterprises and the administration: About 74,000 companies must declare their intra-Community trade in goods on a monthly basis and in a detailed breakdown by subject-matter and region. To further reduce the burden on respondents, the declaration threshold will be raised to EUR 400,000 in 2009. This will exempt just under 10,000 further enterprises from the obligation to provide information. The information loss involved is justifiable: By raising the threshold, only 0.5 % of the total value of goods covered so far will be lost. The lacking data will be replaced by estimates.

Also from 2009, the list of commodity codes will be extended for which no weights have to be indicated if quantity data are available in a supplementary unit (such as litres or pieces).

In addition, for a long time already, the Federal Statistical Office has been advancing the improvement of electronic reporting channels in order to make data transmission as easy as possible for the enterprises. Today, more than 90 % of the data for intra-Community trade statistics are received online (through IDEV, which is the internet-based data collection system of the Federation and the Länder, or through the eSTATISTIK.core reporting procedure) at the Federal Statistical Office.

New concept for agricultural structure survey/census of agriculture

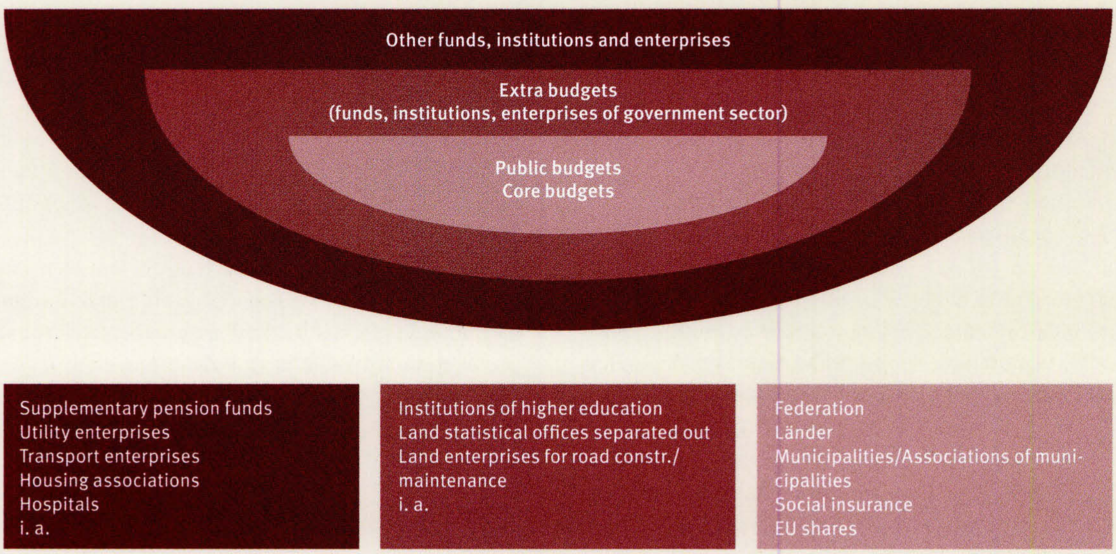
Apart from monitoring agricultural production and structures of holdings, issues like the development of the rural area and environmental protection have increasingly gained in importance in the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union. The resulting new data demand will require a new concept for the data collection and processing system of the agricultural structure surveys and the census of agriculture in 2010 so that it will be possible also in the future to supply in a timely and high-quality manner the data needed for the further shaping of European and national agricultural policies.

It is planned in the European Statistical System to conduct not only the census of agriculture but also a one-time survey of agricultural production methods. While the census of agriculture mainly collects data on land use, livestock, labour, and socio-economic variables, the new survey will provide information on selected production methods in agriculture such as irrigation, soil cultivation or indoor keeping methods. In Germany, the survey of agricultural production methods – presumably excluding irrigation – will be conducted as a sample survey together with the census of agriculture.

Those more demanding requirements are connected with the political goal of reducing statistical burdens on respondents. Due to the structural change in agriculture, it has been possible in Germany to raise the thresholds of coverage, so that markedly fewer agricultural holdings will be obliged to provide information from 2010. At the same time, more administrative data are used if their quality is sufficient, for example, to represent the cultivation of plants aimed at obtaining renewable energy sources or at participating in support programmes. Also, extending the periodicity of agricultural structure surveys to three years contributes to a reduction of burdens on respondents.

The changes in survey organisation, however, are just one aspect of the new concept for the agricultural structure surveys. In addition, the statistical offices are developing a comprehensive data processing and editing program which is to ensure more efficient and timely standard production of agricultural statistics and will take account of the standards introduced with the "SteP" processes. Also, the long and sometimes very specific questionnaires of the census of agriculture will be simplified to make completion easier for the respondents.

Shell concept



Assuring the quality of the results of public finance statistics

More and more institutions have been separated out from public budgets in the last few years, which has impaired the information value of data of public finance statistics. This has been ascertained also by the Federal Constitutional Court and the Federalism Commission II. The information value is limited for comparisons of data over time and especially for comparisons between Länder. Following a quality initiative of the Länder ministers of finance, the "shell concept" has been developed. The goal is to combine the data of public budgets and of public institutions separated out to arrive at a consistent overall picture of public finance statistics.

At the centre, there are the public budgets (= core budgets of the Federation, Länder and municipalities / associations of municipalities; EU shares, social insurance). Together with the public institutions which, according to the definitions of the system of national accounts, must be allocated to the general government sector as non-market producers, they form shell 1. The results for the general government sector are a central reference value for calculating the Maastricht criteria of government deficit and public debt within the scope of the European Stability and Growth Pact. By integrating the other institutions with public majority participation which have been separated out, the public sector (shell 2) is represented.

Since reference year 2007, quarterly data for the general government sector have been published. Annual accounting results for the general government sector or for the public sector will presumably be published in late 2009/early 2010. By implementing the shell concept, the statistical offices make a major contribution to ensuring reliability and comparability of data of public finance statistics.

Another tool used to assure the data quality of the comprehensive and detailed statistics of public finance and public service personnel is the centralised production procedure of all public finance and public service personnel statistics, also referred to as FIPS.

That Java-based procedure has been developed by the Land Statistical Office of Brandenburg. As part of a co-ordinated overall concept, it was first applied in quarterly cash statistics of municipal finance in 2002, before it was gradually used for other public finance statistics and for the public service personnel statistics of all public employers. In 2008, the detailed annual statistics of expenditure and revenue of municipal budgets were integrated into the system; the statistics of public debt and the statistics of annual accounts of public institutions and enterprises will follow later.

The procedure is characterised by extreme flexibility. The entire area of data processing at the statistical offices of the Länder and at the Federal Statistical Office has been integrated into a fully co-ordinated process that is computer-aided in an optimal way. Processing can be done both on a central server at the Land Statistical Office of Berlin-Brandenburg and, in a decentralised way, on servers at the various statistical offices of the Länder (mirrored production procedure).

The core element of the procedure is a comprehensive management of groups of respondents, which fulfils the function of a "business register" for the public sector. This allows, not only for survey purposes, controlling the group of respondents regarding all public budgets and all public funds, institutions and enterprises outside the public core budgets. At the same time, the basic structures required for evaluation and presentation of all data of public finance and public service personnel statistics are provided.

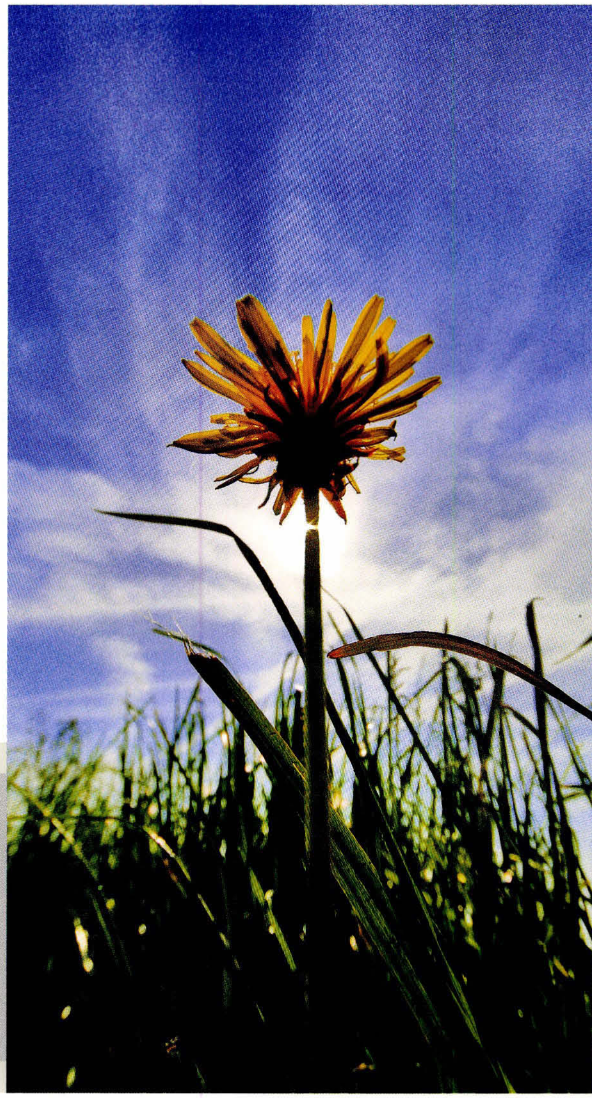
Enhancing tax statistics

Despite overlapping contents, the existing system of tax statistics is characterised by a variety of isolated data stocks. Particular organisational and technical challenges in the production of tax statistics are posed by frequent changes in tax legislation and by the vast data stocks.

The requirements specification for turnover tax statistics (tax assessments) drawn up in 2008 has established the methodical bases for a new overall system of tax statistics. Particular importance was attached to improving timeliness compared with the existing system, using synergies and improving coherence. What is new is especially the system design based on the concept of centralised IT production and data storage where programs and data are kept centrally at one location for all statistical offices. The subject-related processing of the data is still done in a decentralised way by the statistical offices of the Länder. In the new system, the Federal Statistical Office will have direct access to the individual data to fulfil its legal duties.

Frequent changes in tax legislation are a special challenge for tax statistics.

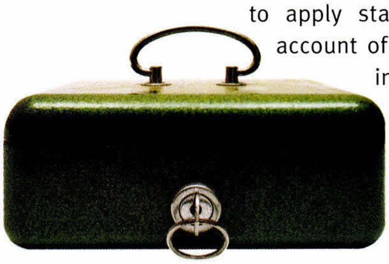
The first components of the overall system of tax statistics, such as user management and the input database of turnover tax statistics (tax assessments), will be available in mid-2009. The statistics of inheritance and gift tax is the second statistics for the system and is currently in the process of conceptualisation.



Standardised computer-assisted method to keep data of turnover tax statistics confidential

Ensuring the confidentiality of statistical microdata has always been a fundamental task of official statistics in order to maintain the mutual trust between respondents and statistical offices, which is indispensable for the information value of statistical results. For example, publications must not contain any data on fewer than three respondents or units concerned. Detailed tables, however, may contain cells which consist of data from one or two respondents and whose disclosure must be prevented. However, the protection of confidential data always involves some loss of information. The problem to be solved when making tables confidential is to minimise the disclosure risk for data by employing suitable methods while, at the same time, maintaining as much information content as possible in the tables published.

For tables of economic statistics, this is usually done by cell suppression methods. First of all, it is examined for what cells there is a risk that individual data could be disclosed; those primarily confidential cells are then suppressed. Because of the additive relations in statistical tables, however, it is generally not sufficient to keep confidential only those cells – other cells must be suppressed, too, which is referred to as secondary suppression. For the federally structures system of official statistics in Germany, it is particularly important to apply standardised methods that take account of hierarchical relations between individual tables. They help avoid inconsistencies between the publications of different institutions and achieve synergies in processing. Another challenge in looking for a suitable method was to automate the procedure as much as possible to arrive at efficient work processes.



After several years of methodical studies and specific application to turnover tax statistics, a concept for an electronic table confidentiality method was presented for that area in 2008. The concept has been adopted by the heads of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder and will be applied for the first time when publishing the results of the turnover tax statistics 2007. According to that concept, statistical confidentiality of the publication tables of turnover tax statistics will be implemented at a central unit for the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder. In an automated procedure, the table cells to be suppressed are identified. The new method ensures consistent treatment of table cells that are contained in different tables published. A central element is the program τ-ARGUS, which has been developed by the statistical office of the Netherlands in European Union projects and which uses complex mathematical optimisation algorithms for an optimal selection of table cells to be suppressed.

Another statistics will now be used to examine to what extent basic features of that concept can be transferred to other statistics. In other research projects, methods will be developed or examined where values of table cells are rounded or similarly modified instead of being suppressed.

Waste production in the focus of environmental statistics

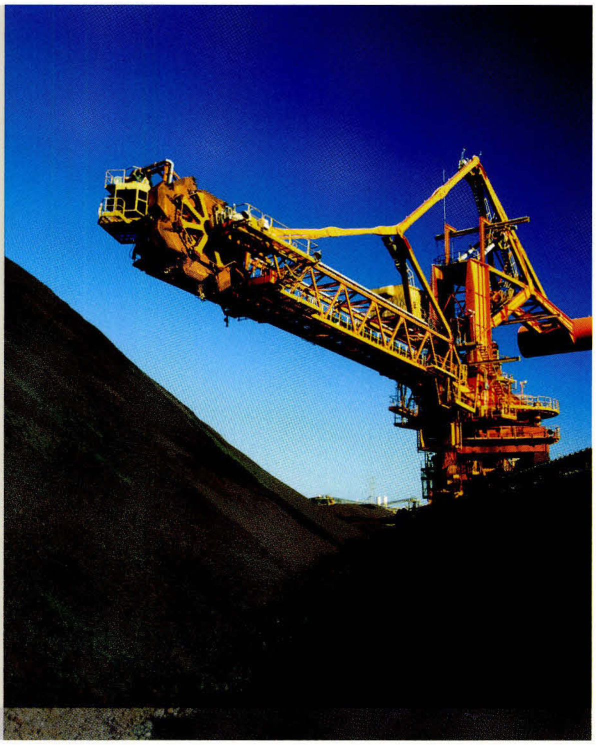
Business-related waste data are gaining in importance in environmental statistics. Therefore, when amending the environmental statistics law in 2005, a new survey of waste production was provided for, which has been conducted for reference year 2006 and will take place at four-year intervals, covering a maximum of 20,000 local units. What is collected is only the quantity of waste produced per type of waste. The goal of the survey is to obtain a comprehensive picture of the waste quantities produced in the various economic sectors. The data are used, among other things, as a basis for a detailed representation of the total quantity of waste by 48 waste categories and 20 economic sectors according to the European Union waste statistics regulation.

The sampling frame used for reference year 2006 was the size of the local unit in terms of number of employees. Depending on the economic sector, there were specific cut-off limits of 50, 100, 300 and 500 employees. Local units with fewer than 50 employees were not questioned. The survey of waste production covers all economic sectors with the exception of the construction industry, agriculture and forestry, mining and quarrying, recycling, and households.

More than 19,000 local units with a total of 8 million employees were questioned all over Germany. The quantity of waste produced in those local units totalled 62 million tonnes. The majority came from industry (78%), followed by the service sector (14%) and energy and water supply (8%). The largest waste category was construction and demolition wastes with a good 12 million tonnes (20% of the waste quantity produced), closely followed by wastes from thermal processes (also 12 million tonnes or 19%); wastes from wood processing and the production of boards, furniture, pulp, paper and paperboard amounted to 7 million tonnes (11%) and wastes from processes of mechanical modelling and of physical and mechanical treatment of metals and plastics to 6 million tonnes (10%). The waste quantities indicated must not be taken as the total quantity of waste; however, they provide additional information on where the waste comes from. According to the calculations of the waste balance, the total quantity of waste in Germany in 2006 amounted to 373 million tonnes.

Federal Statistical Office developing a new raw material indicator

Increasing raw material productivity is a major goal of the sustainability strategy of the Federal Government. Raw material productivity is measured as the relation between the gross domestic product and direct use of abiotic material in the economy. Such use of abiotic material (in weight units) comprises the raw materials withdrawn from domestic nature and the imported abiotic goods, always excluding agricultural and forestry products.



The goal of a project carried out by the Federal Statistical Office with the support of the Federal Environment Agency was to convert imported goods into raw material equivalents. This means that the imported goods were decomposed (in calculatory terms) into their raw material components.

A raw material indicator based on equivalents improves the information and analysis possibilities in various ways. The weight of imported materials generally represents only part of the raw materials used for their production. For example, when transforming iron ore into pig iron, about 40 % of the original weight is lost. What is not included either is the energy sources used in smelting. Substituting imported iron ore by imports of pig iron, steel or products even further processed, such as vehicles or machinery, is shown by the existing indicator as a decrease in the quantity of raw materials used, that is, as a positive trend. However, that is misleading because the consumption of iron ore and of the energy sources used for smelting actually has not decreased – it has just been transferred to other countries. Altogether, it is shown that the weight calculated in raw material equivalents is more than four times the actual weight of the imported goods.

Time series from reference year 2000 for about 55 types of material are available from the project. The project results could be integrated into sustainability reporting and be used as a basis for further studies.

Pretest laboratory at the Federal Statistical Office

In more than 170 federal statistics which are currently conducted by the system of official statistics, the data are obtained through questionnaires. Subsequent compensation for shortcomings which result, for example, from inadequate survey documents is hardly possible or involves considerable efforts (for instance, by additional plausibility checks or queries with respondents). To improve the data quality, official statistics examines not only sampling errors but also measurement errors caused by the survey instrument, the respondents or the interviewers.

Suitable test methods can be applied to test questionnaires in different phases of development. For that purpose, various groups (for example, experts, specialised statisticians, interviewers and potential respondents) are consulted. Performing questionnaire tests has two major goals: First, the burden on respondents should be reduced by intelligible questionnaires that are easy to complete and, second, the data quality should be improved by achieving higher validity and reliability, which is also to the benefit of the users of statistical data.

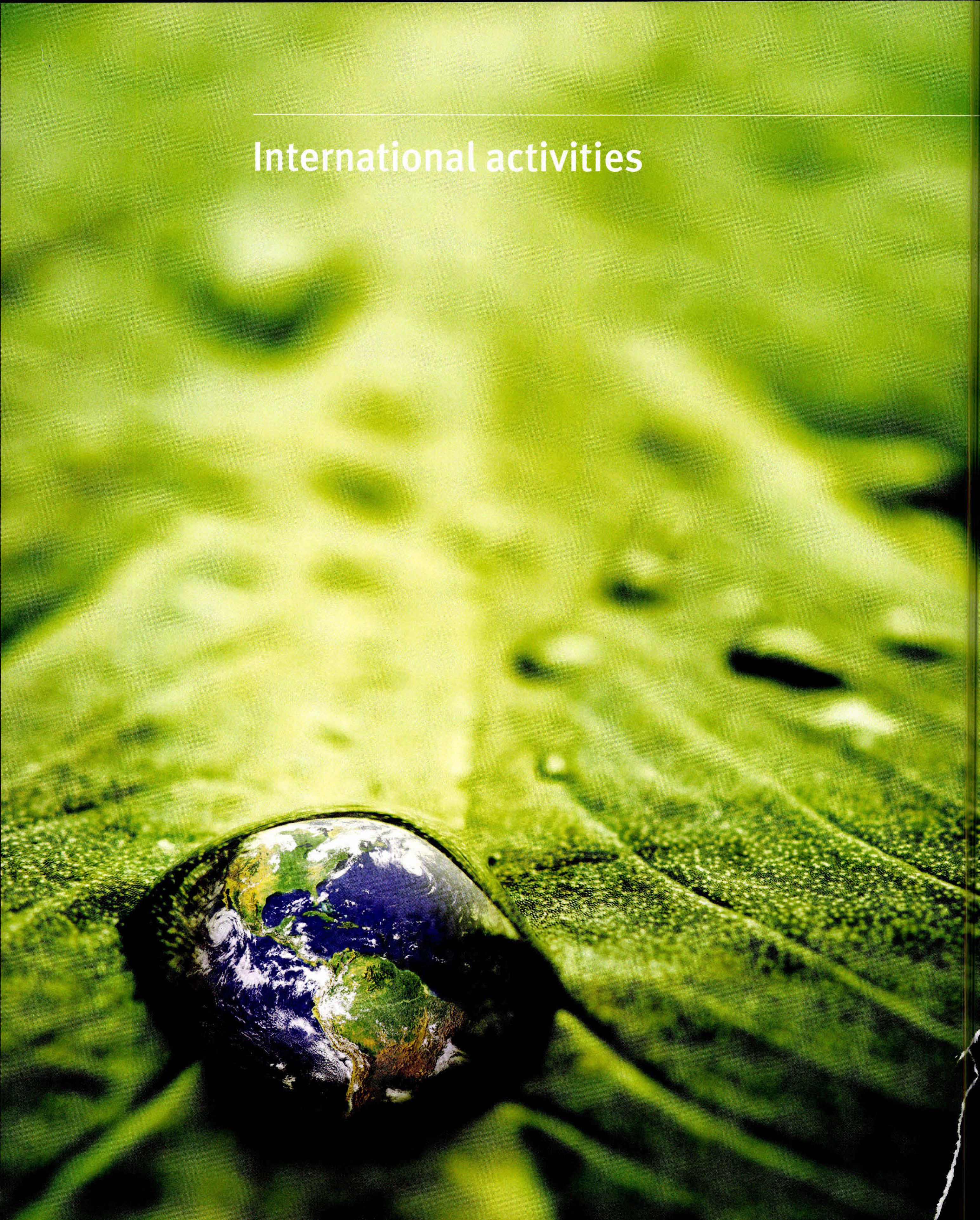
The necessity of performing pretests is undisputed in research and is already standard practice at many statistical offices (for example, at the U.S. Census Bureau and at the statistical offices of Canada, the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries). Performing pretests is also in line with the European Statistics Code of Practice, to which the Federal Statistical Office has committed itself, as have all statistical offices of the European Union. Principle 8 (Appropriate Statistical Procedures) of the Code says, among other things: "In the case of statistical surveys, questionnaires are systematically tested prior to the data collection."

A relevant work unit was set up at the Federal Statistical Office in 2006 and was equipped with a pretest laboratory for questionnaire testing in late 2007.

Questionnaires from various fields of official statistics have been tested already. Distributive trade statistics, the changeover to the revised national classification of economic activities (WZ 2008) and the microcensus are just a few examples of statistics that have benefited from the pretest laboratory. Among other things, a large number of questionnaires for the census 2011 will be tested over the next few years.

Apart from paper questionnaires, however, more and more electronic questionnaires are used in official statistics. To test them, too, a usability workstation was put into operation in late 2008. By means of a specific software, online questionnaires can be tested for user-friendliness, using special technologies such as eye tracking.

International activities



Successful balance of the first Trio Presidency in statistics

Even after the German EU Presidency in the first half of 2007, the Federal Statistical Office was closely involved in the legislation process at the European level until the middle of 2008: As part of the Trio Presidency, the Federal Statistical Office closely co-operated with the colleagues of the statistical offices of Portugal and Slovenia during the Portuguese (second half of 2007) and the Slovenian Presidency (first half of 2008). The goal of that new form of inter-country co-operation is to strengthen the continuity of Presidency work and to make the achieved results more sustainable. The importance of European legislation for official statistics is illustrated by the large number of legal acts negotiated during the 18-month Trio Presidency: Altogether, 28 European legislative projects were dealt with, 16 of which were successfully finished. The close and constructive co-operation of the Federal Statistical Office with the statistical offices of Portugal and Slovenia and with the European institutions has proved successful in many respects and will be to the benefit of the further international activities of the Federal Statistical Office. The subsequent EU Presidencies have been taken over by France (second half of 2008) and the Czech Republic (first half of 2009). Colleagues from the statistical offices of the two countries have already visited the Federal Statistical Office to benefit from the experience of the German EU Presidency.

Interview with Walter Radermacher,

Director General of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)

After finishing his studies, Walter Radermacher worked as a member of the academic staff at the University of Münster. In early 1978 he joined the Federal Statistical Office and had various functions there. In 2001 he became head of the administration department at the Federal Statistical Office and in December 2003 he was appointed Vice-President. In late 2006 he was appointed President of the Federal Statistical Office and was also Federal Returning Officer from January 2007. Since August 2008 Walter Radermacher has been Director General of Eurostat.

Mr. Director General, what are the topics that were the focus at the beginning of your term?

In the first few months of my activity, the focus was especially on three areas: First, the financial market crisis and its impact on European statistics, especially national accounts. Eurostat has very quickly reacted by presenting an action plan which includes a co-ordinated approach in the European Union (EU) regarding the statistical recording of government support, especially for the financial sector. Another topic was Governance – that is the future control of the European Statistical System (ESS). The new regulation on European statistics will give the ESS a modern basis. The new "European Statistical Governance Advisory Board" will also give important external impetus to the ESS regarding strategic issues and regarding quality, while the "European Statistical Advisory Committee", which is also new, will considerably strengthen the role of the users of our statistics. The third topic to be mentioned is price statistics: Here we have an innovative project of the Commission to measure average prices in the EU; it is intended to develop a system of specific indicators for that. In the ESS, we are all looking for ways and means to satisfy data demand in a rapid and low-cost manner.

During your activity at the Federal Statistical Office, you acquired experience with the regionally decentralised system of federal statistics. Can that experience be transferred to the European level and how do you wish to shape the co-operation with the national statistical institutes?

It is true that there are parallels between the system of federal statistics and the system of European statistics, but there are major differences, too. It think that especially the forms of co-operations, which have proved successful in the German federal system, can be transferred to the European level. In the ESS, too, we are more and more optimising our co-operation, following the motto "make or buy". This means that some statistical offices deal intensively with a specific topic, for example confidentiality, and develop solutions which should then be applied in the entire ESS. Such intelligent work-sharing saves resources and strengthens the co-operation between the offices. With the new ESS committee replacing the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC), we also have a body where issues of co-operation can be discussed in an open and constructive way.

What impetus do you expect to be given for European statistics by the two new advisory bodies, which started their activities in early 2009?

I am convinced that the importance of the two bodies for European statistics cannot be rated high enough. Every year, the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board, which consists of seven high-level personalities, will submit a report to the ministers of economic affairs and of finance and to the European Parliament on how the European Statistics Code of Practice is implemented and complied with by Eurostat and in the entire ESS. In addition, it gives advice to the Commission on issues concerning the users' trust in European statistics. I think that this body will give crucial impetus to official statistics in Europe and that, as a link between statistics and politics, it will certainly enhance the profile of European statistics towards political decision-makers.

With the European Statistical Advisory Committee – replacing the CEIES – the users and the respondents have got a more efficient forum in which they can voice their interests. In the future, the opinion of that committee will be taken into account when planning the statistical programme – this will lead to more appropriate priority-setting and, at the same time, it will improve the acceptance of official statistics.

Users' trust in the quality and independence of official statistics is very valuable. What measures are suitable to strengthen that trust?

Already today, official statistics in Europe enjoys a high degree of trust among the general public and the users – one of the major reasons for this has been the Code of Practice which the statistical offices set for themselves in 2005. To further strengthen that trust, three things are crucial. First, the statistical system must be able to do its job independently in terms of subject-matter and without interference. Second, communication is of outstanding importance. This refers both to the dissemination of our results and the way we handle revisions or unclear presentations of our results in the media. In addition, we must closely communicate with our users and respondents in order to keep abreast of new topics and to cover the information while keeping the burden on respondents to a minimum. Every day and with every publication, we have to reaffirm the trust put in the high quality of our products.

What do you think is the future of official statistics in Europe and how can the European Statistical System be further enhanced (keyword: Cracow Action Plan)?

By various measures, European official statistics is further enhancing co-operation and is improving the efficiency of the ESS and its capacity for innovation. Some years ago we realised that we are reaching our limits in meeting ever new information demand with ever scarcer resources and in the context of a growing EU. Therefore, within the scope of the "Cracow Action Plan on the future of the ESS", a number of concrete proposals have been developed which should make the ESS fit for the future. They include not only a reform of the structure of ESS bodies and the enhancement of work-sharing but also a reorientation in programme planning. In close co-operation with our stakeholders, we intend to pay more attention to the cost-effectiveness of planned projects and to involve all partners in the decision-making process at an earlier point in time. I also think it would be very important for the ESS to anticipate more clearly new and relevant topics and to look for answers of official statistics to those new issues. When providing information on those phenomena, we sometimes have to abandon old concepts if we wish to supply rapid and low-burden results. The future of our statistics production will therefore be more and more a useful, and in part cross-subject interlinkage of existing information and data sources, so that new information demand can be met in a flexible and efficient manner. This is why we are enhancing our common training system and the exchange of staff within the ESS, investing even more into our most valuable resource: our staff members.

The Federal Statistical Office plans to hold the Conference of the Directors General of National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) in Germany in 2011. Do you have particular wishes regarding our Office prior to that event?

As a former President of the Federal Statistical Office, I am of course very much pleased that Germany intends to hold that important conference of Directors General again, having organised it in Meersburg in 1995. This is the opportunity for a statistical office to present itself to its European partners. I am sure that the Federal Statistical Office and its President Egeler will be good hosts.

Peer Review confirms independence and high competence of the Federal Statistical Office

Since 2005 the Federal Statistical Office and the national statistical institutes of the other European Union (EU) member states, have committed themselves to complying with common quality principles laid down in a European Statistics Code of Practice. In spring 2008 a report on how the Code of Practice has been implemented in Germany confirmed the high standards of German official statistics. Based on an external review performed by experts of other European statistical institutes (peer review), the report contains information on compliance with a total of 35 quality indicators of the Code of Practice. What got the best results is the arrangements regarding the confidentiality of statistical data and the Federal Statistical Office's independence from political interference. As for many other EU countries, the reviewers saw potential for improvement, among other things, in standard quality management and in an even more user-friendly presentation of statistical results. The Federal Statistical Office attaches much importance to the peer review results and has already adopted measures to implement the reviewers' recommendations.

In November 2008 the Commission submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council a first report on the implementation of the Code of Practice in the entire European Statistical System (ESS). The report comes to a positive conclusion regarding the peer reviews performed in all member states and at the Statistical Office of the European Communities and, at the same time, demands that further efforts must be made to fully comply with all quality principles.

Revision of the European statistics regulation

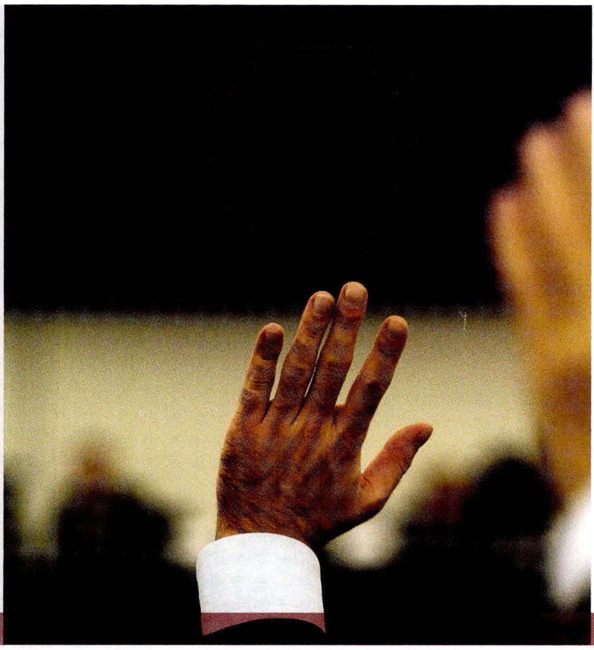
Following intensive discussions of the legislators, the draft of the new Regulation on European Statistics was adopted by the European Parliament on 18 November 2008. After approval by the Council, the new "Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics" entered into force on 1 April 2009.

The new regulation is a milestone for European official statistics. For the first time, the "European Statistical System (ESS)" and "European statistics" are laid down in law. At the same time, the tasks and competences of the ESS partners are regulated. Work sharing in the ESS will be enhanced and a suitable financial framework will be created. Special mention is made of the quality of official statistics. Apart from a definition of the basic principles and quality dimensions of statistical work, there is the requirement of quality reports and the possibility to define quality criteria.

High-level body on statistical governance

Following long negotiations, the decision of the European Parliament and of the Council to set up the new European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) was published in the Official Journal of the EU (No. L 73, p. 17) in March 2008. The body, which consists of seven high-level personalities, has the task to submit to the European Parliament and to the Council an annual report assessing compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and by the European Statistical System as a whole. Also, it will give advice to the Commission on important strategic issues which concern the credibility of European Statistics and the Code of Practice. The German member of the body, which took up its work in March 2009, is the former President of the Federal Statistical Office, State Secretary (retd) Johann Hahlen.

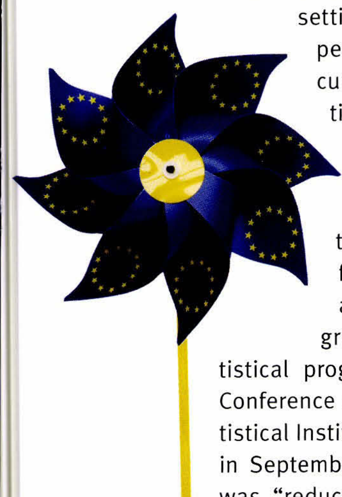
New body assessing compliance with European Statistics Code of Practice by Eurostat and the ESS.



European Advisory Committee regarding statistical information

Replacing the European Advisory Committee on Statistical Information in the Economic and Social Spheres (CEIES), the "European Statistical Advisory Committee" (ESAC) will take up its activities in 2009. The relevant legal basis of the Council and the Parliament was adopted in March 2008 (see Official Journal of the EU No. L 73, p. 13). The body, which will be more efficient than the CEIES because the number of members has been reduced from about 90 to 24, will deal in particular with priority setting and programme planning. Its most important task will be to integrate the interests of users and respondents in planning the statistical programme at the European level. 11 of the 24 members of the body are directly nominated by European organisations and institutions (for example, by the Confederation of European Business or the European Trade Union Confederation). By virtue of his office, the Director General of Eurostat is another member, however without the right to vote. The other 12 members are appointed by the Commission upon proposal by the member states. Germany will also be represented in the ESAC.

Well-balanced priority setting



For a long time already, the Federal Statistical Office has advocated realistic and well-balanced priority setting for programme planning at the European level, which would take account of current user needs. What is needed in particular is an implementation of the requirements of the European multi-annual statistical programme for 2008 to 2012; among other things, cost-effectiveness analyses will be performed for any new statistical projects and for all work areas of the multi-annual programme. User requirements for the statistical programme were also dealt with by the Conference of the Directors General of National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) held in Vilnius (Lithuania) in September 2008. The motto of the conference was "reducing administrative burdens caused by official statistics". According to the participants, administrative data should, among other things, be used more widely and the exchange of best practices should be enhanced. It should be considered together with political decision-makers what statistical requirements might be abolished in the future. Not only the costs but also the benefits of statistics must be examined here. The presentations of the Federal Statistical Office regarding measurement of burdens by means of the Standard Cost Model met with great interest among the member states as the Federal Statistical Office has so far been the only statistical office in Europe having set up a separate unit to measure the burden caused by information obligations.

Working group on
"Cracow Action Plan" 2008

Cracow Action Plan on the further development of the European Statistical System

The "Cracow Action Plan" developed in 2006 contains ambitious goals for the modernisation and further development of the European Statistical System (ESS). For its implementation, three high-level Task Forces had been set up, which finished their work in November 2008. The Federal Statistical Office participated in all three Task Forces.

The comprehensive recommendations submitted are to make the ESS fit for the future and make the work relations between its members even more efficient and flexible. Apart from recommendations on meeting challenges in terms of content, which are emerging in the context of a globalised knowledge society, strategic and organisational measures are contained.

Subject areas such as globalisation, environment or migration, which extend across several statistical fields, should in the future be treated in a low-burden and efficient way by combining various statistical sources. An improved infrastructure should support the development and application of adequate methods and procedures. It is also intended to open up ways of rapid and flexible evaluations/analyses which would not put additional burdens on the programme. Using new informational possibilities (interaction, visualisation, participation) should further enhance the position of European statistics in a globalised and knowledge-based society.

In addition, it is intended to closer involve the member states into statistical programme planning at the European level and to simplify the structure of statistical working bodies. Through improved work sharing and co-operation within the scope of Kompetenzzentren (ESSnet, in the past: CENEX), synergies should more widely be used. It is also planned to further enhance the common statistical education and training in Europe.

In early 2009 a conference organised by the Dutch statistical office in Den Haag dealt with the conclusions of the Task Forces and with plans concerning the concrete implementation of the measures.

Principal European Economic Indicators

With the Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEI), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) has since 2002 provided important short-term indicators for the European Union (EU) and the euro area, which give a summary picture of the current economic situation. They comprise monthly and quarterly data from the spheres of consumer prices, national accounts, short-term statistics, labour market statistics and foreign trade statistics. The requirements in terms of periodicity and timeliness of the aggregates for the euro area in part go beyond the requirements of the existing legal provisions that are harmonised at EU level; consequently, the countries' contributions to the PEEI are in part voluntary. Germany is one of the EU member states which, for a long time already, have provided nearly all indicators very early and completely. In 2003 already, Germany provided first data on the gross domestic product as early as 45 days after the end of the reference quarter.

In 2008 a steering group on the further development of the PEEIs was set up, in which the Federal Statistical Office is represented. In November 2008 the steering group submitted a concrete plan of actions until 2012 to the council of the European economics and finance ministers (ECOFIN), which has approved the plan.

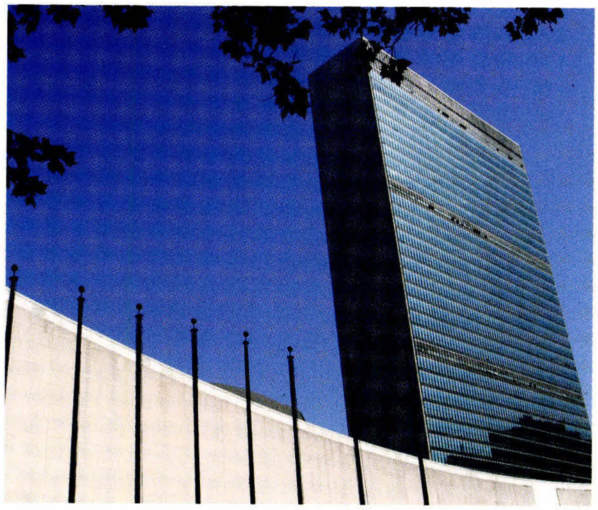
Selected international meetings

The Federal Statistical Office closely co-operates with the statistical divisions of international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations (UN). The German system of official statistics thus supports major political goals, for instance, the implementation of the United Nations millennium goals on environment and development, which have been agreed upon internationally and are to be achieved by 2015.

Items discussed at the annual session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2008 included the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA 1993) and the activities of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers. As in the previous years, another important topic was the development indicators and the related statistical capacity building in developing countries.

In his function as chairman of the Committee on Environmental-Economic Accounts (UNCEEA) set up in 2006, the former President of the Federal Statistical Office, Walter Radermacher, reported on the progress made. The UNCEEA has set up a long-term work programme on enhancing and harmonising environmental-economic accounting. It is planned to gradually implement the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA 2003) in the member states and to develop it into an international standard by 2010.

The strong commitment of German official statistics at the international level was also illustrated at the annual plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), which is a sub-organisation of the UN Economic Commission for Europe. Among other things, the Federal Statistical Office co-ordinated a one-day seminar on migration, which was chaired by its former President Walter Radermacher. The impact of migration



on the demographic, economic and social situation of the population was analysed from various aspects and conclusions for statistical data demand were drawn. In a paper presented by the Federal Statistical Office and the University of Applied Sciences of Gelsenkirchen and based on data of the microcensus 2005, it was examined whether "successful integration" can be measured with the tools of statistics. The concept applied is considered reliable and internationally applicable.

At the OECD level, too, the heads of the statistical offices of the member states meet regularly to discuss important strategic and subject-related issues. The OECD Statistical Committee meets once a year (alternately in Geneva and Paris). Major issues of the 2008 meeting were the OECD strategy for 2009 and 2010, and especially the project "Measuring the Progress of Societies" and the role of OECD statistics within the OECD innovation strategy.

Selected co-operation projects

› World Bank project with the Republic of Tajikistan

The goal of a co-operation project with the Tajik statistical office Goskomstat, which is financed by the World Bank and led by the Federal Statistical Office, is to improve the quality of the statistical data published by Goskomstat. In 2008 the project activities continued and first results were achieved: For the Tajik statistical system, a new legal basis was developed, which must now be adopted by the parliament. In the statistical areas that are relevant for the United Nations millennium development goals, new surveys were prepared, among other things on the income and living conditions of the people and on agriculture, which is an important area for Tajikistan.

The main focus of the work programme in the first half of 2008 was a two-week seminar held in Wiesbaden for Goskomstat managers. Various issues were discussed there, for instance, the quality management of statistics, the impact of the transformation of the economy and the society on the statistical system, the confidentiality of statistical microdata, and the dissemination of statistical data as well as administrative work. Also, the participants were given information on the co-operation of statistical bodies and ministries in Germany and the European Union (EU) as well as on communication and decision-making processes.

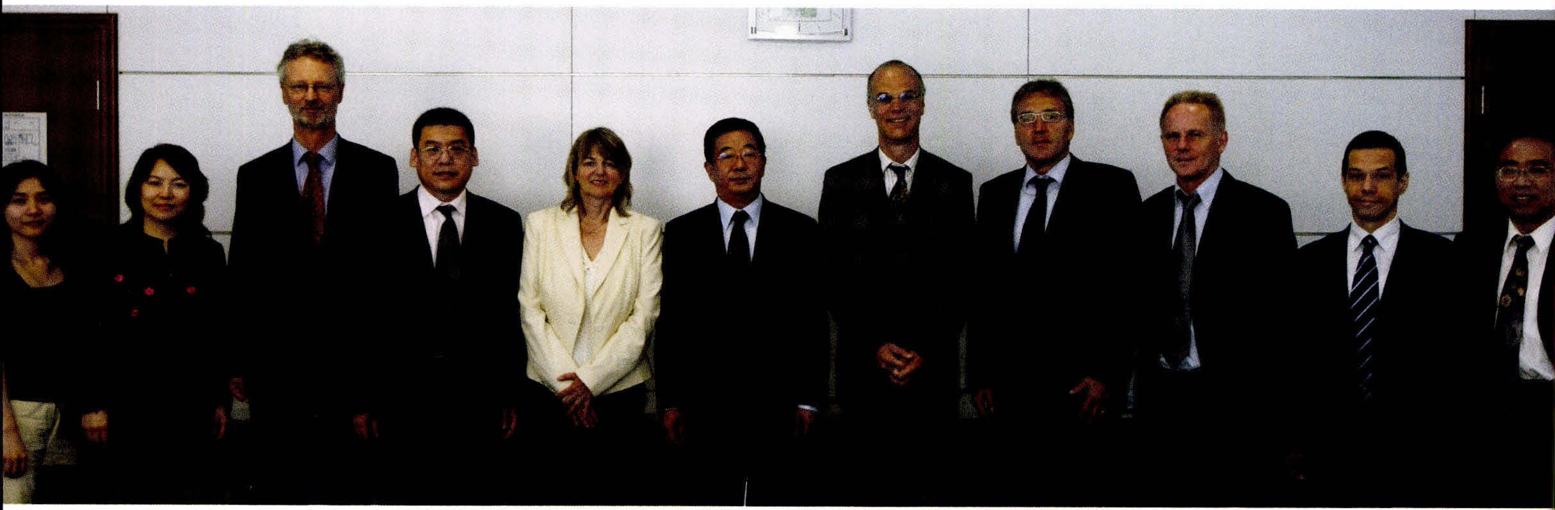
› EU project on upgrading the statistical system of Turkey

In the statistical sphere, Turkey is making progress in meeting the European Union requirements for accession. To ensure the further adjustment of Turkish official statistics to EU standards, the Federal Statistical Office is also involved in the second phase of the USST (Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey) co-operation project, which started in 2008. The consulting activities of the Federal Statistical Office in the second phase of the project focused on environment statistics, and especially on waste and waste water statistics.

› Co-operation project with the Macedonian statistical office

The Twinning co-operation project with the Macedonian statistical office is finished. At the final event in Skopje, the results were presented which had been achieved over the previous two years jointly with experts from Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary and Sweden. The project's goal was to support the Macedonian statistical office in introducing statistical methods and standards of the EU in important areas and in modernising its organisation according to Total Quality Management (TQM).

In three working groups (macro-economic statistics, business and social statistics, and organisational structure), the relevant project results were presented in detail and discussed with the expert audience.



Bilateral co-operation with the statistical office of the People's Republic of China

Also, the project on "statistical legislation" carried out by the Federal Statistical Office and the National Bureau of Statistics of China from 2006 to 2008 was successful in 2008. With the support of German experts, the Chinese statistics law of 1995 was to be amended to meet the requirements of a modern statistical law. The consultations focused, among other things, on the legislation procedure in Germany, the basic principles of official statistics and provisions of the Federal Statistics Law, especially the provisions on statistical confidentiality, the obligation to provide information, and procedures in case of administrative offences occurring. In addition, the content and application of other statistical legal bases were presented to the Chinese colleagues, such as of the microcensus law, the legal provisions on the business register and of the law on the use of administrative data. Other topics treated were the European Statistical System and the Regulation concerning Community Statistics. At the final event in Beijing, the Chinese draft statistics law was discussed, which also contains a provision on statistical confidentiality.

The Federal Ministry of Justice has been informed by the Federal Statistical Office about the project and about the co-operation with the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China and has now included the issue of "statistical legislation" into the German-Chinese rule of law dialogue.

The task of the German-Chinese working group on "trade statistics", which was set up at the 12th meeting of the German-Chinese mixed economic committee on 11 November 2005, was to analyse the asymmetries in the bilateral trade statistics and to reduce them where possible.

The result of the activities illustrates that there are continuously large differences between Chinese and German foreign trade statistics, which increase in value terms along with the growth of German-Chinese foreign trade. The differences are particularly large in the goods flows from China to Germany. The analysis has shown that the different allocation of countries of destination and partner countries is the main cause of the differences.

Other mirror comparisons in foreign trade statistics

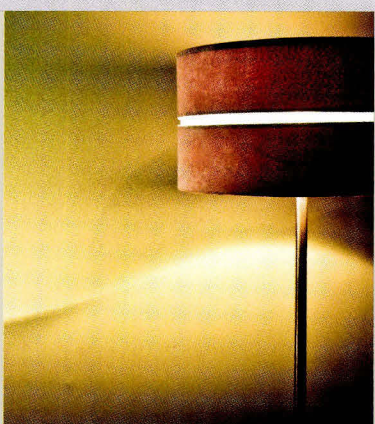
Comparing the national data with the mirrored foreign trade data of the partner countries has a long tradition in German foreign trade statistics. It provides information about the causes of discrepancies and may contribute to discovering errors. Mirror comparisons thus are an important tool of quality control and quality assurance. Apart from the People's Republic of China, such bilateral co-operation projects were carried out in 2008 with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

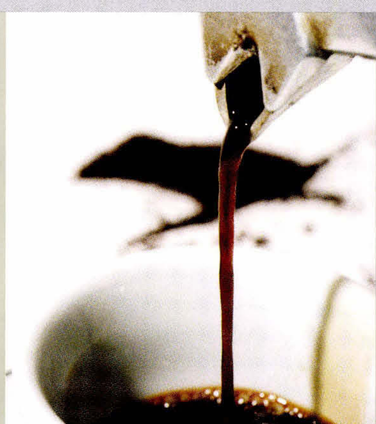
European Statistical Training Programme

The European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) is the common training programme of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the National Statistical Institutes of the European Union member states and of the EFTA countries. The total of 30 events, which were carried out in 2008 by experts (trainers) of Eurostat and the National Statistical Institutes participating in the ESTP, were also attended by 14 staff members of the Federal Statistical Office. A course that is particularly interesting for the Federal Statistical Office is "Train the trainers", where interested staff members are prepared for a lecturing activity within the scope of the European Statistical Training Programme. In addition to that, within the scope of the Cracow Action Plan, the Federal Statistical Office committed itself to the further development of the ESTP into a powerful tool of human resources development and training for the statistical offices of EU and EFTA countries and of candidate countries.

Leben in Europa 2006 – Results

LEBEN IN EUROPA is the official name of the German survey conducted within the scope of the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), which is harmonised all over the EU and was introduced in Germany in 2005. The legal basis of the survey is Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2003. The main indicator produced on the basis of LEBEN IN EUROPA is the at-risk-of-poverty rate. It indicates the share of persons at risk of poverty in the overall population. According to the European definition, persons are considered as being at risk of poverty if they have less than 60 % of the median equivalised disposable income of the total population. The median income obtained from LEBEN IN EUROPA 2006 by applying equivalence weighting was a monthly EUR 1,301 for income reference year 2005 in Germany. Hence, an income of less than 60 % of that (at-risk-of-poverty threshold: EUR 781 per month) means that the persons concerned are at risk of poverty. This was true of 13 % of the population in Germany in 2005 (EU average: 16 %). According to the results of LEBEN IN EUROPA 2006, those who were most at risk of poverty in Germany in 2005 are the group of the unemployed (43 %) and that of lone parents (24 %). The main factors contributing to the risk of poverty are unemployment (the at-risk-of-poverty rate of inactive persons was 20 % all over Germany, while that of persons in employment was 6 %) and a low level of education (training). The at-risk-of-poverty rate for persons with a maximum educational attainment of secondary level I (intermediate school) was 19 %, whereas for persons with a tertiary level of education (higher education) it was 7 %. For families, the risk of sliding into a difficult financial situation increases along with the number of dependent children (for example, the at-risk-of-poverty rate of two adults with one child was 8 % in Germany in 2005, while it was 9 % for those with two children and 13 % for those with three or more children). Results and publications on LEBEN IN EUROPA are offered by the Federal Statistical Office on its website **www.destatis.de** under the topic "Household budget surveys, Living in Europe".





Price statisticians organising CENEX workshop in Wiesbaden

In early June 2008 a workshop on the CENEX project in price statistics was held in Wiesbaden. The goal of the workshop was to inform the participants about the progress made in the project and to discuss the proposals developed. In addition to the 14 project team members (from seven statistical offices), another 45 representatives from 25 European Union member states, from Deutsche Bundesbank, the European Central Bank and the Statistical Office of the European Communities participated in the workshop.

CENEX is the abbreviation of "Centres and Networks of Excellence" and refers to a new form of international work sharing: A small number of statistics experts from various countries form a group to develop practical solutions to a specific methodical problem and then make the results available to all statistical offices of the European Union as best practice.

The CENEX project in price statistics, which is scheduled for two years and is headed by the Federal Statistical Office, started in early October 2006. The other experts come from the statistical institutes of Austria, Belgium, Sweden, Portugal, Ireland and the Netherlands. The topic of the project is the methodical approach to dealing with changes in the quality of goods whose prices are to be measured. The focus of the project and, consequently, of the workshop was technical goods such as TV sets, washing machines, cars and computers as well as books.

New handbook on assessing data quality

As the European Union is growing together, it is becoming ever more important that statistical data meet general standards. This requires assessing the quality of statistical products. Against that background, a project group of the European Statistical System (ESS), headed by the Federal Statistical Office, has developed a Handbook on Data Quality Assessment Methods and Tools, which is available on the website of the Statistical Office of the European Communities. Apart from the Federal Statistical Office, participants in the project group were the statistical institutes of Sweden, Norway, Portugal and Hungary as well as the Land Statistical Office of Berlin-Brandenburg. The handbook presents in detail methods of quality assessment and contains recommendations on how to implement them. Hence it provides a basis for successful implementation of quality standards within the ESS.

The quality of statistical products is assessed according to criteria that have been defined in a standard way in the ESS. For example, the relevance of a specific statistics can be assessed through user surveys. Accuracy can be covered by means of various mathematical ratios.

A quality indicator that can be used for timeliness is, for instance, the time lag between the reference period of the statistics and the publication of the data; punctuality is documented through compliance with fixed release dates. For the quality aspects of coherence and comparability as well as for accessibility and clarity, relevant quality indicators are given, too.

To what extent a statistics meets the quality criteria can be described in quality reports. They are made available to the general public and can also be used for internal assessment of data quality. If weak points are detected during quality assessment, the processes of statistics production should be examined. In that case, process documentation provides important information on where things can be improved. Self-assessment and auditing are comprehensive and systematic examinations of the quality of products and of the underlying processes which are performed by the very producers of the statistics (self-assessment) or by independent experts (auditing).

Revision of the UN handbook on the methodology of foreign trade statistics

The Federal Statistical Office participates in a United Nations (UN) expert group dealing with the revision of the United Nations "International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, Rev.2". The current version of that handbook is of 1998. A revision is required for various reasons:

- There are more recent phenomena in foreign trade, such as the increasing globalisation of production and distribution processes or the extension of intra-company trade, which must be taken into account in the methodical concepts.
- The legal framework conditions and the customs procedures have changed over the last few years. The concepts of foreign trade statistics must take account of those developments.
- There have been methodical changes in national accounts and in the system of balance of payments statistics which require adjustments in the methodology of foreign trade statistics.
- User needs have changed.
- In various places of the handbook, further explanations are required; the document's readability should also be improved.

The expert group met for the first time from 3 to 6 December 2007 in New York. In November 2008 a virtual meeting took place. Using a UN server, an electronic expert forum was created where ideas and information were exchanged.

International statistics on new web pages

Greenhouse gases, foreign trade or education: Anyone interested in the situation in Germany will more and more often need international comparative data to be used as a standard for assessment. For many years already, the Federal Statistical Office has therefore offered an international info service giving advice to users who are looking for data. Also, the Federal Statistical Office publishes international tables on economic and social issues, which are contained in the Statistical Yearbook.

A new component of international statistics is the web pages which will be accessible from October 2009 through the button "International data" on the website of the Federal Statistical Office. Considering the multitude of data sources, the purpose of the new web pages is to structure the range of data, to give orientation and to facilitate data research for visitors: The pages will allow interactive access to key indicators by all countries of the world, to data by topics, and to statistical links to international data sources. For each G20 state, a country profile will offer tables, time series and charts for download. An automated underlying database system will permit timely and rapid updating of all data offered on that portal.

Five years EU statistics service

Since 2004 it has been possible for anyone in Europe interested in statistics to contact their national statistical office when looking for information on official EU statistics. The info points offer that service that is co-ordinated by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). Some 25,000 enquiries per year are addressed to that network: Almost 40 % are received by the EDS European Data Service at the Federal Statistical Office.

User enquiries range from questions on seasonal adjustment methodology to the functions of online applications on the Eurostat website. When answering the enquiries, high quality demands must be met: Eurostat regularly checks the compliance with many standards regarding answers to user enquiries and exchanges information with all service points.

Other EDS focuses are the maintenance of its own website **www.eds-destatis.de** and public relations work for EU statistics. In the last few years, the EDS has performed information events at universities, federal ministries, embassies and the parliamentary groups in the German Bundestag. All over Germany, the EDS presents Eurostat products at major trade fairs such as the Hanover industrial fair and the Didacta educational fair.

Labour costs and non-wage costs in a European comparison

As the level of labour costs is a major factor for internationally active companies when taking decisions about locations, the Federal Statistical Office every year compares the labour cost level between the countries of the European Union (EU). Examining the relation between non-wage costs and gross wages and salaries also allows comparing the non-wage costs without having to pay attention to the wage levels of the various EU member states.

In 2007 private-sector employers in Germany paid EUR 29.10 for one hour worked. In a European comparison, the German labour cost level ranked seventh, following Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and the Netherlands. Denmark (EUR 35.00) had the highest labour costs per hour worked and Bulgaria (EUR 2.10) the lowest.

In manufacturing, which faces particularly hard international competition, one hour cost an average EUR 33.00 in Germany in 2007. German employers thus paid the fourth highest labour costs in the European Union, following Belgium, Sweden and Denmark.

The main elements of non-wage costs are the social contributions of employers, especially the employers' statutory social insurance contributions and the expenditure on employee pension schemes.

Private-sector employers in Germany in 2007 paid non-wage costs of EUR 32 per EUR 100 of gross wages and salaries. Germany thus was below the European average of EUR 36 and was among the middle-ranking countries (14th) in the European Union. In France and Sweden, non-wage costs of EUR 50 were additionally paid per EUR 100 of wage, in Malta the figure was just EUR 10.

ICT impact project

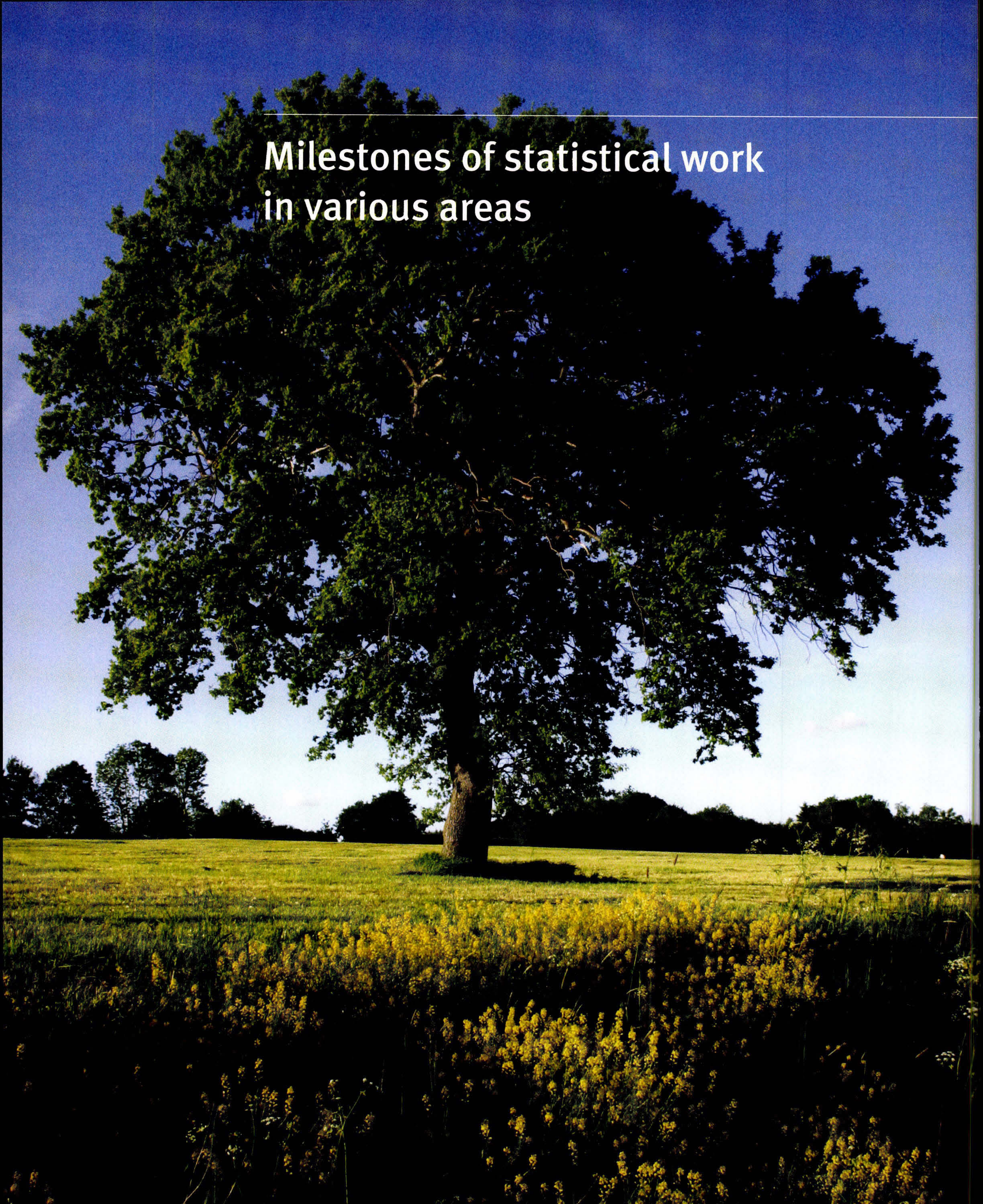
With its strategy "i2010 – Information Society and the media working towards growth and jobs", the European Commission in 2005 formulated the European policy guidelines for the information society and the media. At the same time, the strategy "i2010" is part of the Lisbon Strategy, whose goal is to make the European Union the most competitive and most dynamic knowledge-based economic area of the world by 2010. To evaluate the progress made, European benchmarking on the basis of harmonised data is indispensable. Here official statistics already makes a major contribution especially through the surveys on the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in enterprises and households, the structural statistics and national accounts (see also chapter 4, p. 68).

Comparable data on the impact of modern information and communication technologies on the development of productivity have not been available so far. Therefore, various scientific studies are currently dealing with the question to what extent using ICT has an impact on the productivity of enterprises. Within the scope of the study "ICT Impact", that influence was studied direct at the micro level by linking existing microdata.

Since 2006, statisticians from 13 EU member states participated in the study, which has now been finished. They were supported by external scientists of various universities and research institutes. In the first project phase (April 2006 to May 2007), in which the relevant surveys and variables and their availability were evaluated, it turned out that the data stocks in the member states are very heterogeneous. Therefore, the second project phase (June 2007 to August 2008) was limited to linking the microdata from the survey of ICT use in enterprises of all member states with the microdata of the various structural statistics for the economic branches and those of the business register. Then the impact of ICT use on enterprise productivity was examined through econometric analyses.

The final report, containing the results of the ICT Impact study, was transmitted to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) in August 2008; the German project report will be available in the first half of 2009.

Milestones of statistical work in various areas



Selected data on the housing situation in Germany

Data on housing in Germany are gathered at intervals of four years as part of the microcensus, a 1%-household sample which is taken every year. In March 2008, the Federal Statistical Office published the most recent information on the housing situation of private households, which had been collected as part of the additional survey component of the microcensus 2006.

According to these data, the housing conditions in the former territory of the Federal Republic (excluding Berlin) still differ from those in the new Länder (including Berlin): With an average floor space of 94 m^2, dwellings in the western part of Germany were considerably larger in 2006 than those in the East, which had an average size of 77 m^2. This is partly due to the fact that there is a smaller proportion of single-family homes in the new Länder and Berlin. On average, 39 m^2 were available to a person living in the new Länder or Berlin, while people in the former territory had an average living space of 44 m^2.

A marked difference of the dwelling stocks in the western and eastern part can be observed with regard to the age of the buildings. Because of the lower new construction activity in the former GDR, the proportion of buildings erected in the years from 1949 to 1990 is markedly smaller in the East (43%) than in the West, where nearly two thirds of all buildings (64%) were built between 1949 and 1990.

The share of owner-occupied dwellings remained rather constant at 42% between 2002 and 2006. However, the owner occupier rate was much higher in the West (45%) than in the new Länder and Berlin (31%).

The average gross rent (exclusive of heating) for a dwelling in Germany amounted to EUR 410, equalling EUR 5.94 per m^2. The rent for dwellings which had been occupied by the same household for more than 25 years was only EUR 5.34 per square metre. Those who had only moved into their flat in 2005 paid an average of EUR 6.31 per m^2 of floor space, which was over 18% more. The smaller the dwelling, the higher the rent per square metre. A rent of EUR 7.45 per m^2 was recorded for dwellings of up to 40 m^2, while it was only EUR 5.50 per square metre for dwellings of 100 m^2 or more. Hence, the rent per m^2 was 36% higher for smaller flats than for larger ones.

The impact of demographic change

After the results of the 11th coordinated population projection became available for the individual Länder in the spring of 2007, the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder started examining possible effects of demographic change in Germany and in the Länder over the coming two decades. The studies have been confined to those subject areas which are directly linked to the demographic development. Three studies have been published so far.

Apart from the population trend, volume 1 of the series on „Demographic Change in Germany" shows the likely changes in the number and composition of households in Germany as a whole and in the Länder. As a result of the continuing trend towards smaller households, which is due to the smaller number of children and the increase in the number of old people, many of whom live in one-person households, the overall number of households will continue to grow moderately up to the year 2020. Only then will the population decrease be reflected in a declining number of households.

Volume 2 of the series outlines the effects of demographic change on the number of hospital treatments and of persons requiring long-term care. Based on the assumption that the likelihood of developing a need for long-term care or a specific disease depends on age alone, the number of persons requiring long-term care can be expected to rise by more than half from today until the year 2030. As for the number of hospital treatments, the aging of the population is also likely to increase the number of patients requiring in-patient hospital treatment, notwithstanding the population decrease. Typical age-related diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases and malignant neoplasms, are of increasing importance.

Volume 3 of the series examines the future demand for childcare places and the anticipated number of pupils. While the demographic development is likely to result in a noticeable decrease in the number of pupils, its impact on the demand for childcare places is influenced in particular by institutional framework conditions. The goal of providing day care places for well over a third of the children under three years by 2013 has led in the old Länder to a major expansion of childcare places for children of that age group.

Volume 4 of the series is currently under preparation. It will discuss the effects of demographic change on the future labour force potential, taking into account various age and gender specific propensities to work.

Births survey in Germany: 1.4 children per woman

In the autumn of 2006, 12 500 women in Germany participated in a voluntary survey of births and childlessness. The survey results are an important complement to birth statistics.

They show, among other things, the average number of births per woman for the individual female cohorts and the percentages of women having one child, two or more children, or no children. The changes in the fertility behaviour of the different age cohorts show that the low average number of children per woman in Germany, which has been observed for more than 35 years, was initially caused by a decrease in the number of children per family and then by increasing childlessness. Today, almost every fifth woman aged 40 to 49 years has no children. Half of all mothers aged 35 to 54 have two children, about 30 % have one child, and 20 % have three or four children.

As regards sociodemographic characteristics, there are some marked differences between mothers and women without children. Despite the diversification of living arrangements in the population, more than 80 % of all mothers are married, whereas the proportion of married women among those without children is at most half as high. The number of siblings with whom a woman grew up seems to have some effect on the size of her own family: As compared to mothers with more than one child, women without children and mothers of one child more often were single children themselves or had just one sibling. The proportion of mothers with three or more children who grew up in large families is significantly higher than that of childless women or mothers with one or two children. A link also exists between a woman's educational attainment and the number of her children: While every fifth childless woman aged 35 to 49 years has a higher education degree, this is true of only every tenth mother of the same age group who has three or more children.

This and other information, for example on the age of mothers at the birth of their first and of their other children, can be found in the brochure „Geburten und Kinderlosigkeit in Deutschland" (Births and childlessness in Germany), which is available on the website of the Federal Statistical Office at **www.destatis.de/publikationen**.

Households and living arrangements in Germany in 2007

The microcensus provides official representative statistics on the population and the labour market, collecting data, among other things, on the household and family structures of about 1 % of the population every year. The Federal Statistical Office released first results for the reference year 2007 in the press conference on „Germany – A country of families", which was held in Berlin on 22 July 2008. According to these results, there were 39.7 million households in Germany with 82.4 million household members. On average, each household comprised 2.07 persons.

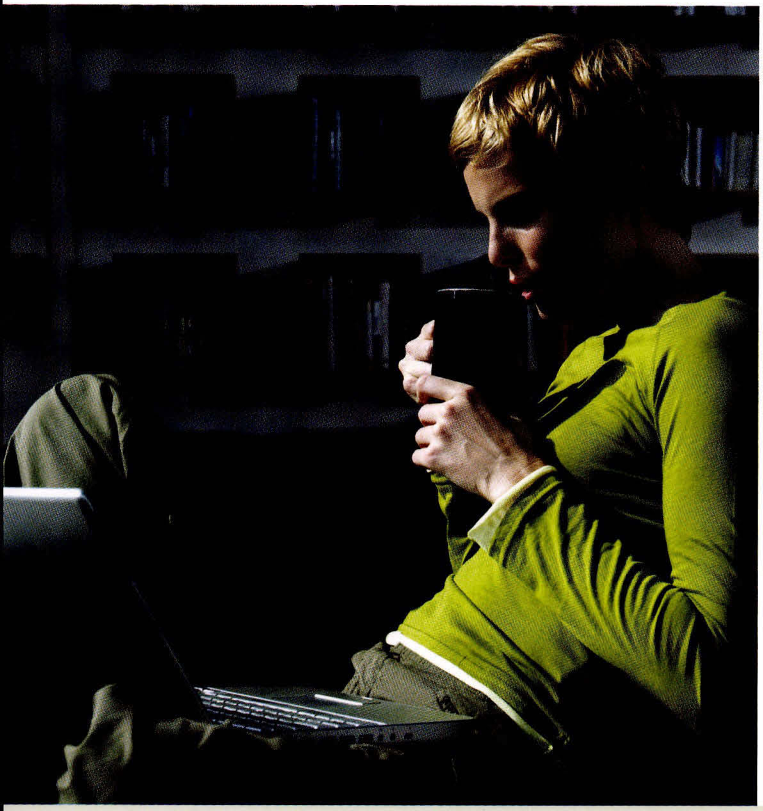
Married couples with children accounted for about three quarters (74 %) of the just under 8.6 million families with children under 18 years of age. Another 18 % of these families consisted of lone parents, while 8 % comprised cohabiting couples with children.

On average, 1.61 under-age children lived in families with children under 18. The reconciliation of work and family life represents a particular challenge for mothers and fathers. In 2007, both partners were economically active in about half (51 %) of the 5.9 million married and cohabiting couples with children under 15 years. In 35 % of the couples, only the father was in employment, in 9 % neither of the partners was employed (including those on temporary leave, e. g. on parental leave) and in 5 % only the mother was economically active.

Further detailed results of the microcensus 2007 on households, families and the living arrangements of the population are available on the website of the Federal Statistical Office at **www.destatis.de**.

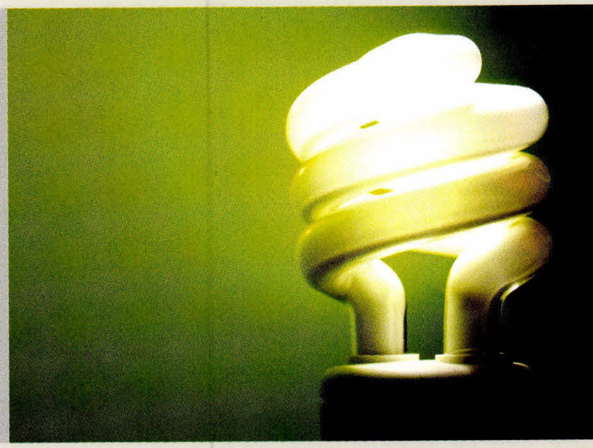
ICT usage in households

Since 2002, the German official statistics agencies have participated in the European surveys relating to the usage of information and communication technologies (ICT) in businesses and households. These surveys have been methodologically harmonised and are conducted in all the member states of the European Union (EU).



Consequently, official figures are available across the EU to illustrate new developments in the usage of information and communication technologies within enterprises and households. The results of the ICT surveys mainly serve the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the aims embodied in the initiative „i2010 – A European Information Society for growth and employment“ of the European Commission.

The results of the survey on „ICT usage in households“ show that computer equipment and internet access, as well as their use, have become essential elements of everyday life in the majority of households over the past years. In 2008, 76 % of the households in Germany owned a computer (2002: 57%). The proportion of households with internet access also continued to rise, reaching 69 % in 2008, while it stood at just 43 % in 2002. Internet usage has also increased significantly in the past few years. While just under 46 % of the population aged ten years or over used the internet in the first quarter of 2002, their proportion was 71 % in the first quarter of 2008.



Energy consumption of households – housing, mobility, consumption and environment

In environmental-economic accounting, a comprehensive analysis of energy consumption in households was performed for the period from 1995 to 2006. The analysis covered the consumption areas of housing, mobility and consumption. Apart from energy consumption, the emission of carbon dioxide (CO_2) – by far the most important greenhouse gas – was included in the study.

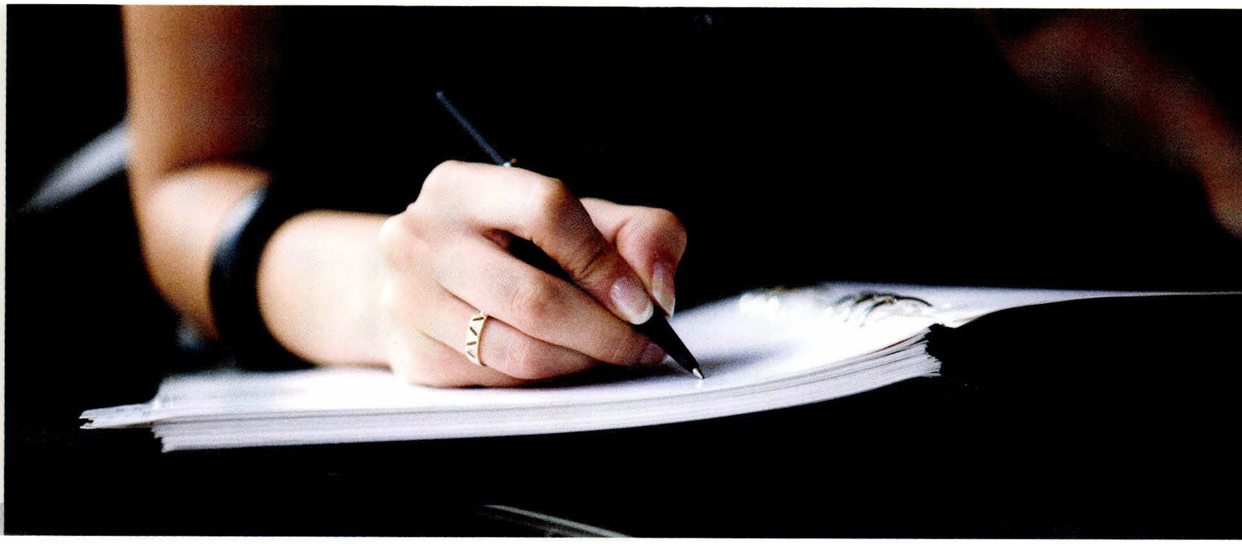
In the consumption area of housing, the energy consumption was determined by fields of application (room heat, warm water, electric household and communication equipment, lighting). In addition, for room heat, the weather-related influences were eliminated. While the temperature-adjusted energy consumption for room heat rose by just under 10 % between 1995 and 2000, it was down by 11.2 % from 2000 to 2006.

Using component decomposition, the influences on the consumption for room heat were examined more closely. Influences covered are the size of the population, the household size, the average useful floor space per household and the energy intensity (heating requirement per square metre of useful floor space). The analysis showed that, in the period from 2000 to 2006, strongly improved energy intensity more than offset the factors which had an upward effect on consumption. The sharp rise in household energy prices in that period obviously led to energy-saving behaviour of the households. Better heating technology and insulation of buildings also contributed to an improved energy efficiency.

In the consumption area of mobility, the motor fuel consumption for motor vehicle trips of households was examined more closely. Between 1995 and 2006 – including fuel filling abroad – it was down by some 1.4 billion litres (-3.7 %). Especially the consumption of carburettor fuels decreased (-14.5 %) because many drivers changed from petrol cars to Diesel cars. The consumption of Diesel fuel, however, was up 70 % in the same period.

In 2006, households caused direct CO_2 emissions in the area of housing and private transport to the amount of 201 million tonnes. That is a share of over 20 % in total direct domestic CO_2 emissions. Compared with 1995, direct CO_2 emissions of households were down by 8.1 %. With nearly unchanged direct energy consumption between 1995 and 2006, this is due to a substitution of energy sources – especially of coal and heating oil by natural gas and renewable energy sources – which has a positive impact on the development of emissions.

This topic was also presented at a press conference on "energy consumption of households – housing, mobility, consumption and environment" held in Berlin on 5 November 2008.



New possibilities of evaluating vocational training statistics

The Vocational Training Reform Act (BerBiRefG) provided for far-reaching changes in vocational training statistics as of the survey year 2007. Apart from the reorganisation from aggregate statistics to microdata-based statistics, this included an adjustment and extension of the list of variables covered.

The microdata now available at the relevant bodies and chambers offer new and interesting possibilities of evaluation. The rigid variable structure established by the former survey tabulations for the aggregate statistics has been opened up so that individual variables can be freely combined. It is possible, for example, to combine the variables „previous schooling level“ and „examination achievements of apprentices“ and to analyse them by gender, age or citizenship.

The newly defined list of variables of vocational training statistics offers the possibility, among other things, to present in great detail the qualification-specific patterns of transition to the dual system of vocational training. Since data on the general educational level obtained, the participation in pre-training measures and previous vocational qualifications are covered separately for all apprentices, comprehensive information is available to describe the access routes, which, if required, can also be shown separately for German and foreign citizens. Furthermore, it is possible to examine how many school leavers with different educational qualifications move into the dual vocational training system and whether there are differences between their examination achievements.

A new variable of vocational training statistics is the location of educational institutions. Consequently, results can be presented with a breakdown by Länder, by employment agency districts or by municipalities.

The bodies and chambers in charge of vocational training may use a variety of electronic data transmission channels. In the medium term, this will result in a considerable reduction of the burden imposed on respondents.

Structural data of foreign-controlled enterprises in Germany

The increasing integration of businesses at the international level generates a need for information on the economic and social effects of globalisation. In this context, the importance of recording and presenting data on groups of companies is growing at both the national and international levels.

Now that a harmonised and operational methodological basis has been created at European level for the delimitation of groups of enterprises, it has been possible to incorporate data on the affiliation of businesses with such groups into the German business register.

Data on foreign-controlled enterprises may provide information on whether and to what extent the economic structures of these enterprises differ from those of the remaining enterprises in the economic sector concerned. The structural data may be used to compute key figures, for instance, on productivity and value added, which enable statements to be made on the competitiveness of these enterprises.

As regards the project work involved with the European Union regulation on the structure and activity of foreign affiliates, the Federal Statistical Office strives to obtain the required data from existing sources, without imposing additional burdens on enterprises. To this end, foreign-controlled enterprises and the owner companies' headquarters abroad are identified using the enterprise group database of the business register. Afterwards, the required data are added from the continuous structural surveys. The development work was concluded in 2008. First results on foreign-controlled enterprises are expected to be available in the spring of 2009.

Employment effects arising from the relocation of economic activities to foreign countries

About 14 % of the larger enterprises with 100 employees or more in Germany relocated some of their activities to foreign countries in the period from 2001 to 2006. „International Sourcing“ is a particularly frequent phenomenon among industrial enterprises, 20 % of which relocated activities abroad. In contrast, only 7 % of the enterprises in the remaining economic sectors relocated some of their activities.

On the whole, these relocations resulted in the loss of 188 600 jobs in Germany over the past years. At the same time, however, 105 500 new jobs were created in the national territory because of these relocations, corresponding to about 56 % of the relocated jobs. Yet, the most important factors determining the proportions of relocated and newly created jobs are the qualifications required for a job and the enterprise's branch of economic activity. A total of 63 300 jobs requiring higher qualifications were relocated, in contrast to 59 300 jobs, or about 94 %, that were newly created. The knowledge-intensive service businesses even created 20 % more highly qualified jobs than they relocated.

The above are results of a development project on the „relocation of economic activities“, which was carried out by the Federal Statistical Office in cooperation with several Land statistical offices and the Statistical Office of the European Communities and concluded in 2008. Further information, for example on the motives, countries of destination, and experiences of relocating enterprises, can be found on the Federal Statistical Office's website at **www.destatis.de**.

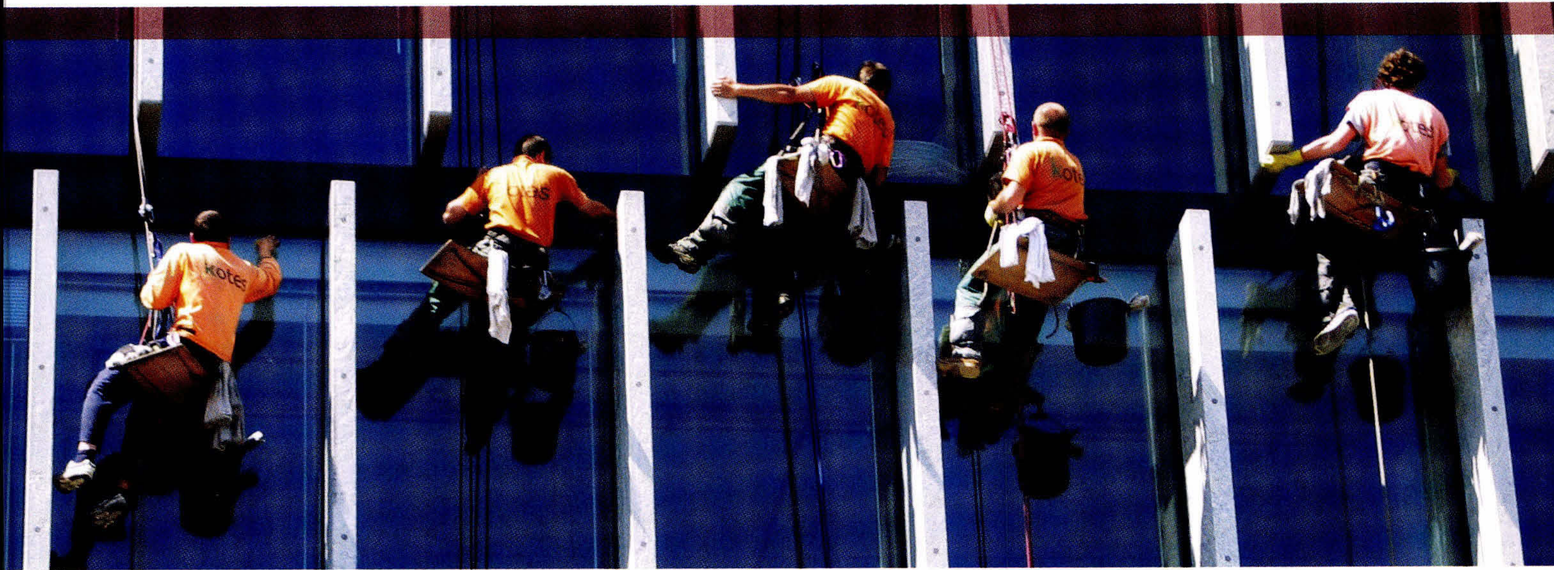
New producer price indices for services

Producer price indices represent the price evolution on the producer side, show short-term economic trends and therefore are important indicators for the business, political and academic communities. Following the publication of the first producer price indices for selected services in the autumn of 2007, the information offered by official statistics was substantially extended in 2008 to reflect the increasing economic importance of the tertiary sector.

For the first time, results were published of the new price indices for telecommunication services, private postal and courier services, advertising, the cleaning of buildings, and transportation and storage (air, sea and rail transport, warehousing).

The progress made in Germany was one of the major reasons why the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) was able to publish European indices for the first time in 2008. The provision of producer price indices for specific service sectors is mandatory for all member states of the European Union.

The time-consuming work for the development of a statistical methodology and the establishment of a survey infrastructure is still going on. Price indices for architectural and engineering services, IT services and employment agency services are scheduled to be completed in 2009.



Revision of the classifications of economic activities and of products finished

Since the middle of 2001 various European and international economic classifications have entirely been revised. As a consequence, the national classifications of economic activities and products had to be revised, too. The new Classification of Economic Activities, edition 2008 (WZ 2008) will gradually replace the previous edition of 2003 (WZ 2003), and the Product Classification for Production Statistics, edition 2009 (GP 2009) will replace the previous edition of 2002 (GP 2002) from January 2009. In some surveys, the WZ 2008 has already been applied since January 2008.

Classifications have to be revised from time to time to adjust them to the changing economic and technical situation. However, such changes usually involve breaks in statistical time series, thus making long-term analysis of statistical data more difficult. Changing over to a new classification must therefore be carefully prepared and co-ordinated.

In the WZ 2008, many breakdowns have been changed and especially the allocation of specific enterprises has been rearranged. Although in the GP 2009 most items have not changed, the breakdown of the classification has entirely been rearranged. The length of both classifications has markedly been reduced as part of the revision, which contributes to reducing the burden on respondents and statistical offices.

In 2008 all major activities regarding the WZ 2008 and the GP 2009 were finished. Training events were held to prepare the implementation of the WZ 2008 in the specialised statistics. Changing over the business register to the WZ 2008 was terminated by the end of 2008. The introduction of the GP 2009 was also prepared in the relevant statistical bodies in 2008.

Using administrative data reduces burden on respondents
... in short-term economic reporting for specific service areas,

Data for the calculation of indices of turnover and employees in the service sector have been obtained through a so-called "mixed model" since the second quarter of 2007, which means that data from various sources are combined with each other. For large enterprises the required data continue to be collected, while for small and medium-sized enterprises they are obtained from administrative data.

With the introduction of the mixed model, a large part of the enterprises which up to the beginning of 2007 had been obliged to supply quarterly data on turnover and employees as part of the sample survey were exempted from the obligation to provide information (about 36,000 enterprises). Only about 4,000 enterprises are directly questioned on a quarterly basis now. By changing over from a sample survey to a complete enumeration, the quality of results has been improved, too. The enterprises obliged to provide information have the choice between paper questionnaires and the online reporting procedures of IDEV and eSTATISTIK.core; the latter allow them to further reduce their response burden.

Initial problems of changeover were eliminated through short-term quality assurance measures. Despite the methodical change, the time series do not involve major breaks and they have regularly been published again since the fourth quarter of 2007.

In 2009 short-term economic statistics in the service sector will face new challenges. Starting with the reference period of the first quarter of 2009, the short-term statistics in the service sector will apply the new classification of economic activities (WZ 2008). Although the number of economic branches covered will double (i.a. by the inclusion of new economic activities such as audiovision), the additional burden placed on businesses will be small because of the mixed model: Only about 1,800 additional enterprises will have to be questioned directly. Parallel to changing over to the new classification, the indices were rebased to base year 2005.

... in crafts

For the quarterly reports on crafts only infra-annual administrative data have been evaluated since reference year 2008. About 41,000 sample enterprises, which up to then had been asked quarterly about their turnover and number of employees, were thus exempted from their obligation to provide statistical information. This was the first time that a statistical survey of enterprises was entirely replaced by the evaluation of administrative data. The administrative data here are data of the fiscal authorities taken from the enterprises' advance turnover tax returns and data of the Federal Employment Agency on employees subject to social insurance contributions and persons in minor employment taken from the data reported to social insurance institutions. For an identification of craft enterprises, the business register is used, which includes information as to whether an enterprise is a craft enterprise.

When the quarterly reports on crafts were redesigned, it turned out that the administrative data have some particular features that have to be taken into account when processing the results. This is why the first results for reference year 2008 were released later than originally scheduled.

It is planned to further reduce the burden on craft enterprises: Censuses of crafts will be replaced by the evaluation of administrative data from the business register. In the last census of crafts conducted in 1995, 563,000 enterprises were questioned.

... and in agricultural statistics

By using administrative data existing elsewhere, much of the statistical response burden on agricultural holdings with livestock keeping can be reduced, too. That was the result of methodical studies performed at the Federal Statistical Office. As a consequence, since May 2008, more than 185,000 farmers have partly been exempted from their obligation to provide information.

The new data source for agricultural statistics is the system of animal origin assurance and information (HIT), which is maintained centrally by the Bavarian State Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry on behalf of the Länder. It contains data on every single cattle in Germany as well as information on the owner. Using those data allows replacing the cattle stock survey as part of the livestock survey conducted twice a year.

The studies performed at the Federal Statistical Office showed that the data of the HIT database meet the high quality standards of official agricultural statistics. However, the HIT database does not contain all variables to be represented by agricultural statistics according to legal provisions. Therefore, the Federal Statistical Office has developed a procedure through which all lacking variables can be calculated by combining an additional variable with the data from the HIT database. Those variables can then be used in all surveys of agricultural statistics – including the census of agriculture –, so that in those surveys, too, the burden on farmers can be reduced.

Analyses concerning atypical employment in Germany

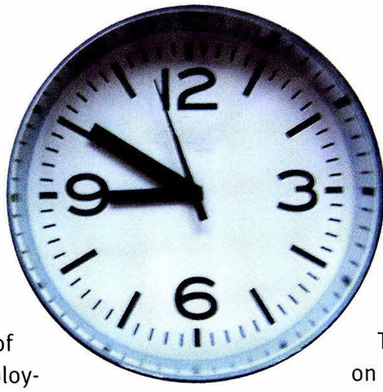
The world of work is no longer shaped only by so-called normal jobs. The latter are characterised by open-ended full-time employment where the employees are integrated in the social security systems and where the job is done direct for the employer rather than on a hiring-out basis for another enterprise. Employment forms meeting those criteria only in part, or not at all, are gaining in importance. They are referred to as atypical employment and include part-time work (with 20 or fewer working hours per week), fixed-term employment, minor employment and temporary work. Atypical jobs can meet only in part the ambition of normal employment to permanently secure livelihood, although they provide a higher degree of flexibility.

The Federal Statistical Office has studied the development of atypical employment for the period from 1997 to 2007, using microcensus results. The analysis focused on all wage and salary earners aged 15 to 64 years who were no longer undergoing education or training.

The results reveal a markedly changed situation on the German labour market. Between 1997 and 2007 the number of employees in normal employment was down by some 1.5 million, while the number of atypically employed rose by 2.6 million. So the increase in the number of employees aged 15 to 64 years by just under 1.1 million is only due to the increase in atypical employment. Accordingly, the share of wage and salary earners with a normal job in all employees was down from 82.5 % to 74.5 %.

The most important form of atypical employment in quantitative terms is part-time work, with just under 5 million employees. Over the last ten years, it contributed most to the increase in atypical employment (+1.6 million

employees). Temporary work, however, had the smallest importance: Only 610,000 persons were temporary workers in 2007.

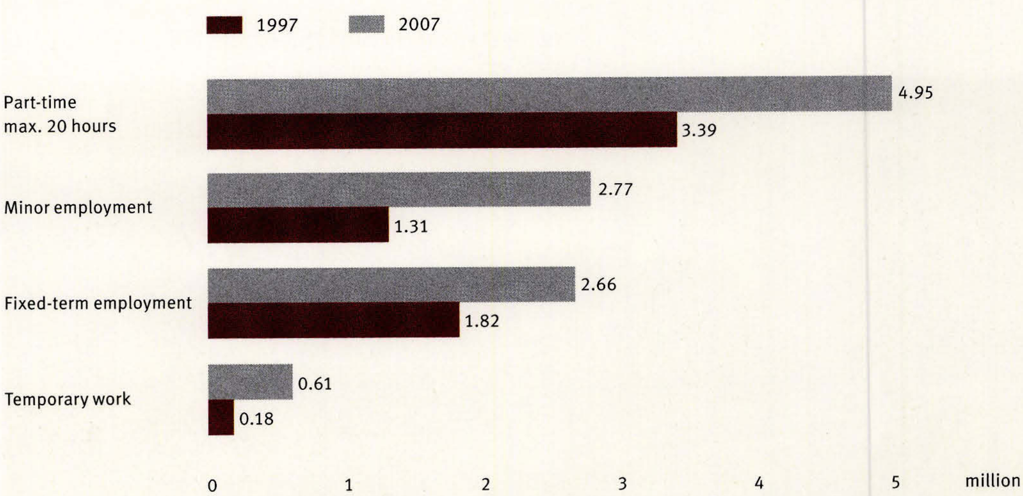


Nearly 40 % of the female employees were atypically employed, which is mainly due to the large number of women in part-time jobs. Only 14 % of male employees were in atypical employment. Analyses by other socio-demographic variables showed that especially young employees between the age of 15 and 24, employees without formal vocational qualification and foreigners not coming from the European Union are atypically employed.

The above and other results on atypical employment were presented to the general public at a press briefing held in Frankfurt/Main on 9 September 2008. The great response in the print media and on TV illustrates the societal relevance of the issue, which the Federal Statistical Office will continue to intensively deal with.

Forms of atypical employment

Results of the microcensus



First report on minimum social security published

Within the scope of the project on "social reporting of official statistics", the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder published the first report on minimum social security in Germany in September 2008. That report will be published annually in the future and gives an overview of the numbers of cases, structures, and expenditure of the systems of minimum social security and their development. It is also planned to include changing focuses referring, for example, to individual groups of recipients.

The purpose of the transfer payments of the system of minimum social security is to secure the recipients' basic livelihood. The following benefits are distinguished:

› unemployment benefit II/social allowance according to the second volume of the Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch II (SGB II) on "basic security benefits for job-seekers"),
› continuous subsistence outside institutions according to Sozialgesetzbuch XII (SGB XII) on "public assistance",
› basic security benefits in old age and in cases of reduced earning capacity according to Sozialgesetzbuch XII (SGB XII) on "public assistance",
› standard benefits according to the Act on Benefits for Asylum-Seekers,
› benefits of assistance for war victims according to the Federal War Victims' Assistance Act.

At the end of 2006, 8.3 million people in Germany received transfer payments of the minimum social security systems, that were 10.1% of all people living in Germany. The relevant expenditure amounted to EUR 45.6 billion in 2006. With 7.3 million recipients and expenditure of EUR 40.5 billion, benefits according to the SGB II accounted for by far the largest part of recipients and expenditure for minimum social security benefits.

A regional comparison shows that especially people in the city states and in the new Länder depended more heavily on minimum social security benefits. In a cross-Land comparison, 20.1 % or every fifth inhabitant of Berlin received benefits to secure basic livelihood at the end of 2006. The lowest receipt rates are recorded in the southern Länder of Bayern (5.3 %) and Baden-Württemberg (5.7 % of the inhabitants). The above and other results are contained in the joint publication "Soziale Mindestsicherung in Deutschland 2006" (Minimum social security in Germany, 2006) of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder, which is available for free download from the publication service of the Federal Statistical Office at **www.destatis.de/publikationen** .

Short-term indices in manufacturing: New classification of economic activities and new base year

Since January of reference year 2009, the Classification of Economic Activities, edition 2008 (WZ 2008) has been applied to the short-term indices in manufacturing (indices of production, new orders and turnover). The WZ 2008 is based on internationally harmonised classifications, especially on NACE Rev. 2. According to provisions of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the application of NACE Rev. 2 is compulsory in all European Union member states.

The Product Classification for Production Statistics has entirely been revised, too. The new edition of the Product Classification for Production Statistics, edition 2009 (GP 2009) is based on the new PRODCOM List 2008, which is applicable for European production statistics. The GP 2009 has been applied in the monthly and quarterly production surveys as a survey and processing classification since reference month January 2009. The production statistics provide the basic data for calculating the monthly production index for the industry (see also p. 73 in this chapter).

With the introduction of the new classifications, the indices of production, new orders and turnover have also been changed over to the new base year 2005, in accordance with the relevant provision of the European Union regulation concerning short-term statistics. With the publication of the first results for reference month January 2009, long time series up to 1991 have been made available.

Consumer price index on a new basis

In Germany, traditionally every five years a new base year is introduced for the price indices. For the beginning of 2008, that was done for the consumer price index (CPI). The new base year is 2005.

When changing over to a new base year, new consumer habits are taken into account (by introducing a new weighting pattern) and methodical improvements are implemented. For the changeover to base year 2005, an explicit shop type weighting procedure was additionally introduced and the monthly period of price collection was extended.

Together with the CPI changeover to the new base year 2005, a new weighting base (also 2005) was introduced also for the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) for Germany and, at the same time, the methodical improvements of the CPI were taken over for the HICP. However, there are slight differences between the two indices regarding coverage and revisions, which must be taken into account when interpreting the results.

Impact of the increase in value added tax on results of the consumer price index

It was a matter of great interest to what extent the increase in the standard rate of value added tax from 16% to 19% in January 2007 has had an impact on the rate of price increase and to what extent the market suppliers have succeeded in passing on that additional cost to final consumers. Both Deutsche Bundesbank and the Federal Statistical Office therefore performed analyses on the effects of the VAT increase.

Deutsche Bundesbank based its analysis on individual price data which it obtained from the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder. Conclusions were drawn here for the mean frequency and the size of price changes. The Federal Statistical Office quantified the theoretical influence of the VAT increase for the various divisions of the Classification of Receipts and Expenditure of Private Households and compared the results with the price trends actually observed for the various product groups.

The two analyses yielded similar results: The increase in value added tax had a considerable impact on the price trend. In mid-2008, when the analyses were finished, obviously the VAT increase had almost entirely been passed on to the final consumers in the areas concerned. Detailed descriptions and the detailed results of the analyses were published in the periodical "Wirtschaft und Statistik" (Economy and Statistics).

Comprehensive concentration analyses for the Monopolies Commission based on the business register

The Monopolies Commission publishes biennial reports on the situation of competition in Germany. Especially in the chapter on business concentration in Germany, the Monopolies Commission analyses – in close co-operation with the Federal Statistical Office – the current situation and trend of concentration on the basis of data from official statistics.

For the fifteenth biennial report 2008, the statistical analyses were fundamentally rearranged: For the first time, the statistical business register and the connected database on business interaction were used for concentration analyses. The data on turnover and employees from the business register have replaced the corresponding data from the surveys of investments in mining, manufacturing and construction, which had been the basis for concentration analyses in the previous biennial report. Hence concentration analyses could for the first time be performed for all enterprises across nearly all economic sectors, especially for trade and services.

Prior to the report, the Federal Statistical Office had performed extensive methodical studies to determine consequences, advantages and disadvantages of changing the data basis.

It was also examined to what extent different data sources for business interaction might influence the calculation of the degrees of concentration. The results of the study have shown that the potential data sources have a low impact on the concentration results and, therefore, the data basis available in the business register can be used.

Staff and budget of the Federal Statistical Office

Changes in the personnel structure

In November 2008, the Federal Statistical Office had 2 722 employees. A total of 1 982 staff members were employed at the Office's main location in Wiesbaden and 715 at the branch office in Bonn. A team of 25 statisticians worked at the Berlin Information Point (i-Punkt) of the Federal Statistical Office, which encompasses the European Data Service (EDS) and international statistics.

Between 2000 (3 008 employees) and 2008, the number of employees of the Federal Statistical Office decreased by 229 persons or 7.6 %. The reduction, however, did not affect all service categories to the same extent. For some years now, the Federal Statistical Office has increasingly been faced with tasks of a scientific nature. One of the Office's aims, therefore, is to gradually adapt its service structure to this change in functions. As a result, the proportion of higher service posts in the total number of posts was 16.2 % in 2008, while it had stood at 10.7 % in 2000. Over the same period, the number of posts in the intermediate service was reduced by 44 %. This trend will continue over the coming years. Accordingly, the proportion of higher service employees in the total number of employees rose from 10.6 % to 16.0 % during the period mentioned above, whereas the percentage of employees in the intermediate service fell from 52.8 % to 43.4 %. Part-time employees accounted for 20.3 % of the Office's total staff (as at January 2008).

Apart from this, the Federal Statistical Office offers training for various occupations: In November 2008, 121 young people were training to become office communications specialists, market and social research specialists, or information technology specialists.

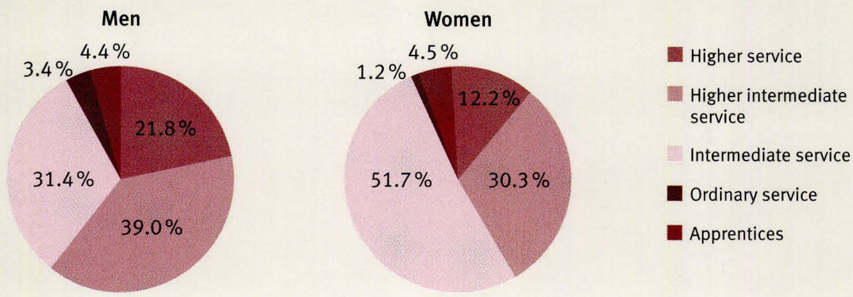
Employees and staff capacities (MAK) of the Federal Statistical Office, by sex and service category

November 2008

Service categories		Men		Women	
Higher service	Number	266	59.1%	184	40.9%
	MAK	237.2	60.6%	154.0	39.4%
Higher intermediate service	Number	475	51.0%	456	49.0%
	MAK	453.5	54.5%	378.1	45.5%
Intermediate service	Number	383	33.0%	778	67.0%
	MAK	351.2	39.4%	540.1	60.6%
Ordinary service	Number	41	69.5%	18	30.5%
	MAK	39.5	73.7%	14.1	26.3%
Apprentices	Number	53	43.8%	68	56.2%
	MAK	53.0	43.8%	68.0	56.2%
Total	**Number**	**1218**	**44.7%**	**1504**	**55.3%**
	MAK	**1134.4**	**49.6%**	**1154.3**	**50.4%**

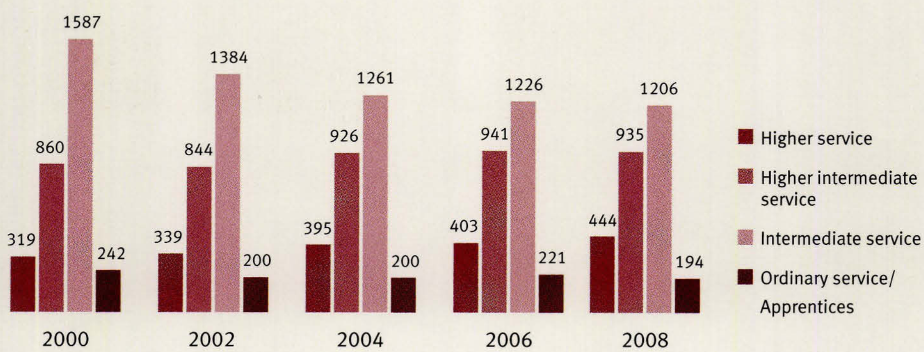
Employees by sex and service category

November 2008



Employees by service category, 2000 – 2008

As at January of each year shown

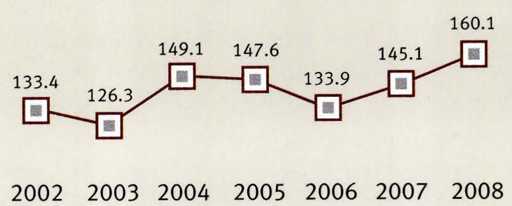


The budget of the Federal Statistical Office in 2008

Despite general budgetary consolidation, the budget of the Federal Statistical Office was noticeably raised to fulfil a number of new tasks, especially the preparations for the Census 2011. The Office's budget estimate (target budget) amounted to EUR 160.1 million in 2008. As in the preceding years, a politically determined savings requirement of EUR 5.5 million caused the disposable target budget to be reduced to approximately EUR 154.6 million. About EUR 25 million of that amount were earmarked for the measures taken in the context of the complete restoration of the Office's building in Wiesbaden over a period of several years.

Estimated budget of the Federal Statistical Office

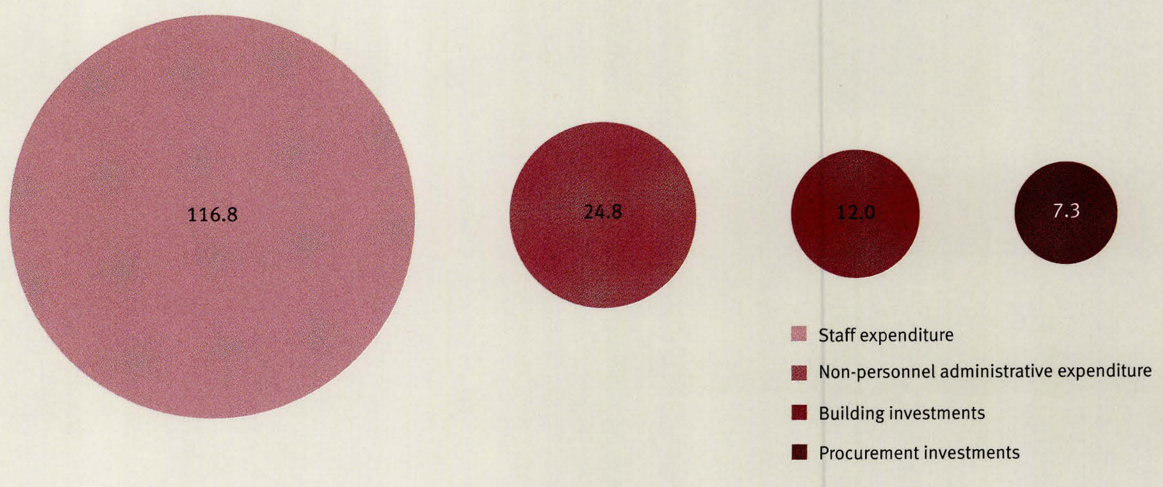
EUR million



Compiling and processing statistics and disseminating statistical results are labour intensive tasks in spite of the increased use of information technology. That is why staff expenditure, by tradition, is the largest spending block of the Federal Statistical Office. In 2008, the staff sector accounted for 73 % of estimated expenses. Considerably smaller percentages of the budget were allocated to non-personnel administrative expenditure (15 %) and to building and procurement investments (12 % combined).

Estimated expenses of the Federal Statistical Office, 2008

EUR million



Education and training

Training is very important – and therefore forms an integral part of the „fit 2012“ catalogue of strategic goals of the Federal Statistical Office. A continually updated programme of advanced training activities supports our staff in developing their qualifications and skills to cope with new requirements resulting from technological progress and to prepare themselves for new functions. The induction training helps newly recruited colleagues to become familiar with the Office‘s organisational structure and the system of official statistics. Executive staff have opportunities to extend their skills in cooperative and motivating leadership. Employees engaged in international liaison activities can attend language courses to improve their proficiency in English. As regards advanced professional training, the Federal Statistical Office cooperates with the statistical offices of the Länder and is a local partner of the „Federal Academy for Public Administration“.

In 2008, the range of advanced training courses offered in Wiesbaden und Bonn attracted keen participation from our staff. Each of the Office‘s employees attended in-house and external training courses for an average of 4.1 days. All in all, 469 different courses and events were held and attended.

In August 2008, the first three apprentices started training at the Federal Statistical Office to become „market and social research specialists“, a newly created line of occupation. Their task is to support the planning, execution, processing and publication of statistical surveys and projects. In view of its 118 other apprentices, who are training as „office communications specialists“ and „information technology specialists – software development“, the Federal Statistical Office makes an important contribution to the education and training of young people in our society.

Complete restoration of the office building in Wiesbaden

The complete restoration of the Federal Statistical Office's buildings in Wiesbaden has been in progress since the end of 2005. By now, one of the two planned reconstruction stages has been completed.

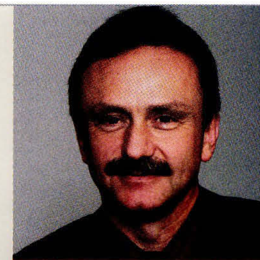
Well over 1 000 employees have been able to move back to the reconstructed multi-storey building from the Office's temporary premises in Biebrich and Mainz-Amöneburg, two districts of Wiesbaden. The subsequent restoration of the adjoining structures of the main office building will take at least two more years.

Constructed in 1956 and classified as a cultural monument in 1995, the group of buildings on Gustav-Stresemann-Ring in Wiesbaden was in urgent need of repair and improvement after 50 years of use. As part of the restoration, comprehensive static reinforcement measures and technical fire prevention measures were carried out, which required massive interference with the basic structure. In the process, the multi-storey building was gutted down to its original steel skeleton and the ceilings, with the stairways and lift shafts as bracing elements, before the refurbishment could start in 2007.

As part of the extensive restoration, the building's facade has been altered and an attractive work environment has been created for the staff.

Current organisational structure of the Federal Statistical Office
April 2009

President and Federal Returning Officer
Roderich Egeler



Vice-President and Deputy Federal Returning Officer
Peter Weigl

Department Z

Administration, Standard Cost Model

Jürgen Chlumsky

- Organisation
- Quality Management, Controlling
- Budget, Cost and Performance Accounts, Internal Service
- Project Group Complete restoration
- Human Resources, Advanced Training
- Legal Questions
- Internal Audit
- Standard Cost Model

Department I

Questions of Principle of Federal and International Statistics, Dissemination of Information

Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski

- Questions of Principle, National and International Co-ordination
- Institute for Research and Development in Federal Statistics
- Research Data Centre
- Online-services, Publications, Corporate Design
- Press Service, Central Information Services, Library
- Co-operation with other Countries, Language Service
- Berlin Information Point Service for the capital, International Statistics, European Data Service
- Editorial Board of "Economy and Statistics"

Department II

Information Technology, Mathematical-Statistical Methods

Dieter Sarreither

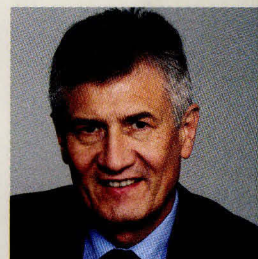
- Mathematical-Statistical Methods
- IT Infrastructure and Processing
- IT Development
- IT User Service, Statistical and Geo-Information Systems

Department III

National and Environmental Accounts, Labour market

Wolfgang Strohm

- Domestic Product, Production and Expenditure
- National Income, General Government, External Economic Transactions
- Development of a Socio- Economic Reporting System
- Input-Output Accounts, National Wealth Accounts
- Labour market
- Environmental-Economic Accounting



Department IV

Business Register, Industry, Domestic Trade

Dr. Roland Gnoss

- Business Register, Co-ordination of Business Statistics, Classifications
- Economic Activity in the Industry, Production
- Structure of the Industry, Crafts, Energy, Business Notifications
- Domestic Trade, Hotel and Restaurant Industry, Tourism

Department V

Prices,
Foreign Trade,
Transport,
Earnings

N.N.

Prices

Foreign Trade

Transport

Earnings and Labour Costs

Department VI

Population,
Education,
Public Sector

Dr. Sabine Bechtold

Census

Population Development, Migration, Territorial Classification, Justice

Education, Research and Development, Culture

Public Budgets and Enterprises

Taxes

Department VII

Services,
Agriculture,
Environment

Hannelore Pöschl

Administration incl. Advanced Training

Agriculture and Forestry, Fisheries

Environment

Services, Cost Structure, Iron and Steel

Department VIII

Health,
Social Statistics,
Households

Karl Müller

Health

Social Statistics

Microcensus, Labour Force Sample Survey, Households and Families

Household Budget Surveys and Time Use

DESTATIS at a glance

Our most important tasks and services:

- Together with the 14 statistical offices of the Länder, we produce statistics on the economy, society and environment.
- We actively use public relations and press activities to supply the public and the media with statistical information.
- We provide information to all people, using our press and information services, the website www.destatis.de and various online databases.
- We provide advice and support to respondents and users of official statistics.
- We undertake methodological research, policy counselling and data analyses.
- Empirical scientists in Germany are given access to anonymised microdata of official statistics via the Research Data Centre of the Federal Statistical Office and the Research Data Centre of the statistical offices of the Länder.

About us:

- We are about 2700 statisticians, well over 55% of whom are women.
- We increase efficiency: We have coped with increased functions in spite of an 8% reduction in staff numbers since 2000.
- We have offices in Wiesbaden (head office), Bonn (branch office) and Berlin (Berlin Information Point).
- Providing job-oriented training to the staff is part and parcel of our human resources development.

Our framework conditions:

- In 2008, the federal budget made available about EUR 155 million for statistical purposes.
- We use the latest information technology, and our internet-based services and innovations are an important contribution to the eGovernment initiative of the Federation.
- We actively participate in the further development of the European Statistical System and in international statistical co-operation.

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