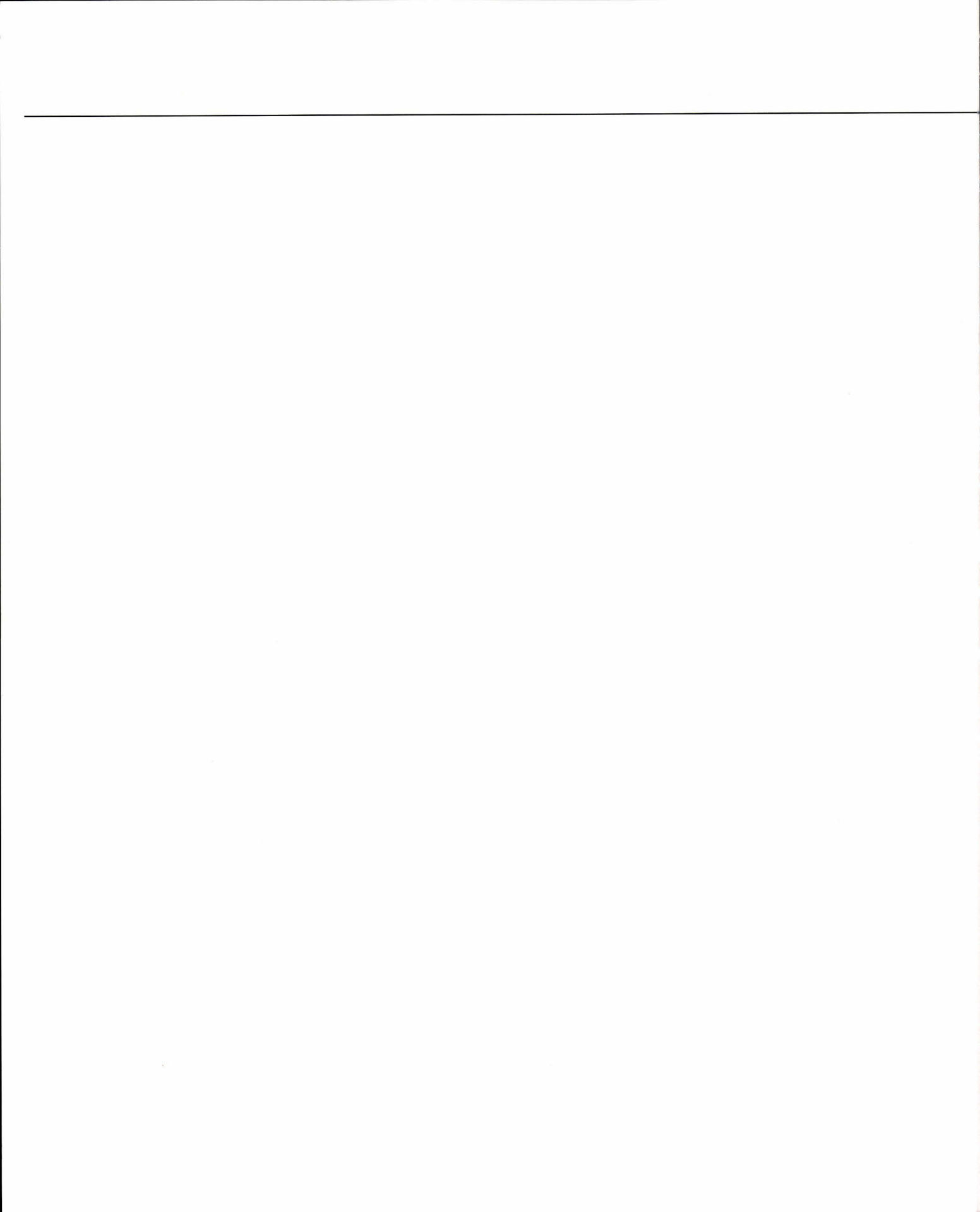


ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Federal Statistical Office of Germany



Dear reader,

The new edition of the Federal Statistical Office's Annual Report contains information about our key areas of work and special events relating to official statistics in 2009. The past year was characterised by a variety of tasks and challenges.

The foremost task within my responsibility as Federal Returning Officer was to prepare and conduct European and Bundestag elections in a double election year. Another major project which is still in progress is the register-based census to be held in the Federal Republic of Germany in 2011. This census has to be meticulously planned and organised in accordance with the Census Act 2011, which entered into force in July 2009.

As part of the Government programme on "Bureaucracy Reduction and Better Regulation", the Federal Statistical Office has developed a new version of the database (WebSKM) containing the results of measuring administrative costs. By now, first findings on the bureaucratic costs imposed on citizens have been made accessible to the public. A complete revision has been made of our information system GENESIS-Online and it has been made even more user friendly.

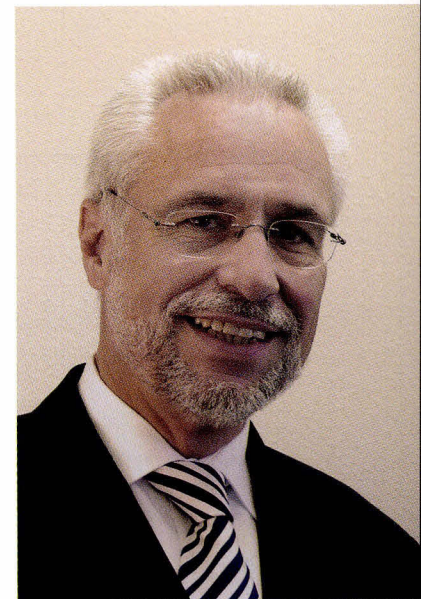
At its annual meeting in 2009, the Statistical Advisory Committee discussed recommendations for the further development of federal statistics. In the course of the discussion, the legal framework, efficient processes, quality and methodology as well as new information needs were identified as fields of action on which official statisticians should focus their efforts in the coming years.

An important issue at European level was the new "Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics", which entered into force in the spring of 2009. We devoted particular attention to the effects it has on German official statistics. Looking back at the past year, two of the highlights were the ceremony and the Open Door Day held in June 2009 to officially inaugurate the newly restored main building of the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. Last but not least, the Bonn Branch Office and our service unit, the Berlin Information Point, celebrated their 10th anniversaries in 2009.

I hope this report will make informative and enjoyable reading for you.



Roderich Egeler
President of the Federal Statistical Office



Statist. Bundesamt - Bibliothek



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CUSTOMER ENQUIRIES IN THE LAST THREE YEARS

29 868

2007

42 647

2008

50 040

2009

is registered in the customer management system

Information and services

Press work in 2009: Intensive and successful

The year of 2009 put high demands on the Federal Statistical Office's press activities: In addition to the daily business of press releases, press conferences and journalist information services, the press team had to handle the European election in June and the Bundestag election in September. The vivid interest of the general public was shown especially by a large number of enquiries asking for an interview with the President of the Federal Statistical Office or the Federal Returning Officer. Altogether 25 times in 2009, the President answered questions of media representatives, which does not include all the ad-hoc interviews held directly after press conferences. Also, journalists were supported in preparing their exhaustive newspaper reports about the Office which were published in the course of 2009 in "Die Welt" (January), "Süddeutsche Zeitung" (May), "Wiesbadener Tagblatt" (late October, early November) and "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" (December). Another event presented to the press and the general public was the staff's moving back into the restored main building of the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden.

Some 550 press releases and more than 50 "Figures of the Week" were published by the Federal Statistical Office in 2009 and 11 press conferences and press briefings were held, including two press conferences of the Federal Returning Officer. The journalist information service met with particular interest in 2009: Especially in the run-up to the Bundestag election, there were many journalist requests for information and interviews. Compared with the media attention of earlier elections, the Federal Returning Officer was even more often in the focus of the media in 2009: The discussions around party admission and advance publication of exit poll results through Twitter are just two examples.

In statistical everyday business, too, 2009 was a rather unusual year: In the context of issues such as the economic and financial crisis, demographic change or education, the results of official statistics were in high demand. Here are some highlights of press activities in 2009 in a chronological order:

2009

JANUARY

At the traditional press conference on the gross domestic product, a moderate economic growth of 1.3% was published for 2008. Towards the end of 2008, however, the global economic crisis became clearly visible: In the fourth quarter of 2008 the German economic performance was down 2.1% on the third quarter. That was the third quarter-on-quarter decrease in a row and, at the same time, the largest year-on-year decline since German unification.

FEBRUARY

The impact of the crisis was most obvious in manufacturing: In a much-quoted press release on the month of December 2008, the Federal Statistical Office reported a real decrease in turnover by 12.6% from December 2007. That trend continued: In April 2009, a decline of 23.2% on the same month of the previous year was recorded.

MARCH

Germany's export-oriented economy is affected most strongly by the fall in global demand: In January 2009 the value of commodity exports was by nearly 21% lower than in January 2008. The surplus of Germany's foreign trade balance in January 2009 was just half that of January 2008.

JULY

The press conference on childlessness in Germany met with great interest in the media. President Roderich Egeler presented new micro-census data showing that in 2008 about 21% of the women aged 40 to 44 years had not given birth to children. Among the women who were ten years older (cohorts of 1954 to 1958), however, just 16% had had no children and among those who were twenty years older (cohorts of 1944 to 1948) the percentage was only 12%.

AUGUST

A first assessment of the effects of the scrapping bonus, which had been introduced to stimulate the economy, showed that in the first five months of 2009 especially retail trade of motor vehicles had benefited from the scrapping bonus: The turnover in that branch rose 4.7% on the same period of the previous year. The number of new car registrations in that period was by 22.8% higher than a year earlier. However, the German producers of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers as well as repair shops recorded in part marked decreases in turnover.

SEPTEMBER

The main event in September was the Bundestag election. In the run-up to the election, interviews with the President of the Federal Statistical Office in his capacity as Federal Returning Officer were in high demand by dpa, Financial Times Deutschland, Focus or Deutschlandfunk radio. On 28 September 2009 at 3:35 a.m., the Federal Returning Officer announced the official provisional result of the election to the 17th German Bundestag.

APRIL

The financial situation of the German health sector is often an issue of public discussion. In a press release published on the occasion of the World Health Day, total health expenditure in Germany was reported to have been just under EUR 253 billion in 2007. That corresponded to 10.4% of the gross domestic product or a good EUR 3,070 per inhabitant.

MAY

A press conference in Berlin focused on the development of earnings as well as on labour costs and non-wage costs in a European comparison. President Roderich Egeler pointed out that labour costs in the private sector in Germany in 2008 rose just moderately (+2.5%) when compared with the previous year. As regards non-wage costs, Germany (EUR 32 per EUR 100 of gross earnings) ranked 15th among European Union countries. France had the highest non-wage costs with EUR 50 per EUR 100 of gross earnings.

JUNE

The economic crisis did not involve price rises for consumers. In May 2009 prices on average were at the same level as a year earlier, while for July and September the Federal Statistical Office calculated even negative inflation rates. The main reason was that heating oil and motor fuel prices were down when compared with the all-time highs of 2008. Food prices remained low, too.

OCTOBER

At a press conference in Berlin, the Federal Statistical Office presented the new Statistical Yearbook, as it does every year in October. This year, the focus was on foreign trade, which is the driving force of the German economy, and on data on Germany's major trading partners.

NOVEMBER

How will Germany's population develop until 2060? President Roderich Egeler answered that question at a press conference on the results of the 12th co-ordinated population projection. It is expected that only 65 to 70 million people will live in Germany in 2060. Already in the next two decades, the share of older people will markedly increase. In 2060 every third person will be aged at least 65 years, every seventh even 80 years or over. In the days following the press conference, those data were subject to detailed comments in the media. All major TV channels included long reports on that issue in their main news broadcasts.

DECEMBER

The last press conference held in 2009 focused on higher education statistics – a highly topical issue as was shown by the student protests in November and December. Items presented were, among other things, the development of the number of first-semester students and the progress made in changing over to Bachelor's degree courses for first-degree studies. What was also noted with interest is that the share of women at higher stages of the academic career has markedly increased since 2000. A disquieting fact is that, although about 68% of the students successfully finish their studies, as much as just under one third drop out of institutions of higher education without a degree.

Statistics on the internet: user-friendly, interactive, free of charge



The number of five million page views per month confirms that the internet portal www.destatis.de of the Federal Statistical Office has become the main source of statistical information. By extending the range of online publications and interactive applications in 2009, user access was improved. As more and more theme pages and press releases are linked with the database GENESIS-Online and with the range of international data, users find more quickly what they are looking for. The number of accesses to GENESIS-Online in 2009 (about one million) was twice that of 2008: Free tables, a new navigation and a Webservice for registered customers had a positive impact on demand.

A new and innovative feature within the prices area is the price kaleidoscope, which is an interactive graphical application. The price development and the weighting of product groups in the consumer price index are visualised, so that the main origins of price increases or decreases are illustrated.

The STATmagazin, which is the Federal Statistical Office's web magazine, has become established as an element of the Office's data supply. Short texts and charts that are easy to understand, it provides information that is well-based in terms of statistics and deals with issues which are in the focus of public discussion. The trend in the number of free downloads from the publication service is positive: More than 100,000 free publications were downloaded every month in 2009 – with topics focusing most frequently on demographic change as well as producer and consumer prices.

Since May 2009, the Federal Statistical Office, together with the statistical offices of the Länder, has offered a new interactive regional atlas with over 80 indicators at www.destatis.de/onlineatlas. The visualisation of the statistics is based on data of all rural districts and towns not attached to an administrative district in Germany. Regional differences – for example with regard to economic power, internal migration or employment – can be seen at a glance.

Price Kaleidoscope

The inflation rate in January 2010 was 0.8%. The rate of price increase does not only depend on how the prices change. Another important factor is the weights with which the price trends of the individual types of goods are included in the overall index.

The size of each section represents the weight. The colour shows how the prices within that category of goods have changed.



Miscellaneous goods and services 7.4%

Personal care, personal effects, social protection, insurance and bank services, etc.
Price change: 1.3%

Restaurants and hotels 4.4%

Price change: 1.5%

Education 0.7%

Tuition fees, adult education centres, nursery school attendance, etc.
Price change: -1.5%

Recreation and culture 11.6%

Package tours, cultural services, consumer electronics, computers, media, leisure goods, etc.
Price change: 0.1%

Communication 3.1%

Telecommunication, postal and courier services, relevant equipment and its maintenance
Price change: -1.9%

Transport 13.2%

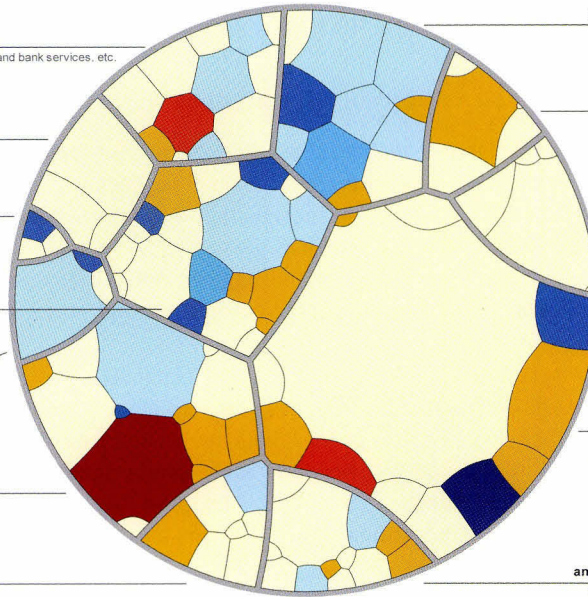
Purchase and operation of vehicles, transport services etc.
Price change: 4.5%

Health 4.0%

Price change: 0.9%

Further information

Basket of goods and services and weighting pattern
Price monitor
Personal inflation calculator



Food and non-alcoholic beverages 10.4%
Price change: -1.2%

Alcoholic beverages, tobacco 3.9%
Price change: 3.6%

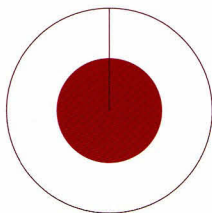
Clothing and footwear 4.9%
Price change: 0.3%

Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels 30.8%
Rents and imputed rents for owner-occupied housing, running costs, household energy, etc.
Price change: -0.3%

Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house 5.6%
Furniture, household appliances, interior fittings, goods and services for household maintenance etc.
Price change: 1.2%

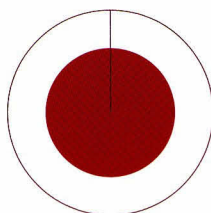
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TABLE VIEWS IN GENESIS-ONLINE PER YEAR



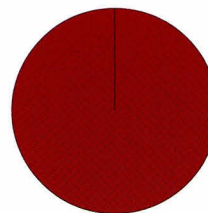
159,016

2005



241,263

2007



607,878

2009

Publications and brochures: selected highlights



All more recent publications of the Federal Statistical Office can be accessed online. The wide range of online publications of the Office is supplemented by printed versions of the classic publications such as the Statistical Yearbook or the monthly periodical *Wirtschaft und Statistik* (Economy and Statistics) as well as selected brochures.

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN 2009 INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

Deutschland – Land und Leute (Pocketbook: Germany). Compact, clearly structured and informative – this is how the first small-format publication shows Germany's diversity. With many charts, tables and short texts, the publication reports about the country, the people and their life as well as the economy in Germany. The clear structure and the everyday topics presented have one major goal: Making the wealth of knowledge of official statistics visible and accessible for a wide range of readers.



The current volume of the series *Im Blickpunkt* (In the Spotlight) deals with the issue of youth and family in Europe, providing insight into European educational systems, the situation of juveniles on the labour market and their lifeworlds. The situation of young families is illustrated, too: How can family life and employment be reconciled? What is the economic situation of families with children like? Looking beyond national borders shows what Germany's strong and weak points are and what challenges will be faced by the European Union.

In the series *Auf einen Blick* (At a Glance), two brochures were published in 2009. The publication *Energie auf einen Blick* (Energy at a Glance) focuses on energy consumption, the security of supply as well as parameters of the electricity and gas industry in Germany. *Hochschulen auf einen Blick* (Institutions of Higher Education at a Glance), a download hit once again, presents data and facts on higher education graduates, informs on the staff structure of institutions of higher education, student rates and the most popular subjects. Statistical ratios for the Länder allow comparing the higher education systems between the Länder with regard to specific performance characteristics.

International statistics: new online portal and user satisfaction survey

What is the average age reached by a woman in Argentina? What country has the highest inflation rate in the world? What share of the Indonesian population uses the internet? In the past it was often necessary to search in several sources and to invest a lot of time to answer such questions. To simplify the search for international statistical data, the Federal Statistical Office has offered a new online portal on international statistics since autumn 2009. More than 40 key indicators for over 180 countries of the world are structured by themes, countries and the international organisations they come from. Definitions of all indicators and a vast collection of links to national, international and supranational statistical institutions complete the range of information and provide a good basis for further research.

Reference is also made to major publications of international institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund or the World Health Organization, to new data-bases or interesting current statistics. For the G20 states, detailed statistical country profiles are offered for download.

The EDS European Data Service is a service unit of the Federal Statistical Office offering assistance in questions regarding data of the Statistical Office of the European Communities. In summer 2009, an independent institute, the forsa Gesellschaft für Sozialforschung und statistische Analysen mbH, conducted a survey to determine customer satisfaction with that service unit. The results confirm in an impressive manner that users appreciate the consulting service:

Over 90% of the respondents were satisfied with the specific knowledge of the staff members and with the comprehensibility of the responses given to their questions – over 65% were even very satisfied or extremely satisfied. The importance of German-language advice on statistics of the European Union was underlined, too: For 69% of the respondents that aspect was important.

EDS service profile

- › **Bilingual support for users**
 - › by telephone and in writing
 - › data search, methodology, data verification
- › **Bilingual web portal**
 - › updated every day
- › **Public relations activities**
 - › presentations, fairs, training, publications



From left to right

Dr. Nils Fröhlich: Award winner in the category of doctoral theses, Fabian Spanhel: Award winner in the category of diploma/master's dissertations, Dr. Wolf Dieter Heinbach: Award winner in the category of doctoral theses.

2009 Gerhard Fürst Award of the Federal Statistical Office

The Gerhard Fürst Award, which was granted for the 11th time in 2009, was won by a diploma dissertation on “The influence of body height on wage level and choice of occupation: Current state of research and recent results based on the microcensus” in the category of diploma/master’s dissertations.

Two other papers in the category of doctoral theses were granted a promotion prize for young researchers: They dealt with the topics of “The topicality of the labour theory of value. Theoretical and empirical aspects” and “Collective bargaining coverage, wage structure and potential for flexibilisation in collective agreements”.

The Gerhard Fürst Award is granted every year to outstanding scientific papers which either cover a theoretical topic closely related to the functions of official statistics or examine an empirical issue while making intensive use of official statistical data.

The Federal Statistical Office grants the awards upon recommendation of an independent jury chaired by Professor Dr. Brachinger. Offering the Gerhard Fürst Award every year contributes to strengthening the link between the activities of official statistics and institutions of higher education. At the same time, the award should encourage young researchers to use the wide range of data of official statistics for their empirical research.

The setting for the Gerhard Fürst Award ceremony was the 18th Scientific Colloquium on “Information visualisation – Graphical processing and statistical data analysis”, which was held jointly by the Federal Statistical Office and the German Statistical Society in Wiesbaden on 19 and 20 November 2009.

For further information on the Gerhard Fürst Award please refer to the “Scientific forum” on the website of the Federal Statistical Office (www.destatis.de).

New data offers for the scientific community

The research data centre of the Federal Statistical Office allows the scientific community to have controlled access to official microdata. The range of data offered in response to user wishes was further expanded in 2009. Two new Scientific-Use-Files allow researchers performing analyses at their own workstations: Through the Scientific-Use-File of the 2006 structure of earnings survey, in connection with the Scientific-Use-File of the 2001 structure of earnings survey released in 2007, it is now possible to perform analyses over time. Both files are linked employer employee data sets, which means that the data on employees can be linked with variables of the local unit.

For the first time, the scientific community may also obtain data of statutory health insurance institutions as Scientific-Use-Files to perform analyses. That microdata file is based on a 70% subsample of persons insured under statutory health insurance schemes and refers to out-patient utilisation of the health system in reference year 2002. For teaching purposes at institutions of higher education, the data of statutory health insurance institutions for 2002 may also be obtained free of charge as a Campus File. Together with co-operation partners, a project was carried through whose purpose is to extend the range of data offered to the scientific community to include panel data of economic statistics (FAWE panel). The project focused especially on the possibilities of de facto anonymisation of such panel data.

In 2009, too, the Federal Statistical Office held its series of lectures on “Economic statistics. Data production and analysis in official statistics” at various institutions of higher education. The purpose of that series of lectures is to enhance the significance of official statistics in higher education. The students are given insight into the methodical work of official statistics and the potential of official statistical data is shown to them.

Demand for products
of the research data centre
in 2009

Guest researcher's
workplace

12

Controlled remote
data processing

37

Scientific-Use-File
(Off-Site)

68

Public-Use-File
(Off-Site)

4

Development of administrative costs transparent and verifiable on the internet

Development of administrative costs

The administrative costs that arise from information obligations are to be reduced by 25 % by 2011 compared with 2009. In 2009, half of this target was achieved.

The current Federal Government continues previous efforts to reduce bureaucracy: It has confirmed the existing commitment that the measured costs that arise from federal information obligations and are to be borne by businesses should be reduced by a net 25 % by 2011 compared with 2006. Also, the legal obligations of citizens should be simplified. The creation and abolishment of administrative burdens arising from regulatory projects is controlled by the National Regulatory Control Council.

For several years already, the Federal Statistical Office – entrusted with that task by the Federal Government – has supported the reduction of administrative burdens by giving advice in applying the Standard Cost Model, which is harmonised at the European level, and by measuring administrative costs. In addition to measuring the administrative costs of existing laws and ordinances, the burdens caused by legislative changes are estimated and the current state of administrative costs is documented.

Since May 2009 a database called “WebSKM” is available online also to the general public, which contains all collected information obligations arising from federal legal provisions and concerning businesses or citizens. This makes bureaucracy reduction transparent and verifiable for anyone. Those interested can search for the cost of, and time spent on bureaucratic obligations as well as their frequency and can trace the development over the years. A variety of options of analysis are available to independent specialised institutions and the ministries concerned.

The processes of the online database are continuously improved and the functions gradually extended. WebSKM is to become the data basis for a further development of the existing legislation and is intended to simplify the co-operation between federal ministries and the Regulatory Control Council.

Together with the Federal Government, the Regulatory Control Council, several Länder and municipalities, the Federal Statistical Office last year also performed three large-scale studies. Following the motto of “Getting more easily ...”, the application procedures for housing allowance, parental allowance and promotion of education and training according to the Federal Law on the Promotion of Education and Training (BAföG) were examined applying the method of the Standard Cost Model. More than 1,500 citizens concerned were asked for their time spent on filing the applications and, at the same time, over 30 authorities and student welfare services were asked for the time they spent on dealing with the applications. Results and suggestions for improvement are now checked by the relevant ministries and will be taken into account when further developing the legal provisions.



www.gbe-bund.de

In 2009, Federal Health Monitoring (GBE) had been available online for exactly ten years.



Online search for health data even easier now

The information system of Federal Health Monitoring (IS-GBE) combines health-related data from all areas for the Federation at www.gbe-bund.de. The online database currently contains about one billion figures and ratios from over 100 different sources, including many statistics of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder as well as data of many health sector institutions. Also, the system provides information on definitions, methods and contact persons.

Since autumn 2009, online search for health data has become even more user-friendly: The website of the information system of Federal Health Monitoring has been modernised visually, technically and in terms of content, even better meeting now the manifold requirements of the wide range of users.

With a new design and the three-column structure of the start page, IS-GBE provides a clear structure of the various search functions permitting research by key words, subject areas or the concrete retrieval of ratios from specific data sources. A highlight for users is still the tables that can individually be designed. They allow users to choose the information to be shown, to change the level of breakdown or to have specific sections shown or hidden.

The user-friendliness and the presentation of hits have clearly been improved through a number of major enhancements in terms of technology and content. Among other things, the browser's back function is now better supported, a site map makes it easier to get an overview of the range of data offered and breadcrumbs show users the system level they are navigating on. Accessibility has been improved, too.

The relaunch of the website was preceded by comprehensive external evaluation. To further increase the awareness of the website and to maintain contact with users, free events are offered for those interested, such as presentations held at conferences, lectures with practical exercises held at universities and, since recently, training events certified by medical associations and offered to physicians. The number of page views has nearly doubled since 2007.

Page views www.gbe-bund.de

2002 to 2009

year	page views
2002	114,784
2003	256,272
2004	1,398,784
2005	2,053,315
2006	5,265,623
2007	9,543,782
2008	12,300,161
2009	15,672,875

IN ACTION FOR THE BUNDESTAG ELECTION

Number of employees who determined the results of the Bundestag election during election night

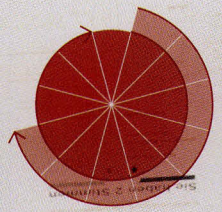
160

Food and drink consumed in the Reichstag and in Wiesbaden during election night

Filled rolls	460
Sausages	145
Coffee (pounds)	5
Water (crates)	14
Sparkling apple juice (crates)	7
Coke (crates)	5

Time worked by our employees on election day

20 h



In the focus

Successfully accomplished: European and Bundestag elections 2009

The “super election year” 2009 was a special year also for the Federal Statistical Office: Its President, who traditionally has been entrusted with the function of the Federal Returning Officer, is an independent electoral body responsible for organising and performing European and Bundestag elections. With the European election on 7 June 2009 and the Bundestag election on 27 September 2009, this was the second time after 1994 that the big challenge of a double election year had to be mastered.

Preparing the two elections in terms of organisation and information technology had started as early as in 2008. The new, accessible and continuously updated website of the Federal Returning Officer (www.bundeswahlleiter.de) efficiently supported the press and public relations activities and also helped the election team in coping with the most comprehensive task when preparing each of the two elections: The preliminary scrutiny of the nominations of the parties and political organisations as to whether they can be admitted to the European election and the preliminary scrutiny of whether the requirements are met by organisations to be recognised as parties for the Bundestag election.

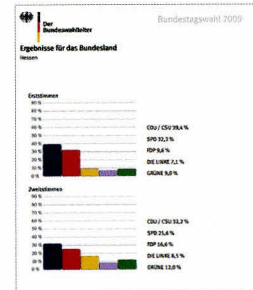
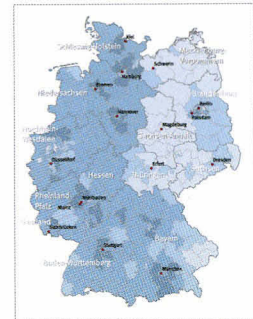
Using the well-proven election performance system – which has been reprogrammed for the new “Sainte-Laguë/Schepers” method of allocation of seats –, the IT team ensured the correct calculation of the provisional and final results of both elections. The Federal Returning Officer’s printed and electronic publications, for example leaflets or the online election atlas, which are designed in a user-oriented way, were very well received by the general public. They provided up-to-date and comprehensive information



to anyone interested, with issues ranging from candidates to representative electoral statistics.

Naturally, the election procedure is a particular focus of public interest. In this context, especially the Federal Returning Officer's independence and impartiality has proven valuable. All activities were accompanied by intensive press and public relations work and even ad-hoc issues such as the possibility of premature publication of exit poll results through the new medium of Twitter were treated.

Also, the Federal Returning Officer had high-ranking guests in Wiesbaden and in Berlin: For the first time, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) performed an Election Assessment Mission upon invitation of the Federal Government; this is the lowest level of election observation missions. Germany had been the only large OSCE member state where elections had not been observed yet. The fifteen election observers appreciated the high level of public trust in the election procedure and especially the efficiency and professionalism of the electoral bodies.



www.bundeswahlleiter.de
This website contains an online elections atlas with regional results of the Bundestag and European elections.

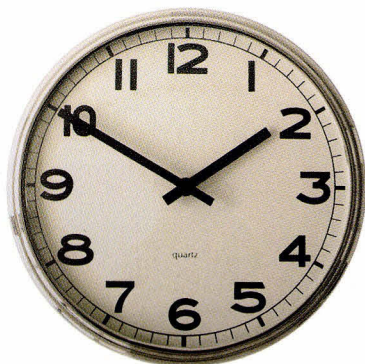


Ten years Bonn Branch Office ...

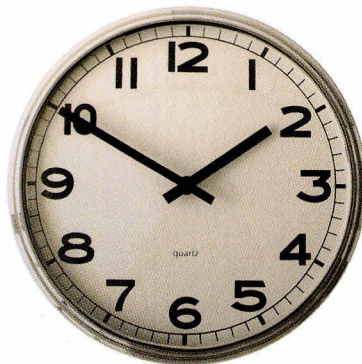
Ten years after it was inaugurated, there are some 700 staff members working in the Bonn Branch Office of the Federal Statistical Office today, making a major contribution to the Office's being perceived as an innovative information provider in Germany.

In the context of the Federal Government's moving to Berlin, the transfer of the Federal Statistical Office's Branch Office from Berlin to Bonn had been adopted in 1991 and laid down in the Berlin/Bonn Act in 1994. On 6 August 1999, some 500 staff members took up work at the Bonn office; by early 2002, a total of 690 colleagues had changed to the Federal Statistical Office within the scope of staff exchange between authorities. Many new staff have joined the Office since then; also, 107 young women and men have completed their apprenticeship and passed their exam to become office communications specialists in the Bonn Branch Office. So the Bonn Branch Office of the Federal Statistical Office also is an important employer and training institution of the public administration in the Cologne/Bonn region.

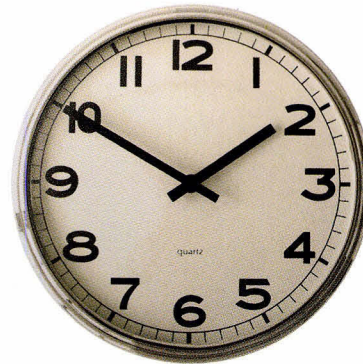
When setting up the Branch Office, care was taken to transfer future-oriented statistical tasks to the former federal capital, so that the new staff members from the exchange authorities would have good prospects for their professional career. Pioneer work was done, for example, in setting up services statistics and the European surveys on infor-



BERLIN



BONN



WIESBADEN

mation and communication technologies in enterprises and households as well as EU-SILC (LEBEN IN EUROPA), which deals with the living conditions of the people in Germany. Also, the permanent sample of households willing to respond, called HAUSHALTE HEUTE (households today), which is a database of households ready to participate in voluntary household surveys, is maintained and updated in the Bonn Branch Office. Other successful projects were the introduction of the statistics of parental allowance, the modernisation of agricultural statistics and the extension of Federal Health Monitoring. In 2006 parts of the new field of measuring administrative costs (Standard Cost Model) were established in Bonn, so that the range of activities in the Bonn Branch Office is much more varied today than it was when the office was set up in 1999.

With a ceremony and the subsequent office summer party, the 10th anniversary of the Bonn Branch Office was duly celebrated on 3 September 2009.

Checkpoint Charlie

Since it moved to its new premises at Checkpoint Charlie in the heart of Berlin in spring 2008, the Information Point has been even closer to its main users.



... and ten years Berlin Information Point

The Berlin Information Point, the Federal Statistical Office's service unit in the German capital, could also look back on its first ten years of existence in 2009. Since 1999, the service unit has given advice and provided information when contacted by the German Bundestag, the Federal Government, embassies and foreign missions as well as associations and the scientific community in Berlin. This is done on the spot and covers the entire range of official statistics.

In co-operation with the specialised departments of the Federal Statistical Office, the Capital City Service now answers some 1,500 enquiries per year from political institutions. Most of those enquiries are quite lengthy, and their number is more than eight times that of the year 2000. However, the Information Point offers not only data about Germany.

The EDS European Data Service provides comparisons between European Union countries on the basis of data of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). It is managed in co-operation with Eurostat and answers some 9,000 enquiries per year. In 2007, the field of International Statistics was added to the EDS. Since that time, it has been possible to obtain statistical information for nearly all countries of the world from one unit there.

For the education sector and for the general public, an Info Centre is available. That service is in line with modern standards as it offers not only a large stock of printed statistical publications but also online research workstations and advice in handling statistical databases.



Open Door Day

Visiting daddy's office on Open Door Day. In 2009, 36 babies were born to staff members of the Federal Statistical Office.



Historic rooms in new shape

With a ceremony, the restored main building of the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden was officially inaugurated on 26 June 2009. Among the approximately one hundred guests, President Roderich Egeler welcomed the then Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation and Development, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, standing in for the Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, and the then State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Dr. Hans Bernhard Beus. Also, the then Member of the Bundestag from Wiesbaden, Dr. Kristina Köhler (now Schröder), and Prof. Dr. Joachim Pös as the representative of the city of Wiesbaden participated in the inauguration.

The restoration had become necessary because the office building had no longer met the requirements in terms of construction law with regard to statics and fire protection. Also, some parts of the building were polluted. With the complete restoration, modern workplaces have been created and a communicative work and organisation concept has been implemented.

The Open Door Day on Saturday, 27 June 2009 was used by more than 1,200 visitors to look behind the scenes of the building just restored.

An informative and varied programme awaited them. They had opportunity to get an impression of the building structures and the modern design of the work environment during guided tours through the building and to visit the pretest laboratory and the renovated Gerhard Fürst Hall on the 13th floor. Guided tours through the library's reading room and store room illustrated the historic development of the statistical library and the ways external users may access it.

A specialised forum offered brief presentations on issues such as the price monitor, the animated population pyramid, the business cycle monitor, the elections atlas and international statistics. Information stands in the foyer of the Federal Statistical Office presented other fields of activity such as the Standard Cost Model or the reporting procedure eSTATISTIK.core for businesses as well as training at the Federal Statistical Office. Children between six and twelve years were invited to participate in a children's rallye to playfully get an impression of the world of official statistics.

The first census is held in united Germany.

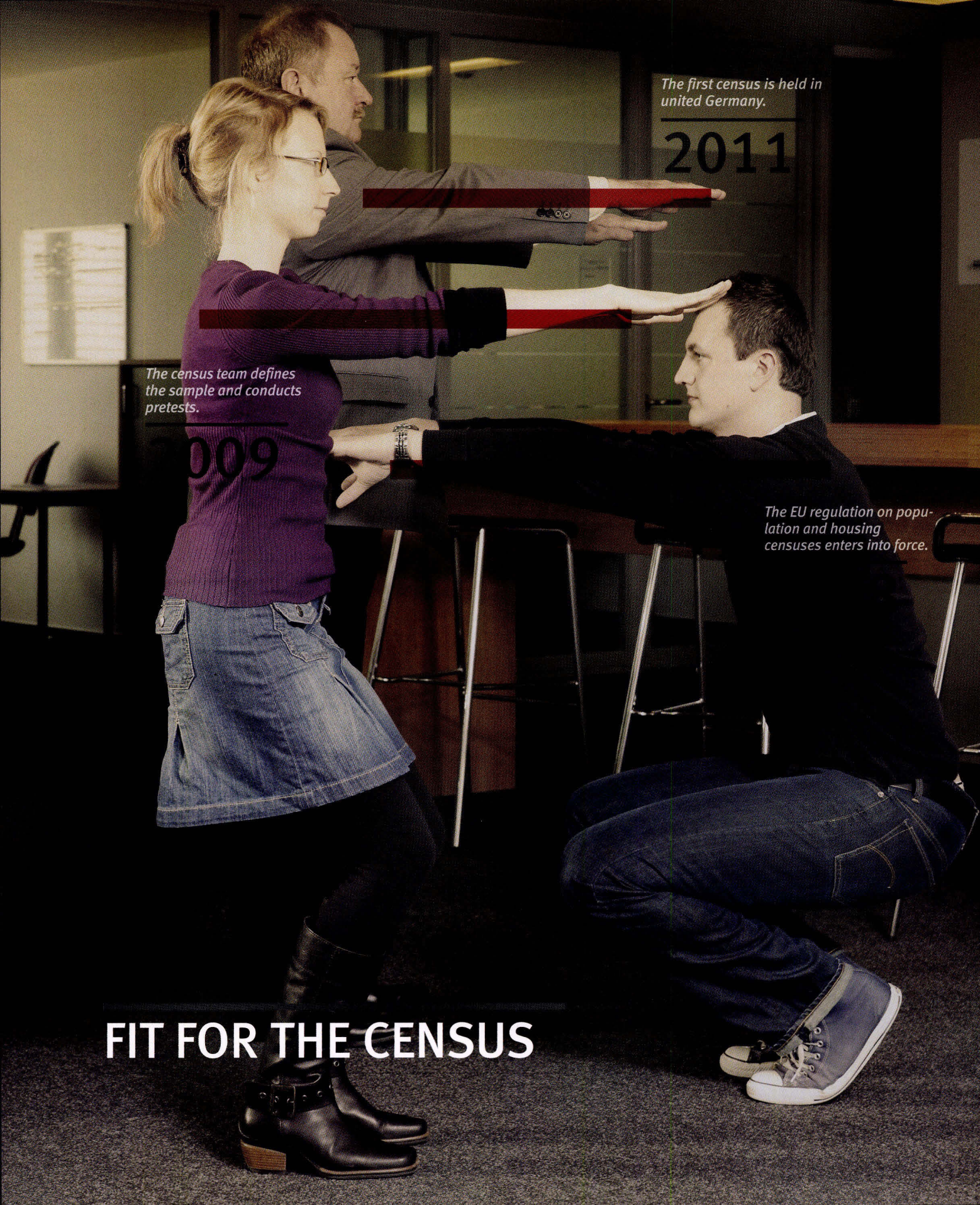
2011

The census team defines the sample and conducts pretests.

2009

The EU regulation on population and housing censuses enters into force.

FIT FOR THE CENSUS



New trends in official statistics

Preparing the 2011 Census

In 2011 the Federal Republic of Germany will count its population for the first time in over 20 years. The 2011 Census – the first population census in united Germany – will be conducted according to a new method based on registers. Contrary to the traditional collection method applied in previous population censuses, not all households in Germany will be questioned in the register-based census. What will be used to obtain the required information is in particular administrative registers such as the population registers and the register of the Federal Employment Agency. Information on buildings and dwellings, which is not entirely covered by the administration, will be collected through a postal survey among the owners of buildings and dwellings. Other data, such as those on education and training or on employment, will be collected from just a small part of the inhabitants, using a representative sample.

The statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder closely co-operate in designing and implementing the new methods.

A major milestone in implementing the 2011 Census was the 2011 Census Act that took effect in July 2009. The act is the basis for conducting the census; it describes the variables to be covered and the new collection methods.

There is a complex survey model underlying the register-based census, applying various collection methods such as register evaluation and direct questioning, complete enumeration and sample survey, and using various data sources such as population registers and registers of individuals maintained by the Federal Employment Agency.



2011 Census

Censuses are conducted all over the world. The 2011 Census in Germany is part of an EU-wide census round. Hence, the results will be comparable across the EU.

The link between the different survey parts is the register of addresses and buildings (AGR). In 2009 the addresses from the three registers (population registers, land surveying administration, Federal Employment Agency) used to set up the register of addresses and buildings were combined to form the provisional register of addresses and buildings. The statistical offices of the Länder have started to check which of the approximately 2.3 million addresses in the AGR, which were contained only in the data deliveries of the land surveying administration, are addresses of buildings with housing space.

First of all, those obliged to provide information have to be determined for each residential object in the register of addresses and buildings, so that the postal survey can be conducted within the scope of the census of buildings and housing. For that purpose, the authorities dealing with real property tax, the utilities and waste management units of the municipalities as well as other agencies transmitted their data on the owners of buildings and dwellings to the statistical offices of the Länder. That information is checked at the statistical offices of the Länder and prepared for integration into the register of addresses and buildings.

As another major step in 2009, the sample design for the household survey of the 2011 Census was defined. Also, a pretest started regarding the questionnaire for the household sample survey, covering some 7,300 persons. The results of that questionnaire test are expected for mid-2010.

Statistical Advisory Committee identifies new fields of activity for official statistics

“Evidence-based policies which, considering the conditions of global structural change, focus both on economic progress and societal cohesion need reliable information. Official statistics and a statistical infrastructure are indispensable elements of modern and democratic societies.” Based on that principle, the Statistical Advisory Committee – which was set up according to section 4 of the Federal Statistics Law as the body of users, respondents and producers of federal statistics – indicated four fields of activity which should be focused on by official statistics in the next few years.

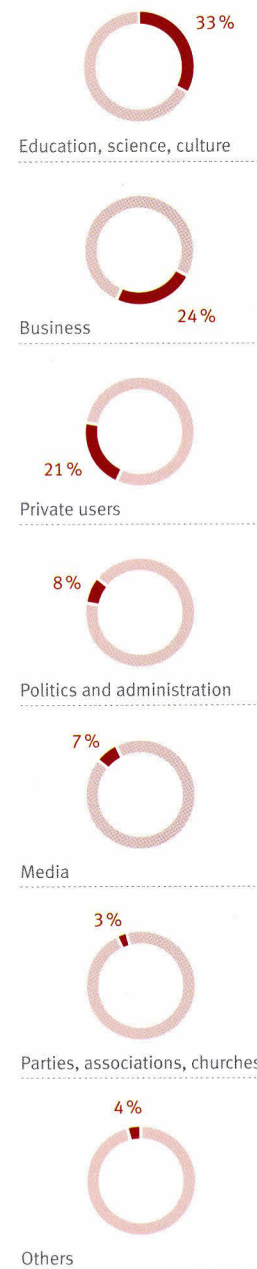
In its key issues paper on the further development of federal statistics in the 17th legislative term, the Committee first of all recommends that the Federal Statistics Law should entirely be amended in order to put the statistics users in the focus and to be able to better react to their needs. As a national legal framework, the main parts of the Federal Statistics Law must also be adjusted to the provisions of the Regulation on European Statistics, so that there is legal clarity. Also, statistics-related scientific research should be mentioned in the Federal Statistics Law as a task of the Federal Statistical Office. The provisions concerning the Statistical Advisory Committee itself should be modernised, too.

The second field of activity for official statistics refers to a further reduction of burdens on respondents by modern ways of data collection. The legislator should oblige enterprises and public authorities to report their data online to the statistical offices. Also, using administrative data should have priority over conducting primary statistical surveys and official statistics should be able to exert influence on how relevant administrative data are designed.

In the area of “quality and methodology”, German official statistics should use a standardised quality management model, intensify the exchange of opinions with European statistics producers, and make innovative use of suggestions made by the scientific community. For a concrete reduction of burdens on respondents in the context of cost-intensive surveys, the Statistical Advisory Committee recommends to continue the activities concerning the single-flow method in the statistics of trade between European Union member states (intra-EU trade statistics).

In the last section of its key issues paper, the Statistical Advisory Committee mentions challenges to be met by statistics in terms of contents. In the opinion of the Statistical Advisory Committee, major and far-reaching proposals in this context are currently made by the Commission on Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (Stiglitz Commission) set up in February 2008 and by the “Beyond GDP” issues of the European Commission. What is needed is indicator sets in the areas of economic inequality in terms of income and wealth, quality of life as well as environment and sustainability. This requires enhancing both environmental-economic accounting and the statistics on households.

Customers and users in 2009



The Statistical Advisory Committee invites the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder to participate in shaping in a forward-looking way the opportunities involved in the new fields of information. The goal should be a statistical programme adjusting more flexibly than in the past to the requirements of those needing and using statistical information.

Silence please!

The Statistical Advisory Committee meets at the Federal Statistical Office every year. The Committee has the task of advising the Federal Statistical Office on fundamental questions.



Interview with Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski, Head of Department at the Federal Statistical Office

Ms von Oppeln, in spring 2009 the new Regulation on European Statistics entered into force. What are the consequences this reorientation of the European Statistical System (ESS) has for official statistics in Germany?

The new Regulation on European Statistics modernises the ESS and is now legislation directly applicable in the European Union (EU) member states. That regulation is now gradually being implemented at the European and national levels. Although the European law is directly applicable already now, I think it would be useful to adjust our Federal Statistics Law to the provisions laid down in the EU statistics regulation in order to create legal clarity. This applies, for example, to the harmonisation of legal provisions on confidentiality or to the requirements regarding the transmission of microdata files to researchers. When planning the statistical programme at the European level, the National Statistical Institutes should also be involved more closely and work-sharing in methodical development should be enhanced. What is more, the National Statistical Institutes, including the Federal Statistical Office, get a co-ordinating role in their countries as regards quality assurance and transmission of European statistics. One of the decisions laid down in the new European statistics regulation which are very important to us regards the quality of our statistical results. The fundamental quality criteria – such as relevance, timeliness and accuracy – have been defined and, as another step, the relevant quality objectives will be defined in the national regulations. By the way, the Federal Statistical Office is involved in a high-level European Task Force dealing with the question of how those goals can be implemented in practical work. A separate section is dedicated to the European Statistics Code of Practice.

You are also responsible for the dissemination of statistical results. What are the future challenges you have identified here?

The issue is no longer dissemination alone. We have to involve our users and respond to their needs. The Federal Statistical Office is Germany's largest information provider. For us, the slogan "the use of knowledge" is a commitment to providing relevant information to the society in a way that it is exact, up-to-date, intelligible and accessible. These are quality criteria constituting our credibility and reliability. Statistical information contributes to the knowledge about economic and social developments. Also, we have a more and more theme-oriented focus for our publications; for example, a more recent publication deals with *Gesundheit auf einen Blick* (Health at a Glance). Indicators, which we derive from our statistics, show whether certain political activities are sustainable, for example in the area of environment. The indicator report on *Nachhaltige Entwicklung in Deutschland* (Sustainable Development in Germany) is published every two years. Of course, the internet is our most important platform for dissemination. Our interactive offers such as the age pyramids, a personal inflation calculator, the business cycle monitor or the price kaleidoscope show that we are setting new standards also for the visualisation of statistical information. By the way, "visualisation" was the topic of a colloquium

held at the Federal Statistical Office in co-operation with the German Statistical Society in November 2009, which was very well received. The Destatis image is characterised not only by indirect communication through a website but also by direct communication through our information services and press activities. I think future challenges will be an increased individual communication with our users who should get answers that are useful for their individual problems.

New large-scale events such as the census 2011 and other major multi-annual surveys are coming up. What other future-oriented projects is the Federal Statistical Office working on?

The coming census 2011 and the current EU Directive on INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) have given much impetus to geographical referencing of statistical data. INSPIRE is intended to become the basis for analysis and political decision-making with environmental relevance at EU level. The European round of censuses could provide the occasion for the European offices involved to develop a joint approach to geo-referencing. However, an EU regulation is not in sight yet. Before spatial data can be used, it is necessary to settle legal, technical and co-operation issues regarding the processing of geo-referenced data. For the census of agriculture 2010, however, the geographical co-ordinates of agricultural holdings will be a new variable to be provided. By the way, after an interruption of almost 15 years, we are now planning to hold a meeting of a specialist committee on regional statistics in late June 2010. I think it is time to do so and many experts, producers and users of official statistics have already shown interest. Other new requirements to be met by official statistics arise from a key issues paper of the Statistical Advisory Committee on the 17th legislative term. This is particularly important to us because the legal function of the Statistical Advisory Committee is to give advice to the Federal Statistical Office and the expertise of representatives of associations, the scientific community and politics combined in that Committee reflects the multi-faceted range of users of official statistics. In addition, many passages of the coalition agreement of the new Federal Government relate directly to official statistics, for example, where the issue is the measurement of the success of integration, the further development of sustainability indicators with an additional “generational accounting”, or the demographic trend and its consequences.

What is currently much discussed at the international level is the recommendations of the “Stiglitz Commission” and the “Beyond GDP Initiative” of the European Commission which has similar goals. What is it about?

The Commission on Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (“Stiglitz Commission”), which was set up by the French President Sarkozy in February 2008, recommends that statistical reporting should be enhanced in particular with a view to more informative economic indicators and the coverage of quality of life, sustainability and the environment. A set of indicators should be established to cover the various dimensions of a country’s economic performance and social progress and make them comparable. In addition to the gross domestic product (GDP), other economic indicators are needed to allow informative analyses on the material standard of living to be performed over time and

across countries. Non-economic aspects of well-being should be represented by indicators on the quality of life (for example, regarding health, education or personal activities). The question of whether the level of wealth will be sustainable for future generations should be examined by indicators on sustainability and the environment. As mentioned earlier, official statistics in Germany has already much to offer in this respect. What has to be done now is to rearrange existing indicators in line with the recommendations and to develop concepts to bridge information gaps. Direct conclusions are an extension of the existing system of environmental-economic accounting and an improved coverage of income distribution. What is very important to me personally is that, after some 10 years, we should conduct another time use survey. If we wish to conduct such a survey in 2012, we would have to start planning it now. I have in mind that a working group of the Statistical Advisory Committee should be set up which would deal with that topic in an interdisciplinary way.

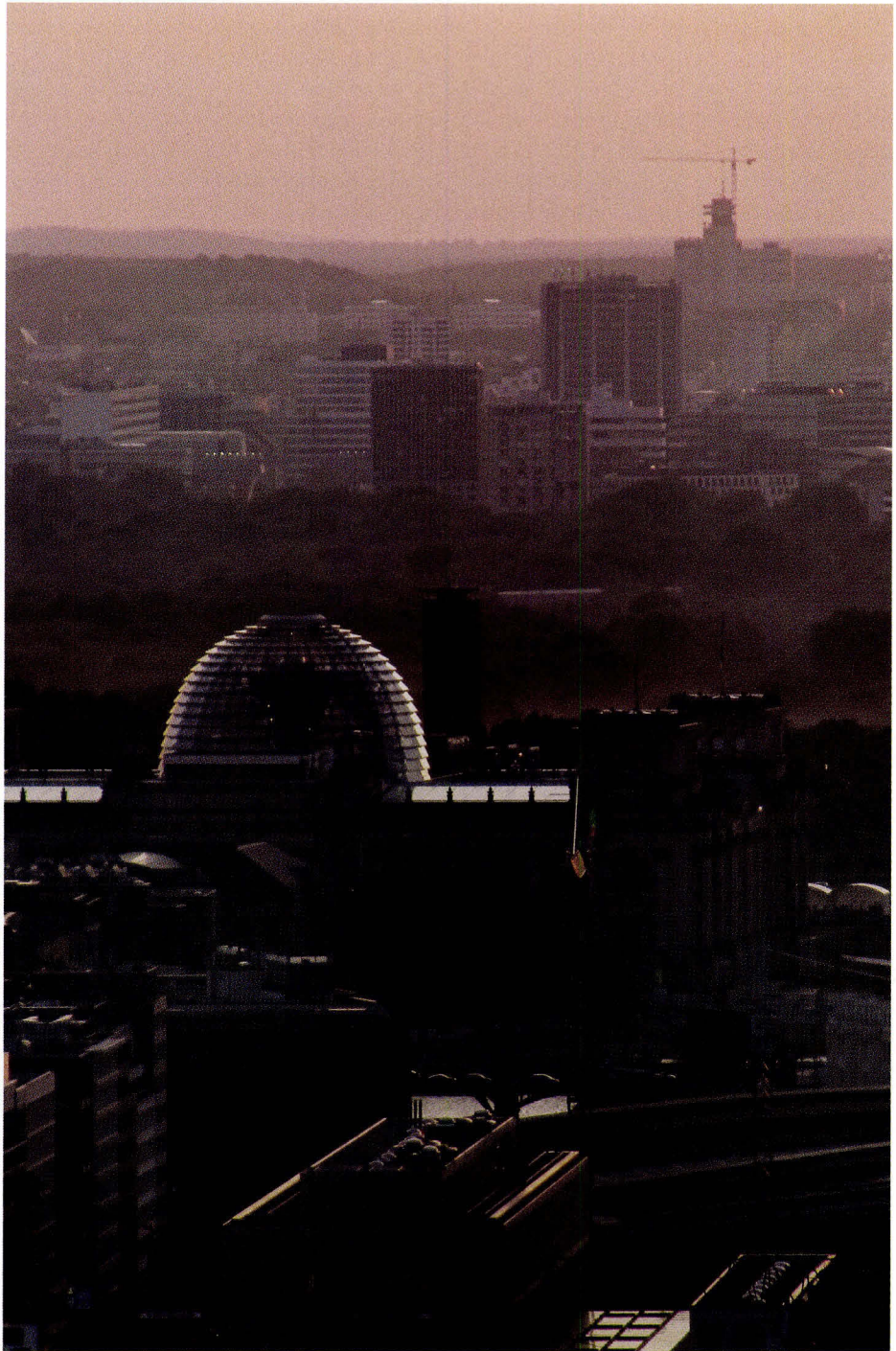


Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski

In 2008 Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski became Head of the Department "Questions of Principle of Federal and International Statistics, Dissemination of Information" at the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. In her 30 years of professional activity following her studies of economics at Heidelberg University, Ms von Oppeln has been in charge of many units both in specialised statistics and cross-section areas. She represents the Federal Statistical Office in national and international bodies with regard to issues of strategic planning and communication.

Public finance

The quality standards to be met by public finance statistics have become much more demanding due to the economic and financial market crisis.



Reform package on public finance ensures quality of public finance statistics

In the federal system of the Federal Republic of Germany with its largely autonomous public budgets, the function of the statistics of public finance (public finance statistics) is to give a consistent overall picture of the financial situation of all levels of government. What is used as a basis is data of the individual public budgets that are in line with a common budget classification framework. Data of public finance statistics are also used to calculate the deficit criteria (government deficit and government debt in relation to the gross domestic product) according to the European Stability Pact, which is done by national accounts and the German Bundesbank.

Drastic structural changes in the public budgets such as the separating out of public functions from the core budgets, the gradual and largely unco-ordinated replacement of cameralistics by double-entry budget and accounting systems at the levels of municipalities and Länder as well as the inconsistent application of budget classification rules have an increasingly negative impact on the comparability of public finance statistics. At the same time, the quality standards to be met by public finance statistics have become more demanding in the context of the economic and financial market crisis and with a view to implementing the modernisation of Federation-Länder financial relations (debt brake). Considerable efforts are needed to provide in a timely manner the high-quality data required.

A reform package on public finance, co-ordinated with the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, describes the measures to be taken to ensure the quality of statistical data on public finance. This includes:

- › The statistical integration of the funds, units and enterprises with an accounting system of their own that have been separated out from public core budgets into the results of public finance statistics for the overall public budget,
- › A harmonisation of introducing the double-entry accounting system in order to simplify the error-prone transition from the cameralistic system to the double-entry system and to set up a new reporting system of public finance statistics on the basis of the double-entry system,
- › A better co-ordination of the budget representations with the goal to ensure the comparability and reliability of the data from the Länder budgets,
- › The further development of economic data, so that sustainability and investments into the future are better illustrated: It should be possible in the future to put expenditure on research and development in direct relation to economic growth. It must also be examined how public-private partnership projects as a new form of funding public infrastructure investments should be treated statistically.

Implementing the quality assurance measures has already started and first successes have been achieved.

Financial market crisis and EU Stability Pact

Since mid-2007 the real estate crisis in the United States has escalated into a global financial market crisis, which has also affected financial institutions in the European Union (EU). As system-relevant financial institutions have been affected, too, and the stability of the financial system has been endangered, government rescue packages for financial institutions have been adopted in many countries. In Germany the Financial Market Stabilisation Act includes a comprehensive package of measures intended to restore trust in the financial system and to stabilise the financial sector. By granting government guarantees and other benefits, the new Financial Market Stabilisation Fund has enabled the financial institutions for a limited period of time to strengthen their equity capital base and to improve their liquidity situation. With the Act on the Continued Development of Financial Market Stabilisation, the purchase of problematic assets has been added as another instrument.

In the context of the European Stability and Growth Pact, it had to be examined whether, and to what extent, the different forms of government support measures have an impact on net borrowing and the debt situation of the government. A general problem that emerged here was the considerable uncertainties in terms of assessment and information faced by statisticians in classifying the measures. Although the rules of the European System of Accounts (ESA) 1995 applicable to the calculation of net borrowing and debt as well as the additional rules in the Manual on Government Debt and Deficit generally are clear, they are essentially based on the assumption that markets work smoothly. In the financial market crisis, however, the markets had completely collapsed for a number of securities, so that it was not possible to determine any market value by applying the usual ESA criteria. Also, special solutions were required for assessing the value of capital injections which were not performed through the market. Another problem emerged as to how to record some types of special purpose companies (for example, bad banks). To develop solutions that would produce data on government net borrowing and debt which would be comparable all over Europe, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) had set up a Task Force in July 2008, in which the Federal Statistical Office participated. In five sessions, the possibilities of recording were examined, options were checked and proposals developed. With its decision published in July 2009, Eurostat defined clear recording rules for the various government support measures, which have to be applied by all member states when reporting the data for the Stability and Growth Pact. The beginning (mid-2007) and the end of the financial market crisis are defined by Eurostat.

Altogether, the financial market stabilisation measures had a negative effect of EUR 3.3 billion on government net borrowing in 2008. On the expenditure side, government support measures in the form of capital injections (some EUR 2.2 billion) and compensatory measures regarding impaired assets (about EUR 1.5 billion) were particularly relevant. That expenditure was contrasted by revenue from charges and capital transfers receivable (contribution of private companies to the support measures) of some EUR 350 million.



Gross government debt (that is, without taking account of the assets purchased) rose by EUR 53.5 billion in reference year 2008 as a result of the government stabilisation measures. This reflects especially the liabilities of special purpose companies, which have been set up in the context of the support measures and have to be allocated to the general government sector. In addition, general government has accepted to grant guarantees to the amount of EUR 66.3 billion; according to the ESA rules, they will not be recorded until maturity.

FINANCIAL MARKET STABILISATION MEASURES AND GOVERNMENT NET BORROWING IN 2008

<i>Specification</i>	<i>EUR million</i>
Revenue	352
Charges for guarantees granted	52
Property income, receivable (interest and dividends)	0
Capital transfers, receivable	300
Expenditure	3,671
Interest payments	21
Capital transfers, payable	3,650
Capital injections	2,150
Guarantees called	0
Other (compensatory measures for impaired assets)	1,500
Net borrowing	- 3,319

infinite project: An informational infrastructure for the e-science age

Empirical scientific research has become unthinkable without the research data centres (RDCs) of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder. Using microdata of official statistics is getting more and more popular.

Especially the demand for on-site use of statistical microdata at safe centres within the research data centre or through controlled remote data execution has reached an extent that it has become increasingly difficult for the relevant research data centres to deal with the data requests in a timely manner. One of the reasons is that manual checking of the results is highly time-consuming. There is another way of data access, that is the use of Scientific-Use-Files which can be analysed at the researcher's workstation in the relevant institution. For data of economic statistics, that option often cannot be applied because researchers have reservations regarding data perturbation methods aimed at anonymisation and because of the waiting times required before the Scientific-Use-Files can be provided. For data of economic statistics, anonymisation must be farther reaching than for personal data. To protect enterprises from deanonymisation, it is inevitable to apply data perturbation methods such as micro-aggregation or stochastic superposition.

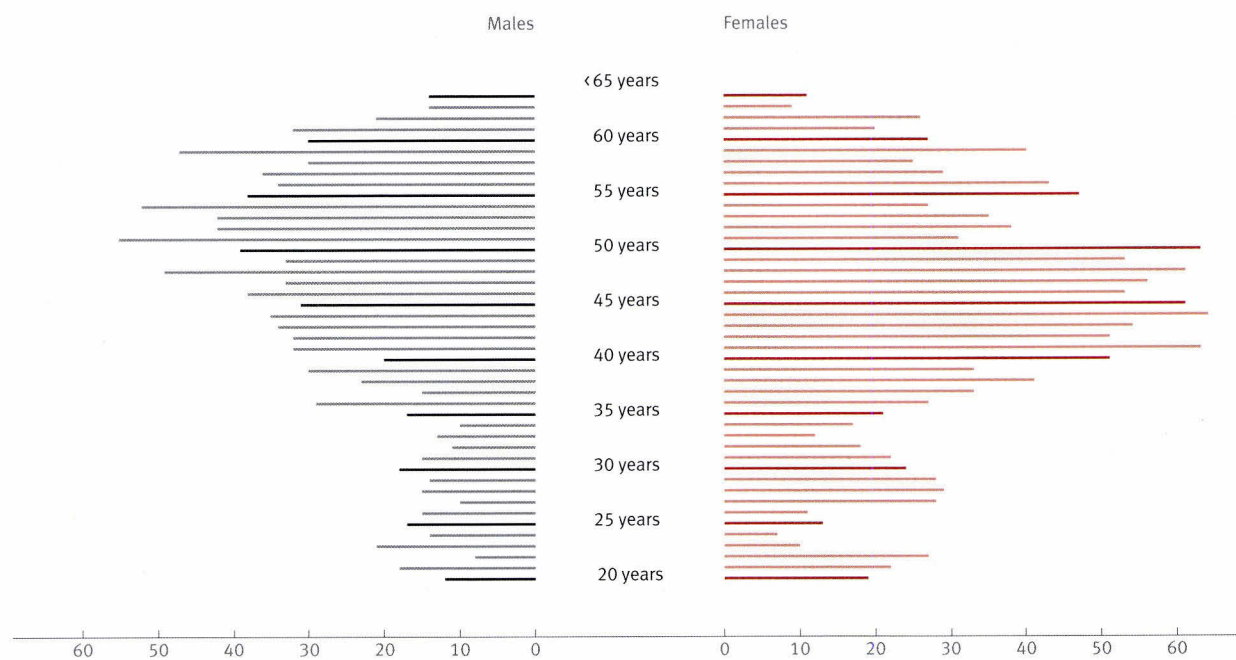
This situation will be improved by the project "infinite – Eine informationelle Infrastruktur für das 'E-Science Age'" (infinite – An informational infrastructure for the e-science age). It is a milestone on the road to fully automated remote access. Real remote access allows scientists to process data irrespective of time and place, with the data remaining on the secure premises (and on the secure servers) of official statistics. However, such a remote access application which is fully automated and does not require any manual handling is a thing of the future. A number of critical technical, legal and methodical problems of such automated remote access must be solved before. In countries which have similar legal framework conditions as Germany, such online access to protected microdata – which is what that method is actually about – has not been implemented so far.

The "infinite" project is to improve controlled remote data execution for data of economic statistics by using anonymous data structure files which allow checking a program run for syntax and semantic errors. Also, methods of standardised and fully automated checking of results are to be developed and assessed, which would allow to simultaneously examine the anonymisation of microdata and the checking of results. The tools developed reduce the burden on staff members of the research data centres at the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder already during the project term.

The research project, supported financially by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, is carried out by the Federal Statistical Office together with the Institute for Applied Economic Research, the Institute for Employment Research of the Federal

Employment Agency and the research data centres of the statistical offices of the Länder in Berlin and Hessen.

EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE BY AGE, 2009



Outlet type weighting and regional model further improve the consumer price sample

The continuing structural change in retail trade shows a clear trend: For consumers it is getting more and more important what goods they buy in what outlets. The question of where those outlets are located is losing in importance.

By introducing an explicit weighting pattern of outlet types, it is now possible to better show such developments in consumers' purchasing behaviour when calculating the consumer price index. First, outlet type weighting allows integrating into the system additional information on the market shares of the various outlet types. Second, it is ensured that all relevant outlet types are taken into account in price monitoring. Explicit weighting is a considerable progress when compared to the previous way of implicitly taking into account the importance of outlet types through the number of collected price series.

The so-called regional model is another measure to improve the quality of the sample of consumer price statistics. Starting in 2010, the regional model will be used to cover the entire territory of Germany in price collection and, with a few exceptions, prices will be collected in all regions. Also, what will be a major criterion in price monitoring is an outlet's importance in the region rather than the municipality to which an outlet belongs. This will allow more flexible handling of price collection in order to react to changes in purchasing behaviour. The extensive preparation and co-ordination with the statistical offices of the Länder to introduce the regional model were successfully completed in 2009.

Workshop on “regional price indices” in Wiesbaden

With the consumer price index, comprehensive and detailed monthly information is available on the price development over time. If, however, the focus is on spatial differences in the price level, not much information is available in Germany – as in nearly all western countries. In order to concretise and assess the need for information, the Federal Statistical Office – together with the German Council for Social and Economic Data (RatSWD) and the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) of the Federal Employment Agency – held a workshop on “regional price indices” in Wiesbaden on 2 and 3 July 2009. The event was attended by 90 participants. Thanks to the manifold papers and discussions with the audience, both the participants and the organisers considered it a successful workshop.



PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

525

*part-time
employees
in 2005*

560

*part-time
employees
in 2006*



Excluding partial retirement



Database extending the range of information offered by the statistics of agreed earnings

In the Federal Republic of Germany, collective agreements play a major role in shaping earnings and working conditions. Important information on earnings, working hours, extra payments, opening clauses and other agreed provisions from over 500 collective wage agreements is available from the statistics of agreed earnings. However, as the data are shown in the Fachserien (Subject-Matter Series) by divisions of the classification of economic activities, it is often difficult for users to obtain the piece of information needed.

A new collective agreements database will improve that situation as from summer 2010. The collective agreements database will consist of an internal and an external application. The internal database will cover all data relevant for the statistics of agreed earnings and obtained from some 4,000 collective agreements. Part of those data will be published in an external database available on the internet. The selection of those data will largely be based on the existing publications. What will be new, however, is the fact that users can retrieve the required information according to specifications of their own. Free access to the collective agreements database will be achieved through a search form in which information can be entered, for example, on the territory covered by a collective agreement or on the subject-related coverage, on the occupation, the Land or the economic activity. Then the desired collective agreement can be retrieved direct from the hit list shown.

For the collective agreements contained in the database, information is available not only on the remuneration and percentage increases but also on flat-rate and one-off payments, working hours, opening clauses, vacation and extra payments, etc. Also, previous versions of the relevant collective agreement can be retrieved, so that changes in contents become obvious. Beyond that extended range of information offered, the new collective agreements database for the first time allows performing detailed analyses on low and top earnings or on the average amount of extra payments across all collective agreements.



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

Online Collective Agreements Database

- > collective agreements
- > remuneration
- > flat-rate and one-off payments
- > working hours
- > opening clauses
- > flexible remuneration systems
- > efficiency bonuses
- > vacation
- > extra payments
- > low and top earnings

Automated processing in foreign trade statistics

Since the beginning of 2009, the newly developed procedure referred to as ASA (Automatisierte Sachbearbeitung in der Außenhandelsstatistik – automated processing in foreign trade statistics) has been applied in foreign trade statistics. The ASA system, which is used to process foreign trade statistics, was developed jointly with the company Werum Software & Systems in a project that lasted nearly four years.

For implementation, the Federal Statistical Office integrated standard tools for statistical activities and a modern, java-based and database-supported processing system to form an efficient overall system. In particular, prioritisation methods were developed which help selecting and, where required, correcting the data deliveries that are most important for the detailed results of the statistics. Another major item was the development of procedures which allow detecting differences from the aggregated results of the previous months, thus contributing to assuring the quality of foreign trade statistics.

The module intended for checking the received data allows processing the received documents in relation to declarants, for instance, checking whether the data were delivered in due time.

The processing module is used for the goods-related work processes up to the point where the data are released for tabulation. For example, individual data deliveries are checked and corrected where necessary and the output is assessed. Other functions of the ASA system support, among other things, the supply of data on enterprises and plausibility checks.

By putting ASA into operation, the treatment of trade in goods with European Union member states and that of cross-border trade in goods with third countries were combined and the processing process was divided into goods-related and declarant-related processing.

Considerable rationalisation has been achieved by introducing ASA. Today's staff, who are about one third fewer than ten years ago, handle a markedly larger data volume in foreign trade statistics. This is all the more remarkable as concrete quality requirements have to be met as a result of general harmonisation efforts at the European Union level.



ASA

Despite the increased data volume, automated processing in foreign trade statistics (ASA) has considerably reduced the workload on our employees.



OUR EXPERTS ARE IN WORLDWIDE DEMAND

3 meetings to start
the project
with Azerbaijan

7 expert missions and
study visits to Bulgaria
and Germany

9 expert missions/
activities in Kyrgyzstan
and Germany

11 expert missions
to Tajikistan
and Germany

European and international co-operation

New basis for European statistics

The new statistical framework regulation at the European level, namely the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics, entered into force on 1 April 2009. Now it is immediately applicable law in the EU Member States. In this new regulation, the National Statistical Institutes are, among other things, clearly defined as the bodies having the responsibility for coordinating the activities at the national level for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. Also, the new regulation focuses on the quality aspect of statistical work. Now the provisions of the regulation have to be gradually implemented at both the European and the national level. In this context, it may be useful or even become necessary to make certain amendments to the Federal Statistics Law (see also interview on p. 35 et seq.).

Two high-ranking statistical bodies, namely the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC), which has replaced the European Advisory Committee on Statistical Information in the Economic and Social Spheres (CEIES) as a body of users, and the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) started their activities recently.

ESAC is now in a formal way involved in programme planning and priority setting within the European Statistical System in order to appropriately consider the interests of users and respondents.

ESGAB has the task to submit an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council in which it assesses the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the ESS as a whole (see also interview on p. 54 et seq.).

A new Communication from the EU Commission focuses on the further development of the European Statistical System. It refers to the production method for EU statistics in the future and, in this context, incorporates a vision for the next decade. The goal is to develop a new structure of the system of European statistics and hence more effective and efficient production processes. An 'integrated' system is to be established which will, as far as possible, make use of cooperation and standardisation while respecting the subsidiarity principle. Together with the Member States, Eurostat will develop a strategy for putting the vision paper into practice.

Another Communication "GDP and beyond – Measuring progress in a changing world" proposes a completely new approach to calculating the gross domestic product (GDP). At present, GDP measures the value added primarily of money-based economic activities, while it does not take into account environmental sustainability or social development. For this reason, supplementary data and indicators are to be (further) developed. As a matter of fact, a Commission set up by the French President Sarkozy has considered these issues, too (see also interview on p. 36 et seq.).

THE HAGUE ACTION PLAN FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE ESS

In the context of the 2006 Krakow Action Plan, the ESS defined ambitious goals for its modernisation and development. Now the Krakow proposals have been integrated in a clearly structured and concrete action plan and time schedule. A binding text version prepared by Eurostat and the Irish chair of the Partnership Group is finally to be adopted under the title The Hague Action Plan (named after a conference organised by Statistics Netherlands in The Hague in early 2009) by the ESS Committee in 2010.

The action plan comprises 55 recommendations regarding the following areas: organisational structure, programme planning, communication and dissemination, cooperation and statistical challenges.

In the future, the Member States are to be more closely involved in statistical programme planning at the European level. In addition, the structure of the working bodies in the field of statistics is to be simplified. To this end, Directors Groups have been established for all statistical and cross-sectional areas, which comprise the competent Eurostat Directors and Heads of the relevant departments of the National Statistical Institutes. Major aspects of the ESS further development are to be discussed in the context of high-ranking task forces, the so-called Sponsorships. So far, Sponsorships have been created on the subjects of quality and communication and on the recommendations of the Stiglitz Commission. Another objective is to further enhance common statistical education and training in Europe.

“CYCLING TO WORK”

*Participants in the
campaign of the German
Cyclists' Federation*



Interview with Johann Hahlen, State Secretary (retired) of the Federal Ministry of the Interior

Mr. Hahlen, on the proposal of the Federal Government you were appointed as an ESGAB member by the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN). What is ESGAB?

ESGAB is a body which consists of seven high-ranking and independent statistical experts. Its task is to monitor the implementation of the Code of Practice in the European Statistical System (ESS) and, in this way, to promote the quality and independence of European official statistics. ESGAB is the abbreviation of the board's full English name – which is European Statistical Governance Advisory Board. ESGAB was created by a decision of the European Parliament and the Council of 11 March 2008 and is also embodied in Article 8 of the new European statistics regulation of 11 March 2009. We, the members, are from seven Member States of the European Union (EU). Chaired by our Finnish colleague Johnny Akerholm, we started our activities on 18 March 2009.

Would you please describe briefly the tasks of ESGAB?

ESGAB has the task to submit an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council in which it assesses the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and in the ESS as a whole. The objective of the Code of Practice and its 15 principles is to ensure that official statistics are produced independently from political interference and based on recognised scientific methods. In addition, ESGAB advises the EU Commission on how to facilitate an improved implementation of the Code of Practice by Eurostat and in the ESS, on how to communicate the Code to data producers and users and, if required, on the updating of the Code. In this way, ESGAB has become both a body contacted by the EU Commission in matters relating to the credibility of European statistics and, based on its annual reports, a link between official statistics and EU politics. ESGAB's activities are particularly based on the results of what are called peer reviews that are conducted to assess the implementation of the Code of Practice by Eurostat and the National Statistical Institutes of the Member States. In the context of the peer reviews, high-ranking experts (peers) assess the relevant situation at the statistical offices. As regards Germany, the associated peer review took place at the Federal Statistical Office in December 2007. The results of the peer reviews are continuously updated. At the same time, ESGAB maintains a good working relationship with data providers in the EU (for instance, the European Central Bank) and with European statistical bodies such as the ESS Committee, the Partnership Group and the European Statistical Advisory Committee.

How do you see your role in ESGAB?

What is important to me is an objective and independent assessment of the activities of Eurostat and the ESS. As I see it, we have above all to identify the areas where, in view of the Code of Practice, improvements should be made. It would not be to the benefit

of the ESS, if ESGAB's feedback on the work undertaken by Eurostat and the National Statistical Institutes were exclusively positive. ESGAB's function rather is to point out to the political community weaknesses and shortcomings that still exist so that they can be overcome. And to create and maintain a relationship of confidence, the general public and the data users must feel that the Code of Practice principles are not just empty words and that their implementation is strictly monitored within the ESS. Therefore, ESGAB must be in a position to obtain adequate information on the progress made by Eurostat and the EU Member States in implementing the Code of Practice. We, the ESGAB members, are still seeking the best possible approach to this issue, especially in view of our restricted resources. For this reason, too, I am very interested in receiving feedback from the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder on how they evaluate the work of both Eurostat and the ESS.

What are your personal goals as an ESGAB member?

During the three years of my honorary work in ESGAB, I would like to contribute especially to further securing the independence of Eurostat and the National Statistical Institutes and to progressing the harmonisation of the quality of statistics coming from the Member States. The reason is that quality has been and will be the core aspect of official statistics. In my view, developing and observing common quality standards is of vital importance at the European level.

In November 2009, ESGAB submitted its first annual report. Would you please outline the main aspects of this report?

On the whole, our first report draws the conclusion that, in the past few years, there has been progress in implementing each of the principles of the Code of Practice although the majority of the improvement actions recommended by the peer reviews must still be completed or have not yet been put into practice. Our report focuses on the Code of Practice's principles of professional independence, adequacy of resources and quality commitment in European statistics, and it includes ten recommendations regarding these principles.

In view of sudden changes in the top management of the statistical offices of some Member States, the report emphasises for instance that, in relation to the aspect of independence, the procedures for the appointment and dismissal of Heads of National Statistical Institutes should be clear and transparent, and they should be kept separate from changes of government. To strengthen Eurostat's position towards the EU Commission, ESGAB considers it necessary that Eurostat organises its own press conferences as they contribute to building and maintaining an institution's identity in the public mind and thus also to increasing its operational and professional independence.

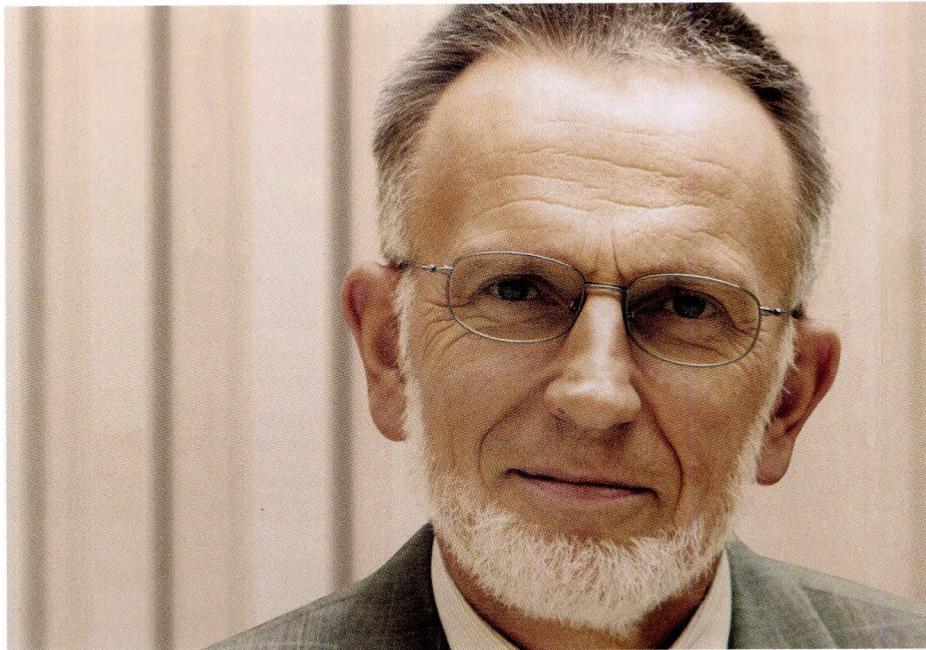
Regarding the limited resources of the National Statistical Institutes, the report emphasises the necessity to implement a more rationalised production system for statistics and to take a longer-term planning perspective.

With respect to the quality of European statistics, the report welcomes the wide range of initiatives taken with the aim of harmonising and improving quality. However, it also indicates that there is still room for substantial improvement and stresses that quality should be made a top priority.

What are ESGAB's plans for 2010?

In my view, ESGAB is well advised to focus even in more depth on the three main aspects of its first annual report and, in this context, to monitor in particular absolute compliance with the principle of professional independence of statistics both at Eurostat and in the Member States. We must continue to concentrate on the relationship between resources and quality as the production of good statistics requires well-qualified staff and – for instance – adequate IT capacities that cannot be obtained for free.

And, against the background of the bad deficiencies in Greece's statistical work, we finally have to find out whether and how the peer reviews should be improved, the Code of Practice be further developed and possibly even the EU statistics regulation of 2009 be completed. These are the areas where ESGAB should make a relevant contribution in the next few months.

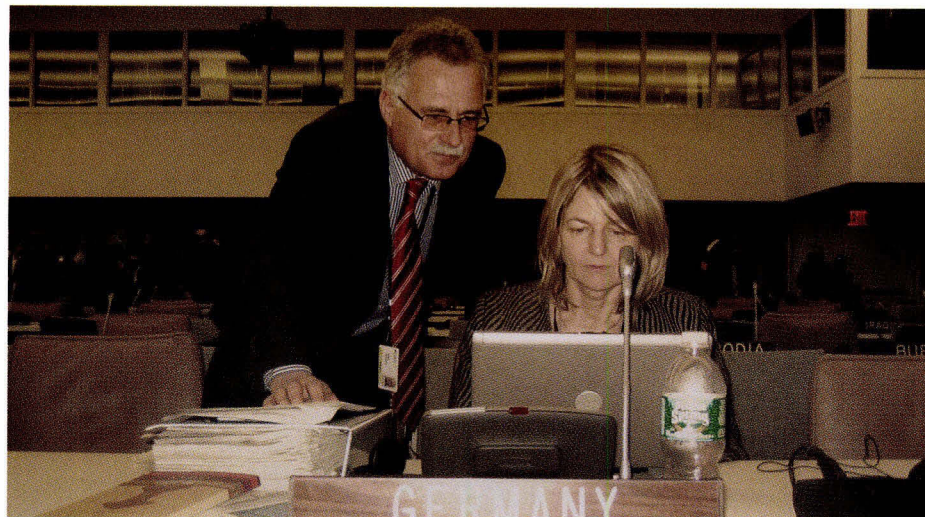


Johann Hahlen

After completing his law studies, Johann Hahlen worked as a lawyer. In 1972, he joined the Federal Ministry of the Interior where he worked in various functions. On temporary leave from the Ministry, he worked for the CDU/CSU Bundestag parliamentary group. Between 1992 and 1995, he was Head of the Sub-Directorate for Constitutional Law at the Federal Ministry of the Interior. In late 1995, Mr. Hahlen was appointed President of the Federal Statistical Office. He held this office until October 2006. During that time, he also acted as Federal Returning Officer. Until his retirement at the end of December 2007, he served as State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

Global statistics

Participating in scientific and expert discussions at the international level is of special importance to the Federal Statistical Office.



Selected international meetings

Participating in scientific and expert discussions at the international level is of special importance to the Federal Statistical Office. As an elected member for the period 2004 to 2012, Germany attended the annual session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York in February 2009. A focus of the meetings was on the statistical monitoring of climate change. In addition, volume 2 of the System of National Accounts of the United Nations (2008 SNA) was adopted, which provides the basis for international comparisons of economic performance. Also, the Federal Statistical Office has been active in two High Level Forums, namely on the SNA long-term development and on the topic of Globalization and Global Crisis: The Role of Official Statistics. In this context, the German side called for an improved communication regarding the data in place in order to provide sort of an early warning system.

In June 2009, the 57th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) took place in Geneva. In the context of this high-ranking statistical body of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the heads of the statistical offices discuss matters of the ECE statistical work programme. Besides, the 2009 seminar topics centred on Professional independence of official statistics and the requirement to provide data that are of relevance for policy and on Strategic issues in business statistics. The presentation of the Federal Statistical Office on a quality concept for business statistics received great attention.

The CES plenary session was followed by a meeting of the OECD Statistical Commission where, once a year, the heads of the statistical offices of the member states discuss major strategic and subject-related topics. This year's meeting focused on the role of official statistics in the context of the financial market crisis, the results of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (Stiglitz

Commission) and the OECD's Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies. The Coordination group assisting this project met for the first time on the occasion of the Third OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy, which took place in Busan, Korea, in October 2009 and dealt with the measurement of social progress, too.

Like previous sessions, the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), which was held in Durban, South Africa, in August 2009, provided a platform for a comprehensive exchange of information in the area of statistics. More than 1,200 scientific papers were presented to the 2,500 participants. The papers and presentations delivered by the representatives from the Federal Statistical Office covered a wide range of topics, from the reform of business statistics through statistical confidentiality and anonymisation issues to various aspects of quality assurance, environmental-economic accounting and advanced training in official statistics.

A working group of the United Nations, namely the London Group, met at the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden in December 2009. Its task is to revise the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) which is to be elevated to the level of an international statistical standard by 2012 and to be gradually implemented in the member states.

Co-operation in international bodies in 2009

- > United Nations Statistical Commission
- > Conference of European Statisticians (CES)
- > OECD Statistical Commission
- > International Statistical Institute (ISI)

Selected co-operation projects

In the last few years, co-operation projects with national statistical offices of other countries have increasingly focused on the development of administrative capacities in the partner offices rather than specialised statistical issues. During the past seven years, the Federal Statistical Office has offered customised training courses aimed at building administrative capacities in the area of statistics (statistical capacity building). In 2009, training courses were organised for:

High-ranking participants from seven Asian countries in Manila (commissioned by the Asian Development Bank), managerial staff of the Lao Ministry of Planning and Investment in Wiesbaden, and heads of the regional statistical offices of the Russian Federation in Bonn.

While the courses for the Asian partners were designed to familiarise the participants with the principles, legal bases and modern planning and management concepts of official statistics, the courses organised for the Russian partners centred on quality management in official statistics.

TWINNING PROJECT WITH AZERBAIJAN

After completing successfully the EU Twinning co-operation projects with Croatia and Bulgaria, the Federal Statistical Office has given assistance to the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan in developing its statistical capacities since late 2009. Over a period of two years, the Federal Statistical Office – in a consortium with the statistical offices of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Lithuania – will provide advice above all in the areas of national accounts and business statistics in the context of this EU Twinning pro-

Delegation from Tajikistan
A Tajik delegation visited Wiesbaden to gather information about human resources development and advanced training.



ject. The National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria for the first time provides experts to work in a Twinning project. The goal of the project is to improve the quality of the data supplied by official statistics in Azerbaijan by introducing new methods of data production.

WORLD BANK PROJECT WITH TAJIKISTAN

The activities in the context of a project on improving the statistical publications of the Tajik statistical office Goskomstat, which is financed by the World Bank, have been successfully continued. A milestone was to adapt the quality of the publications in terms of their content and presentation to international standards. In addition to enhancing the presentation of statistical results in graphs and tables, a harmonised appearance of the publications and a logo were developed during a one-week workshop. Both activities were aimed at establishing Goskomstat as a provider of impartial data on economic and social trends in Tajikistan at both the national and the international level. The new standards have already been implemented in all statistical publications issued by Goskomstat.

TRAINING COURSES AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

In addition to the training programme designed at the national level, the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) 2007 to 2010 has been established very successfully as a second training instrument at the Federal Statistical Office. In 2009, a total of 62 staff members of the Federal Statistical Office attended ESTP courses. The range of topics discussed during these courses covered subject-related and cross-sectional themes, such as Total Quality Management and didactics for lecturers.

European Statistical Training Participants in the ESTP course "Presentation, Facilitation and Consulting Skills for Trainers" in Wiesbaden



ESSnet project on Decentralised access to EU microdata sets

Commissioned by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), an ESSnet (European Statistical System Network) project on Decentralised access to EU microdata sets has been carried out by the Federal Statistical Office in co-operation with other international project partners since February 2009. The feasibility study covering a period of twelve months is designed to examine ways of establishing an EU-wide network of research data centres to facilitate the use of European microdata in certified safe centres. The goal of the study is to provide Eurostat with a best practice recommendation whose implementation on the basis of the current informational infrastructure in Europe can facilitate decentralised access to Community statistics (initially of the European Community Household Panel). In addition, the study is to show the extent to which the present legal and technical framework has to be modified to provide simpler data access in the future. Working documents like the applications to be submitted by users and background information on the data are to be harmonised and to be provided to all users. With the aim of disseminating the project results and facilitating relations with the competent contact persons at the European research data centres, central information is provided online at www.safe-centre.eu.

Effects of the global economic crisis

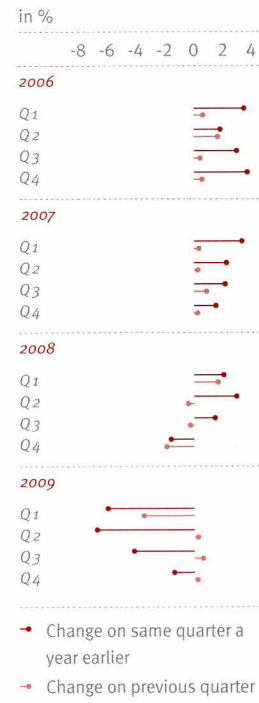
In the difficult economic situation caused by the global financial and economic crisis, the statistical offices have proved the efficiency of their work both in the Federal Republic of Germany and throughout the world. Their national accounts-based aggregated macro-economic results have played an essential role in the efforts made to express the crisis in figures.

In the first half of 2009, the German gross domestic product declined a price-adjusted 6.7% on the same period of 2008. However, a downward economic trend was first observed in the second quarter of 2008 compared with the previous quarter (seasonally and calendar adjusted figures). That trend continued over the course of the year. Only in the second quarter of 2009, economic development stabilised again slightly at a new and lower level. According to provisional results, the real gross domestic product declined 5.0% in 2009 on a year earlier. This was the deepest economic recession observed in Germany since the second world war.

Owing to the high degree of international harmonisation regarding the computation methodology applied in the area of national accounting, reliable comparisons of the results can be made at the international level. Results for the European Union based on the quarterly first release of the gross domestic product figures are published at the same time as the results for Germany. On the occasion of the G20 summit in May 2009, the Federal Statistical Office issued a special press release with basic data for the participating states. The figures proved that the economic situation was worse in all participating countries at the end of 2008 compared with the beginning of the year, though the extent of deterioration differed widely.

The paper on Rezessionen in historischer Betrachtung, published in *Wirtschaft und Statistik* 3/2009, provides a look back at previous phases of recession.

Gross domestic product 2009
Price-adjusted, chain-linked

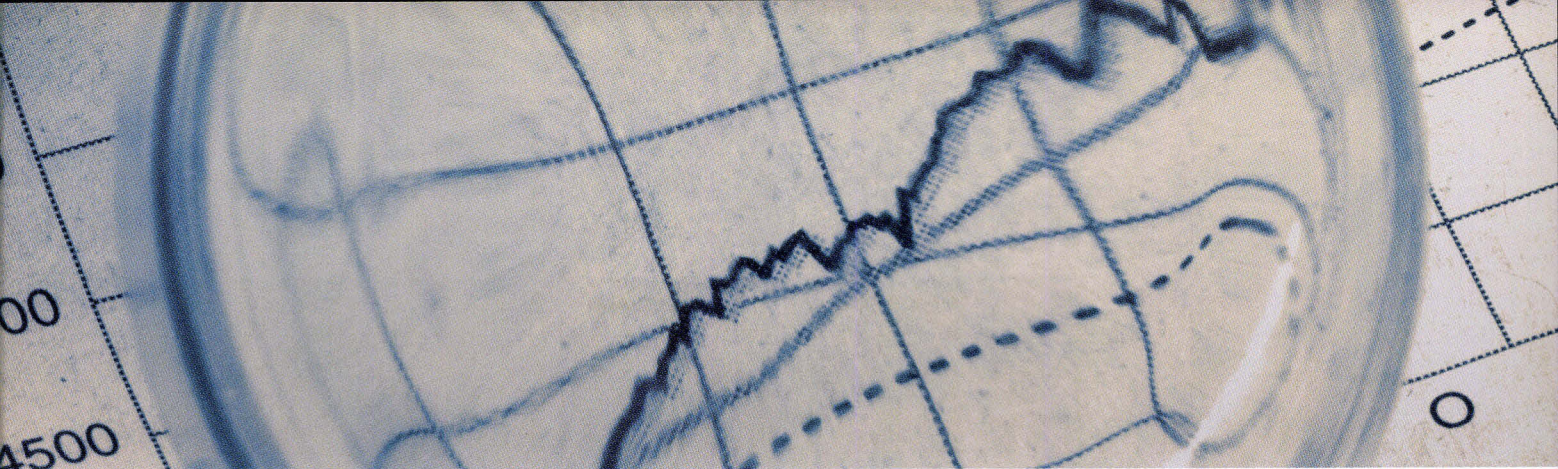


Exchanging data in accordance with international standards (SDMX initiative)

International organisations use statistical data from a wide range of national and international data sources for their integrated comparisons. Due to a lack of harmonisation regarding methodology and content, however, the results can often be presented only at a high level of aggregation. In addition to content-related issues, technical aspects such as data formats and communication channels (for which no binding standards existed in the past, either) need to be specified for a smooth exchange of data, too.

To improve the above situation, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations and the World Bank have, among others, promoted the SDMX initiative (Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange). The initiative works towards standardising the exchange of statistical data and metadata in content-related and technical terms with the aim of improving the comparability and quality of the information and making data transmission both more efficient and transparent.

The Federal Statistical Office has been involved in Eurostat SDMX projects for a couple of years. In addition to its central role in the publication of official statistical data, GENESIS – the statistical information system commonly developed by the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder – can also serve as a source for exchanging data at the international level as it has been supplemented by an SDMX interface. First solutions have already been developed in respect of exchanging economic indicators with Eurostat. These solutions can however be expanded to cover further application purposes such as the data supply obligations arising in the context of the 2011 Census. The distribution of the census results in Europe will be based on a harmonised co-ordination of both content and access mechanisms in line with SDMX. Eurostat will merge the results coming from the National Statistical Institutes and provide them to the public via the Census Hub, as it is called. Based on the GENESIS SDMX interface, the Federal Statistical Office has already created and successfully tested the technical framework for supplying the relevant data.



“Reconciliation exercises” in intra-Community trade statistics

A large number of activities have been undertaken at the European level to improve the data quality of foreign trade statistics and, in particular, of the statistics on the trading of goods between the Member States of the European Union (intra-Community trade statistics). One of the aims is to reduce the discrepancies in the bilateral trade data of EU partner countries (in theory, the data recorded by a country on its dispatches to a trade partner should correspond to the data on arrivals recorded by that partner country). Reducing such discrepancies is considered a fundamental precondition for introducing what is called the single flow system. In the context of that system, only the dispatches of a given country would be statistically recorded, while data on arrivals would be derived from the dispatch data of the relevant partner countries.

So far, two partner countries each have compared their bilateral trade data in so-called mirror exercises to overcome the above discrepancies. In 2009, all Member States for the first time carried out concise mirror exercises or reconciliation exercises, as they are also called. Those exercises were commissioned by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) with the aim of reducing the most striking discrepancies observed in the trade data.

For that purpose, Eurostat identified – on the basis of certain criteria – the major discrepancies at a detailed level of commodity breakdown (individual product level, i. e. eight-digit commodity codes) and transmitted the relevant information to the Member States. One of the criteria concerned the thresholds which the discrepancies had to exceed in order to be covered, both in absolute terms (more than EUR 600 million per year) and as a percentage of the total discrepancies. In addition, the degree of deviation had to be similar in the year before or after the reference year, too. The task of the Member States was to study the discrepancies with their relevant partner countries and to reconcile them to the extent possible. Actually, Germany was involved in 25 of the total of 69 reconciliation exercises undertaken in 2009. From now on, the above exercises will be carried out every year with the aim of discovering and, if possible, eliminating mainly permanent discrepancies and deviations caused by methodological differences in the long term. Furthermore, Eurostat will regularly provide all Member States with monitoring reports to inform them about the largest discrepancies detected in the annual and monthly data.

In November 2009, a one-day seminar was held at Eurostat to evaluate the results of the first round of reconciliation exercises and to plan further exercises of that kind.

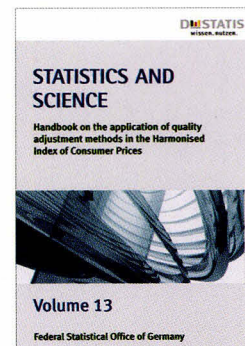
Mirror exercise

Mirror exercises are aimed at examining and eliminating discrepancies between the dispatch data of one country and the data of its EU partner country on arrivals.



New handbook of quality adjustment methods in European price statistics

Managing the common European CENEX HICP Quality Adjustment project promoted by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) has been a focus of the Federal Statistical Office's activities in the area of consumer price statistics in the past few years. As a result of the project, a Handbook on the application of quality adjustment methods in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices, which contains about 300 pages, was published in the Statistik und Wissenschaft publication series in September 2009. The handbook is designed both to provide price statisticians in the European Statistical System with practical assistance in developing and introducing quality adjustment procedures and to contribute to harmonising these methods across Europe.



Handbook
"Quality Adjustment Methods"

25%

20%

15%

10%

5%

0%

23%

*of parental
leave was taken
by fathers*

**FATHERS ON PARENTAL LEAVE
FROM THE FEDERAL STATISTICAL
OFFICE IN 2009**

Specialised statistics

New data on childlessness in Germany

Until some years ago, no data on childlessness were collected in official statistics. First results on major trends and changes in the fertility behaviour of women were provided by a special survey on “Births in Germany” conducted in 2006. Now the data basis has been put on a much broader basis: Due to a legal amendment of 2007, it was possible for the first time in 2008 to integrate additional questions on births into the microcensus. In 2008 all women aged 15 to 75 years were asked whether they had given birth to children and, if so, how many. Responding to those questions was voluntary.

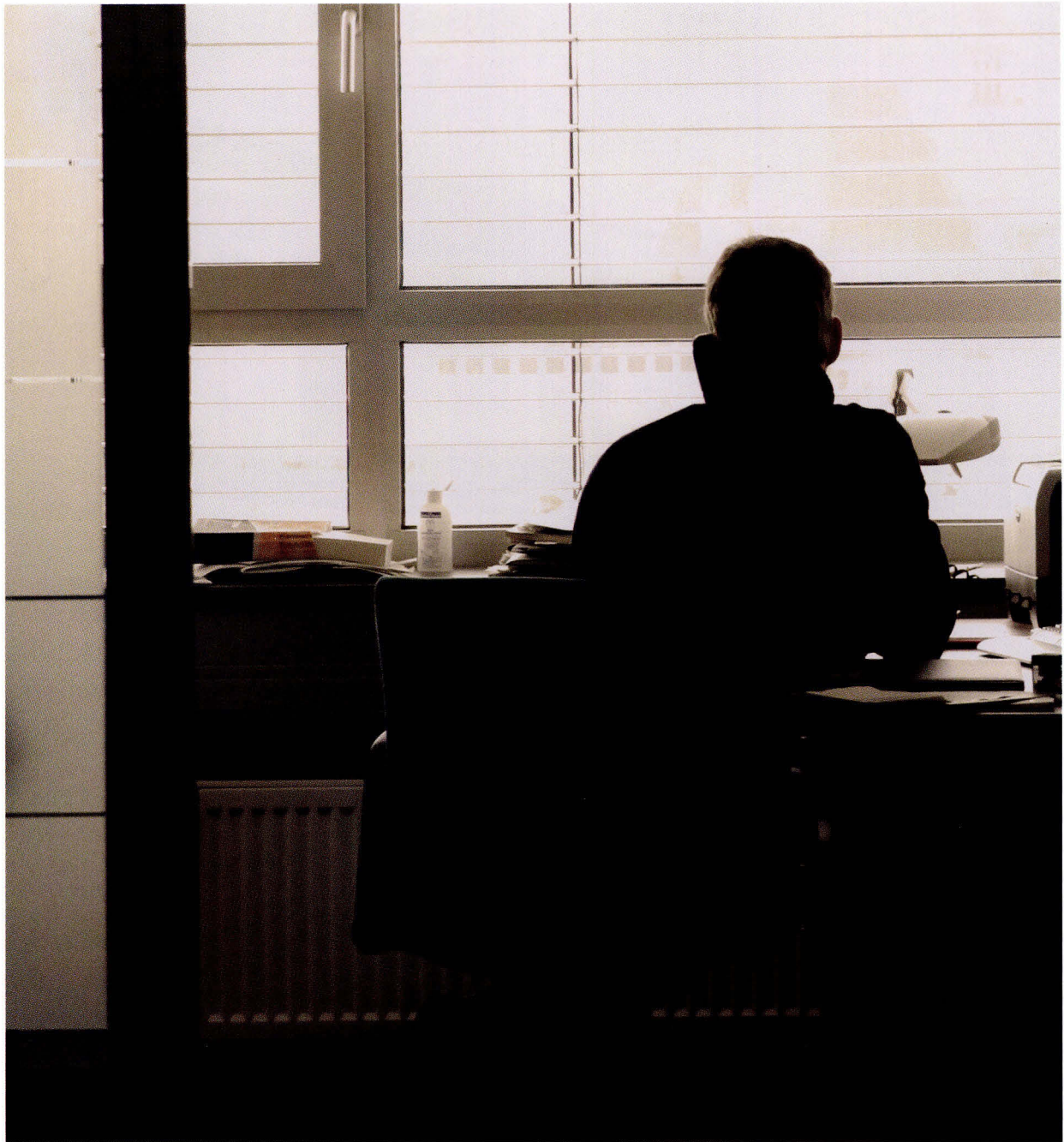
Among the women aged 40 to 44 years at the time of the survey, 21 % had not given birth to children. However, just 11 % of the women aged between 70 and 75 years in 2008 had remained childless. The increase in childlessness is the main factor leading to the low level of births for women who are in their mid forties today. The second factor influencing the level of births, which is the number of children per mother, has remained largely stable among the women aged 40 to under 60 years. About 30 % of the mothers in those age groups have 1 child, almost half of them have 2 children, and about 20 % have 3 or more children.

In the eastern part of Germany, there are markedly fewer childless women than in the western part. While 16 % of the women aged 40 to 75 years in the former territory of the Federal Republic (excl. Berlin-West) have no children, the share is just 8 % in the new Länder (incl. Berlin). Among younger women, too, there are marked differences: In western Germany, 28 % of those aged 35 to 39 years in 2008 do not have children yet, while in eastern Germany just 16 % of the women of that age are childless.

The results also show connections between educational attainment and childlessness. For the West we can say, the higher the educational attainment, the more often a woman is childless. If we examine women aged 40 or over, most of whom have finished family planning, 26% of the women with high educational attainment had no children. That share is markedly higher than for women with an intermediate level of education (16%) and more than twice that for women with a low level of education (11%). In the East, however, that situation does not apply.

Women who were born abroad and have migrated to Germany are less often childless than women born here. Among female immigrants aged 35 to 44 years, 13% had no children, while the relevant share of women born in Germany was 25%.

Further results are contained in the brochure *Mikrozensus 2008 – Neue Daten zur Kinderlosigkeit in Deutschland* (Microcensus 2008 – New data on childlessness in Germany), which is available on the website of the Federal Statistical Office (www.destatis.de).





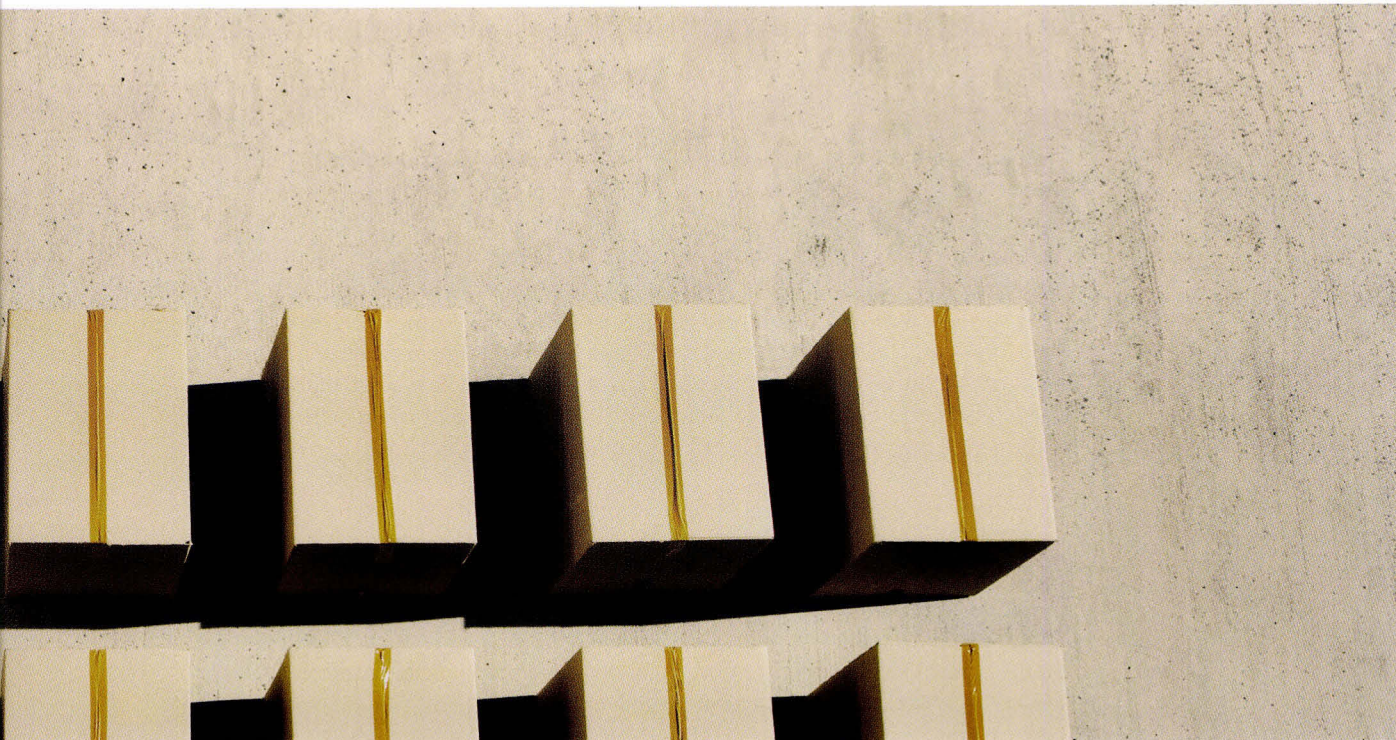
Networked

In 2009 there were just under 48 million computers in households in Germany. In 1991 the figure was just eight million.

Extended range of data offered by national wealth accounts

National wealth accounts as part of national accounts provide comprehensive data on fixed assets in the German national economy. The current age structure of fixed assets in a breakdown by types of assets was determined in 2009 in addition to the stock data. The new calculations showed that the average age of government buildings and structures increased above average in the last few years. At the beginning of 1991 the age of government buildings and structures was an average 22 years, while by the beginning of 2009 the average age had risen by about six years to 28 years. In the same period the average age of all buildings and structures in Germany rose just from about 24 years to approximately 27 years. The infrastructural measures adopted in the context of the current stimulus packages of the Federation and the Länder will not lead to a trend reversal regarding the average age of public buildings and structures. The change in age structure of fixed assets is shown through an animated age pyramid on the website of the Federal Statistical Office at www.destatis.de under Volkswirtschaftliche Gesamtrechnungen/Vermögensrechnung.

The range of data offered by national wealth accounts is complemented by data on the stock of consumer durables of households. This provides an additional element for



setting up a national balance sheet. The current calculations showed that households in Germany had consumer durables to the amount of nearly EUR one trillion at the beginning of 2009; that was an average EUR 23,500 per household. Vehicles account for over one third of the stock of consumer durables, furniture and carpets for another third. The remaining stock of consumer durables comprises major electric household appliances, audiovisual, photographic and computer equipment as well as goods for communication, health, entertainment and leisure, jewellery, clocks and watches. When price-adjusted, the replacement value of the stock of audiovisual, photographic and computer equipment more than tripled since 1991, which was a highly overproportional development when compared with other product groups. This suggests that the equipment of households with modern information and entertainment technology is continuously progressing. That trend is also documented by results of the sample survey of income and expenditure. In the period examined, the stock of computers in households increased by the factor of six, that is from about 8 million to just under 48 million.

Forms of employment and their relevance for the income situation of persons in employment

Among the forms of employment on the German labour market, normal jobs – that is open-end jobs performed full-time – have lost in importance over the last twenty years. Conversely, new forms of employment, or others that were not widespread before, have increased in importance. Those forms of employment, which in labour market research are referred to as “atypical employment” to distinguish them from normal employment, include part-time employment (with less than 21 hours per week), fixed-term employment, minor employment and temporary work. Other groups of persons in employment are self-employed with or without persons employed and family workers. Those forms of employment are not only based on different contractual employment arrangements, they differ also in terms of earnings and social security.

Since 2008 the Federal Statistical Office has intensively dealt with the changing forms of employment on the German labour market and their socio-economic consequences. Results of the microcensus show that, of the total of 34.7 million persons in employment aged 15 to 64 years who are not undergoing education or training (so-called core of persons in employment), two thirds (22.9 million or 66.0%) had normal jobs in 2008; in 1998 the percentage had been 72.6%. The share of persons in atypical employment rose from 16.2% to 22.2% in the same period. In 2008, 11.0% (3.8 million) of the core of persons in employment were self-employed, and more than half of them (2.1 million or 6.1%) were so-called solo self-employed.

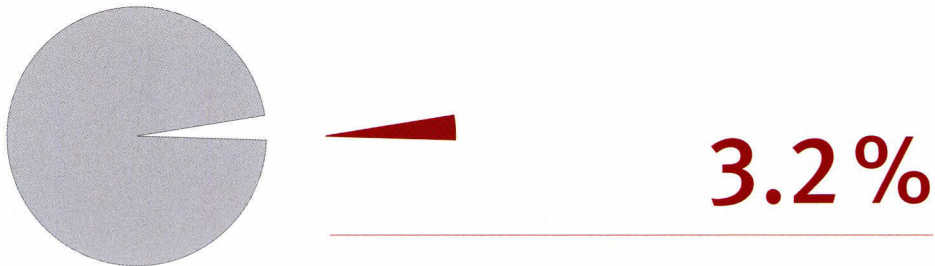
In 2008 most of the total of 7.7 million persons in atypical employment performed a part-time job with less than 21 hours per week (4.9 million persons in employment). Temporary workers (610,000 persons in employment) were the smallest group of persons in atypical employment, although their number has markedly grown over the last few years.

According to results of the structure of earnings survey, persons in atypical employment on average earned one third less per hour than persons in normal employment in 2006. Average gross hourly earnings differed in part considerably between the various forms of atypical employment. The share of low-income earners was higher among persons in atypical employment: According to an international definition, persons whose hourly earnings are less than two thirds of the average earnings of all persons employed receive low wage. According to that definition, almost half of the persons in atypical employment (49.2%) earned low wage in 2006. By contrast, just 11.1% of the persons in normal employment had earnings below the low-wage threshold (2006: EUR 9.85 per hour).

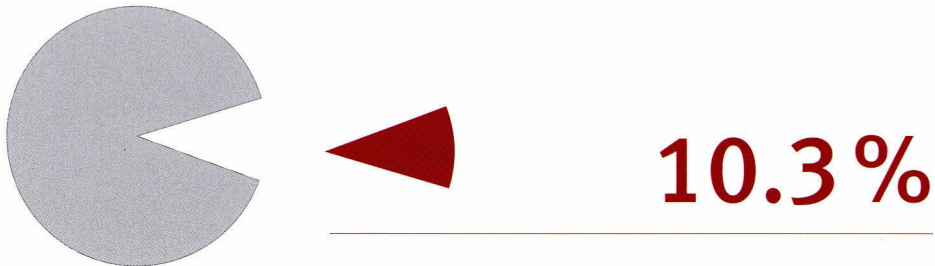
A person's income situation depends not only on earnings but also on other factors such as the amount of taxes and charges to be paid, the receipt of social transfer payments and the composition of the household in which he/she lives. Considering this, a job with low gross hourly earnings does not necessarily lead to risk of poverty. When taking as a basis the risk of poverty concept applied by the European Union, persons in normal employment were least often at risk of poverty: Only 3.2% of them had to cope with less

**EMPLOYED PERSONS AT RISK OF POVERTY,
BY FORM OF EMPLOYMENT**

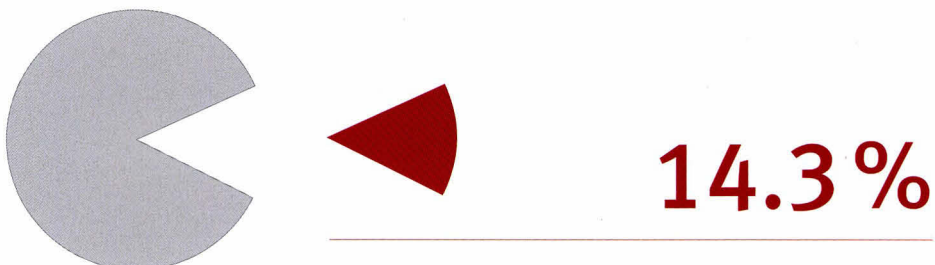
Normal employment



Solo self-employment



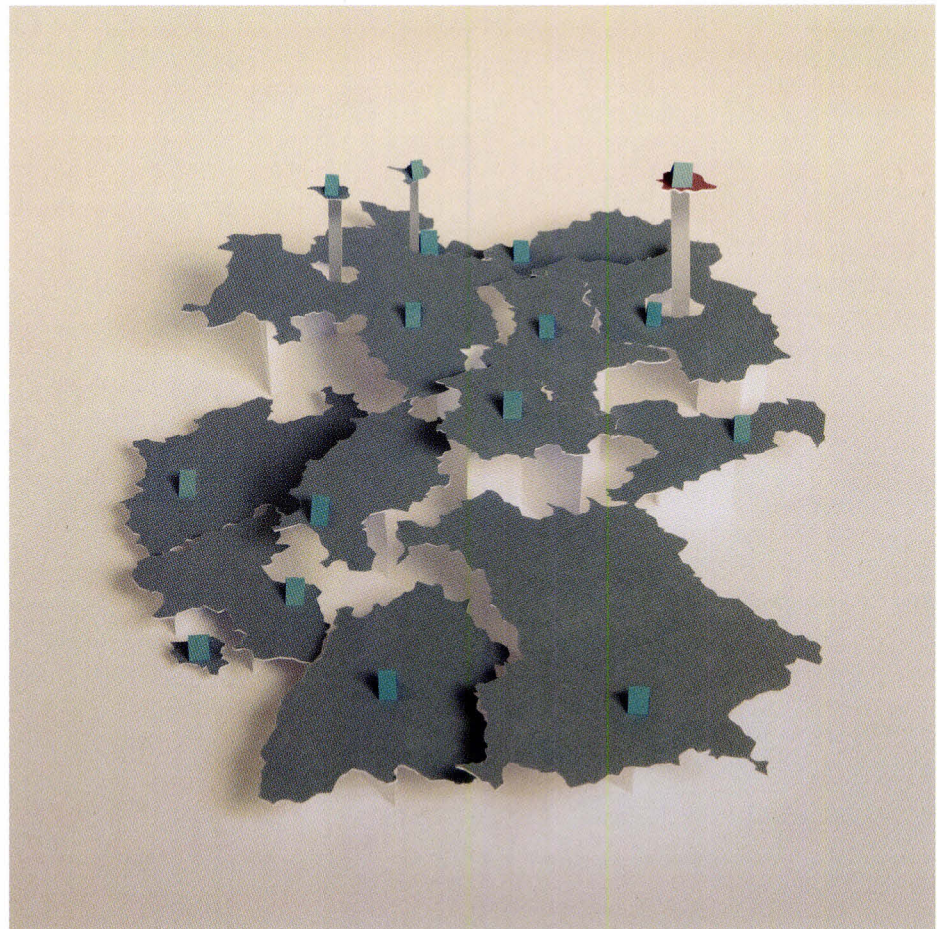
Atypical employment



than 60% of the median income, while a markedly higher risk of poverty was determined for persons in atypical employment (14.3%) and solo self-employed (10.3%). There are very large differences in the at-risk-of-poverty rates, depending on the household composition: In the case of sole earners, 30.3% of persons in atypical employment and 17.8% of solo self-employed were at risk of poverty. Where, in addition, a person in normal employment lived in the household, the shares were just 2.8% and 2.0%, respectively.

Risk of poverty

Results and methodological explanations on poverty and social indicators, their data sources and calculation methods are available on the internet at www.amtlische-sozialberichterstattung.de.



Risk of poverty in the Länder

From a joint project of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder, data on poverty and social exclusion that are comparable all over Germany were published for the first time in 2009. The information is continuously updated within the scope of social reporting of official statistics and is made available on the internet. The growing demand for comparable social indicators at the federal and Land levels is thus taken account of.

Poverty and social exclusion are covered in several dimensions: Income poverty and income distribution, dependency on benefits of minimum social security, level of qualification and labour force participation. The calculations are based on the microcensus and on the statistics on the minimum social security systems.

In 2007 one seventh (14.3%) of the population in Germany were at risk of poverty. The income of those persons was less than 60% of the population's median income. There are marked differences especially between the eastern and western part of Germany: While in the new Länder (including Berlin) 19.5% of the population were at risk of poverty, the rate was markedly lower (12.9%) in the former territory of the Federal Republic (excluding Berlin).

The risk of poverty was highest in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and in Sachsen-Anhalt: There, nearly one quarter (24.3%) and a good fifth (21.5%), respectively, of the population were threatened by poverty. In the southern Länder of Baden-Württemberg (10.0%) and Bayern (11.0%) that was the case for just about one tenth of the population.

Especially unemployed persons as well as lone parents and their children are threatened by poverty. Here, too, considerable differences are observed between the Länder: In Berlin 28.6% of the persons in lone-parent households were at risk of poverty, whereas in Sachsen-Anhalt this applied to more than half (53.7%) of the persons living in such households. The at-risk-of-poverty rate of unemployed persons was lowest in Baden-Württemberg (40.3%) and highest in Sachsen-Anhalt (66.0%).

A wealth of other results as well as methodological explanations on poverty and social indicators, their data sources and calculation methods are available on the internet at www.amtliche-sozialberichterstattung.de.



Pay gaps

In the fourth quarter of 2008, the gross hourly earnings of women in the public sector were about 7% below those of their male colleagues. In the private sector, the earnings gap between men and women (some 23%) is about three times that of the public sector.

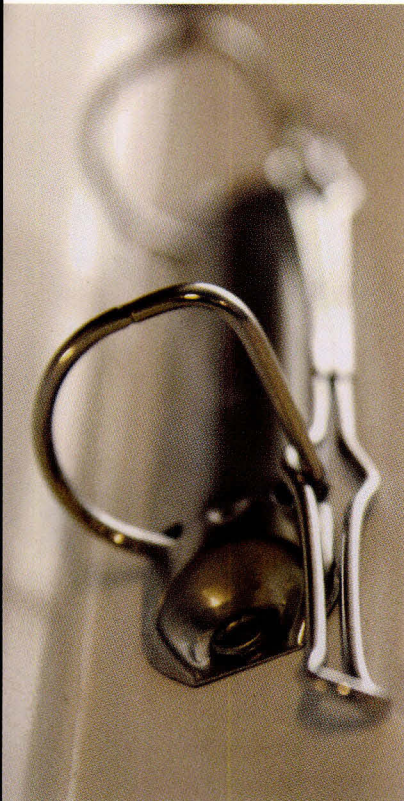
New studies on the pay gap between women and men and on low wage

Within the scope of a project supported by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the pay gaps between men and women in the public and private sectors were for the first time compared on the basis of official statistics. Before, it had not been possible to carry out such studies because no suitable data basis had been available. As the data of personnel statistics have been integrated into the quarterly earnings survey, earnings can be analysed in detail by the private sector and the public sector as from the first quarter of 2007.

The main project results can be summarised as follows: Gross hourly earnings of women in the public sector in the fourth quarter of 2008 were by about 7 % below those of their male colleagues. In the private sector the earnings gap between men and women (approximately 23 %) is about three times that of the public sector. The differences between the two sectors are due, among other things, to differences in the qualification structure of the persons employed. In private businesses, women in management positions are rather underrepresented when compared with men, while in the public sector the share of senior experts and managers in all women in employment is roughly the same as the relevant share of men. A detail report on *Verdienstunterschiede von Frauen und Männern im öffentlichen Dienst und in der Privatwirtschaft* (Pay gaps between women and men in the public sector and the private sector) is available on the website of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

The data of the structure of earnings survey on reference year 2006 allowed for the first time carrying through comprehensive studies on the issue of low wage. The Federal Statistical Office presented the main results at two press conferences in 2009: According to those results, about 16 % of full-time persons employed earned low wages in October 2006, which is gross monthly earnings of less than EUR 1,800. In an international comparison, Germany was among the middle-ranking countries.

The share of persons employed earning low wages was particularly large in the branches of hairdressing and other beauty treatment (85 %), taxi operation (82 %) and temporary work (77 %). The low-wage risk of women (24 %) was twice as high as for men (12 %). Persons without vocational qualification (25 %) had a higher risk than those with vocational qualification (14 %) or higher education graduates (4 %).



Indices and relatives put on base 2005

At the beginning of 2009 the indices of producer prices, import and export prices and wholesale prices were put on the new base year 2005. Such rebasing of indices is done regularly at five-year intervals.

As the weights of the various product classes should reflect the current product market structures of the relevant market, they must be adjusted regularly. This is done as part of the index revision. What is also performed during index revision is a revision of the sample of reporting units and the product sample in order to adjust them, too, to the changed market structures.

Apart from the usual changeover activities, the statistics of producer prices and the statistics of foreign trade prices were switched over to the new Product Classification for Production Statistics, Edition 2009. In the current version of the product classification, changes in major international reference classifications have been taken into account. The statistics of wholesale selling prices now uses the Classification of Economic Activities, Edition 2008.

With reference month January 2009 the indices of production, new orders and turnover in industry were put on the new base year 2005. At the same time, the new Classification of Economic Activities (WZ 2008) and the new Product Classification for Production Statistics (GP 2009) were introduced here, too. The new versions of the classifications had a major impact on the methods of putting the indices in industry on the new base year. The concept of index calculation has remained unchanged. For long-term analyses, a retrospective calculation of the indices back to reference month January 1991 was performed, depending on data availability.

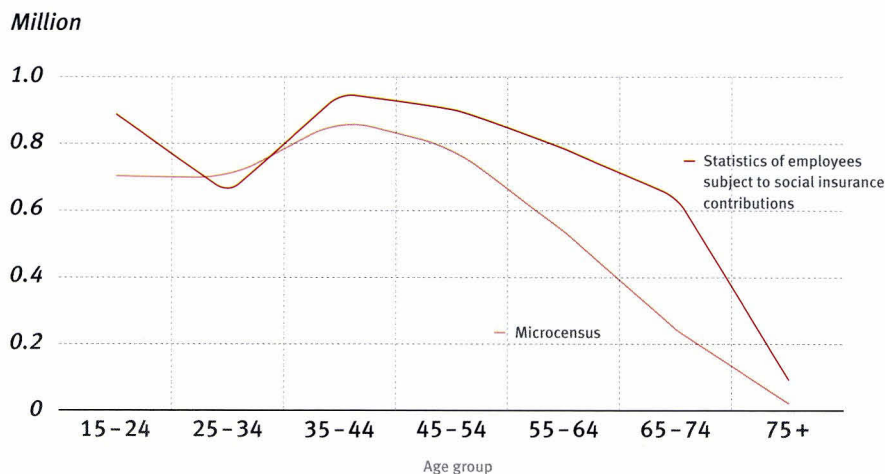
Other major short-term indices that were switched over to the new base year 2005 and the WZ 2008 are the relatives of the statistics of domestic trade and the hotel and restaurant industry. Gaps in the existing time series were bridged, so that relatives on turnover and persons employed in domestic trade and the hotel and restaurant industry are now available to the users from 1994 to the recent end of the series. Also, the consistency of the time series has been improved and the range of data offered has been extended with a view to user needs. Excluding VAT from the calculation of retail price indices completed the methodical improvements. The presentation of the real turnover trend in retail trade is now more realistic.

Coherent data on the labour market

Labour market reporting of the Federal Statistical Office is based on a variety of statistics. The data used come not only from surveys (such as the microcensus) but also from register-based statistics (such as the statistics of employees subject to social insurance contributions of the Federal Employment Agency) or from accounting systems (such as employment accounts). In this context, it may happen that results from different sources on the same item differ from each other. Although such discrepancies may be due to differences in definitions, most of them are caused by differences in the methods and procedures applied to obtain the data. In official statistics, much importance is attached to improving the coherence of the results of different statistics. This is why, over the last few years, the Federal Statistical Office has increased its efforts to examine the causes of discrepancies to be able to better inform the users about that issue. In 2009 a detailed report on the reasons of differences in results of central labour market indicators was published as an outcome of a follow-up survey specifically conducted for the purpose. Thus official statistics in Germany has gone much farther than most of the other National Statistical Institutes in implementing international recommendations in that area.

According to results of employment accounts, for example, there were 40.2 million persons in employment in Germany in 2008. Compared with the microcensus (38.7 million persons in employment), that was 1.5 million more persons in employment. The studies showed that in this case the discrepancies were mainly due to differences in data

PERSONS IN MINOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE MICROCENSUS AND IN THE STATISTICS OF EMPLOYEES SUBJECT TO SOCIAL



collection. Covering small and secondary jobs, such as those performed by pupils, students and pensioners, is difficult in a household survey like the microcensus. This is confirmed when comparing data with the statistics of employees subject to social insurance contributions: In the relevant age groups, the microcensus shows a markedly smaller number of persons in minor employment.

In addition to offering better information on the reasons of discrepancies in results, the Federal Statistical Office is improving the methodology in order to reduce such differences in results. Especially for the microcensus, major progress has been made here in the last few years. Further studies on the coverage of minor employment and improvements in data collection are planned for the coming years.



Paternoster
im Brandfall
nicht benutzen.
Fluchtweg
über Treppenhaus.

Benutzung nur
für Mitarbeiter
des Statistischen
Bundesamtes

across
13 storeys

22 compart-
ments

at a speed
of 0.3 metres
per second

PASSENGER TRANSPORT BY PATERNOSTER LIFT

Water and wastewater charges in Germany

How much do households have to pay on average for one cubic metre of water? What other charges have to be paid for water use in Germany? To what extent do water costs depend on consumption? Answers to those questions are of interest not only for many citizens when they have a look at their water invoice. They also help in political decision-making regarding water protection measures, for example in implementing the Water Framework Directive of the European Union. According to that Directive, among other things, comprehensive economic analyses on the prices and costs of water use have to be carried out.

With the survey of water and wastewater charges, which has been conducted every three years since reference year 2007, official environmental statistics now has a tool to answer such questions. What is covered are the water and wastewater charges typical of households in the reference year and in the two years before.

In 2007 one cubic metre of drinking water supplied to households cost EUR 1.60 on a federal average. The basic charge for drinking water was an average EUR 61.56 per year. Generally, charges for wastewater treatment were imposed by the municipalities in addition to the drinking water charges. For the consumption of one cubic metre of water, German households paid an average wastewater charge of EUR 2.29 in 2007. The average annual basic charge amounted to EUR 13.15. For the precipitation conducted to the sewage system rather than seeping into the soil, an additional area-related precipitation water charge is imposed in some municipalities. In 2007 that charge was EUR 0.41 per square metre of sealed soil on a federal average.

The combined drinking water and wastewater invoice in 2007 thus amounted to about EUR 419 on a federal average for a two-person model household with a water consumption of 80 cubic metres.



First results on foreign-controlled enterprises

Cross-border participations in enterprises are strongly associated with the term of globalisation; representing such participations is gaining in importance. First data on foreign-controlled enterprises were obtained by the Federal Statistical Office during project activities performed within the scope of the European Union Regulation on the structure and activity of foreign affiliates.

The results published for the first time in spring 2009 showed that foreign-controlled enterprises in Germany are highly important in terms of the economy and labour market policy. In 2006, about one fifth of the industry's entire value added in Germany was achieved by enterprises belonging to a parent company located abroad. In the non-financial trade and industry – comprising the industry, domestic trade and the services sector excluding the credit and insurance business – about 20,000 enterprises were under foreign control in 2006. Although those enterprises had a share of just 1% in all enterprises of non-financial trade and industry, they achieved a total of 14% of gross value added. Foreign control is exerted mainly from within the European Economic Area, i. e. for 73% of the enterprises the seat of the parent company is in Europe and for 58% it is in the European Union economic area. However, there is no single European country that has the same importance as the United States: 15% of the foreign-controlled enterprises in Germany are controlled by parent companies located there and the enterprises controlled from the United States had a 24% share in the value added of all foreign-controlled enterprises.

The results on foreign-controlled enterprises will be collected annually all over Europe as part of the Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS). The Federal Statistical Office has chosen a method involving no burden on respondents at all: The data on enterprises under foreign control are compiled from existing structural data on those enterprises and from information of the enterprise group database. In the medium term, it will be possible to use a European register of multinational enterprise groups to compile results on enterprise interrelationships. Here, too, the objective will be to collect data without placing burdens on businesses.

• 2008 15,106
• 2009 17,601

2,000

1,500

1,000

500

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

**VEGETARIAN MEALS EATEN IN
THE CANTEEN**

Staff and budget

Changes in the personnel structure

In October 2009, the Federal Statistical Office had 2,703 employees. A total of 1,977 staff members were employed at the Office's main location in Wiesbaden and 701 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 January 2000 (3,008 employees) and January 2009 (2,721 employees), the number of persons employed at the Federal Statistical Office decreased by 287 or 9.5%. 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. Therefore, one of the Office's aims 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 rose from 10.7% in 2000 to 18.0% in 2009. Over the same period, the number of posts in the intermediate service was reduced by 46.2%. 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 16.6% during the period mentioned above, whereas the percentage of employees in the intermediate service fell from 52.8% to 42.4%. Part-time employees accounted for 20.5% of the Office's total staff (as at January 2009). Apart from this, the Federal Statistical Office offers training for various occupations: In October 2009, 116 young people were training to become office communications specialists, market and social research specialists, or information technology specialists.

EMPLOYEES AND STAFF CAPACITIES (MAK), BY SEX AND SERVICE CATEGORY

<i>Service categories</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>		<i>Women</i>	
Higher service	Number	465	269	57.8 %	196	42.2 %
	MAK	410.2	242.9	59.2 %	167.3	40.8 %
Higher inter- mediate service	Number	939	473	50.4 %	466	49.6 %
	MAK	842.5	457.2	54.3 %	385.3	45.7 %
Intermediate service	Number	1,125	360	32.0 %	765	68.0 %
	MAK	860.3	329.5	38.3 %	530.7	61.7 %
Ordinary service	Number	58	40	69.0 %	18	31.0 %
	MAK	53.1	38.5	72.5 %	14.6	27.5 %
Apprentices	Number	116	46	39.7 %	70	60.3 %
	MAK	116	46	39.7 %	70	60.3 %
Total	Number	2,703	1,188	44.0 %	1,515	56.0 %
	MAK	2,282.0	1,114.1	48.8 %	1,167.9	51.2 %



Education and training

Regular 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 enhancing their qualifications and skills to keep up with technological progress, to prepare themselves for new functions and to adapt themselves to new requirements. The induction training helps newly recruited colleagues to become familiar with the system of official statistics and with the Federal Statistical Office itself. Executive staff learn techniques of cooperative and motivating leadership. Staff members 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 all the statistical offices of the Länder and is a local partner of the “Federal Academy for Public Administration”.

In 2009, 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 3 days. All in all, almost 500 different courses and events were held.

For more than 30 years, the Federal Statistical Office has offered qualified vocational training in the field of information and services to young people. Despite the financial and manpower constraints involved, the Federal Statistical Office provided training places for 42 new apprentices in 2009. A total of 116 apprentices were training at the Federal Statistical Office in 2009 to become office communications specialists, market and social research specialists or information technology specialists for software development.

Advanced training activities and participants in 2009

Advanced training activities at the Federal Statistical Office	253
Participants approx.	3,000
Average training days per employee	3.1 days

Apprentices in 2009

- › information technology specialists
- › office communications specialists
- › market and social research specialists

Apprentices, total	116
of whom: at the Bonn Branch Office	49
of whom: recruited in 2009	42

Social counselling and health promotion at the Federal Statistical Office

In-house sports activities at the Federal Statistical Office

Category	Persons
Table tennis Wiesbaden	60
Football I Wiesbaden	15
Football II Wiesbaden	20
Chess Wiesbaden	20
Football Bonn	14
Running club Wiesbaden	14
Bowling Wiesbaden	12
Volleyball Wiesbaden	12
Basketball Wiesbaden	10
Badminton Wiesbaden	8-16
Badminton Bonn	6-9
Walking Bonn	5
Running club Bonn	4-7
Table tennis Bonn	2-5
Dragon Boat Wiesbaden	20
Chase run Wiesbaden	50-60
Corporate run	60
Max. total	max. 359 Pers.

Early in 2007, a social counselling service was established at the Federal Statistical Office which may be accessed by all our staff looking for help with job conflicts or problems of a social nature. The aim of this in-house social counselling service is to contribute to a motivating and positive work environment for all of the Office's employees. The service provides advice, co-operates with organisational units and interest groups within the Office as well as with outside agencies, and arranges contacts with external specialist counselling agencies.

The counselling service is open to our employees, apprentices, executive staff, pensioners and dependants of present or former staff. It provides counselling to individuals or groups, for instance to executives and their support staff. Additionally, the service offers coaching to executive employees. The service's work focuses on giving problem-solving advice by exploring alternatives for action with those seeking counselling to help them approach their problems from a different angle.

Since 2007, advice and consultations have mainly been provided on the following issues:

- › conflicts and problems related to the job,
- › addiction,
- › personal/family matters,
- › health,
- › psychological concerns, disorders or signs.

In 2007, the social counselling service provided help in 80 cases. In 2009, the number of consultations increased to 141, of which 25 were held with executives. 89 of the persons seeking help in 2009 were women (2007: 38) and 52 were men (2007: 42). Prevention and health promotion are very conducive to maintaining and improving good health. That is why they are at the centre of the Federal Statistical Office's personnel management. The programme of prevention measures offered to our staff includes:

- › annual health days in Wiesbaden, Bonn and Berlin,
- › health courses (for example, back exercises, Pilates method, progressive muscular relaxation as developed by Jacobson) as part of in-house advanced training,
- › regular brief seminars on health issues,
- › in-house sports activities (in more than 10 categories).

Furthermore, the Federal Statistical Office organises blood testing and blood donor sessions as well as influenza vaccinations. Apart from that, the Office provides training for in-house first aid helpers and offers regular refresher courses. The occupational health physician assigned to the Federal Statistical Office and the health and safety officer are important partners in these efforts.

Health!

The Health Days at the Federal Statistical Office were well attended. For our personnel management, health promotion and social counselling are important components of staff care.



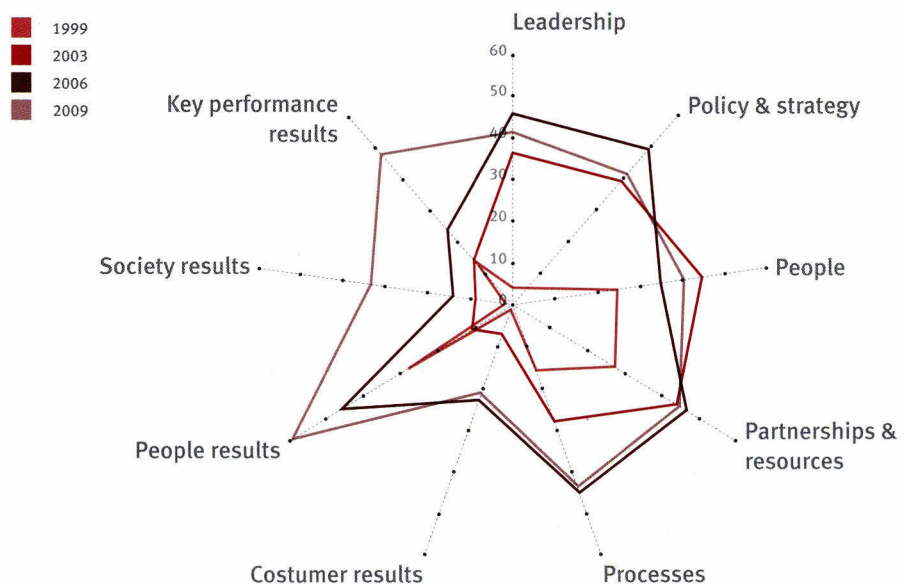
Statistical Quality Offensive: results of the 2009 EFQM assessment

As early as at the end of the 1990s, the Federal Statistical Office launched a Statistical Quality Offensive in the form of a comprehensive quality management concept that has been aimed at verifying the effectiveness of leadership and steering instruments as well as of actions taken.

Following the assessments in 1999, 2003 and 2006, the fourth Office-wide quality assessment was conducted in 2009, based on the excellence model of the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM). The EFQM self-assessments are diagnostic tools for determining the quality standard achieved throughout an organisation. To this end, the organisation's executive management undertakes an assessment of the quality level achieved by applying the component criteria of the EFQM model, strengths and potentials for improvement are identified and then classified by priority.

Across the four assessment cycles, the results show that quality has improved significantly throughout the Federal Statistical Office (see chart). In July 2009, an external assessment was carried out with the usual goal of verifying the results of the self-assessments.

RESULTS OF THE EFQM ASSESSMENTS IN PERCENT



Staff survey 2009: “Tell your opinion – give new impetus”

Forming part of the “Statistical Quality Offensive”, the staff survey at the Federal Statistical Office is an instrument of leadership and steering. It helps to obtain people results (e.g. the employees’ perceptions of their own organisation) as one of the criteria of the EFQM model (see article on Statistical Quality Offensive) and to improve them over time. Furthermore, the staff survey is a tool of human resources development at the Federal Statistical Office and has the objective of measuring the degree of our employees’ satisfaction, of identifying potentials for improvement and of determining starting points for appropriate measures which will also increase efficiency.

Following the staff surveys in 2005 and 2007, the Office’s employees were again invited to participate in a staff survey in February 2009. 69% of them used the occasion to express their opinion online and to give new impetus. The survey covered aspects of everyday work (such as workplace conditions, chances of personal development or conduct of superiors).

The results were analysed by divisions and departments as well as for the Office as a whole. The evaluation reports available helped not only to assess the current situation but also to monitor changes over time. As compared with 2005 and 2007, many of the topics addressed by the staff survey showed a positive development or a consistently high level. Nevertheless, the survey also drew attention to critical issues.

To help with the interpretation of the results, brief seminars for our employees, the staff representatives and the executive staff were held in Wiesbaden, Bonn and Berlin soon after the release of the evaluation reports. These seminars focused on presenting the results on the central topics and on giving general guidance on how to deal with results relating to one’s own work environment. The brief seminars attracted lively interest from people across all the target groups and gave rise to valuable discussions on topics where potentials for improvement had been identified.

Suggestions for possible actions were passed on in compact form to the heads of the Office, who will specify follow-up measures in consultation with the departments.

“Business Cycle Monitor team” receives the 2009 Innovation Award

In 2009, the jury consisting of members of the Statistical Advisory Committee granted the Innovation Award of the Federal Statistical Office to the Business Cycle Monitor team for their work on “The business cycle monitor. An interactive application on the homepage of the Federal Statistical Office”. Together with the jury members, President

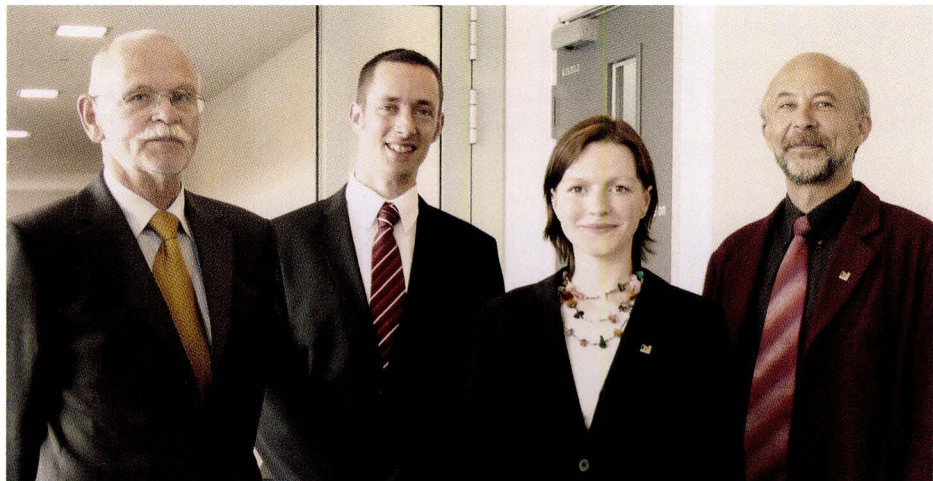


Innovation Award 2009

The Innovation Award 2009 was presented at the meeting of the Statistical Advisory Committee on 16 June.

From left to right

The team who developed the interactive business cycle monitor: Dr. Norbert Herbel, Jörg Keseberg, Tanja Raschke, Jürgen Kiekenbeck



Roderich Egeler handed over the award on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Statistical Advisory Committee in June 2009.

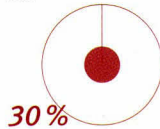
Every two years, the Federal Statistical Office confers the Innovation Award to staff members who have developed an outstanding product and put it into operation.

The business cycle monitor visualises the development of selected short-term indicators in a quadrant system. It enables users to examine the business cycle and its determining factors in an interactive and user-friendly way. An appealing animated graph shows which phase one or more indicators are currently in. The business cycle monitor is a genuine asset in the visualisation of statistical results. The monitor can be maintained and updated in an efficient way through the use of existing databases, and the seamless data transfer ensures that correct values are shown.

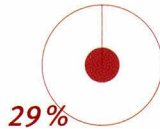
The equal opportunities plan for 2008 to 2011

Women with under-age children at the Federal Statistical Office in 2009

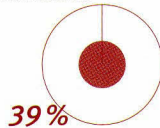
Higher service



Higher intermediate service



Ordinary/intermediate service



The aim of the Federal Equal Opportunities Act, which entered into force in December 2001, is to significantly advance equal opportunities for women and men within the federal public service. Likewise, it improves and sets out in greater detail the provisions contained in the former Law on the Promotion of Women. Hence, the Federal Equal Opportunities Act stipulates that equally qualified women should be given preference where appropriate and that the proportion of women should remain constant when jobs are cut. Where not precluded by operational requirements, flexible working times and other framework conditions are aimed at improving the compatibility of family and career for women and men. All the legal provisions take account of the specific needs of women who have a disability or are at risk of disability.

On the basis of the Federal Equal Opportunities Act, the Federal Statistical Office set up its first equal opportunities plan for the years 2004 to 2007. The goals formulated in this plan were reached, with almost no exceptions.

As its predecessor, the second equal opportunities plan for 2008 to 2011 has the objective of actually implementing the aims laid out in the Federal Equal Opportunities Act within the Office. This does not affect any other prohibitions of discrimination or principles of equal treatment. For the years 2010 and 2011, the equal opportunities plan was reviewed and attuned to current developments.

The equal opportunities plan evaluates the situation of women in the Federal Statistical Office, highlights disparities in the professional advancement of men and women, and gives guidance on how to eliminate them.

The equal opportunities plan is a key instrument of the Federal Statistical Office's human resources and organisational development, which is aimed at promoting gender equality.

Introduction of an electronic office ID card

The electronic office ID card is a forgery-proof identity card in chip card format with a standardised layout for all federal agencies. At the Federal Statistical Office, this ID card replaces the service identity card made of paper and the former internal identification card which was used for time recording and entry into the Office. Following the installation of electronic lock cylinders, the new ID card can also be used as authorisation to open specific doors or gain access to office, meeting or technical rooms.

The introduction of the new electronic office ID card was legally based on the General Administrative Rule concerning the Electronic Office ID Card of 15 April 2008, which, however, does not yet provide for a compulsory introduction.

The installation of new time recording and access terminals made it necessary to replace all the existing internal identification cards. During an extended “photo shooting session”, biometric photos were taken of all Office employees in Wiesbaden, Bonn and Berlin and forwarded to the Bundesdruckerei, the German Government printer in Berlin, for processing.

No use is currently being made of the card’s optional electronic signature function.



At the terminal

In the spring of 2009, the Federal Statistical Office was one of the first authorities within the sphere of responsibility of the Federal Ministry of the Interior to introduce an electronic office ID card.



Restoration of main office building completed

In the spring of 2009, the first stage of the overall restoration was completed. After a construction period of three and a half years involving more than 100 building companies to whom 136 building contracts were awarded, the main office building on Gustav Stresemann Ring in Wiesbaden was returned to the Federal Statistical Office by the construction management agency on 16 April 2009.

Within the next six weeks, 1,313 staff members moved back to their workplaces in the modern office building. This also meant moving about 1,500 PC workstations and more than 1,000 telephone sets. It was a tremendous logistic achievement by all parties involved.

FIGURES, FIGURES, FIGURES

Sprinkler heads	8,623 pieces
Capacity of the water storage tank for the sprinkler system	250,000 litres
Height of main office building	about 50 metres
Length of carpet baseboards installed	17,250 metres
Glass panes for the glass dividing walls	1,796 pieces
Sanitary fixtures installed	240 pieces
PCB-containing demolition waste	4,320 tonnes
Length of power cables laid	630 kilometres
Total length of the new bored piles	2,500 metres
Area of removed wall cladding	5,230 square metres
Filling below the hollow ground plate	30 cubic metres of concrete
Additionally used steel	1,025 tonnes
Number of windows	1,070 window elements and 964 glass balustrade elements
Carpet area	19,980 square metres
Costs incurred during the first reconstruction stage	about EUR 46 million
Sleepless nights of the Restoration Project Group	countless

During the second stage, the adjoining structures of the main office building in Wiesbaden will be restored. Following a thorough evaluation of the existing structures, the precise extent of the restoration work required has now been determined. At present, the restoration of the adjoining buildings is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2012.

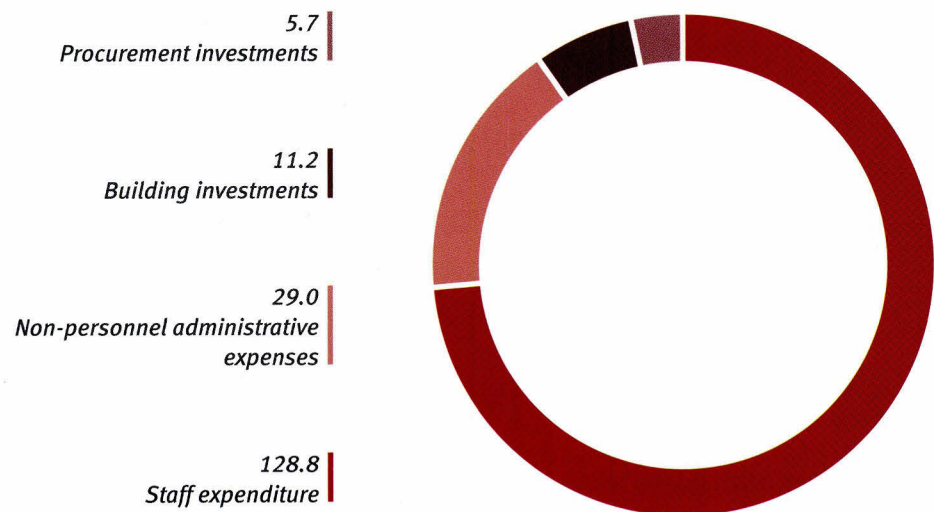
The budget of the Federal Statistical Office in 2009

The budget estimate (target budget) of the Federal Statistical Office amounted to EUR 174.7 million in 2009. Hence, the budget estimate was about EUR 15 million higher than a year earlier, which was mainly due to collectively agreed pay increases and the higher remuneration for public officials (about EUR 9.7 million) as well as the new integrated real estate management (some EUR 5.2 million).

As in the preceding years, politically determined savings requirements led to significant reductions in the target budget. A total of EUR 9.2 million had to be saved, which reduced the target budget available to about EUR 165.5 million.

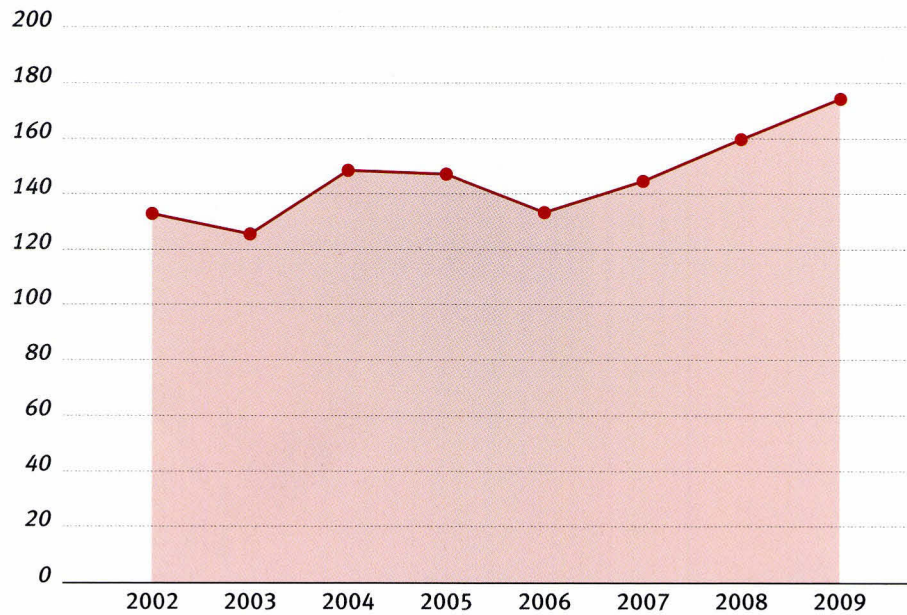
Producing and disseminating statistics still are labour intensive tasks in spite of the increased use of information technology. That is why staff expenditure, by tradition, is the largest spending block of the Federal Statistical Office.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES OF THE FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE IN 2009, IN EUR MILLION



In 2009, the staff sector accounted for 74 % of the estimated expenses. Considerably smaller percentages of the budget were allocated to non-personnel administrative expenditure (17 %) and to building and procurement investments (9 % combined).

ESTIMATED BUDGET OF THE FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE, IN EUR MILLION



The Senior Management of the Federal Statistical Office



RODERICH EGELER
President and Federal Returning Officer



JÜRGEN CHLUMSKY
Administration, Standard Cost Model



SIBYLLE VON OPPELN-BRONIKOWSKI
Strategy and Planning, International Relations,
Research and Communication

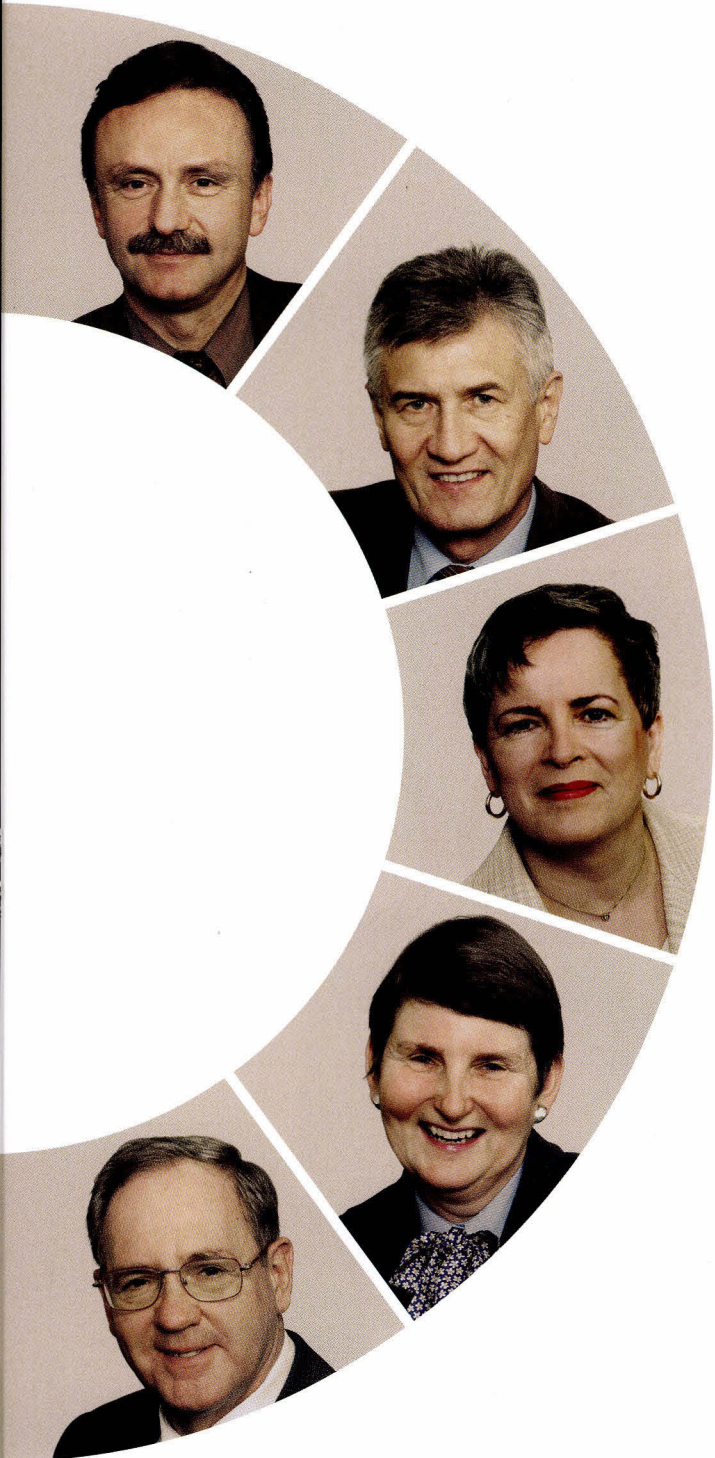


DIETER SARREITHER
Information Technology, Mathematical-Statistical Methods



WOLFGANG STROHM
National Accounts, Labour Market, Prices





PETER WEIGL

Vice-President and Deputy Federal Returning Officer



DR. ROLAND GNOSS

Business Register, Earnings, Industry, Services



DR. SABINE BECHTOLD

Census, Population, Finance and Taxes



HANNELORE PÖSCHL

Agriculture, Environment, Foreign Trade
Head of Bonn Branch Office

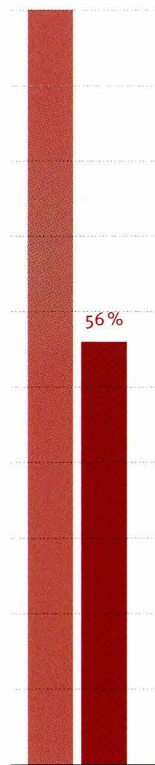


KARL MÜLLER

Health, Social Statistics, Education, Households

The Federal Statistical Office at a glance

Percentage of women in
the Office's staff

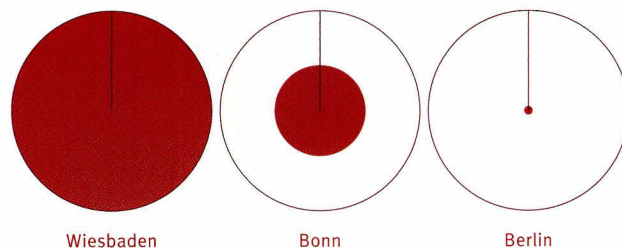
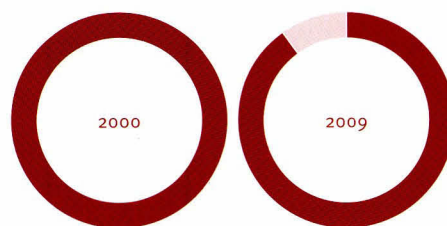


About us

OUR MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

- › We are about 2.700 statisticians, 56 % of whom are women.
- › We increase efficiency: We have coped with increased functions in spite of a reduction in staff numbers by nearly 10 % since 2000.
- › We have offices in Wiesbaden (head office), Bonn (branch office) and Berlin (Berlin Information Point).
- › Providing job-oriented training to our staff is part and parcel of our human resources development.

Increase in efficiency





Tasks

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.
- › Empirical scientists in Germany have 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.
- › We provide advice and support to respondents and users of official statistics.
- › We undertake methodological research, policy counselling and data analyses.

→ www.destatis.de

Basis

OUR FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS

- › 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.
- › In 2009, about EUR 165.5 million were allocated in the Federal budget to the Federal Statistical Office.

Imprint

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