

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



2411

Imprint

Published by Federal Statistical Office, Wiesbaden

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Layout KonzeptQuartier® GmbH, Fürth Barbara Both, Federal Statistical Office

Published in June 2011

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(06.2411)

Dear reader,

The first Annual Report of the Federal Statistical Office was published seven years ago. Along with the wide variety of tasks of the Office, the Report grew in size each year and became increasingly centred on specialised subjects.

This edition of the Annual Report marks a new start. Its focus is not on our figures and results, which we disseminate in other publications, but the Report aims to give you a look "behind the scenes". The projects it describes were of particular significance for the work we did last year.

Another important section of the Report is dedicated to our customers. How do the business, scientific and political communities use our results? We managed to secure interviews with Dr. Kristina Schröder, the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, and Prof. Jutta Allmendinger, President of the Social Science Research Center Berlin. Both of them give us fascinating insights into the topics that are relevant to their future work and the political and scientific goals they pursue. Apart from that,

they provide us with valuable feedback as users of our data.

The quality of our figures and results is due to the efficiency and professional competence of our staff. This is good reason why they pose for the Annual Report and shape its appearance.

We also hope to provide interesting reading to those without specialist knowledge in statistics. We will be keen to receive feedback from them.

I would like to thank everybody who helped to redesign the Annual Report successfully and who contributed their ideas.

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President of the Federal Statistical Office











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Vision

The Federal Statistical Office is the leading provider of official statistical information in Germany.

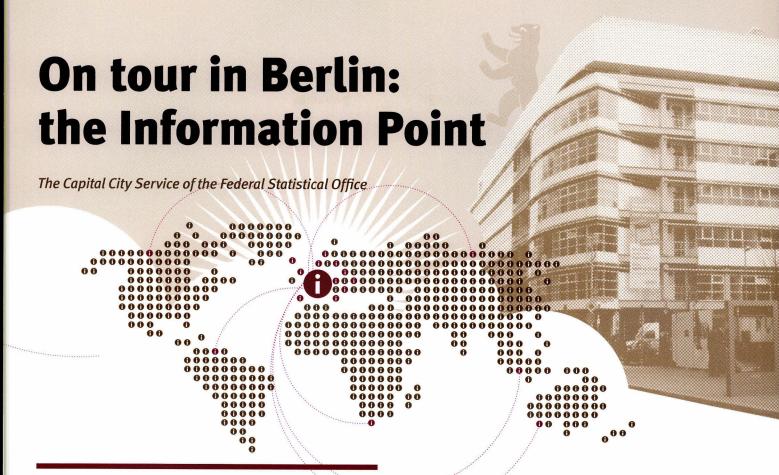
We provide the statistical information required for the development of an informed opinion in a democratic society and the decision making processes in a free market system while ensuring neutrality, objectivity and scientific independence of our work and data confidentiality regarding the micro data placed at our disposal.

Our efficiency is based on the innovative power, competence and customer focus of our staff.

As an employer, the Federal Statistical Office addresses social concerns such as the reconciliation of work and family life through flexible working time models and part-time solutions.

The Federal Statistical Office 2010 in figures

Total number of staff: 2,689	Percentage of staff below the age of 40: 29	
Staff members in	Percentage of staff above the age of 50: 40	
Wiesbaden: 1,991		
Bonn: 675 Berlin: 23	Percentage of staff holding a university degree: 19	
Staff working part-time: 570	Average number of training days per staff member: 2.8	
Percentage of staff employed under collective agreements: 71	Estimated budget funds, in millions of Euros: 177.7	
Percentage of public officials: 25	Percentage share of the budget funds in the overall budget of the	
Percentage of apprentices: 4	Federal Ministry of the Interior: 3.3	
Percentage of women among the staff: 56		
Percentage of women among the executives: 33		



"Friedrichstrasse, City Centre underground station" – the directions to the Information Point imply that the Federal Statistical Office is very close to important key customers in the German capital with its contact and information centre in Berlin. Among them are the German Bundestag, the federal ministries, embassies, associations, scientific and research institutions. 1,000 enquiries about German, European and international statistics are made to the Information Point every month. For their research, members of the German Bundestag make intensive use of the Federal Statistical Office's Service Unit in the Bundestag. In 2010, the Service Unit also prepared 20 contributions on topics dealt with during the parliamentary weeks.

In 2010 there were a number of events which made the interested customers in the capital familiar with the range of services provided by official statistics. After press conferences on the gross domestic product or the sample survey of income and expenditure, several "background briefings" took place at the Berlin Information Point. In 2010 it also held other informative events for the parliamentary group of the CDU/CSU in the Bundestag and for the German Members of the EU Parliament in Brussels.

Foreign trade data are sought after especially by the Federal Foreign Office. The Federal Statistical Office always has an information

booth at the Ambassadors Conference. The annual open day of the Federal Government is an occasion to present the Federal Statistical Office. The most important topic in 2010 was the Census, which was also the subject of a panel discussion.

On 20 October 2010 the first World Statistics Day was celebrated at the initiative of the United Nations. On that occasion the Information Point organised a symposium in Berlin. Representatives of the Federal Statistical Office, the Federal Chancellery, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Eurostat and business associations accepted the invitation and discussed the following question: "What is the impact of policies, how relevant are statistics?"

There was another highlight in 2010. The European Data Service (EDS) at the Berlin Information Point won a user support contract from Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union) which had for the first time been based on a public invitation to tender. This means that the EDS will continue to provide its support services on behalf of Eurostat for a period of four years with full funding. Such services are available free of charge to German-speaking users in their search for European statistical information.

Crisis, upswing, 2011 Census

In 2010 the press work of Destatis focused on the trend of business activity and on the start of the 2011 Census.

In the first months of the year, terms like "slump", "massive decline" or "marked decrease" prevailed in press releases on topics of business statistics. In the course of the year, words with more positive connotations began to be used. Germany has found its way out of the crisis at an astonishing pace — this we could prove with our figures. Be it data on the gross domestic product, the labour market or the development of turnover in various economic sectors, especially press releases on the business development itself were in high demand.

The media's interest in the 2011 Census increased notably in the course of the year. In August the actual press and public relations work on the Census started when the new Internet portal www.zensus2011.de went live and background briefings took place in several cities. Important media such as "Die Zeit", "Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung" or "Financial Times Germany" published lengthy articles on the procedure of the forthcoming Census and on the societal discussion of the subject.

January

Bad news in nice surroundings. For the first time after the renovation, the press conference on the gross domestic product took place again in the Gerhard Fürst Hall of the main building. President Egeler had to announce that there was the deepest recession of post-war times, with the gross domestic product having fallen 5% in 2009 against 2008.

February

Still bad news from the economy. In December 2009, turnover in manufacturing was 6.0% below the level of one year earlier. Especially the manufacture of machinery and equipment was badly shaken. Turnover in that branch fell 23.7% against the preceding year.

March

Is Germany a high-wage country in a European comparison? The Federal Statistical Office informed in a press release that employers of the German private economy had paid an average Euro 30.90 per hour worked in 2009. Accordingly, German labour costs were ranking eighth in Europe. Denmark recorded the highest and Bulgaria the lowest value in all of Europe.



Federal Statistical Office, Annual Report 2010

April

How much is Germany willing to pay for good health? In a press release published on the occasion of the World Health Day, total expenditure on health in 2008 was put at more than Euro 263 billion or 10.5% of the gross domestic product.

May

The German economy is gathering momentum again. This is shown for instance by foreign trade figures. German exports in March 2010 were more than 23 % higher than in March one year earlier. On the basis of provisional figures, an increase of exports amounting to well above 11% was announced for the first quarter of 2010.

June

All of Germany is more than ready for kick-off. And even though the Federal Statistical Office announced at the beginning of the soccer World Cup in an often quoted figure of the week press release that we did not have any chance at all against Brazil because when it came to playing football, the number of men in their prime was 25.5 million compared with 7.5 million in favour of Brazil - Germany in the end fared better than the record World Cup champion.

July

This year's microcensus press conference centred on the situation of single mothers and fathers. One family out of five in Germany was a single parent family, with the trend continuing upwards, while in the eastern part of Germany that share was markedly higher. Following the press conference, President Egeler had to cope with an interview marathon. Six TV stations asked for information on the economic situation of lone parents.

Frankfurt - Hamburg - Berlin - Munich - Leipzig -Cologne - Berlin. These were the locations where background briefings for journalists took place on the 2011 Census. At the time the new internet portal www.zensus2011.de went live, experts from the Federation and the Länder informed some 130 journalists in detail about the benefits of and the need for a census, its methodology and schedule, in how far the citizens will be involved in the Census, data protection and data security and the costs of the Census. The journalists, but also critics of the Census, used the opportunity to ask insistent questions and dig deeper. The open dialogue, which is an important principle of our census communication, has stood the practical test.

September

"Twenty Years of German Unity - Wishful Thinking or Reality?" At a press conference in Berlin, President Egeler presented not only the Statistical Yearbook 2010 but also a brochure published on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of German Unification. Here the Federal Statistical Office takes stock of the process of convergence between the eastern and the western parts of Germany, stating what they meanwhile have in common but also what differences persist.

October

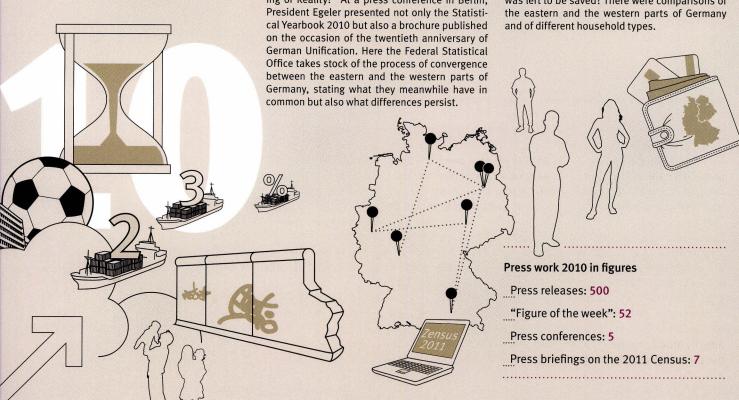
Good news from the labour market. In September 2010 the number of persons in employment rose to some 40.7 million, that is 0.9% more than in the year before. The positive trend of the last few months continued.

November

Sustainable raw materials management was the central topic of a press conference on environmental-economic accounting held together with the Federal Environment Agency. At first glance, Germany seems to be on the right track: from 2000 to 2008 the German economy's need for raw materials fell by 39 million tonnes. A research project, however, revealed the following: if the raw materials consumed abroad to produce German import goods are taken into consideration, the result is an increase by 134 million tonnes. That is quite disillusioning in view of the global responsibility for raw materials consumption.

December

Under the heading "Where does my money go?" Destatis presented major results of the 2008 Sample Survey of Income and Expenditure at a press conference in Berlin. What was the average household income and from what sources did it come? How much do households have to pay in taxes and social security contributions? What did households spend their money on and how much was left to be saved? There were comparisons of





www.destatis.de

Six million page hits per month

The internet is the main source of statistical information. The access to, the handling and the presentation of statistics and applications are of paramount importance. Experts, scientists and all others interested in statistics count upon good-quality and useful results. Decision-makers from politics and business often need their data quickly and well-presented in a visual form.

Under the motto "you are just a few clicks away from the results", new tools and functionalities are being tested and our website is being improved continuously. Six million page hits per month - a million more per month than in 2009 – are an incentive for us to present an orderly house to visitors.

For instance, the presentation of the website content in two languages has been extended continuously, and European and international statistics are attracting increasing interest. The Federal Statistical Office is now offering such statistics as a separate topic. Press releases are directly linked with the relevant statistics in the GENESIS-Online database, so benchmark data and more detailed tables can be related as rapidly as possible. Indicators quickly give an overview of developments in business and the economy.

The price kaleidoscope provides information on price trends and the weights of various product groups in the consumer price index. There is an interactive procedure to determine how individual products influence the index.

Our STATmagazin, the web magazine of the Federal Statistical Office, has also become a fixed part of the website. In a brief and concise form, the magazine supplies not only statistical information and charts but also background knowledge on the various topics. Just have a look, it's worth it.

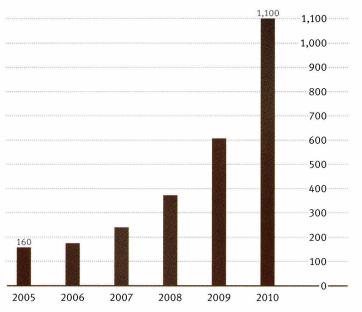
Online services

Online databases at www.destatis.de

2010: GENESIS-Online breaks the one million mark

If you want to search for data yourself and compile your own tables, you had better go straight to GENESIS-Online, the internet database of the Federal Statistical Office. The range of topics covered by the database is being extended continuously as new data are included. At the end of 2010, 184 sets of statistics were available which contained a total of 200 million values. The marked rise in the number of hits shows that the service is becoming increasingly popular with users. A new all-time high was reached in 2010 with 1.1 million tables having been accessed. User interest still focuses on the results of price statistics, first of all the "consumer price index for Germany" and the "index of producer prices for industrial products". Figures on the development of foreign trade, population data and the results of national accounts of the Federation are also in high demand. New functionalities and improvements make it ever easier for users to find their way around the wealth of information. A new cartographic component can now be used with regional tables which enables the generation of various maps using an interactive procedure. https://www-genesis.destatis.de

Tables accessed in GENESIS-Online per year in thousands



New database of agreed earnings has a successful start

The agreed earnings database of the Federal Statistical Office went live in September 2010. Here users may retrieve information on agreed earnings of individual branches and regions and on important collectively agreed provisions. Access to the database is granted also to enterprises and local units obliged to provide information and to the statistical offices of the individual Länder, which are now in a position to call up the data required for the survey of earnings without much delay. In the run-up to collective bargaining, the social partners and the public have relevant information on collective agreements at their disposal. The agreed earnings database is an essential basis for improving the statistics of agreed earnings: for the first time, analyses are made which are relevant for collective bargaining policy, for instance of low wages by branches or of clauses permitting derogation from collective agreements.

What does bureaucracy cost? WebSKM has the answers

WebSKM – the largest and most comprehensive online database for bureaucracy costs in Germany. On behalf of the Federal Government, the extent of bureaucratic burdens caused by the obligation to provide information has been determined for business and citizens since 2007. An internationally acknowledged method for calculating these figures is the standard cost model. The aim is a lasting reduction of bureaucracy costs, the basic data are provided by WebSKM. Statutory information obligations, laws and costs can be investigated without much effort. In 2006 the costs due to information obligations in Germany amounted to some Euro 50 billion, until 2011 they shall be reduced by 25%. Until 2010, an annual Euro 6.7 billion was saved by simplification measures. Which bureaucratic requirements have changed in the course of time — such information is provided by WebSKM. www.destatis.de/webskm

Improved information supply: health data of the Federation

How good is our health? That big issue touches upon nearly all spheres of social life. Whether it is rising life expectancy, medical care or the health status of the population: Health Monitoring of the Federation offers the most comprehensive systematic compilation of statistical data for the health system in Germany on its website. Over two billion data from the health system are available to users from 120 data sources. More than 600,000 tables were called up in 2010; the number of web page hits has doubled since 2009. Users surveyed stated that the timeliness, extent and completeness of the information have improved since 2006. 88% would recommend the website to others. www.gbe-bund.de

Services offered to the scientific and research community

The Federal Statistical Office co-operated successfully with scientific institutions also in 2010. As in every year, there was a multitude of bilateral contacts with the research community in the individual fields of statistics.

In co-operation with the German Statistical Society, the Federal Statistical Office organised the Scientific Colloquium, which is a platform for the dialogue between the bodies of official statistics and user groups from science, business, politics, administration and associations. The subject selected in 2010 was "Welfare measurement — Contributions of the scientific community and official statistics on the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report", which played an important part in the scientific and political discussions of 2010 (see p. 24).

In the course of time, the research data centres of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder have made almost all the information potential contained in the microdata of official statistics accessible to the scientific community. Consequently, there is an efficient infrastructure at national level, which is well received by scientists working empirically. To account for the permanently changing demands of the scientific community, the research data centres have developed further the services they offer and have improved the access to sensitive microdata. The methodological prerequisites are being created so that complex data requirements can also be satisfied by linking individual data material with data files that have a higher potential for analysis. In the international sphere, the research data centres basically work on two large subject areas. The standardised provision of European Community statistics is to lastingly improve the access of German scientists to European microdata. The second large subject area comprises the further development of the legal bases, non-disclosure principles and specific data access.

It has been agreed with the representatives of social science, market and opinion research that the joint series of events which has been organised for years will be continued in 2011 with a scientific colloquium on the importance of survey research and statistics for decision-makers in politics and business.

Research topics of 2010

- Migration
- Labour market for engineers
- Fertility decisions
- Advancement of home ownership through savings premiums
- Unemployment
- Investments for environmental protection
- Depressions and phobias
- Reform of inheritance tax
- Returns to education
- Regional mortality

Basis: Microdata analyses of the research data centre www.forschungsdatenzentrum.de





Twenty Years of German Unity - Wishful Thinking or Reality

How about German Unity 20 years after the Unification Treaty? In what areas do the eastern and western parts converge — and where don't they (yet)? On the occasion of the Unity's anniversary, the brochure provides specific data on the current living and working conditions and their development in the eastern and western parts. The process of German Unification is illustrated by means of figures and informative graphs. 1)

Quality of Work - Earning Money and What Else Counts

From the viewpoint of persons in employment, there are many aspects to the quality of work. Does the job involve health risks? Does the work allow a fair balance between job and private life? Do colleagues co-operate well? The brochure presents results and developments from the mid-nineties. 2)

Institutions of Higher Education at a Glance, 2010 Edition

Since 2006, the brochure has offered facts on the structures and current developments in the German higher education sector on a regular basis. In what areas of study are courses most often complet-

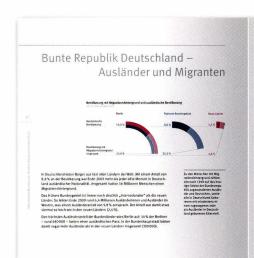
ed successfully? What locations are the most attractive for new entrants and for students from other parts of Germany or abroad? 3)

Women and Men in Various Phases of Life

Good education and training is as normal for women these days as it is for men. There are, however, still areas of life where there are imbalances. Women with children more seldom have a job while the growing up of children in most instances does not influence the economic activity of fathers. How do women and men pay for a living in old age? 4)

Sustainable Development in Germany - Indicator Report 2010

How successful is the Federal Government's National Strategy for Sustainable Development? In what areas can the goals set by politics be attained and what areas fall short of expectations? The third indicator report of the Federal Statistical Office entitled "Sustainable Development in Germany" shows trends and the situation as it is for 35 selected sustainability indicators from the areas of environment, energy, business and quality of life. 5)

















Roderich Egeler, President of the Federal Statistical Office, presents the sustainability report to the Head of the Federal Chancellery, Ronald Pofalla.

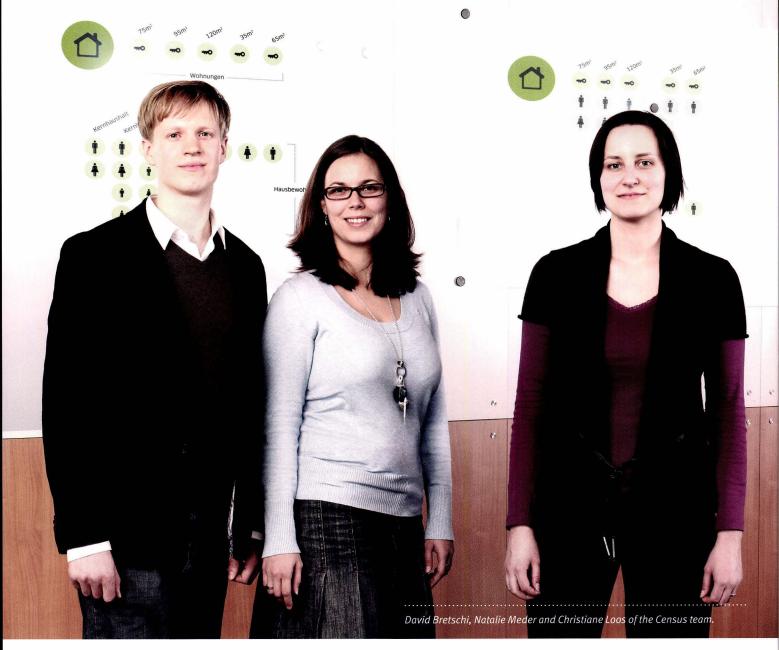


1 Die Jahre der Entwicklung

15

Being part of a bigger whole

Preparing the 2011 Census



There is a special atmosphere in the Census team. Many of its members who support the Census preparations at the Federal Statistical Office are young university graduates with a multi-disciplinary background. Three of them work in Project group 3 which focuses on the household survey and employment register. When the population was last counted in the Federal Republic of Germany they were still at Kindergarten age.

Preparations for the 2011 Census, the largest survey of official statistics in more than 20 years, are in full swing. The Census team works in eleven project groups at the federal and the Länder level. The project groups, each of which is responsible for a variety of tasks, are currently preparing themselves for the Census reference date of 9 May 2011. On that day, about ten percent of the population will fill in a Census questionnaire. The purpose of the register-based Census, which will be supplemented by a household survey, is to count the population. Over the past 20 years, its number has only been updated using intercensal population estimates, as they are called by statisticians. For this reason, many political decision-makers, scientific institutes and municipal planning authorities await the Census data with keen interest. As a result of having new population data in place, the quality of many statistics will have to be reviewed and political measures such as the financial equalisation system among the Länder be put on a new calculation basis.

Christiane Loos and her colleague David Bretschi are, among other things, responsible for a correct allocation of the respondents' occupations to the headings of the classification of occupations. The Census interviewers, as they are called, will have to ask the question about occupations in a way to get a precise answer so that afterwards the relevant information can be accurately coded and assigned. It would for instance not be sufficient to record "teacher" as an occupation because the total of 24,000 occupations include teachers of specific subjects such as aerobics or water sports, too. To make sure that data quality will be high, the details of all those processes must be carefully considered.

Also, foresight is required to anticipate the problems that might lie ahead: "The difficulties we do not realise today may cause a lot of additional work in the future", says David Bretschi. The colleagues in Nordrhein-Westfalen who are responsible for the associated IT matters are in close contact with Christiane Loos and David Bretschi. Developing a special IT tool for smooth data entry, they make sure that the relevant quality assurance measures are implemented. The young team members are highly motivated as they are aware that they can gain important experience in this large project. Christiane Loos, who worked in the area of communications consulting for two years, considers her Census work as a great challenge. David Bretschi, who joined the Census team directly after his studies, sees his activities as part of an absolutely fascinating pioneer work.

Questions about employment and occupations are an integral part of the Census questionnaire. The relevant data are referred to as structural information because society cannot be appropriately described without them. As regards the occurrence of a given occupation or range of occupations in the population, the Census is intended to provide the most precise results possible. As Joachim Schade from the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) puts it, the 2011 Census opens up completely new opportunities for labour market and occupational research. He is quite sure that quantitative occupational research, as it is called, will be given a new base point to start from at the national level. The Census results will provide more information on individual occupation items and, due to the Census sample size, the data will be more reliable. And thanks to the new Census

data, forecasts for instance regarding a future shortage of skilled healthcare staff can be continued on a sound basis.

So far registers, for instance of the Federal Employment Agency, have been used to identify what occupations people have in Germany. However, the Agency has only data on employees subject to social insurance and registered unemployed people. The Census provides the opportunity to get more information for instance about people who work on an hourly basis. Such information is indispensable to describe the work situation of lone mothers or people with a migration background.

To reach everybody, the Census questionnaires are translated into 13 languages from Arabic to Vietnamese. Natalie Meder first worked for the Office of the Census Commission and in the Census team responsible for what are called special facilities. This team is engaged in surveying people who live for instance in rest homes or in penal institutions. Now she is, among other things, responsible for co-ordinating the activities between questionnaire designers and translation services. Each questionnaire is translated in the foreign language concerned and afterwards retranslated by another translator. When all layout activities have been completed, the translations are checked again. Any mistakes that still might have crept in are corrected. In addition, Natalie Meder works closely together with the experts who have thoroughly tested the online questionnaire. However, not everything that would be desirable from a specialist point of view is technically feasible. Therefore, the common goal is to weigh up the options in place and find the best solution.

Census communication

Transparent and dialogue-based communication



How to design a communication campaign for a population census in which only part of the population will be directly interviewed, while data are gathered on all inhabitants? And how to communicate the new term for it: 2011 Census?

In terms of communication, the forthcoming Census is a challenge in several respects. Above all, it is a large-scale statistical project, a modern and register-based population census with a low response burden. At the same time, however, it is a politically important issue. This becomes clear when looking at the events in 1987 when the previous popu-

lation census was accompanied by heated controversies and boycott calls.

For the above reasons, providing the whole population with transparent and detailed information on the forthcoming Census at the earliest possible time is a matter of particular concern of Census communication. As a

matter of fact, the 1983 Population Census Judgment in itself forms the basis for the "obligation" to provide the entire population with appropriate information. The Federal Constitutional Court at that time expressed criticism that the need for giving reliable information to the respondents had not been recognised in due time (Federal Constitutional Court (BVerfGE) 65,1 [1]).

The statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder have readily accepted the obligation to provide information at all levels.

Census communication is targeted at a wide range of groups like the population as a whole,

the media, critics of the Census, scientists, interviewers, the total of about 17.5 million owners of houses and dwellings and 9.6 million respondents covered in the household survey, as well as regional units like rural districts and municipalities. We meet all these groups as equal partners and promote, wherever possible, open dialogue and discussions even of controversial issues. This applies to critics of the Census and the media in the same way as to the interested public at large. At the same time, we provide our target groups with tailor-made information that is presented in a modern and attractive way. The goal of all this is to explain the purpose and use of the 2011 Census in order to encourage acceptance of and participation in this important statistical survey.

The major nationwide Census campaign will be launched in April 2011, that is, shortly before the surveys and interviews will be conducted. But, of course, our activities started at an earlier time. In 2010, we made a great effort to promote the Census, thus creating the basis for maximum public awareness until the Census reference date of 9 May 2011. The core of Census communication is a joint interactive web portal of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder. It was opened in August 2010 and can be accessed at www.zensus2011.de. Here you can get information, make use of various interactive functions and, last but not least, complete and submit your questionnaire online. Everything is designed in a clear and modern form and characterised by good visualisation features.

Six guided audio-visual tours are offered to introduce users to the complex Census theme, while further interactive information elements are provided under the headings "Geschichte" and "Zensus Weltweit".

Our principle of communication, that is, ensuring a transparent dialogue on equal terms, has already been implemented in many components of the interactive portal. Thus, for instance, critical comments on the Census are published under the heading "Das Sagen

Andere". So it is up to everyone to form their own opinion on the Census. Topical issues and associated comments by the statistical offices are covered under "Im Gepräch". A contact form has been designed to provide users with prompt and highly competent answers to their questions. Thanks to an integrated search function, users often even receive an answer while still writing down their question.

Furthermore, the site has a press area for journalists. In addition to image material and press conference documents, it provides a press blog with topical information and dates regarding the Census.

Of course, the internet is not the only source of information. We have used various tools to "make the media fit for the challenges of the Census". In August, workshops were organised for media representatives in Frankfurt, Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Leipzig and Cologne to give them an insight into the complex topic. Although the initial goal was only to provide background information, almost all national newspapers reported extensively on the Census methodology after the workshops. Representatives of the Census Working Group, a Data Retention Working Group's initiative against the 2011 Census, attended several meetings where they engaged in a critical public discussion about the Census with representatives of official statistical bodies.

Of course, a special challenge in 2010 was the preparatory survey for the census of buildings and housing. This was, so to speak, the crucial test as a lot of respondents came into contact with Census matters for the first time. To provide the population and in particular the owners of houses and dwellings with appropriate information on the preparatory survey, 2011 Census adverts were placed in many regional and national newspapers in addition to the information given on the internet.

As practical experience has shown, we are well on the way towards the Census reference date of 9 May 2011.



The face of the 2011 Census is Dr. Sabine Bechtold, Head of the Population Statistics Department and Chairwoman of the 2011 Census Project Management. This joint body of representatives of the Federation and the Länder guides the activities of the different project groups which address methodological, technical and operational Census issues.

As she sees it, holding particular responsibility in the context of the 2011 Census is a very exciting challenge. Changing over from the traditional population census to a new Census model has significantly increased the project co-ordination requirements. Data have to be collected from different sources and be matched subsequently. All this cannot be done by a single office. The different types of Census data are therefore processed in several places.

The preparations for the largest project of official statistics require great attention to detail. Also, co-ordination of the whole Census is based on the co-operation between all actors involved in the German federal system. The latter include the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder, politically responsible institutions, scientific bodies and project partners.

Even though all parties involved have the common goal of making the 2011 Census a success, keeping everything together so that this target can be achieved remains a challenge.

Dr. Kristina Schröder in interview

Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Minister, as rapporteur on statistics in the Committee on Internal Affairs of the Bundestag and as its member for the constituency of Wiesbaden, you were in regular exchange with the Federal Statistical Office. Since 2009 you have been Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. How do you see the Federal Statistical Office from that perspective?

In many spheres the Ministry for Family Affairs relies on data from the Federal Statistical Office, for instance on microcensus results. This was already very interesting to me when I was a just a member of the Bundestag - and I made sure, for example, that the microcensus covers the number of children born to a woman. As a consequence, the fertility behaviour can be examined more closely. There was a long struggle in various bodies as to whether that question should be included. The results published by the Federal Statistical Office are of course also very interesting to me as a sociol-ogist. I believe that what we have here is a very well positioned and efficient public authority that is the envy of many.

"Without any robust figures at hand we are in fact 'flying blind' in many areas and that may cost us more dearly than compiling sound statistics."

When I was but a member of the Bundestag I therefore criticised reservations like: "Statistics? – There are too many of them anyway." Without any robust figures at hand we are in fact "flying blind" in many areas and that may cost us more dearly than compiling sound statistics.

From your viewpoint as a Minister, what are the topics that will be relevant for society in the next few years?

To me the issue of time is very important — as a new key currency of modern family policy. In the last few years, the focus rightly was on infrastructure and the monetary aspects of family policy. The compatibility of work and family life first and foremost

is a question of time - after all, both partners are working in an increasing number of cases. That makes it difficult to organise the time the partners have for each other and the time they spend with the children. There is no doubt that time is the crucial factor deciding on whether family life may be a success. Therefore everything the Federal Statistical Office does in the field of time budgets is most interesting. The other big issue is the ageing society. There are 2.4 million people needing long-term care in Germany today. How many of the people providing long-term care to relatives have a job, too, and how many hours do they work? We need reliable data here, too. We need information on the time used to attend to and





"Through increased life expectancy we have been given a new phase of life, which has to be represented in detail also by statistical information."

provide care for such people. With my Act on Family Care Time I want to give people the chance to provide long-term care to their relatives and stay in employment.

We have been entrusted by your Ministry with the preparation of a publication entitled "In the Spotlight: Elderly People", in which we comment data on living arrangements, economic activity, on the financial and health situations of the elderly. What aspects of old age are particularly important to you?

We must not link old age with long-term care and dementia only. Through increased life expectancy we have been given a new phase of life, which has to be represented in detail also by statistical information. Many old people have a good health and lead very active lives. With the federal volunteer service, which is open to women and men of any age, we wish to give older people the chance to contrib-

ute. And many elderly people want to do iust that!

Minister, in the Committee on Internal Affairs of the Bundestag you strongly supported the inclusion of questions on the migration background and on religious affiliation in the questionnaire of the 2011 Census household survey.

Here comes my favourite subject (laughs). I studied the subject in depth both as a member of the Bundestag and in connection with my doctor's degree. Our society cannot be understood completely without considering the two aspects of religious affiliation and migration background. We covered religion in earlier censuses, and this is why I felt that the question needed to be included in the 2011 Census, too. Unfortunately, only adherence to the Christian faith is covered by an obligatory question, while adherence to the religion of Islam is indicated on a voluntary basis.

From the methodological viewpoint that is quite a pity because the results do not compare well. More than three million Muslims live in Germany today. It is important to know the religious orientations of the population and to be able to present them together with other variables. As to the migration background, the census is breaking new ground. With regard to many basic questions of integration we are therefore walking on eggshells from a statistical perspective.

A major concern of this Office is to inform about the forthcoming Census in a transparent manner in order to increase acceptance and the readiness to participate. A focus of census communication is on the internet portal. How is the Census perceived by decision-makers in the sphere of politics?

I myself have used the Census webpage intensively. Speaking from my own experience I can therefore say that the page is very informative and instructive. When one talks with the colleagues also in the Bundestag, all are convinced that we urgently need a new Census. Our population data are based on estimates of 1987 in the

western part and of 1981 in the eastern part of Germany. We know fairly well how many heads of cattle there are in Germany but not how many people. This is why we cannot even say, for instance, if the fiscal equalization among the Länder is actually correct in its present form. This means we badly need the results of the 2011 Census in many areas. It is somewhat bizarre that we have only updated the population data for a period of 20 years, even though that surely requires great statistical skills. I do hope I will be in the sample of the household survey and be interviewed, that would really be fun. I have already filled in a questionnaire for the preliminary survey of the census of buildings and housing.

At this Office we are considering using social networks for public relations work. Dr. Schröder, you are very active in social networks on the internet. You twitter regularly and are on Facebook. What do you hope to gain?

First of all it is fun and interesting to me. And of course it is exciting to reach more people directly this way, especially the younger ones. I had started to twitter because I wanted to present the entire range of work a member of the Bundestag has to do and increase transparency - starting with the work in the Committee of Inquiry through a visit to the Federal Statistical Office under complete restoration all the way to the reception of the voluntary fire brigade in Wiesbaden-Frauenstein. Via Twitter I can reach people who quite probably will come neither to my office hours for citizens nor to the harvest festival of the Countrywomen's Association of Wiesbaden-Bierstadt (which by the way is a very nice event!). It really is positive that above all the younger generation gets involved with social and political problems in the internet. That furthers political discussion which we need both online and offline!

You do not twitter as often as before ...

Yes, that is true. You are limited to 140 characters at Twitter. That means information

and opinions can be presented only in a very simplified manner. Unfortunately I have experienced that such announcements are often presented in the wrong context. It may be that I have become somewhat more cautious in my function as Minister.

How do you handle the feedback to your contributions?

I do read all feedback on Twitter myself and do not miss anything — so anyone can actually send a message to me personally. But of course I can answer only some of the questions, there is simply not enough time. I might have the answers twittered by somebody else but I do not want to. This is simply not what it was meant for.

As a sociologist familiar with empiricalmethods, you are used to statistics. Can you draw upon your specialised knowledge in your work as a Minister?

Yes, absolutely. Here in the Ministry my view on the data is entirely different. I look at statistical results also from methodological aspects. Some time ago I noticed, for instance, that the variable "children growing up with married parents" had wrongly been changed to "children growing up with their married parents" in a chart. That is a marked difference. I am also far from believing that a slight rise or fall of the birth rate already marks a trend. Of course I am watching this year's development with great interest and I am glad when the birth rate goes up. But if that really is a reversal of the trend can be said in five years time at the earliest.



Dr. Kristina Schröder has been Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth since November 2009. The sociologist, who holds a doctor's degree, has represented the constituency of Wiesbaden in the German Bundestag since 2002. As a politician specialising in statistics she was in regular exchange with the Federal Statistical Office on the microcensus and the 2011 Census in the past few years.



The interview was conducted by Heidrun Stirner and Ilka Willand.

"I had started to twitter because I wanted to present the entire range of work a member of the Bundestag has to do."





Man does not live by GDP alone

The gross domestic product is an indicator of well-being and social progress although it has never been intended to serve as the only measure of well-being in respect of quality of life, participation and sustainability. However, it was not until the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Report was published that a worldwide discussion started about this issue, which has had a strong impact on both national and international statistical reporting.



Ulrich Spörel, Dr. Susana García Díez and Albert Braakmann work in the area of GDP and welfare measurement at the Federal Statistical Office.

sion were Nobel Prize winners reflected its prominent role. Considering the extent of the assignment, the Commission had little time to deal with all matters concerned. The Commission met for the first time in April 2008, while it presented its final report of nearly 300 pages to the public in Paris not later than on 14 September 2009. The Commission formed separate working groups to work on the three chapters of the report.

In the first chapter of the report, which is entitled "Classical GDP Issues", the Commission discusses the concepts and methods of national accounting and, in particular, sums up the arguments used in the discussion about the limits of GDP as an indicator of well-being.

The second chapter is entitled "Quality of Life". It discusses ways of a multi-dimensional measurement of various aspects which the Commission considers important for people's quality of life. In detail, the following seven dimensions are taken into account: health, education, personal activities including work, political voice and governance, social connections and relationships, environment, insecurity of an economic as well as a physical nature.

The third and last chapter of the report is dedicated to sustainable development. On the one hand, the chapter focuses on natural resources and how they change over time and, on the other, it describes the current pressure on the environment. Exploiting natural resources without compensating for it reduces the development potentials for future generations. Thus it stands in contradiction to the principle of sustainability. Information (indicator sets) regarding dangerous levels of environmental damage such as associated with climate change or the depletion of fishing stocks are considered equally important.

As expected, the report of the SSF Commission has attracted considerable interest not only in France, but also at the international level. It is part of a comprehensive discussion that has gained momentum in the past few years. In November 2007, the European Commission, in co-operation with the European Parliament, Club of Rome, OECD and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) organised a Beyond GDP Conference. The goal of the Conference was to identify both the indicators which would be best suited for measuring progress and most appropriate ways of integrating them into the public discussion. Based on the results of the Conference, the EU Commission developed its initiative "GDP and beyond – measuring progress in a changing world" in August 2009.

The gross domestic product (GDP) is one of the most important economic quantities. As the relevant figures are informative and comparable at the international level, GDP has served as an indicator of well-being and progress in the past few decades. Recently, however, there has been a worldwide discussion about whether a one-sided focus on growth – traditionally GDP growth – would automatically lead to social progress and a better quality of life. Another question discussed in this context is sustainability and the extent to which the present generation generates economic growth at the expense of future generations, be it by the depletion of natural resources or rising government debt that will increasingly limit economic leeway in the future.

In February 2008, Nicolas Sarkozy, the French President, initiated a commission of outstanding international experts, the so-called Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission (SSF). The task of the Commission was to make recommendations as to how to improve the statistical measurement of a society's economic performance and social progress. The fact alone that five of the 25 members of the Commis-

The Europe 2020 Strategy presented by the EU Commission in 2010 is related to the above discussion, too. It specifies targets for the following five political areas which, owing to their clear statistical definition, can be well monitored over the period concerned: employment, research and development, energy and climate, education, and poverty reduction.

The SSF Commission's report has been followed by a number of most notable activities. Thus, the German-French Council of Ministers discussed the report at its meeting in February 2010. It commissioned the two councils of economic experts to prepare a joint expert report on the issue and examine the feasibility of implementing the given recommendations. The expert report was submitted to the two governments at the Council of Ministers meeting in December 2010.

The Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), too, has put the topic high on its agenda. A high-ranking sponsorship group headed by Walter Radermacher, Director General of Eurostat, and Jean-Philippe Cotis, Director-General of the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE), has been studying potential ways of implementing the recommendations of the SSF Commission in the European Statistical System. The actual subject-related discussions take place in four task forces. The latter are organised in line with the three subject areas of the SSF report, while the fourth group is engaged in cross-cutting issues. The Federal Statistical Office is represented in all four groups and also in the main group as such. First results of the relevant work are expected in summer 2011.

Even before the activities started at Eurostat, the Federal Statistical Office studied the SSF report to initially assess the feasibility of implementing the SSF Commission's recommendations in Germany. The assessment of the status quo showed that many statistical data, for instance, describing the quality of life were already in place.

As regards the German statistics, the data situation is very good in areas such as health, education and labour market statistics. The situation is similar with respect to environmental and sustainability data, two areas that are covered in environmental-economic accounting. Also, several proposals regarding economic indicators could be implemented just by modifying the form in which the results are currently presented.

However, the analysis also revealed "blank spots" in the German statistics. Some of them can be filled at least in the medium term

by changing or extending the existing survey programme. Others require new surveys or surveys that are not yet an integral part of the German statistical programme. An example is the German time use survey which was last conducted ten years ago. It could serve as a major source for describing activities not offered in the market. Activities that are not covered by GDP are for instance household activities, voluntary and community work, and unpaid long-term care services.

Setting up the Study Commission on Growth, Wellbeing and Quality of Life — Paths to Sustainable Economic Activity and Social Progress in the Social Market Economy in November 2010, the German Bundestag attached special importance to the issue. The assignment of the Commission is even more comprehensive. Its tasks include studying the chances and limits of decoupling growth from resource consumption and also addressing questions of a sustainability-oriented regulatory policy and exercising influence on consumption and different ways of life. An important goal is the development of an integrated indicator of well-being and progress. The Study Commission is expected to submit its report in the current legislative term which will end in about two and a half years. Thus measuring well-being in an appropriate and comprehensive manner is an issue the Federal Statistical Office will be involved in over a longer period of time.

Participants in a scientific colloquium on measuring well-being that took place in Wiesbaden on 11 and 12 November 2010.





Prof. Jutta Allmendinger in interview

President of the Social Science Research Center Berlin

Professor Allmendinger, you are the President of a large social science research centre and a Professor of Sociology at Humboldt University Berlin. What do you think will be the socially relevant topics in the coming years?

Yesterday's burning issues will be tomorrow's socially important topics. Take a look at the demographic trends: Are we prepared for a population that will on average be much older and have we carefully analysed the relationship between the generations? Have we built up a culture of social engagement and have we improved the long-term care situation? Are we prepared for the shrinking population? Did we set a good example in the past of how to integrate citizens from abroad so that foreigners are keen to move to Germany? Do we shape working conditions and working cultures in such a way that, in particular, well educated people are less likely to leave Germany in the future than they are today? Who takes care of the educationally deprived? Who takes them on as apprentices or employs them?

Today we know about the success of educational expansion, but we are also aware of the continuing deficiencies of the German educational system. Factors like social or

ethnic origin have a stronger influence on children's future opportunities in life in Germany than in comparable countries. Many questions of social justice will have to be resolved.

You have just published a book on the biographies of economically inactive women, in which you also use data from the Federal Statistical Office.

The gender issue, too, retains its relevance. 5.6 million women of working age are not in employment, most of them unwillingly. That is the subject of my book entitled "Verschenkte Potenziale? Lebensverläufe nicht erwerbstätiger Frauen", which has recently been published.

How do you assess the availability of data on the topics mentioned above? Are there areas that, in your opinion, are "underexposed" in terms of empirical data?

For many years, the field of education statistics was significantly underexposed, and to some extent still is. This is partly due to

the federal structures of responsibility. Another reason is that, because of legal requirements, official statistics focus on the quantitative and monetary input into the educational system and not so much on the really revealing output. Only the social and cognitive abilities acquired during the transition through education show whether a society is developing in the right direction and whether the citizens' living conditions are improving. The efforts of the OECD have given us important new insights. However, we are still lacking well-founded, empirical answers to many key questions concerning the transition through education. Nonetheless, I am optimistic that the National Educational Panel Study, the currently most comprehensive survey of German education and social research, will help us progress further. Nearly all stages of life that are of educational relevance are monitored in great detail and over a long time: from kindergarten via primary school all the way to in-company training, university education and advanced training. However, we will have to signifi-



"Unfortunately, the media tend to focus on the citizens' concerns rather than on the benefits of the Census."

cantly extend the sample of people with a migration background because they are the ones we are particularly interested in. Also, it is regrettable that, due to the sample size, the data cannot be evaluated separately for the Länder, all the more so because that comparison would be particularly interesting. On the whole, though, the availability of data for social sciences has improved considerably over the past decades.

In 2009, you received the Communicator Award of the German Research Foundation and the Donors' Association for communicating your research findings to the public with exceptional success. Why is it so important to you to disseminate your research findings to the general public?

An essential characteristic of modern, democratic societies is that the citizens are able to form their own opinion on the conditions and development of common welfare in their society. But we need robust figures and data for that purpose. Problem-oriented social research can and must provide them. Our questions concern the problems and opportunities of modern societies, and that

is exactly why the answers should be available for broad societal debate and not just to specialised research groups. Besides, the taxpayers, who fund our research, are entitled to know how we use their money.

Are data producers and scientists doing enough in this regard?

There is no doubt that much is being done. The creation of the German Data Forum and the improved accessibility of official statistical data via the Research Data Centres have been important milestones. But I think more can be done. In my view, the 2011 Census – the most important survey of official statistics in more than 20 years – has so far not been adequately communicated to the population. Unfortunately, the media tend to focus on the citizens' concerns rather than on the benefits of the Census.

What are your expectations on the results of the 2011 Census from a social research perspective?

Above all, I hope that it will be possible to collect the data successfully. Then we

will finally have official population figures again, which are absolutely essential to any administrative action and play a key role as the reference frame for all representative sample surveys in social research.

At present, the Research Center Berlin (WZB), the German Institute for Economic Research and the Federal Statistical Office are working on a new edition of the Data Report, which will be published in October 2011. For more than 25 years, the Data Report has described the living conditions in Germany using data and indicators from official statistics and social sciences. Now the topic is fashionable again: Expert commissions have pointed out that, in addition to economic indicators, social and environmental indicators should be used to measure social development. What is the importance of the Data Report in the light of the recommendations of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission?

In essence, the recommendations of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission are not new. Wolfgang Zapf, the former WZB President and one of the intellectual founders of

The Social Science Research Center Berlin



the Data Report, identified all aspects that are relevant to welfare beyond the GDP as early as in 1972. Now, the issue has been taken up (again) by economists and politicians. In November 2010, a cross-party motion was submitted to the German Bundestag to set up a Study Commission on "Growth, Wellbeing and Quality of Life -Paths to Sustainable Economic Activity and Social Progress in the Social Market Economy". In the middle of December 2010, a joint report entitled "Monitoring economic performance, quality of life and sustainability" was published by the French Conseil d'Analyse Économique and the German Council of Economic Experts upon request of the Franco-German Ministerial Council. The issue of measuring welfare is now on the political agenda, too. The supposedly new demands are not new at all but have been addressed by the Data Report in an empirically reliable manner for many years.

There are more and more overlaps between official statistics information and social research contributions in the Data Report. The reports on poverty are one example.

The Federal Government's Report on Poverty and Wealth draws on both data sources. Is it conceivable that contributions on such topics may in future be written in joint authorship in the Data Report?

The Data Report has come a long way. It was not until the redesigned edition of 2008 that the strict division of the Report into statistics and analysis was abandoned in favour of a more thematic structure. Social scientists use relevant data from official statistics for the contributions they write. Any barriers that might have existed have been broken down. I can see no compelling reason why contributions should not be written in joint authorship in the near future.



Prof. Jutta Allmendinger has been President of the Social Science Research Center Berlin since April 2007.

She is a Professor of Educational Sociology and Labour Market Research at Humboldt University Berlin and a member of several expert commissions that provide advice to the Federal Government on social security issues and on matters of innovation and research policy.

"The issue of measuring welfare is now on the political agenda, too. The supposedly new demands are not new at all but have been addressed by the Data Report in an empirically reliable manner for many years."

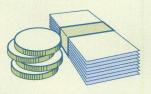
Policy advice

Three examples show where and how the results and data analyses of the Federal Statistical Office are incorporated into both political work and the opinion-forming process.



Sustainability as a target: Indicator Report 2010

In 2002, the German Federal Government adopted the National Sustainability Strategy. In 2010, the Indictor Report on Sustainable Development in Germany was submitted for the third time.



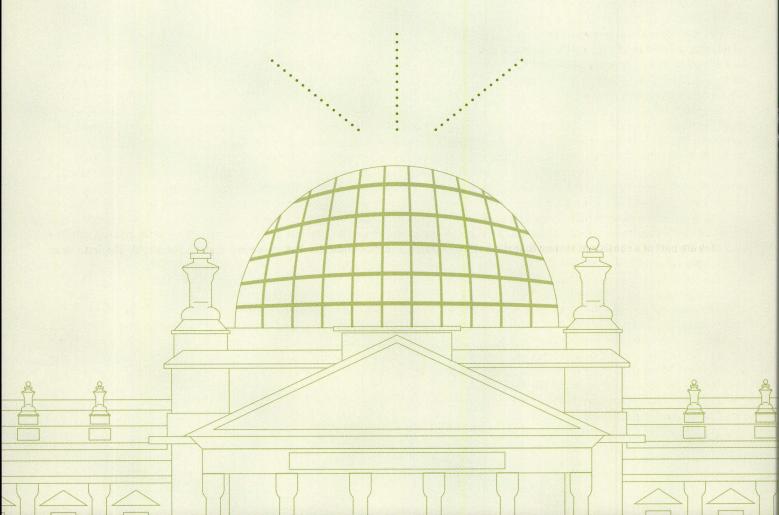
Working Party on Tax Revenue Forecasting

The group of experts meets twice a year to forecast Germany's tax revenue for the next few years. The Federal Statistical Office, too, is represented in the Working Party.



A close examination of the gender pay gap

Commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Federal Statistical Office examined the pay gap between women and men. The project has produced highly informative results.





Sustainability as a target: Indicator Report 2010

In 2002, the German Federal Government launched its National Strategy for Sustainable Development and established it as a guiding principle. Indicators were specified and quantitative targets set at the political level to measure the effectiveness of the Strategy in terms of both success and failure.

Intergenerational equity, quality of life, social cohesion and international responsibility are the four major themes that form the framework for describing, by means of indicators, sustainable developments in Germany. Based on the statistical material in place, the political targets – including climate protection, economic prosperity, education and equality – are compared with the progress achieved at two year-intervals.

The Federal Statistical Office was commissioned to submit reports on the development of the individual indicators of the German Sustainability Strategy. The Office provides data for most of the indicators, gives methodological advice and ensures impartiality in reporting. Responsibility for this task lies in the hands of the unit of environmental-economic accounts, designed to supplement the national accounts. About one third of the indicators are based on environmental-economic and national accounts data. Thus they are part of a consistent system that allows an integrated analysis of environmental and economic information.

The Indicator Report 2010 for the third time assesses the current situation and state of development of the sustainability indicators. When Federal Minister Ronald Pofalla received the Report, he stressed that the Federal Statistical Office, providing independent and high-quality analyses in the indicator reports, made a valuable contribution towards monitoring the progress of the Sustainability Strategy in a reliable and comprehensive way. And he continued that the Report was an incentive for them not to relent in their efforts to implement the Strategy.

The Indicator Report has attracted much interest as it forms the basis on which decision-makers and administrative bodies at the federal level (Federal Chancellery, ministries, parliament) monitor the progress made in relation to the Sustainability Strategy. Various associations, the media and, of course, the general public have shown great interest, too. Last but not least, there is also demand for the data at the international level, for instance, in the context of the EU Sustainability Strategy or the activities of the European Environment Agency.

Positive or negative indicator developments are illustrated by eye-catching weather symbols that are designed to support communication. The Indicator Report 2010 reveals that more than half of the indicators show favourable trends in terms of achieving the targets: 14 out of 35 indicators received the "sunny" symbol and five others were marked as "slightly cloudy". However, ten indicators carry the "cloudy" symbol. Although they have still developed in the right direction, there would be a gap of more than 20% to the target values in the target year if development continued at the same pace. Six indicators received the "thunder storm" symbol. In the past few years, the development of the species diversity and gender pay gap indicators has largely stagnated, and the national deficit indicator has exceeded a given threshold. The indicators relating to the intensity of goods transport, share of inland water transport in goods transport performance and proportion of obese people have even developed in the wrong direction.

The next Indictor Report on Sustainable Development in Germany will be published in 2012 in due time for the United Nations World Conference on Sustainable Development which, after 20 years, will again take place in Rio de Janeiro.





Working Party on Tax Revenue Forecasting

Since a national debt brake was included in Germany's Basic Law, the interest in the tax revenue figure has never been greater in this country. In May of each year, a comprehensive tax revenue forecast, as we call it, is made to predict the tax receipts in the current and the following year. In November, the revenue figure is again estimated. If required, the results of the forecast are corrected, which might be necessary due to economic developments or changes in law. The forecasts form the basis for budgetary planning at the federal, Länder and municipal levels, where they are of particular importance in terms of financial policy. Since 2011, the Federation and the Länder have been faced with binding requirements to reduce their budget deficits.

The forecast of tax receipts is the central result of the activities of the Working Party on Tax Revenue Forecasting. The Working Party comprises financial experts of the Federation, Länder and municipalities and representatives of the five major economic research institutes, the Federal Statistical Office, Council of Economic Experts and Deutsche Bundesbank. They form an independent council that is attached to the Federal Ministry of Finance. The composition of the body ensures its independence. Eight members make their own, separate estimates regarding the revenue to be expected from each tax. In Germany, the forecast covers a total of 32 types of taxes.

The above activities rest on the Federal Government's projections for economic development based on the gross domestic product and its main components, which are compensation of employees, property and entrepreneurial income, and consumption. The Federal Statistical Office supplies most recent data on the relevant trends. Another important task focuses on conceptual explanations as to how to record social law and financial operations. As an example, the potential effects are studied which new legal acts or court decisions might have on the relevant aggregates of national accounts.

Being a member of the Working Party on Tax Revenue Forecasting, the Federal Statistical Office has the opportunity to contribute to both the coherence and transparency of its results. When the estimates made by the members become available, the results for each type of tax are discussed in detail by the Working Party until a consensus is reached that can be supported by all. Only then the results will be communicated.

The results of the tax revenue forecast in May of a year serve as a basis for the preparation of the draft budget of the following year, the annual updating of the medium-term financial plans and the co-ordination of financial planning between the Federation, Länder and municipalities in the Stability Council Working Party. The Stability Council, which replaced the Financial Planning Council at the beginning of 2010, is responsible for monitoring the budgets of the Federation and the individual Länder. The aim is to identify potentially perilous budget situations as early as possible in order to take measures to overcome budgetary imbalances.

At the international level, the quality of the German tax revenue forecasts is described as rather good. This is the result of a study conducted by the Ifo Institute for Economic Research in 2008. As also stated, the accuracy of tax revenue forecasting depends on the degree of its independence.





A close examination of the gender pay gap

Article 3 of the German Basic Law provides for equal rights for men and women. A major indicator used in the discussion about gender equality is the so-called gender pay gap. In Germany, that gap amounts to 23%. Thus it is larger than in most of the other EU Member States. Being aware of the need for action, the Federal Government has set itself the goal to reduce the gender pay gap to 10% by 2020.

The discussion about quotas for women in leadership positions is also closely linked to the gender pay gap. If female employees are underrepresented at the upper levels of the occupational ladder, this has a negative impact on the average earnings of women, too.

Based on different intentions, two indicators are in place to calculate gender pay gaps. The adjusted gender pay gap measures the earnings differential between men and women with a similar qualification, economic activity and work history, the unadjusted gender pay gap compares the average earnings of all male and female employees in a general manner. In this way, the unadjusted gender pay gap also covers that part of the earnings differential which is due to unequal access to both certain occupations and opportunities for advancement, which may as well be the result of discriminatory structures.

The Federal Statistical Office and Eurostat publish annual unadjusted gender pay gap data. So far, however, neither a calculation of the adjusted pay gap nor a detailed analysis of the causes based on current data of official statistics has been made. Therefore, a project commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth was undertaken to close that gap. The structure of earnings survey, which is conducted at multi-annual intervals, served as a data basis for the project.

In the past few years, the unadjusted gender pay gap has always amounted to about 23% in Germany, that means, the average gross hourly earnings of women have been 23% below those of men. The main measurable causes of that situation are different choices of professions and branches and an uneven distribution of leadership and qualification requirements. As can be seen, female employees rather tend to do jobs with potentially lower pay and less demanding requirements. And finally, the larger proportion of women in marginal employment contributes to the unadjusted gender pay gap, too. However, the earnings differential can only to a small extent be attributed to differences in educational attainment. In statistical terms, about two thirds of the unadjusted gender pay gap can be explained: on the one hand, by the factors mentioned above and, on the other, by other factors such as the length of service or volume of employment.

In Germany, the adjusted gender pay gap amounts to about 8%. This means that female employees earn an average 8% less per hour compared to their male colleagues, even if they do a comparable job and have an equivalent qualification.

Customer profile: the Fraunhofer Society

The Fraunhofer Society is the leading applied research organisation in Europe. There is much common ground between Fraunhofer and the Federal Statistical Office. This article shows what topics the researchers work on and where they use data of the Federal Statistical Office.



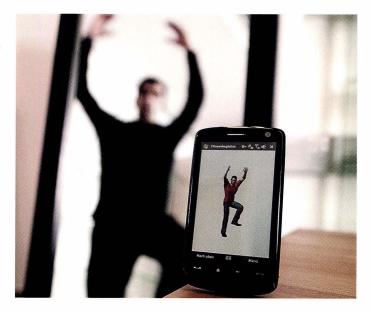
With a proportion of 20% in 2009, most European scientists lived and worked in Germany, according to data of Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union. Under the umbrella of the Fraunhofer Society, 60 institutes work at over 40 locations all over Germany. Some 18,000 staff achieve an annual research budget of Euro 1.65 billion. About two thirds of that amount is generated by the Fraunhofer Society from contracts with industry and publicly funded research projects. International co-operation is supported by branch units in Europe, the USA and Asia. The purpose here is to enable especially small and medium-sized enterprises to have access to state-of-the-art research.

Research fields aim at providing direct benefit to the society and enterprises, the focus is on the needs of the people.

Health, safety, communication, mobility, energy, and the environment – those are the top research issues in the 21st century. This is against the background of global developments in the population, nature, and the environment – the trend towards urbanisation, increasing energy consumption along with decreasing resources, and climate change. A number of Fraunhofer activities are closely connected with the topics of demographic change and the changing age structure of the population.

Age management in enterprises

In Europe, the ageing population has become a reality and, consequently, a challenge to research. Occupational science, for example, deals with ageing staff and develops concepts for age-appropriate employment and staff policies. Age Management is the term used by the Fraunhofer Institute for Work Management and Organisation (IAO) for its concept of enabling people to work and be employed at



an older age. This is because in 2020 one in three persons in employment will be aged over 50.

The question of what impact a regional shortage of specialists and a generally ageing staff have on company work processes has been examined for over ten years by the Fraunhofer IAO using, among other things, data of the Federal Statistical Office. Research shows that innovation and performance depend to a smaller extent on the people's biological age where the framework conditions in enterprises are optimised. Health management, workplace engineering, qualification, and an activating corporate culture play a central role.



Living at home independently

Being able to live a long and independent life at home - this is one of a total of twelve Fraunhofer issues relevant for the future. The starting point here is the wish of many people to grow old at home, even if they have chronic or long-term diseases. Also, the rising cost pressure in the health sector and the shortage of skilled nursing staff show the need to look for new, integrated system solutions. The shortage of skilled nursing staff was ascertained by means of microcensus data and projected up to 2025 - in a joint project with the Federal Statistical Office, the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), and the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology (FIT). There is demand for communicative systems making it easier for older people to live at home. The Fraunhofer Society currently shows how an integrated medical care chain might work so that patients could be provided with care at home. It is referred to as Assisted Personal Health, involving state-of-the-art technology and digital support, e.g. in terms of medicine supply or cardiovascular function observation. This is an issue currently dealt with by the Fraunhofer Institute for Graphical Data Processing (IGD).

Microorganisms in the sewage system

Demographic change has manifold effects on spatial infrastructures. It is expected, for example, that a decreasing number of inhabitants will lead to lower water consumption, which does have positive aspects. However, the smaller water volume will change the degree to which sewage system capacities are utilised. Sewage pipes will no longer be flushed sufficiently, odour problems will arise, and corrosion in the sewage system caused by microorganisms may increase. This an issue treated by the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (ISI). Another aspect examined here is the consequences arising for the economy. This is because the infrastructure system has to be maintained and rehabilitated while consumption figures are continuously decreasing. The structural data for those studies are supplied, among others, by the Federal Statistical Office. The Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety and Energy Technology (UMSICHT), develops methods for highly accelerated material testing with regard to chemical and microbiological corrosion processes.

Reforms and laws

What does a reform cost and how will citizens benefit? What are the effects of introducing parental allowance or modifying taxfree amounts for children? Which households benefit, and which don't?

The Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology (FIT) tries to find answers to those questions. With their analyses, the researchers help assessing the impact of legislative projects or reforms, usually commissioned by several federal ministries. Their work is based on microdata of the Federal Statistical Office, for example, from the microcensus or the sample survey of income and expenditure.

To assess the impact of a measure, the researchers developed microsimulation models. Such models allow, for example, calculating what impact an increase in tax-free amounts for children has on various household types — and they allow calculating the total amount of tax revenue that will be lost. The calculations of the MIKMOD research group from the Fraunhofer FIT have been taken into account in many political projects. For example, the research team had designed a model for the reform of the Federal Training Assistance Act later implemented.

What are the effects of taxes? The impact of the ecological tax reform, for instance, was studied over ten years ago – the results then obtained showed that businesses benefited, while households were among the net payers.

For the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Fraunhofer FIT applies a model examining the impact and effects of tax changes regarding the entire income tax system. The basis of those studies is a sample of income tax statistics of the Federal Statistical Office. A current focus is on family policy issues. In this context, it is examined what effects might be produced by reforms of the family benefits system, for example, regarding income splitting for married couples or the introduction of a family income splitting system.

Computer-aided regulatory impact assessment has gained in importance over the last few years. Interactions between legal changes, demographic change, tax shortfalls or tax increases are highly complex. Fraunhofer research allows changing the relevant factors on the computer and calculating their effects before facts are created.

Budget

The Federal Statistical Office is a superior federal authority within the area of responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior. In 2010, the Office had budgetary resources of Euro 177.7 million, which accounted for 3.3% of the Interior Ministry's overall budget.

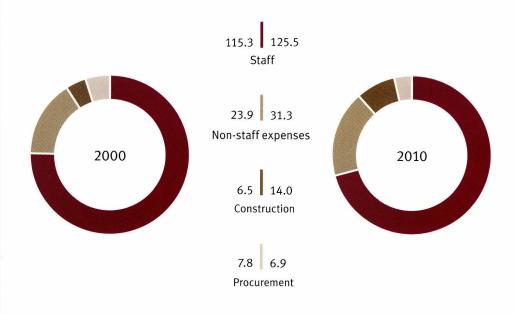
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It is a labour-intensive task to compile and process statistics and to disseminate statistical information even with the increased use of information technologies. That is why staff expenditure, by tradition, is the largest spending block of the Federal Statistical Office: In 2010, the staff sector accounted for 71% of the estimated expenses. Considerably smaller percentages of the budget were allocated to non-staff administrative expenditure (17%) and to building and procurement investments (12% combined).

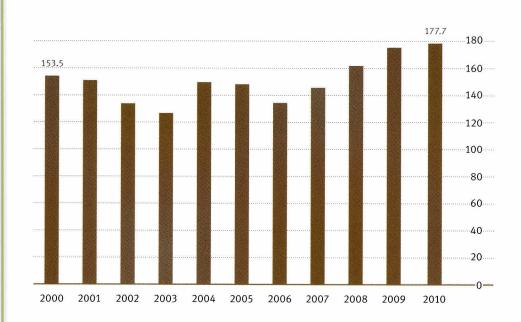
In the 2010 financial plan, some Euro 179.5 million were earmarked for the Federal Statistical Office. Hence, the original budget appropriation was about Euro 4.8 million higher than a year earlier. The increase resulted from higher construction costs for the overall restoration of the office building in Wiesbaden and the non-staff expenses and IT costs involved with the 2011 Census. As part of the Federal Government's budget consolidation in

the wake of the financial crisis and to satisfy the requirements of the debt brake, the funds initially allocated to the Federal Statistical Office for 2010 were reduced to Euro 177.7 million. On top of that, the Federal Statistical Office had to save an additional Euro 14.9 million and to cut jobs worth Euro 1.3 million in staff expenditure (about 25 posts) during the budget year 2010.

Estimated expenses of the Federal Statistical Office in 2000 and 2010, in millions of Euros



Estimated budget of the Federal Statistical Office, in millions of Euros



Staff

In December 2010, the Federal Statistical Office had a total of 2,689 employees at its three locations in Wiesbaden, Bonn and Berlin.



What changes have taken place in the Office's staff structure in the past ten years? The structure of our staff reflects a development that has occurred in many areas of the world of work. The number of staff has decreased, while the average employee is older and more highly qualified than ten years ago.

The staff employed under collective agreements accounted for the largest proportion of our workforce at 71 % in 2010. The proportion of public officials was 25 %, and another 4 % of our employees were apprentices.

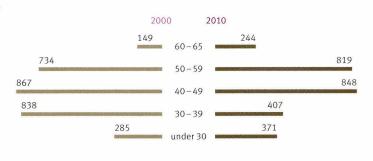
Altogether, the Office's workforce has declined by 6% in the last ten years. The reduction, however, did not affect all service categories to the same extent. For some years now, the Federal Statistical Office has increasingly been required to undertake tasks of a scientific nature. Therefore, one of the Office's aims is to gradually adapt the distribution of posts to the changing requirements and to increase the qualification level of its staff. As a result, the proportion of higher service staff in the total workforce has risen from 11% to 18% in the past ten years. Over the same period, the number of posts in the intermediate service was reduced so that their share dropped from 52% in 2000 to 40% in 2010.

The age structure of our staff, too, has changed in the last ten years. At the end of 2010, 29% of all employees were under 40 years of age. At the end of 2000, they had accounted for as much as 39%. Accordingly, the share of employees aged 40 years or over has grown by ten percentage points from 61% to 71%.

Part-time employees accounted for 21% of the workforce at the end of 2010 (excluding partial retirement), and this proportion has remained nearly unchanged for the past ten years.

The Federal Statistical Office offers training for the following occupations: office communications specialists, market and social research specialists, and information technology specialists. In December 2010, 109 young people were being trained at the Federal Statistical Office.

Ten-year comparison of staff, by age class



Employees and staff capacities (MAK), by service category and sex

Service categories		Total	Men	Women
Higher service	Employees	486	278	208
	MAK	438.9	259.6	179.3
Higher intermedi-	Employees	962	484	478
ate service	MAK	869.7	471.3	398.4
Intermediate	Employees	1,186	383	803
service	MAK	818.7	307.6	511.1
Ordinary service	Employees	55	37	18
	MAK	48.2	34.5	13.7
Total	Employees	2,689	1,182	1,507
	MAK	2,175.5	1,073.0	1,102.5

Staff capacities excluding apprentices and non-active staff (e.g. employees on leave of absence, on secondment, in the non-working phase of partial retirement), figures as at December 2010.



The aim of the Federal Equal Opportunities Act of 1 December 2001 is to fully embed equal opportunities for women and men in the federal public service. Women account for 56% of the Federal Statistical Office's workforce. Nonetheless, they are still significantly underrepresented in the top ranks of the higher and higher intermediate service.

Since the Office's first equal opportunities plan was published for the years 2004 to 2007, the proportion of women in the higher service and at desk officer level in the higher intermediate service has increased markedly. The equal opportunities plan for the years 2008 to 2011 aims to strengthen the presence of women in higher and higher intermediate service posts.

Despite the positive developments over recent years, women were still significantly underrepresented in the top ranks of the higher service and at head-of-section level in 2010. In the higher intermediate service, they were in a clear minority among senior desk officers.

The Federal Statistical Office as a family-friendly employer

For many men and women, the compatibility of family and career is a key criterion for selecting an employer. The Federal Statistical Office offers a variety of working-time models to its staff to improve their work and family life balance.

...In 2010, 570 employees were working part-time, which was about 21% of the total staff.

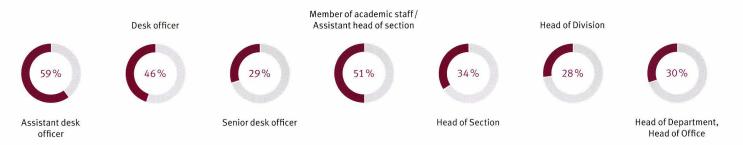
...The number of tele-workplaces increased from 142 to 167 in 2010.

Parent-child rooms have been established at all Office locations and can be used, for example, when a day care centre closes unexpectedly or if no one is available to look after a child.

No time-consuming search for a place to park for employees with special carers responsibilities: To reduce the burden imposed on mothers and fathers with small children and on employees with relatives in need of care, a number of parking spaces immediately in front of the Office's main building in Wiesbaden were designated for their use in 2010.



Proportions of women in the higher and higher intermediate service, by function

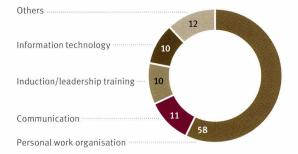


As at December 2010.

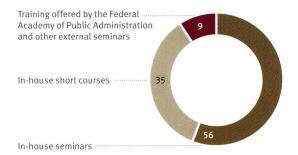
Advanced training

Regular advanced training for our employees forms an integral part of the Federal Statistical Office's strategic goals. A continually updated programme of advanced training activities supports our staff in enhancing their qualifications and skills to keep up with technological progress or to prepare themselves for new functions.

Attendance of in-house advanced training in 2010 in percent, by subject



Attendance of advanced training activities in 2010, in percent





Each of the Office's employees attended inhouse and external training courses for an average of 2.8 days.

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 of Public Administration.

In-house training activities

On the whole, 262 in-house seminars were held with a total of just over 3,000 participants.

External training activities

Some 500 participants attended training activities offered by the Federal Academy of Public Administration and other external providers.

Some 1,900 staff members attended inhouse short courses on current topics. Inhouse short courses are mainly given by professionals from the Federal Statistical Office. The duration of these courses varies between two and six hours.

Safety wins: information security training

In the years 2010 and 2011, all the staff members of the Federal Statistical Office have attended or will attend an advanced training seminar on "Workplace information security", which is offered by the Federal Academy of Public Administration as part of the "Safety wins!" initiative of the Federal Government.

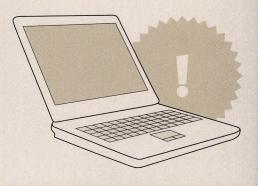
The protection of personal data is of utmost importance for people responding to statistical surveys such as the Census.

To ensure confidentiality, quite a number of measures have to be taken with regard to the organisation, staff and equipment, and these measures are in line with the standards issued by the Federal Office for Information Security.

Using a professional approach to raise the awareness of staff about security matters helps to ensure that every single employee handles sensitive data in a responsible manner and contributes to reaching the security goals.









Sports and health

A healthy and productive workforce is indispensable to a futureoriented and innovative public administration – especially in the light of the imminent demographic changes in the staff structure. In-house sports activities at the Federal Statistical Office

Category	Participants
Table tennis	48
Outdoor football Wiesbade	n 11
Indoor football Wiesbaden	18
Football Bonn	40
Running club	13
Bowling	8
Volleyball	30
Basketball	27
Badminton	8
Badminton Bonn	10
Dragon boat	20
Chase run	28
Corporate run Bonn	42
Total	303

Many staff members used the Health Day as an opportunity to browse the information provided at a variety of stands in the lobby of the main office building.





"Health is not everything, but without health, everything is nothing"

Arthur Schopenhauer

Selected activities of health promotion and social counselling in 2010

- ...Health Day with many activities going on
- Short courses on health issues
- Support for in-house sports teams
- Back exercise
- Influenza vaccinations
- Metabolic check-ups
- Skin examinations
- Lung function tests
- Supply of defibrillators
-Reintegration management (under Section 84 (2) of Book IX of the German Social Code)
- ...Social counselling

The Federal Statistical Office's health promotion scheme employs two strategies:

Preventive strategy

Healthy and motivated staff are the Federal Statistical Office's backbone. They ensure the quality of our work and, ultimately, the Office's success. Preserving their good health is the primary aim of the in-house health promotion scheme.

Corrective strategy

We offer social counselling and self-help support to employees who are ill or have workplace problems.

Senior management





As at March 2011.



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Federal Statistical Office, Annual Report 2010

Order number: 0000040-10700-1