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# Survey of German Federal Statistics

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## **Preface**

The present English edition of the "Survey of German Federal Statistics" is an abridged version of the 10<sup>th</sup> German edition (1997). The contents of this brochure are tailored to an international readership wishing to get a general idea of the historical and legal bases of federal statistics, their institutions, tasks and programme, as well as of international cooperation in the field of official statistics. The appendix comprises a list of federal statistics and of classifications, the text of the Federal Statistics Law and the addresses of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder.

I hope that the publication of the "Survey of German Federal Statistics" in the English language will meet the interest the statistical community takes in the system of German official statistics and promote the important international discussion on the further development of statistical systems. I wish to thank all those who contributed to the compilation of this publication.

The President of the Federal Statistical Office

Johann Hahlen



# Survey of German Federal Statistics

## 1 The history of official statistics in Germany

First efforts to compile official statistics on a continuous basis were made in Germany as early as in the 18th century. The statistical material which was collected at that time to provide a "Description of State and National Life" has been preserved until today. In the 19th century, statistical activities were extended, improved in methodological terms and, in particular, institutionalised in establishments set up for statistical purposes. Upon the foundation of the German Reich, a central statistical office named *Kaiserliches Statistisches Amt* (Imperial Statistical Office), which was subordinated to the *Reichsamt des Innern* (Reich Department of the Interior), was finally established in 1872. Apart from its responsibility for population statistics, the Office was gradually assigned new responsibilities regarding agricultural, transport, building activity and industrial production statistics and, as a result of the new social legislation, also social statistics. Another of its major functions was to coordinate and harmonise a large number of statistics of the Reich's individual states. Besides, the bodies of German official statistics have participated in the international exchange of experience and the development of statistical methodology under the umbrella of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) since 1853.

After World War I, the responsibility for labour statistics was transferred from the then called *Statistisches Reichsamt* (Reich Statistical Office), which was subordinated to the newly established *Reichswirtschaftsministerium* (Reich Ministry of Economic Affairs), to the *Reichsanstalt für Arbeitsvermittlung und Arbeitslosenversicherung* (Reich Institute for Labour Placement and Unemployment Insurance). During the years of hyperinflation (1920 to 1923), short-term price and wage statistics were considerably enlarged. Upon the establishment of a unified *Reichsfinanzverwaltung* (Reich Finance Administration), detailed statistics of the finance situation of all public authorities were constructed and the existing tax statistics extended. In the context of the reparations negotiations between Germany and the victorious powers of World War I, the national income computation was developed as the predecessor of national accounting. And, as a result of increasing international contacts, statistics of foreign countries became very important, too.

The development of central state structures in the Third Reich resulted in an increased transfer of statistical activities from the states level to the Reich level. As a consequence of wartime economy, however, part of the functions of the Reich Office were transferred to other authorities and organisations.

After the end of World War II in 1945, a statistical office of the British occupied zone was set up in Hamburg in 1946. In the American zone, Land statistical offices were established. Upon amalgamation of the British and American occupied zones, the *Statistisches Amt des Vereinigten Wirtschaftsgebietes* (Statistical Office of the United Economic Territory) was set up in 1948 which was transformed into the Federal Statistical Office after the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949. Land statistical offices were then set up in all Länder of the Federal Republic.

As regards the territory of the later German Democratic Republic (GDR), the *Deutsche Zentralverwaltung für Statistik in der Sowjetischen Besatzungszone* (German Central Statistical Board in the Soviet Occupied Zone) was founded in 1945. At the same time, Land statistical offices and district statistical offices were established. Between 1950 and 1952, the system of official statistics was centralised in the GDR. As a result, it encompassed a Central Statistical Board in Berlin (East), 15 county and 223 district offices.

With the German reunification on 3 October 1990, the statistical laws of the Federal Republic of Germany entered into force in the territory of the former GDR, too. Land statistical offices were set up in the new Länder in a short period of time. Since January 1991, the major part of statistics in the new Länder and Berlin-East have been produced along the lines of the concepts and methodology of federal statistics.

Today, the Federal Republic of Germany has a Federal Statistical Office, 16 Land statistical offices and about 100 independent statistical offices at municipal and communal level. They are engaged in producing the vast majority of federal, Land and municipal statistics. Other public institutions are involved in statistical matters to a limited extent only.

## 2 Principles of federal statistics

In the Federal Republic of Germany, official statistics mostly are federal statistics. The function of this system of "statistics for federal purposes" is to collect, compile, process, present and analyse data on mass phenomena continuously. The results of federal statistics supply information about social, economic and ecological interrelationships. Users are politicians, the public administration, institutions operating in business, science and research, the interested public and, last but not least, supranational and international institutions such as the European Commission and United Nations institutions. In accordance with the informative function of official statistics, results are accessible to everyone.

The system of official statistics is expected to serve all groups of society in an independent, unbiased and adequate fashion. Consequently, federal statistics are subject to the *principles of neutrality, objectivity and scientific independence*. In the process of obtaining data, the bodies of official statistics draw upon scientific findings. They have an obligation to use appropriate methods and information technology. To this end, the Federal Statistical Office contributed essentially to the work on the "Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics" approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1994 as universally valid ethical guidelines of official statistics.

The system of official statistics in Germany is characterised by three fundamental principles: the **principles of legality, functional concentration, and regional decentralisation**.

The *principle of legality* is essential for the work of the bodies of official statistics in the Federal Republic of Germany. In simple words, it means: **No statistics without a legal basis**. This starts with the firm establishment of federal statistics in the Basic Law (Constitution). Furthermore, a legal basis is in principle required for each statistical survey. Apart from laws and ordinances of the Federation, these may be regulations of the European Communities, which are immediately applicable in the Member States.



Many countries of the world have a statistics law or a legally codified statute of official statistics laying down the tasks and general rules of how to conduct and organise the collection of data, thus forming the legal basis of official statistics. Germany has such a set of rules, too, namely the *Federal Statistics Law* (see annex 1). It deals with the functions of official statistics, aspects of statistical confidentiality and the obligation to provide information etc., and also with other questions relevant to all spheres of statistics. However, the principle of legality goes far beyond the existence of such a statistics law. It requires, as a rule, a specific legal basis for each type of individual statistics. The fact that the principle of legality requires specific and very detailed legal bases has the disadvantage, on the one hand, that introducing new statistics may sometimes be a somewhat long and time-consuming process as the respective legislation has first to be initiated in parliamentary debate, discussed and adopted. On the other hand, however, this procedure creates a clear legal situation for all parties concerned and guarantees that producers, users and respondents have the chance to make their opinions known in the various debates on the bill before new statistics are introduced. At the same time, this procedure has certain restrictive effects ensuring that unnecessary surveys are not ordered. Clear legal bases for individual statistics are also indispensable for ensuring that all institutions involved in the statistical work for federal purposes apply a uniform methodology. These institutions basically are the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the 16 Länder. Thus the principle of legality is closely related with the federal structure of German official statistics.

Another characteristic feature of official statistics in the Federal Republic of Germany is the *principle of functional concentration*. In accordance with this principle, in Germany statistical work is not done by statistics departments at the various ministries – as is partly the case, for instance, in the United States of America, Japan or the United Kingdom – but by specialised public authorities, i.e. the statistical offices at federal, Länder and municipal levels.

Only in few exceptional cases have other bodies been entrusted with the production of federal statistics. Major examples are the *Deutsche Bundesbank* compiling monetary, currency and balance of payments statistics, the labour administration with statistics on the labour market, the Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Transport and the Federal Environmental Agency collecting several types of statistics in their respective spheres of work. These statistics are generally obtained by evaluating data material which accrues at the respective institutions in the course of their usual work and is therefore directly compiled and processed for statistical purposes by these bodies.

The concentration of statistical tasks at specialised offices ensures a good coordination of all statistics. Furthermore, statistical results are usually available in concentrated form at a single institution, duplication of work can be avoided since it is often possible to meet differing requirements with one and the same type of statistics, specialised staff members and technical equipment can be employed efficiently and a constant workload be ensured. Also, functional concentration provides the basis for an aggregation of statistical results in order to obtain a complete and harmonised picture of the social and economic situation as a whole. Last but not least, this type of organisation helps to implement the principles of neutrality, objectivity and scientific independence as the statistical offices are not attached to individual users and thus not subject to their specific access and influence.

The third basic principle is that of *regional decentralisation*. The statistical tasks are distributed between the Federation and the Länder in accordance with the federal structure of the Federal Republic of Germany: According to the Basic Law, the Federation is entitled to pass laws in the sphere of statistics and is thus authorised to order the compilation of statistics at the national level. As a rule, however, it is the obligation of the Länder and not the Federation to implement these federal laws.

In addition to legislative power in the sphere of statistics, the Federation was also granted the right to set up an independent federal authority for statistics – the Federal Statistical Office. This Office has predominantly been entrusted with tasks which due to their nature can be properly fulfilled only by a central authority. The basic tasks of the Office include the following:

- methodological and technical preparation of federal statistics, which is indispensable for obtaining comparable results for all of Germany,
- compilation and dissemination of federal results,
- cooperation with international and supranational institutions and relations with statistical institutes abroad.

The statistical offices of the Länder, however, are generally responsible for collecting and processing the data uniformly and on schedule up to the level of Länder results. In addition to this work as part of federal statistics, the statistical offices of the Länder compile statistics for their own purposes – although on a smaller scale.

Regarded separately, the regional distribution of tasks between the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder would be nothing unusual. Similar structures can be found in many bigger states of the world. As a specific feature, however, the German statistical system combines the decentralised distribution of tasks with a clear decentralisation of competence and decision-making power. Thus the statistical offices of the Länder are not authorities subordinate to the Federal Statistical Office but Land authorities which are absolutely independent of the Federation in operational and financial terms. They may have strongly differing staff and budgetary resources depending on the size of the Länder. The statistical offices of the smallest Länder, for instance, have less than 200 staff members, while more than 1000 statisticians work at the offices of large Länder. Neither does the Federation have any influence on the organisation, staff and financial resources of the offices, nor do the Federal Statistical Office or any federal ministry have any authority to give instructions to these Land authorities.

Then what coordination mechanisms make it possible to obtain uniform results for all of Germany in spite of the missing "line function" of the Federal Statistical Office?

First of all the Basic Law stipulates that the Länder and their authorities must implement federal laws – and this refers also to laws relating to individual statistics. As mentioned above, these statistics laws contain very detailed specifications so that uniformity regarding the essential parameters of the individual statistics is guaranteed from the start. Methodological and technical details not laid down in the respective law are discussed – and finally agreed on – at joint expert meetings with the statistical offices of the Länder or, in the case of fundamental questions, at the regular conferences of the heads of the statistical offices.

The regionally decentralised organisational structure has its shortcomings; in particular, the planning and coordination of work and decision-making processes within the system are complex and time-consuming. Furthermore, there sometimes are delays with regard to the provision of federal results as data of surveys conducted in a decentralised manner can in principle be compiled and published only when the results of all statistical offices of the Länder are available. On the other hand, regional decentralisation also has its advantages: Due to the cooperation of several independent institutions, specific regional features and framework conditions of different Länder can be considered in preparing the concepts of statistics.

Although most statistics in the Federal Republic of Germany are compiled in keeping with the principle of regional decentralisation, there are some exceptions where the Federal Statistical Office itself collects and processes the data for reasons of expediency. An important example of this sort of "central statistics" is the foreign trade statistics.

### **3 Legal bases**

#### **3.1 Provisions of the Basic Law (Constitution)**

The Federation has the exclusive legislative power in matters of statistics for federal purposes. The wording "statistics for federal purposes" chosen in the Basic Law gives the Federation the opportunity to obtain the statistical data required for any objectives it legitimately pursues. Demands are made on federal statistics in all spheres where the Federation has legislative power. Because of its competence for foreign affairs, the Federation has to use the statistics for federal purposes also to meet the considerable data requirements of supranational and international organisations. Furthermore, the Federal Government or federal ministries may be authorised by law to enact ordinances. The relevant law has to define the contents, purpose, and extent of the authorisation.

Implementing federal laws generally is the task of the Länder, i.e. unless specifically regulated otherwise it is the duty of the Länder to collect and process federal statistics.

#### **3.2 Law on the Statistics for Federal Purposes and laws referring to individual statistics**

Based on the competence conferred to the Federation by the Basic Law, the entire organisational, procedural, and substantive legislation pertaining to federal statistics was for the first time combined in the Law on Statistics for Federal Purposes of 3 September 1953. This Law has in the meantime been amended several times. The version currently applicable (see annex 1) is of 22 January 1987.

Major issues governed by the Law are the following:

- ordering, preparation, and compilation of federal statistics,
- differentiation between survey and auxiliary characteristics, separation and deletion of auxiliary characteristics, and utilisation of address files,
- obligation to provide information, statistical confidentiality, and obligation of notification,
- penalties and fines for violation of statistical confidentiality or of the obligation to provide information.

As mentioned above, statistical surveys and the statistical use of administrative files require specific legal bases. This is why, in Germany, there are far more than 100 legal bases for individual statistics in addition to the Federal Statistics Law. Such laws referring to individual statistics define specifically all major parameters of a statistical survey such as survey characteristics, group of respondents, periodicity, reporting period, and compulsory response. Consequently, those laws contain very detailed provisions.

### **3.3 Statistical legal bases at the European level**

According to the provisions of the Treaties establishing the European Communities of 25 March 1957, the Communities have the task to promote lasting, non-inflationary, and environmentally acceptable growth, a high degree of convergence of the countries' economic performance, a high employment level, a high degree of social protection, the improvement of the standard of living and quality of life, economic and social bonds and solidarity between the Member States, among other things, by setting up a Common Market and Economic and Monetary Union. To fulfil these tasks, reliable and comparable statistical information on the situation of the economy, the society, and the environment in the individual Member States has been required. To take account of the importance of statistics at the European level, which has substantially grown since the 1950s, a separate article (Art. 285) was included in the 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam which adjusted the Treaty on European Union and the Treaties Establishing the European Communities to the new goals of European unification.

Since there are considerable differences between the statistical systems of the Member States, and because Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities – as an agency of the European Commission – has no authority to give instructions to the statistical institutes of the Member States, the statistics for purposes of the European Communities, too, need to be based on legally binding provisions. The division of labour and principles of cooperation between Eurostat and the statistical institutes of the Member States are laid down in Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics. This regulation governs the participation of the Member States in programme planning, the division of labour between Eurostat and the national statistical institutes in producing and disseminating European statistics on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity, and rules regarding statistical confidentiality. To ensure a high quality level of European statistics, principles of statistical work, such as impartiality, reliability, statistical confidentiality, and transparency, are also laid down. A large number of EC acts regarding individual statistics stipulate the methodological and conceptual requirements of comparability of major statistics for Community purposes.

## **4 Institutions and their functions**

### **4.1 Federal ministries**

In the Federal Republic of Germany, official statistics are in general not produced by the various ministries themselves, but by specialised public authorities set up for this very purpose, namely the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder. However, the ministries do also play an important part in the technically centralised system of federal statistics. They are responsible for the administrative and specialist supervision, they initiate legislation to form the basis for individual statistics, and they are the main users of statistical results.

The Federal Statistical Office, a superior federal authority, is within the sphere of competence of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. Thus it is under the *administrative supervision* of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. Administrative supervision means in this case that the Federal Statistical Office needs the prior consent of the authority at the next higher level, i.e. the Federal Ministry of the Interior, for important decisions relating to organisation, legal matters with regard to the personnel, and to finance. This organisational structure is reflected, for instance, by the fact that the Federal Statistical Office's budget is estimated at the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

In addition to the administrative supervision exercised by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Statistical Office is under various federal ministries' *specialist supervision* in respect of the subjects the statistics deal with. The Federal Ministry of Economics, for instance, exercises its specialist supervision in the large field of economic statistics, the Federal Ministry for the Environment is responsible for environment statistics, and the Federal Ministry of the Interior for demographic statistics. In this context, specialist supervision means that the competent ministry ensures that the federal statistics ordered by law are properly produced and the statistical results provided in time. Thus the competent federal ministry assumes the political responsibility, so to speak, for a correct implementation of laws relating to federal statistics. With regard to methodological and technical aspects, i.e. the actual issues of statistical work, the Federal Statistical Office is not bound by instructions and has to adhere only to the principles of objectivity, neutrality and scientific independence.

As main users of federal statistical data, the ministries make some evaluations and analyses themselves, unless they have directly entrusted the Federal Statistical Office with this work.

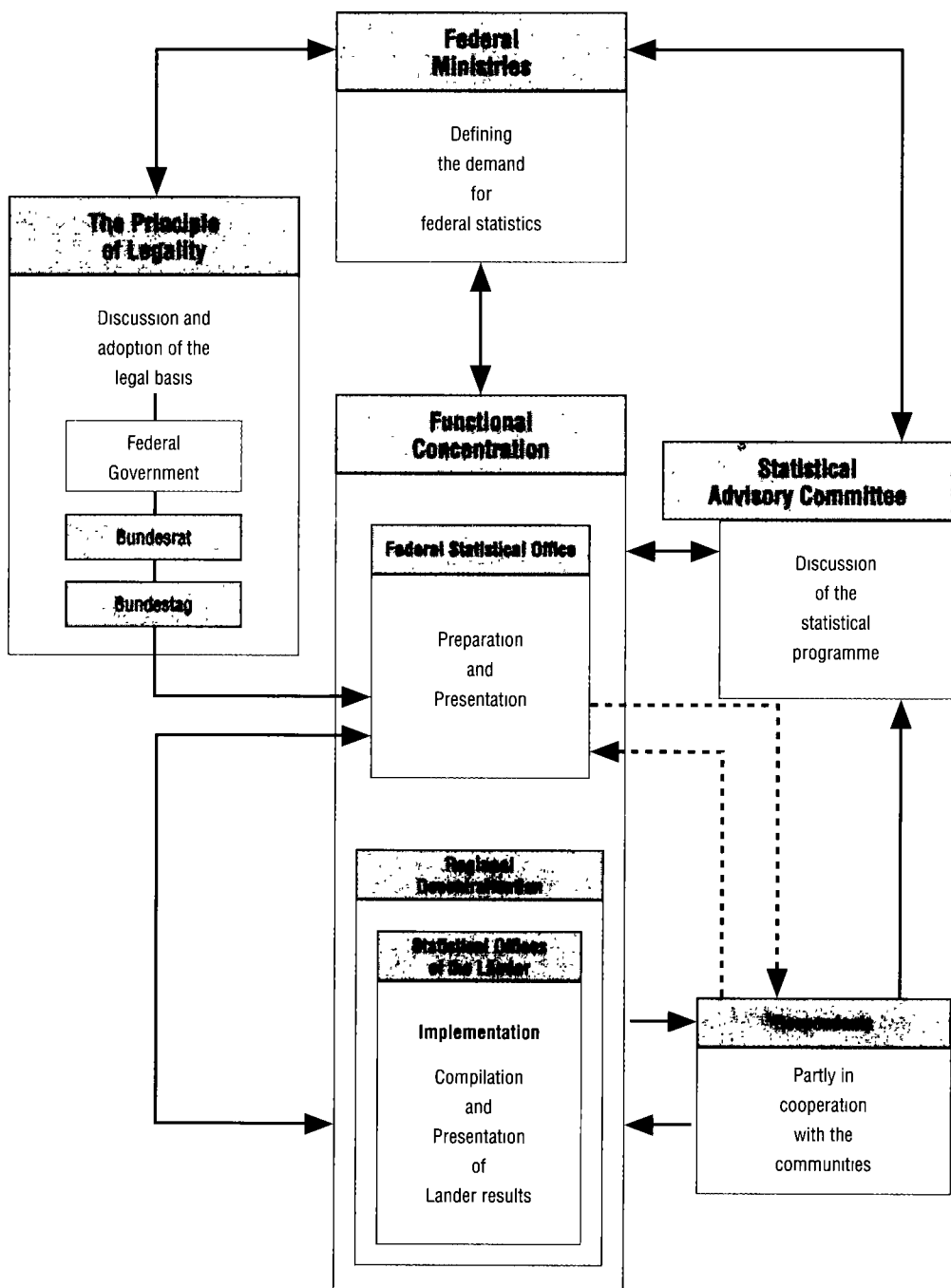
## **4.2 Statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder**

In accordance with the principle of functional concentration of official statistics dealt with in chapter 2, federal statistics are usually not produced by the ministries themselves, but by the statistical offices.

The statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder hence are the institutions mainly engaged in the production of federal statistics. It is their responsibility to prepare, coordinate, and compile statistics for federal purposes and publish the results. In this process, the manifold tasks related to the production of federal statistics are distributed between the Federation and the Länder in accordance with the federal structure of the state and administration in the Federal Republic of Germany. In line with the division of competence between the Federation and the Länder, the work is distributed as follows between the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder.

The **Federal Statistical Office** predominantly performs functions which due to their nature should be fulfilled by a central authority of the Federation. This especially includes the methodological and technical preparation of federal statistics, which is indispensable for obtaining uniform federal results, the coordination of individual statistics, and the compilation, presentation and publication of federal results. As regards coordination, the Federal Statistical Office has to ensure that federal statistics are produced in the Länder without overlaps, according to uniform concepts, and in time. In doing so, the Federal Statistical Office is supported by various statistical bodies (see section 4.4).

# System of Federal Statistics



In continuation of a long-standing tradition dating back to the elections to the former German Reichstag, the President of the Federal Statistical Office has regularly been entrusted with the function of *Federal Returning Officer* for the elections to the German Bundestag and the European Parliament. The president thus performs important and particularly responsible duties in preparing the elections and ascertaining the election results. In general, the president also acts as chairman of the Constituency Boundaries Commission.

In addition to the tasks laid down in the Federal Statistics Law, the Federal Statistical Office assumes several other functions closely related with its main statistical tasks. For instance, the Federal Statistical Office performs the functions of a liaison office for the Council of Economic Experts. It has been entrusted with the same functions for the Council of Environmental Advisors. The work consists in finding out where source material can be obtained from and in compiling it. There are other tasks of an organisational nature, such as the technical preparation of meetings, the publication of expert reports, and similar work.

At the headquarters of the Federal Statistical Office, the Federal Institute for Population Research was set up, which has to conduct scientific research on population and related family issues etc. as a basis for the work of the Federal Government. Today the Federal Institute is an organisationally independent unit within the Federal Statistical Office.

In line with the federal structure of the Federal Republic of Germany, federal statistics are in most instances collected and processed by the Länder up to the level of Länder results. The main share of the work related to the execution of surveys is thus performed by the **statistical offices of the Länder**, which collect and process data for federal statistics on a large scale. It has to be considered, however, that the results of federal statistics are required not only for federal but in many cases also for Länder purposes. Apart from tasks relating to federal statistics, the statistical offices of the Länder produce Länder statistics for their own purposes, which make up, however, a much smaller part of their entire work programme. Typically, the statistical offices of the Länder have also been entrusted with maintaining statistical data bases of the Länder, or they at least cooperate in this field of work. And they have partly been entrusted with other tasks at the Länder level, too. Various Land computing centres are organisationally interlaced with the respective statistical offices of the Länder, some of them forming joint offices.

### **4.3 Municipal statistical offices and agencies**

For producing many federal statistics, the statistical offices of the Länder send the survey questionnaires direct to the respondents. In other cases, administrative agencies of the communities and administrative districts have been entrusted with distributing and collecting questionnaires and with subsequent checks. This refers in particular to large-scale censuses (e.g. population census, occupation census and census of non-agricultural local units; housing census), but also to several continuous surveys, especially in the fields of population and agricultural statistics.

Larger towns generally have their own statistical offices, while smaller towns have set up statistical bodies in the form of departments belonging to other authorities. Similar to the statistical offices of the Länder, the statistical offices of the towns have a double function. Apart from contributing to federal and Land statistics, they conduct surveys required for the purposes of local government.

#### 4.4 Statistical bodies

The wide variety of statistical tasks, their organisational distribution among various institutions and the necessity to coordinate separate responsibilities regarding the initiation, preparation, compilation and evaluation of federal statistics have led to the creation of a network of different bodies each of which is responsible for a certain range of tasks. As part of the bodies comprise the same institutions and persons, a high degree of coordination can be achieved in the work performed.

These are the most important bodies:

The **Statistical Advisory Committee**, which advises the Federal Statistical Office on fundamental issues. The federal ministries, statistical offices of the Länder, municipal central associations, business and science are represented here. In 1987, the Federal Statistics Law stipulated that the Commissioner for Data Protection be admitted to this body, too. Thus the Statistical Advisory Committee is the only body to comprise representatives of all groups cooperating in the production of federal statistics. Generally, it is convened once a year to deal mainly with fundamental questions relating to the programme of official statistics. These meetings are chaired by the President of the Federal Statistical Office.

In the *specialist committees* appointed by the Statistical Advisory Committee, details of individual statistics and specific methodological and technical questions are discussed. The chairpersons of these specialist committees, which on their part may establish standing *working parties* or *ad hoc working groups* to deal with individual subjects or problems, are the heads of the departments of the Federal Statistical Office responsible for the respective areas.

The **Conference of Heads of the Statistical Offices** is the supreme body for discussion and decision-making at the level of the heads of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder. Usually, it is convened twice a year, in spring and in autumn, following an invitation of the Federal Statistical Office; the meetings are chaired by the President of the Federal Statistical Office. Competent experts from the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder meet at regular intervals at *expert meetings* chaired by the Federal Statistical Office. These meetings were initiated by the Conference of Heads of the Statistical Offices to discuss technical and organisational questions relating to the experts' fields of work and to details of their actual work.

The **Inter-Ministerial Committee for Coordination and Rationalisation of Statistics** coordinates the statistical requirements of the various ministries. The Federal Government has entrusted the **Statistical Committee of Heads of Department** with reviewing both existing and planned federal statistics as to whether they are required at present or in future as a basis for political decision-making, and with streamlining the entire programme of statistics. Both bodies consist of representatives from the federal ministries and the Federal Court of Audit. The Federal Statistical Office is a member with an advisory function.



## **5 The Federal Statistical Office**

### **5.1 Locations and organisational structure**

The Federal Statistical Office is an institution in the sphere of competence of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. Its main seat is in Wiesbaden. From 1999, it will have a larger Branch Office in Bonn and a Service Office in Berlin to meet the information requirements of parliament, government and other institutions. The heads of the Office, central administration and data processing facilities, all departments with cross-section functions and most of the specialised departments of the Federal Statistical Office are situated in Wiesbaden. The Branch Office in Bonn will house the staff responsible for agriculture, building activity, environment and social security issues, for technical cooperation etc. The Federal Statistical Office is headed by a president and a vice-president. The organisational structure of the Office is based on departments which are broken down into divisions.

### **5.2 Personnel, education and training of employees**

Its budget amounting to approximately DM 264 mn, the Federal Statistical Office employed a total of about 3,050 staff at the beginning of 1998. The number of employees has however continuously declined over the past few years. The share of women amounts to 58.7%, while the proportion of part-time employees has increased to 13.3%.

About 10.8% of the staff hold a university degree, while approximately 28.9% either graduated from a specialised college of higher education or have acquired a comparable status due to their professional experience. A total of 53.3% of the staff have a professional qualification below those levels, and 7.0% fulfil ordinary functions. Like all personnel of the German public service, the staff of the Federal Statistical Office is classified in accordance with the following four service categories depending on their academic or professional qualifications: higher, higher intermediate, intermediate, and ordinary services.

The by far largest part of the staff holding an academic degree graduated in either economics or mathematics. Other groups of employees with an academic degree are legal experts, sociologists or experts in agricultural science, geography, medicine or environmental technology. Academic degrees in statistics are quite rare in Germany.

Fulfilling the manifold tasks of the Federal Statistical Office requires staff with a high level of qualification in various areas. For this reason, continuous education and training are a priority of the Office. Besides, the Federal Statistical Office offers, among other things, vocational training to apprentices who intend to become skilled office communication employees at the intermediate service level.

In the context of general advanced training provided for members of all categories of service, the Office has conducted a large number of courses and seminars on information technology and statistics, and also on managerial and organisational matters. The following courses and seminars may serve as examples:

- PC software for word processing, graphics, spreadsheet analyses, data management and also the operation of the Statistical Information System of the Federation,

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DEPARTMENT Z Administration	DEPARTMENT I Fundamental Questions of Federal Statistics	DEPARTMENT II Mathematical- Statistical Methods Data Processing	DEPARTMENT III National Accounts	DEPARTMENT IV Production Industries Environmental- Economic Accounting Environmental Statistics Coordination of Business Statistics
Division ZA  <b>Organisation Coordination of the Use of Information Technology Costs and Results Accounting</b>	Division I A  <b>Conceptual Questions of Federal Statistics</b>	Division II A  <b>Mathematical- Statistical Methods</b>	Division III A  <b>Domestic Product, Production and Expenditure</b>	Division IV A  <b>Monitoring of Economic Activity Production</b>
Working Group on Cost and Performance Accounts	Working Group for Inter- and Supra- national Cooperation Translation Service	Division II B  <b>Operation of ADP Installations and Networks</b>	Division III B  <b>National Product Distribution General Government External Economic Transactions</b>	Division IV B  <b>Environmental- Economic Accounting Geographical Information Systems in Statistics</b>
Division ZB  <b>Budget Internal Service Distribution</b>	Division I B  <b>Institute for Research and Development in Federal Statistics</b>	Division II C  <b>ADP Organisation and Applications Development</b>	Division III C  <b>Input-Output Computations National Wealth Accounts</b>	Division IV C  <b>Structure of Mining and Manufacturing Crafts Local Units</b>
Division ZC  <b>Personnel Advanced Training</b>	Division I C  <b>Publications Central Information Service</b>	Division II D  <b>Statistical Information System and IDP Centre IDP Applications Development</b>		Division IV D  <b>Energy Environment</b>
Division ZD  <b>Legal Questions</b>	Division I D  <b>Library Documentation Archives GENESIS Office</b>	Bonn Liaison Office		Division IV E  <b>Coordination of Business Statistics Register Classifications</b>
	<b>Editorial Board of "Economy and Statistics"</b>			<b>Düsseldorf Subsidiary Office</b>  <b>Iron and Steel Statis- tics</b>

a) Administrative supervision over the Federal Institute for Population Research – b) Office of the Federal Environmental Agency, with  
d) The general responsibility lies with the respective Divisions or the Press Office in Wiesbaden



dent<sup>a)</sup>

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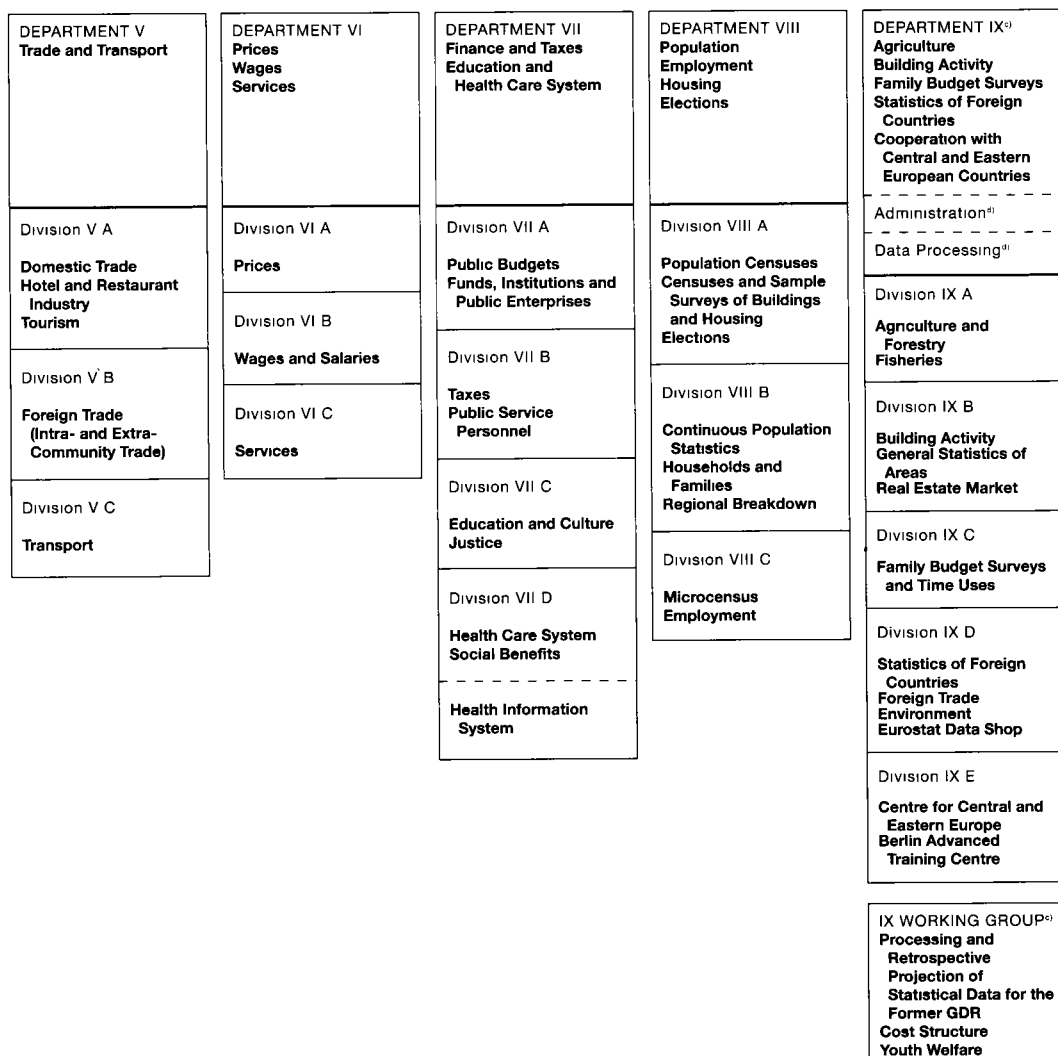
Federal Election Commissioner

General Liaison with Council  
of Economic Experts

Office of the Council of  
Environmental Advisors<sup>b)</sup>

## Organisation Chart

January 1998



partial administration by the Federal Statistical Office – c) Berlin Branch Office –

- basic statistical knowledge for staff members with a financial accounting background,
- application of electronic data processing (EDP) facilities in processing statistical data,
- specification of tables and plausibility checks,
- statistical methods such as regression analyses, multivariate methods of analysis, time series analyses and the like,
- cooperation, management and supervision, rhetoric, administrative organisation, legal bases of public administration, international cooperation, self-management, project management, presentation techniques, and press work.

The training staff of a large number of education and training courses are recruited from among the ranks of Federal Statistical Office employees. Internal subject-related foreign language courses (English and French) and also English and French language courses at the Federal Bureau of Languages are aimed at deepening the personnel's knowledge of foreign languages. In addition, the Federal Statistical Office carries out further training measures in cooperation with the statistical offices of the Länder, the *Bundesakademie für Öffentliche Verwaltung* (Federal Academy for Public Administration), the *Deutsche Statistische Gesellschaft* (German Statistical Society) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Programme for the Training of European Statisticians – TES).

### **5.3 Data processing at the Federal Statistical Office**

Electronic data processing (EDP) plays a decisive role in preparing, processing, analysing and publishing almost all statistics. Using efficient data processing equipment in the area of official statistics has made it possible to carry out a considerably enlarged programme of work with a constant or even declining number of staff.

### **5.4 Library**

The main function of the library of the Federal Statistical Office is to acquire, register and make accessible the literature required for official statistical work. It is a specialised scientific library providing a collection of statistical literature which is certainly unique in Germany. The library first of all endeavours to acquire any relevant statistical literature published at home or abroad, as well as literature on methodological issues and statistical textbooks. In addition, the library purchases standard literature of economics and social sciences, demography and of the environmental sector.

A large part of the literature collected consists in publications, expert reports, statistical material and selected journals issued by public authorities or inter- and supranational institutions. The stock compiled encompasses more than 520,000 volumes and about 2,000 domestic and foreign journals (at the end of 1996). Besides, the library has collected a large number of "grey literature", i.e. research and conference reports and also individual studies which cannot be obtained from booksellers. To meet the requirements and fulfil its function of building up a stock of literature as comprehensive as possible, the library has established exchange relations with presently more than 500 institutions of various types.

## **6 Tasks and objectives of federal statistics**

### **6.1 Setting up a system of basic statistical information**

In a free democratic society, information has top priority as it enables the citizens to form their own political opinions. It is a keystone of politics oriented to the principle of a social welfare state and has to be accessible to all groups of society. Against this background, federal statistics have the crucial task of providing the state and the society with basic information. Hence, federal statistics may be considered to be part of the informational infrastructure of the society. In order to make this infrastructural facility accessible to a large circle of interested users, the basic information it provides needs to win widespread approval among all social groups, and access to it must not be blocked by economic barriers. This means that federal statistics bodies should be able to offer statistical results free of charge or at a very low price. Consequently, federal statistics as a public good can only be produced by an independent government institution using public funds.

The demands made on official statistics often clash with one another. Due to the variety and swift changes of issues, the supply of statistical information has to be comprehensive and yet detailed, continuously available, but also quickly adjustable to new requirements. The results of federal statistics should be problem-oriented, but also comparable and usable for many purposes. They have to be available as early as possible, but must also be sufficiently reliable. Last but not least, statistical results are expected to be published in a user-friendly form.

The primary task of federal statistics is to provide numerical data to legislative bodies, the Federal Government, and federal administration. The results of many federal statistics are predominantly used by the federal ministries at first. Whereas, in the past, statistics were often produced to fulfil specific administrative purposes – so-called administrative statistics – whose usability was limited, today a clear majority of statistics are used for a multitude of purposes. The Länder and communities, too, are users of federal statistics. The Federal Statistics Law explicitly lays down that information requirements of the Länder have to be taken into account when individual statistics are initiated, because the Länder produce most of the data for federal statistics on their own behalf and at their own expense.

A system of basic statistical information must, to a sufficient degree, satisfy the information needs of all social groups, including those social and economic organisations which participate in the process of forming the political will of the people (political parties, social partners, associations, chambers, etc.). Keeping the objective of a well-functioning market economy in mind, the same applies to many information requirements of the economy. Likewise, federal statistics provide results to the scientific community, thereby supplying a variety of basic material for demographic, social and economic research. This is the reason why official statistics bodies and the scientific community maintain particularly close relations in some areas. On top of that, federal statistics provide basic data for the work of private market and opinion research institutes. Hence, the statistical information the latter provide should not be considered as an alternative to official statistics, but as an essential supplement.

To a growing extent, statistical data are being used by supranational and international organisations, and in particular by the European Union (EU). The EU as such has the right of ordering statistics, with this right partly taking effect directly in its Member States. Apart from the introduction of new statistics, this applies especially to the harmonisation of existing national statistics (see chapter 8).

On the whole, statistics are indispensable for

- monitoring and assessing social, economic and ecological interrelations and developments,
- defining rational objectives and preparing plans, decisions and other measures,
- examining the effects of such measures.

The 1987 Federal Statistics Law and its legislative history explicitly acknowledge the need for statistical information of a large and heterogeneous group of users, and guarantee its appropriate consideration. Irrespective of the substantial and sometimes diverging demands made on the work programme of statistics, the federal legislative bodies hold the view that concentrating on federal statistics will provide advantages for an expedient coordination and efficient fulfilment of user requirements.

The fact that federal statistics take a central position within the system of basic information is not least the reason why federal statistics are committed to the principles of neutrality, objectivity and scientific independence. Thus, it is ensured that the users of statistics can base their studies or negotiations on the same data. Since the tasks of official statistics have continuously been adapted to new and changing issues, they have become more extensive and detailed. At the same time, they have been submitted to periodic revisions to adjust them to new conditions. Federal statistics today offer a multitude of data on almost all activities and spheres of life which can be recorded in terms of quantity, and thus make it possible to monitor the social and economic situation in a comprehensive way.

## **6.2 Developing an overall statistical picture**

Unlike statistics of the European Community or other countries, German official statistics are not based on a formalised periodic programme of statistics. Their programme of tasks rather develops from the various information requirements of the clients and users of official statistics. It is a great challenge to construct on this basis a well-founded and consistent system for representing the situation of the society, economy and environment, including their structures, trends and interrelations.

In this connection, special care is taken

- to coordinate the individual statistics to the best possible extent with respect to technical and regional aspects and in point of time,
- to provide results in an aggregated, problem-oriented and/or subject-related form,
- to process the results, if possible, into a consistent overall presentation, and to close the gaps that appear in the overall picture.

An essential basis for monitoring and analysing economic, social and other topics are classifications. They are used in statistics to unambiguously allocate statistical units according to their characteristics to individual headings. Units showing the same characteristics are to be allocated to one and the same heading. In this respect, classifications are an important tool for harmonising the contents of different statistics.

As regards the coordination in point of time, the periodic short-term and annual statistics, which describe short-term economic and business trends as well as the population development, have to be linked up with censuses carried out at longer intervals, and have to be regularly complemented by structural data. A comprehensive reorganisation based, among others, on this idea was implemented some years ago in the statistics of major sectors of economic activity. Mention should be made of the reforms in agricultural statistics, statistics of production industries, and statistics of distributive trade and the hotel and restaurant industry.

Although federal statistics clearly focus on producing national information, they also have the task of putting together statistics from other countries, the European Union and international organisations and of publishing the results for general purposes. This objective is mainly attained by publishing the Statistical Yearbook, which contains a section presenting international statistics.

### **6.3 Dissemination of information**

Today's self-image of official statistics is that of an information service for everyone.

Legislation imposes multifarious burdens of response and reporting on the population and the economy. Hence, the statistical offices, more or less in exchange for receiving data, can be expected not only to supply the results of surveys in the most user-friendly form possible, but also to explain the contents, significance and necessity of statistical work in an intelligible and convincing manner.

The 1987 Federal Statistics Law explicitly lays down that respondents must be informed exhaustively about the purpose, type and scope of surveys. This information, which is provided to the respondents of all surveys, is intended to reduce any reservations the citizens may harbour against completing questionnaires, and to dispel any doubts concerning the necessity, expedience or even legitimacy of statistical surveys.

Moreover, the Federal Statistics Law clearly stipulates that statistical results must be disseminated. According to this provision, the Federal Statistical Office is obliged to compile the results of federal statistics, statistics of foreign countries, the European Union and international organisations, as well as of national accounts and other integrated systems of statistical data, and to publish them for general purposes.

The bodies producing official statistics, however, are far from considering the dissemination of statistical results just in terms of meeting their legal duties. For one of the most convincing methods of gaining the general public's approval for official statistics is to present their results in a user-oriented form (see chapter 7).

## 6.4 Tasks of federal statistics

### 6.4.1 Population and employment statistics

The system of *population statistics*, which includes the continuous statistics of population change, the current updating of the total number of the population and the annual microcensus surveys, is based on the population censuses conducted at long-term intervals. The latest population census was taken in 1987, using traditional enquiry methods. In the future, such censuses will be based on the official population registers.

The German microcensus records information on major population and employment trends at annual intervals. Every four years, it additionally provides data on the occupational, health and housing situation of households, etc.

Vital statistics (births, deaths, marriages and divorces), migration statistics (arrivals and departures) and, in part, statistics of naturalisations are employed for the current updating of the number of the population and as a basis for population projections. The statistics of foreigners, which are compiled from the Central Register of Foreigners, are another major source of information.

Data on all the different aspects of *employment* are available from a system of statistics that is based on gathering information from individuals and on collecting data on employees from local units. These two approaches are linked by the statistics of employees providing data on employees subject to social insurance contributions, who account for more than four fifths of the total of persons engaged in economic activity. The relevant data are obtained from the integrated reporting system for health, pension and unemployment insurance. These statistics are particularly important for monitoring the labour market because they permit to observe the employment situation of the above group of persons throughout the year as the pertaining results are compiled at quarterly intervals in a detailed economic breakdown.

As far as individual *sectors of economic activity* are concerned, short-term statistics supply data on employees in the relevant branches of economic activity. At larger intervals, sectoral censuses are conducted, as for instance the censuses of crafts, distributive trade and the hotel and restaurant industry, and of agriculture.

At annual intervals, data on *employment* and *unemployment* are available from the microcensus, which also supplies essential information on social aspects of employment and unemployment. Its varied programme of questions covers issues such as occupation, education and training, changes of job or occupation and working time organisation. The annual labour force surveys of the European Communities are carried out together with the microcensus. Detailed information on the public service is available from the relevant personnel statistics.

In addition, employment data are computed in a detailed breakdown by branches of economic activity and status in employment. The resulting employment data are used in accordance with the appropriate delimitations in national accounts, for labour market monitoring and for regional studies.

The monthly administrative statistics compiled by the *Bundesanstalt für Arbeit* (Federal Institute for Employment) on unemployment, placements, short-time workers and vacancies unfilled complement the supply of statistical data on the labour market.



#### 6.4.2 Statistics on the economy and its sectors

Within the field of economic statistics, comprehensive data are compiled on production processes and their output. Emphasis is on the statistics of *production industries*, which include – apart from manufacturing – also *mining, the construction industry, energy and water supply*, and – as a special feature of German statistics – *the crafts sector*. Surveys carried out at annual and several years' intervals supply indispensable data on the structure of enterprises and local units. They provide the basis for ascertaining major value-added figures and furnish information on the composition of goods received and the range of goods sold. These surveys are supplemented by monthly and/or quarterly surveys whose main objective is to produce short-term economic indicators (among others, data on employment, turnover, gross wages and salaries, as well as production and price indices). At larger intervals, sectoral censuses are taken to collect information in a detailed regional and technical breakdown. Business registers have proved to be indispensable tools for compiling statistics. The existing business register of production industries is the core of a more comprehensive business register adapted to Community requirements, which has been designed to cover all economic sectors and size classes of enterprises and is currently being set up.

In contrast to the coverage of production processes and output, the statistical screening of the production bases still shows a number of gaps. In particular, data on mergers and financial bases are lacking.

The completion of the European Single Market at the end of 1992 and the implementation of Economic and Monetary Union, as laid down in the Maastricht Treaty on European Union, do not only require harmonisation especially in the field of economic statistics, but have also created additional information needs. To date, the classifications of economic activities and products, the statistical units, the business registers, the production surveys, as well as the structural surveys and surveys of short-term economic trends have been harmonised on the basis of pertaining EC regulations.

Economic statistics are designed to meet the requirements of national accounts. *National accounts* describe the economy's structure and processes in a comprehensive way and set out the relations between individual activities by using almost all the economic and finance statistics data available. However, as these data are primarily collected for other purposes, they usually have to be converted to fit the concepts and definitions of national accounts, to avoid double counting and to raise them to the respective universe. Moreover, gaps in the basic data material have to be closed by estimation.

*National accounts* have become a consistent system covering goods flows, income flows and financial flows. Apart from the traditional sector accounts, the system comprises input-output tables, financial accounts (prepared by the *Deutsche Bundesbank*), data on reproducible tangible assets, and on persons engaged in economic activity. Important incentives for the further development of this system were given by the work of international organisations, as a result of which the System of National Accounts (SNA) of the United Nations and the European System of Integrated Economic Accounts (ESA) of the European Communities were set up. As of 1999, German national accounts, too, will be based on the most recent provisions of the European System of Accounts (ESA 1995).

Supplementary systems which deal exhaustively with selected topics are used to meet new demands made on national accounts for a comprehensive presentation of important social issues or concerns, such as environmental protection, health, tourism and research. Such satellite systems contain quantity data on specific subjects according to a detailed and consistent scheme of presentation. By means of the subject-related presentation and the inclusion of non-monetary information, satellite systems build up additional links between national accounts and basic statistical data from population, social, environmental and economic statistics. Satellite systems are designed in such a way as to remain linked with the core system of national accounts. Hence, it is possible to carry out overall economic analyses of a satellite system's specific subject.

As far as overall statistical systems are concerned, a quite new approach is made by German official statistics in the field of *Environmental-Economic Accounting* (EEA). EEA aims at recording the effects of economic activities on the environment in physical terms, i.e. at ascertaining the quantities of natural resources consumed, destroyed, or repaired through human activities (production/consumption) in a given period. The main categories for which EEA is intended to provide data are the origin of environmental burdens, the state of the environment and environmental protection measures. To this end, not only the wide variety of data supplied by official statistics have to be used (e.g. information on the consumption of raw materials, the amount of waste generated, environmental protection investments, etc.), but other sources of data must be exploited, too. Due to methodological differences, quite a lot of work is necessary to process and match the data, especially where information on the state of the environment and the monetary valuation of environmental burdens are concerned.

The following paragraphs outline major statistics in other important sectors of the economy.

In the field of *agriculture*, a harmonised system of statistics on agricultural production and stocks exists in Germany, which has been adjusted to the information needs of the EU. The statistics on agricultural holdings are usually compiled from various individual statistics (e.g. statistics on labour in agriculture) and agricultural censuses. The survey of areas – which is an independent part of the survey of land use – has been conducted every four years since 1981. In addition to recording the type of actual use (analysis of official real estate registers), the type of planned use has been covered as of 1989 (analysis of municipal development plans). In order to meet the growing demand for up-to-date geographical information in a small-scale breakdown, the Federal Statistical Office has compiled a stock of geographical data on land use and land cover on the scale of 1 : 100,000, which is part of the Environmental Information and Observation Network (EIONET). The relevant data were collected by way of visual analyses of satellite images. They are published as part of the Statistical Information System on Land Use (STABIS).

As regards *distributive trade and the hotel and restaurant industry*, structural data with a high degree of detail are available for the whole sector. The addresses available from the latest census in 1993 were used to set up a business register of distributive trade and the hotel and restaurant industry. The future design of the statistical reporting system in this sector will be mainly based on the Council Regulation concerning structural business statistics, which harmonises business statistics in the Member States.

Accommodation statistics (monthly accommodation statistics, survey of capacities every six years) still are the major source of official information on *tourism*. Directive 95/57/EC on the collection of statistical information in the field of tourism, which was passed on 23 November 1995, obligates the Member States to provide data on the supply of accommodation and its use as well as on touristic demand. The catalogue of characteristics laid down in the directive with regard to the supply side is largely identical with the data that have already been collected in Germany as part of the monthly accommodation statistics. The data requested on touristic demand, however, will have to be obtained from non-official sources.

The majority of *transport statistics* are currently being reorganised, following the abolishment of controls and customs formalities at Germany's borders to its neighbours in the European Union at the turn of 1992/93. At the end of 1995, a European Council Directive concerning statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods and passengers by sea came into effect, which is currently being incorporated into national statistical provisions. The former secondary statistics on road freight transport by German lorries (based on an evaluation of the freight bills submitted for tariff control) have been replaced by a primary statistical survey, i.e. a sample survey of distances run and volume of transport. At present, statistics are being prepared to make allowance for the structural reform of German railways. Modifications were also made to road traffic accident statistics. By resorting to data stored in the Central Register of Vehicles, the statistical workload of the police has been lightened.

When the border controls at the internal frontiers of the European Union were abolished, the former method of collecting data on the trade in Community goods for compiling *foreign trade statistics* between the EU Member States had to be abandoned as well. The collection of such data had been linked with the customs control and foreign trade declaration procedures, that is, intra-Community trade statistics were based on the evaluation of customs documents. According to the new survey concept (INTRASTAT), all the respondent enterprises submit their statistical data directly to the Federal Statistical Office.

For some years now, the service sector has gained increasing importance for the labour market and international competition. Parallel to this development, efforts have been made to set up a cross-sectional and harmonised system of up-to-date statistics on *services*. This system is intended to cover also modern kinds of services, such as those resulting from the use of new information technologies. According to the standards set by the European Union for structural business and short-term economic data, future statistical monitoring will have to include also the new types of services rendered to enterprises, such as data processing, software development, leasing, management consulting, etc.

The system of *price statistics* supplies well-founded and detailed price indices for the major sectors of economic activity. Information is collected and indices are constructed for the following spheres: producer prices, wholesale prices, purchase prices of farm supplies, foreign trade prices, construction prices, purchase values of building land, prices of transport services and consumer prices. As regards the implementation of European Monetary and Economic Union, emphasis is currently on developing a harmonised consumer price index at EU level. Considerable progress has been made in this

respect. The provisionally harmonised consumer price indices – interim indices – which were introduced as of reference month January 1996, have been replaced by genuinely harmonised consumer price indices, which are largely constructed according to uniform concepts, methods and techniques. The harmonisation work, however, has not been completed yet; some crucial methodological issues, such as the inclusion of individual products or services, still have to be settled. The harmonised indices were specifically designed for purposes of comparing inflation rates at the international level and cannot yet replace national consumer price indices.

#### **6.4.3 Statistics of the public sector, education and health**

The data recorded by *finance statistics* provide quite a good insight into the overall fiscal administration of the Federal Republic of Germany (revenue and expenditure). Due to the public budgets' great significance for the national economy (government expenditure accounts for about 50% of the gross domestic product), the data supplied by finance statistics are an essential basis for key decisions of financial, economic and monetary policy as well as for all other political decisions. Finance statistics also regularly provide all the up-to-date information that is necessary for setting up the "general government accounts" in national accounting, which, in turn, has assumed steadily growing importance for international coordination measures among the Member States as part of the ongoing process of European unification. Finance statistics cover the traditional budgets of the Federation and its major special funds, the budgets of the Länder and communities as well as of the statutory social insurance institutions.

Information on public *expenditure* and the *revenue* required for its funding is collected, processed and evaluated synchronously with the budgetary development. Statistical coverage ranges from budgetary and financial planning through quarterly cash accounts to the submission of final accounts. The statistics on budget estimates give a forecast of the expected budgetary development in the year to come. For a medium-term period of five years, the corresponding data are supplied by the statistics on financial planning, which, however, are compiled only for the Federation and the Länder. In addition to the monthly and quarterly cash statistics, the annual statistics of accounts, which comprise data with a high degree of technical and regional detail, supply a multitude of information on the use of public funds in a breakdown by types and functions. A complete overview of the public sector's economic activities is provided by the restructured statistics on the annual accounts of public funds, institutions and enterprises which have their own commercial accounting system or are managed in a legally independent form. The continuous monitoring of public revenue and expenditure is supplemented by statistics on the position and development of public *debt*, classified by types of debt (creditors of direct lending, types of loans on securities), terms and maturities.

The *statistics on public service personnel* provide the bases for decisions on actions involving public service law, public collective bargaining law and public service pensions law. Moreover, the basic statistical data are used to predict the development of staff requirements, the number of public officials entitled to pensions and the ensuing financial effects on the public budgets.

*Tax statistics* compiled on the basis of administrative records of the tax and revenue offices supply important information on the government's revenue sources. Likewise,

their results reveal the economic performance of individual sectors of the national economy. Wage tax statistics record information on gross wages and wage tax collected from wage-tax payers in a breakdown by tax brackets, social and other characteristics. Income tax statistics provide data on the income of persons and partnerships liable to taxes. The turnover tax statistics are aimed at monitoring the taxable turnover as reported by the enterprises in their advance turnover tax returns. For the service sector in particular, there is no other source of equivalent statistical information. Furthermore, these statistics play an important role for the transfer of budget funds to the European Union, the calculation of the EU's GNP-based own resources and for setting up national accounts. The statistics on standard values record assessment results (business establishments, agricultural and forestry property, real estate) as determined by the tax and revenue offices and provide a comprehensive overview of the tax assessment bases. In addition, they supply information for regional and Land planning as well as structural data on property held by business establishments, on real property as well as for assessing property relations. The trade tax statistics were reintroduced in 1995 and the statistics on inheritance (gift) tax in 1997 in order to meet the urgent need for such structural data for future reforms of these taxes. The programme of tax statistics is complemented by the excise duty statistics, supplying data, among others, on the taxed quantities (consumption) and tax yields of mineral oil, tobacco, beer, spirits and sparkling wine.

*Education statistics* centre on schools, educational establishments, and institutions of higher education. To produce statistics of vocational training, data on company-based vocational training are annually collected from the institutions responsible such as the Chambers of Industry and Commerce and the Chambers of Crafts. Statistics of higher education, which are exclusively based on the information supplied by institutions of higher education and related examination offices, are supplemented by statistics of students and examinations, which also include some information about the course of studies such as the duration according to subject-related semesters and to semesters in higher education. Information about educational assistance rendered to students at institutions of higher education, pupils and prospective master-craftsmen is supplied at annual intervals. The 1987 population census provided the latest detailed survey of the population's level of education and the interrelations between education, training and employment. Every other year (from reference year 1996 at annual intervals), questions on education are also part of the microcensus. However, gaps still exist with reference to continuing education. It was in the context of the FORCE programme of the European Union in 1993/94 that businesses were for the first time asked about in-company continuing education of their staff.

As regards the area of *justice*, the interest focuses on the criminal statistics of the courts. Supplementary information is provided by probation statistics.

As increasing importance has been attached to issues of health policy, referring to both the health care measures provided to the population and the development of the cost of medical services, efforts are made to enhance the existing statistical instruments used to cover the *health sector*. Important aspects of the health situation of the population are reflected in the statistics of notifiable diseases, causes of death, hospital diagnoses and abortions. Information about medical services rendered to the population is first of all

supplied by hospital statistics, which include, among other things, detailed data on the equipment and services of hospitals and also the costs incurred. The statistics of health occupations provide a survey of professional medical attention, however, there are larger gaps regarding the coverage of self-employed paramedical professionals. Data on sick persons, persons injured in accidents, preventive care measures and health risks are covered on a voluntary response basis by the microcensus at four-year (until 1995 at three-year) intervals. In the context of the current research project on the Creation of a Health Monitoring System, all health statistics are examined to see whether they meet the needs of their users.

The social welfare accounts of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs give a comprehensive and detailed overview of *social benefits* and their funding. They are closely linked with national accounts and provide both data for past years and medium-range forecasts. The data are supplemented by statistics of the institutions responsible for social benefits, namely the following: statistics on public assistance, benefits for asylum-seekers, additional aid to war victims, youth welfare, and housing allowances. Statistics on long-term nursing care will in the future supply, among other things, information about home and institutional care. To compile statistics of severely disabled persons, data are collected on the number and structure of that group of persons at two-year intervals. Additional information about the relation between disablement and other variables such as family, pensions or employment may be derived from the microcensus at four-year intervals.

#### **6.4.4 Statistics of income, expenditure, and property**

The task of *income statistics* is to provide information on the income generated in the production process, its distribution among the production factors, the redistribution of income in particular through government, and the distribution of all household income (income from employment, property income, income from transfers) among the various groups of the population.

Quite rich material is available on the compensation of employees. Gross wages and salaries and other personnel costs are covered in most sectors of economic activity on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis or are collected as part of sector-specific censuses. Up-to-date information on the development of actual earnings (and of working hours) is supplied by the continuous surveys of earnings in production industries, distributive trade, the credit and insurance sectors, and in agriculture. For the structure of earnings surveys, five-year intervals have been fixed starting with reference year 1990. Data on the enterprises' personnel costs per employee and per hour worked are obtained from the EU labour cost surveys conducted every four years. Annual data from the statistics of employees subject to social insurance contributions refer to the gross remuneration subject to social insurance contributions per person and per job by demographic, economic, and employment characteristics in a detailed regional breakdown.

National accounts give a comprehensive presentation of the income generated, by sectors of economic activity, and its subdivision into compensation of employees, on the one hand, and entrepreneurial and property income on the other, and also of rental income.

# Publication System of the Federal Statistical Office

## Printed Publications

Summary Publications				
General cross-section publications	Subject-matter related publications	Publications on organizational and methodological questions	Project reports and material	Other publications

Subject-Matter Series	
1	Population and Employment
2	Enterprises and Local Units
3	Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries
4	Production Industries
5	Building Activity and Dwellings
6	Domestic Trade, Hotel and Restaurant Industry, Tourism
7	Foreign Trade
8	Transport
9	Money and Banking
10	Justice
11	Education and Culture
12	Health
13	Social Security Schemes
14	Finance and Taxes
15	Family Budget Surveys
16	Wages and Salaries
17	Prices
18	National Accounts
19	Environment

Classifications
Statistics of foreign countries
Foreign-language publications
Brochures and leaflets

Electronic Information Supply				
Internet	Database	Disk / magnetic tape services	CD-ROMs	Disk packages

The main task of the five-yearly sample surveys of income and expenditure (latest in 1998) and of the continuous monthly family budget surveys is to provide very comprehensive information on the economic and social situation of households. For this purpose, detailed data are collected on receipts, the use of income, and the final consumption expenditure of households. These sources also supply data on the households' equipment with consumer durables and on the quantities of food, beverages, and tobacco products purchased. Supplementary information on the rental burden as an important expenditure item is obtained from the microcensus and the 1% housing sample surveys. The new concept regarding the survey procedure and the scope of characteristics covered by the 1998 sample survey of income and expenditure has been designed, first, to considerably reduce the burden the participating households face in keeping household books and, second, to make those statistics more rapidly available to the users.

#### **6.4.5 Environmental reporting**

The *statistical surveys of the environment* have so far been limited mainly to covering some emissions generated in the course of production and consumption processes, and their management and disposal. Waste management surveys make it possible to produce regular waste balances for the Federal Republic of Germany which show the generation of waste in the individual economic branches and its disposal. In addition, a number of technical data and equipment characteristics of the disposal facilities are collected from which information can be derived on the disposal level. Water management statistics, too, provide a wealth of individual data which may be aggregated to form water management balances. Environmental investments in production industries are covered, too. Information on air pollution, waste recycling, as well as water catchment and use in agriculture will in the future be included in regular data collection. Current surveys of accidents with water-endangering substances will be extended to include other areas of handling such substances. Moreover, environmental-economic information will in the future also include data on the current expenditures for environmental protection measures incurred by trade and industry and on the turnover in goods and services for environmental protection. To minimise the burden on respondents, administrative files are evaluated statistically where possible.

## **7 Information and publication**

### **7.1 Printed media and information services**

In line with the distribution of functions within the system of official statistics among the Federation, the Länder, and the communities, the task of the Federal Statistical Office is to compile the results of federal statistics in the required technical and regional breakdown for the Federation and also to publish and present those results for general purposes. To fulfil its obligation to provide information, the Federal Statistical Office has to an ever greater extent made use of modern means of communication and information (databank, diskettes, magnetic tapes, CD-ROMs, Internet).



Publications are still the medium reaching the largest number of users. The Federal Statistical Office offers more than 770 publications comprising 1,500 issues with different periodicities. The List of Publications is published annually in the English and German languages; it is free of charge. New publications are announced in the *Bundesanzeiger* (Federal Bulletin), the *Statistischer Wochendienst* (Information on Statistics, Weekly), and in the monthly periodical *Wirtschaft und Statistik* (Economy and Statistics). The range of publications comprises

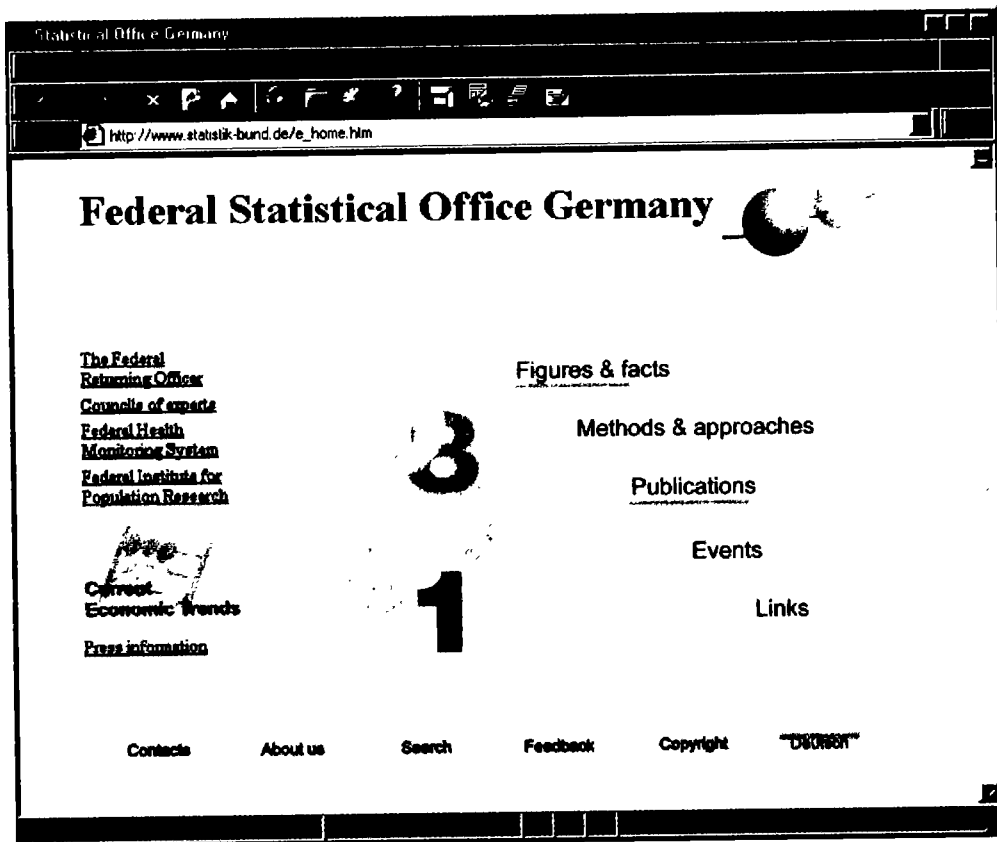
- cross-section publications containing results from various statistical fields, e.g. the *Statistisches Jahrbuch* (Statistical Yearbook),
- *Fachserien* (Subject-Matter Series) presenting the structure of or recent trends in a specific area,
- materials on methodological-conceptual issues, e.g. commodity classifications for foreign trade statistics and other classifications,
- periodicals, e.g. the monthly publication *Wirtschaft und Statistik* (Economy and Statistics), and
- summary brochures giving an overview of developments in important statistical areas.

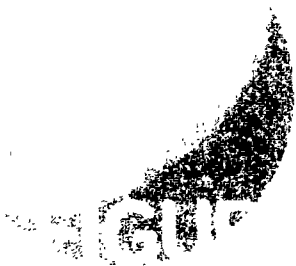
Foreign-language publications complete the range of printed media. They include, for example, the abridged English, French, and Russian translations of the *Zahlenkompaß* (Key Data on Germany), and methodological publications in the English, French, Russian, and Chinese languages.

Up-to-date *press releases* of the day inform the general public of the latest results. Some 500 of such press releases are published every year. Now they are also available – in the German and English languages – to users worldwide as part of the Internet data supply of the Federal Statistical Office (<http://www.statistik-bund.de>). Regular press conferences on new results meet with very good response on a national scale.

Anyone interested in statistical data may obtain detailed and specific information on the phone or in writing from the information services of the statistical offices. Another way of getting information is to visit one of the offices. At the Federal Statistical Office alone, some 200,000 telephone enquiries and nearly 30,000 mail enquiries are registered every year. For about 6,000 of such requests, the central information service of the Office has to compile partly very comprehensive material. A visitors' service for schools, students, and foreign visitors, as well as exhibitions and fair events complete the range of means the Federal Statistical Office uses to distribute its information. Statistical publications are released by other government and public agencies, too, such as the statistical offices of the Länder and the *Deutsche Bundesbank*. The statistical offices of the Länder provide data in a detailed regional breakdown, in some cases down to community level. Many publications of official statistics are available on electronic data media (CD-ROMs, diskettes). Thanks to close cooperation, the Federal Statistical Office is well informed not only about the publications of the statistical offices of the Länder but also about the statistical data supply of the federal ministries, other federal authorities, and Eurostat. Thus anyone interested may obtain comprehensive information from the Federal Statistical Office about the range of data offered by official statistical institutions.

(Abbildung 4





Our information includes:

- Hot news Press services incl. the major current statistical information.
- Basics Key data reflecting demographic and economic trends, which provide a survey of almost all areas covered by German official statistics.
- Indicators Important monthly and quarterly economic results such as gross domestic product, production and price indices.

NEW

In addition, the following database is provided in the German language only:

- Time series Detailed long-term annual series and short-term monthly and quarterly series offered against payment to professional users.

Our service includes:

- Methods & approaches Reports on major national and international methodological developments.
- Publications Brief description of the contents and terms of receipt of major printed and electronic publications of the Federal Statistical Office.
- Events Announcement of press conferences, colloquiums, fairs, etc.
- Links Links to information programs of other statistical offices and selected institutions at home and abroad.

Other questions?

Please write or call us at:

Federal Statistical Office  
General Information Service  
Gustav-Stresemann-Ring 11  
D-65189 Wiesbaden  
Telefon: (+49-6 11) 75-24 05  
Telefax: (+49-6 11) 75-33 30  
E-mail: [info@statistik-bund.de](mailto:info@statistik-bund.de)

For specific questions on our Internet supply:  
E-mail: [redaktion.internet@statistik-bund.de](mailto:redaktion.internet@statistik-bund.de)

## 7.2 Online services

Since March 1996, the Federal Statistical Office has been an active information provider on the *Internet*. Under the address <http://www.statistik-bund.de>, a comprehensive information supply is available in the German and English languages. Ranging from press services, basic data, and short-term economic indicators to time series in a detailed breakdown, manifold data are available. This information is supplemented by service pages including a calendar of events like expert meetings and fairs. Hyperlinks permit direct access to information programmes of other statistical offices and selected institutions in Germany and abroad. The Internet programme, which has met with high acceptance, is continuously extended and adjusted to users' needs. Subscribers all over the world may use the Internet to access the STATIS-Bund data bank of the Federal Statistical Office, which comprises about 1 million time series from all fields of German federal statistics.

## 8 International cooperation

The statistical institutes all over the world have always supported any activities aimed at improving the international comparability of statistics. International cooperation is largely determined by the statistics departments of international and supranational organisations and related specialised and steering bodies. These organisations compile material from national sources for their purposes, they make efforts to improve the comparability of results and harmonise methods. Through a lively exchange of ideas and experience, by formulating guidelines and recommendations and with the help of agreements and other regulations they have managed to promote decisively the further development of international statistics.

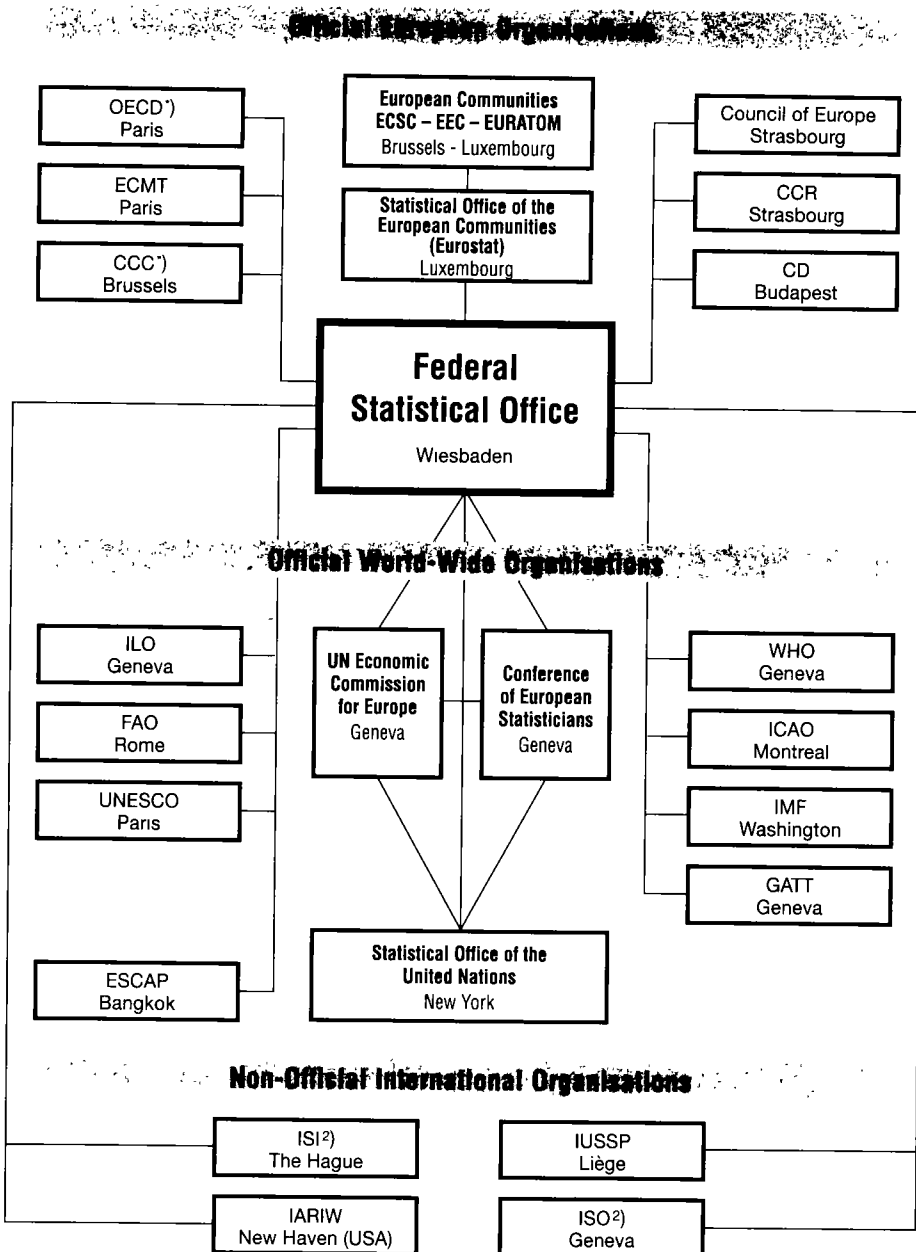
Cooperating with the international statistics organisations and participating in the work of their bodies is a priority activity of the Federal Statistical Office at international level. It contributes in many ways, for instance by providing data, attending meetings, preparing proposals, delivering opinions, sending experts, and participating in training measures for statisticians from foreign countries. The Federal Statistical Office also maintains relations with numerous central statistical institutes abroad.

### 8.1 European Union

Being a supranational organisation vested with the power to exercise sovereign rights, the European Union is entitled to influence the national statistical work directly through regulations, directives and decisions. For instance, all European statistics relevant to the Single Market (i.e. some 80 %) are produced according to European Communities standards in all Member States of the European Union. The most important initiator of European official statistics is the European Commission. It needs pertinent and reliable statistical information on the economic, social and ecological situation in the Member States in order to realise the political goals of the Union set by the Council and to check on the efficiency of the measures taken. **Eurostat**, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, is a directorate-general of the Commission. Its tasks range from the mere compilation of data available in the Member States to a complete EU-wide harmonisation of statistics in areas where the EU bodies have been vested with particularly extensive powers, as for instance in the agricultural sector.

# International Cooperation

Organisations with which the Federal Statistical Office cooperates



- 1) The member countries also comprise non-European countries.–
- 2) Semi-official international organisations.

The basis for planning medium-term statistical work in the European Union is the statistical framework programme prepared by Eurostat always for a period of four to five years. In these programmes, subject-matter related guidelines are laid down which are specified by detailed individual measures in annual work programmes. Cooperation and coordination between the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the national statistical institutes are effected in some 100 working parties. Similar to the national level, working groups and task forces work in almost all fields of statistics, which have been established by Eurostat to deal with technical and subject-matter related issues in preparing and implementing legal instruments. The most important body of official statistics at EU level is the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC); here the heads of the statistical institutes of the Member States meet four times a year to discuss fundamental questions, selected subjects, and the above-mentioned annual and medium-term statistical programmes. The Committee also has decision-making authority in respect of statistical work performed within the framework of legal instruments of the Council.

At European level, the aim of German official statistics is a moderate statistical programme geared towards the priorities of Economic and Monetary Union. Essential aspects are:

- taking into consideration the Member States' capacities for fulfilling new requirements of the Commission, and
- using the statistics available in the Member States and making them comparable rather than introducing new surveys.

In Germany, the national budget is drawn upon to finance statistical work for Community purposes. Germany also helps to bear the cost of improving the statistical infrastructure in other Member States and of performing statistical work in these countries by contributing the lion's share to the EU budget. Therefore, Germany has made efforts for many years to have more heed paid to cost-benefit considerations in decisions on the statistical programme. Other matters of importance to the bodies of German official statistics are that the expertise and the practical knowledge existing at the national statistical institutes should be made better use of in developing new methods for Community purposes, and that the chances of the national statistical institutes to influence strategic and fundamental decisions taken on the European statistical programme should be enhanced.

## 8.2 United Nations

Statistical work at United Nations level is based on the information requirements of international organisations regarding the economic, demographic, social and ecological situation of the countries in the various regions of the world. Another field of work is the development of statistical standards and methods which can be applied world-wide, with particular emphasis on the requirements of the less developed countries.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is responsible for the further development of international statistics in the sphere of the United Nations. ECOSOC is supported by the Statistical Commission, which is assisted by the United Nations

Statistics Division (UNSD) acting as an executive body. UNSD maintains close relations with the statistical institutes of all countries and the statistical departments of other international organisations. They provide the Statistical Division with material for its statistical publications (e.g. Statistical Yearbook, Demographic Yearbook, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics) containing information on nearly all states of the earth.

The Federal Statistical Office has maintained close contacts with UNSD for almost four decades and represents the Federal Republic of Germany in the UN Statistical Commission, the supreme statistical body at world level. For the fourth time since 1986, the Federal Republic of Germany has been elected a member of this specialised commission for a period of four years. In numerous expert groups established by the Statistical Commission, the Federal Statistical Office has participated in the further development of statistical methods and the preparation of guidelines for statistical work and technical cooperation in the field of statistics. The bodies of German official statistics contributed significantly to the development of institutional and ethical guidelines for official statistics adopted by the Statistical Commission as "Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics" in 1994. These guidelines have played an important part in restructuring the statistical systems in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and the new legal bases of the European statistical system also relate to them.

A matter of importance to the bodies of German official statistics is that the framework conditions and information requirements of both industrialised and developing countries should be considered in their respective regional contexts when official statistics are developed further at world level. This includes technical cooperation geared towards the needs expressed by the recipient countries and towards their capacity for absorption, and the common responsibility of donor and recipient institutions to set objectives and check the efficiency of related measures and projects.

### **8.3 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**

The UN Economic Commissions for Europe, Africa, for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Economic and Social Commissions for Asia and the Pacific and for Western Asia have their own statistics departments and bodies of statisticians. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in Geneva is responsible for the European region.

The Federal Statistical Office cooperates in the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), the most important statistical body of the ECE. Members of the Conference of European Statisticians are the heads of the statistical institutes of all European countries, the Asian countries of the former Soviet Union, the United States and Canada. Its functions are similar to those of the UN Statistical Commission, though relating to the ECE region, and it has been the forerunner in coordinating the statistical work performed by international and supranational institutions at European level, in particular the ECE, Eurostat and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). German official statistics have contributed considerably to achieving this goal. The German statistical system has been a successful supporter of the following objectives: streamlining the individual organisations' statistical programmes, avoiding duplication of work, and promoting the division of labour by having the participating institutions specialise in those areas where they have advantages of authority.

## **8.4 Specialised agencies of the United Nations**

Even before being admitted to the United Nations in 1972, the Federal Republic of Germany was a member of the United Nations specialised agencies, which the UN placed, among other things, in charge of specific areas of statistics. Examples are the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The Federal Statistical Office has maintained close contacts with these organisations for many years as it has participated in their statistical work. As part of its activities to promote the comparability, currentness and transparency of economic and financial data, the International Monetary Fund adopted a catalogue of publication and quality criteria for selected economic, monetary and financial key data as an IMF standard. The IMF Member States have been asked to accede to the standard and to implement it completely before the transitional period expires at the end of 1998. Germany's accession was effected in 1996. The Member States' data which the standard requires for the individual statistical fields are published by the IMF on the Internet.

## **8.5 Bilateral cooperation**

For several years the Federal Statistical Office has maintained close relations with other statistical institutes in Member States of the European Union. These bilateral contacts focus on meetings of the heads of the statistical institutes with the purpose of settling fundamental issues in the European context and on common projects in specific fields of statistics. Contacts are particularly close, for instance, with the central statistical institutes of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Spain and Finland. Besides, experience has regularly been exchanged with the central statistical institutes of Austria and Switzerland. And finally, relations with the National Statistical Office of the Republic of Korea have been based on partnership for several years now.

In connection with the fundamental political and economic changes in Central and Eastern Europe, the Federal Statistical Office has to fulfil new tasks and requirements. The cooperation with the statistical institutes in the Central and Eastern European countries has become an integral part of international work over the last few years. Here the Federal Statistical Office can make use of the experience gathered when the system of federal statistics was introduced in the new Länder of Germany. Various international and national programmes provide the framework for this cooperation, and the Federal Statistical Office has established an organisational unit specifically for this purpose. In addition to the PHARE programme of the European Union (Poland and Hungary Action for Restructuring the Economies) launched in mid-1990, which has meanwhile been extended to almost all states of Central and South-Eastern Europe, the Federal Statistical Office contributes in particular to the EU programme providing Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS). Germany has invested considerable national means, too, into technical cooperation measures in the sphere of statistics, especially with regard to the countries of the former Soviet Union.



Another regional focus of technical cooperation has lately emerged in the wake of the increasing cooperation of the bodies of German official statistics with newly industrialising countries of Asia. Major examples are the cooperation with the bodies of official statistics in the People's Republic of China, which has been working well for several years, and the cooperation with the bodies of official statistics in the Philippines, which is taking shape now.

In November 1993, the Federal Statistical Office and the State Statistical Bureau of China concluded a cooperation agreement on the basis of which a number of measures have been planned. Their aim has been to adjust Chinese statistics to the requirements of a developing economic structure which is characterised by free-market features. Cooperation has focused on the further training of Chinese staff specialised in all fields of statistics. Chinese delegations have visited the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder, experts of the Federal Statistical Office have conducted seminars and workshops on specific statistical issues in China, and documentation and training material of German official statistics has been provided in the Chinese language. Since 1996, the Federal Statistical Office has supported the State Statistical Bureau of the People's Republic of China in reorganising the Chinese industry and road transport statistics in the context of a six-year project financed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH – German Technical Cooperation. The aims of the project are, among others, to adjust the concepts and methods of Chinese industry statistics to international standards, with a view to the requirements of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA), and to introduce production indices based on methods used internationally. The project is closely related with the process of restructuring Chinese official statistics, which in the past were geared to the information requirements of a centrally planned economy. Now there is the challenge of having to satisfy the demand for statistical information of an economic system increasingly characterised by free-market features and acting in the international markets.



# **Federal Republic of Germany**

## **Law on Statistics for Federal Purposes (Federal Statistics Law – FSL) of 22 January 1987**

(Bundesgesetzblatt<sup>1)</sup> – BGBl. – 1987, part I, p. 462, 565, last modified pursuant to the Law of 17 January 1996 – Bundesgesetzblatt 1996, part I, p. 34)

The Bundestag, with the approval of the Bundesrat, has passed the following Law:

### *Article 1*

#### **Statistics for Federal Purposes**

Within the integrated federative system of official statistics, it is the function of statistics for federal purposes (federal statistics) to continuously collect, compile, process, present and analyse data on mass phenomena. Federal statistics shall be subject to the principles of neutrality, objectivity and scientific independence. They shall obtain the data by making use of scientific findings and by employing the appropriate methods and informational techniques. The results provided by federal statistics shall analyse social, economic and ecological interrelationships for the Federation, the Länder including the communities and local authorities as well as the society, science and research. Federal statistics are a precondition of a policy geared to the principle of a social welfare state. The individual data collected for federal statistics shall exclusively serve the purposes laid down in this Law or another legal provision ordering federal statistics.

### *Article 2*

#### **Federal Statistical Office**

(1) The Federal Statistical Office is an independent superior federal authority (selbständige Bundesoberbehörde) in the sphere of competence of the Federal Minister of the Interior.

(2) The President of the Federal Statistical Office shall be appointed by the Federal President on the proposal of the Federal Government.

(3) The Federal Statistical Office shall carry out its duties in accordance with the requirements of the competent federal ministers within the scope of a work programme adjusted to financial planning and within the limits of the means provided by the budget on the basis of the methods appropriate in the respective case.

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<sup>1)</sup> Bundesgesetzblatt: Federal Law Gazette.

*Article 3*  
**Duties of the Federal Statistical Office**

(1) The Federal Statistical Office shall have the following duties, save as provided in Article 26, para. 1 or other legal provisions:

1. a) It shall prepare and further develop statistics for federal purposes (federal statistics) methodologically and technically in consultation with the statistical offices of the Länder;  
b) It shall see to it that the collection and processing programmes of federal statistics are uniformly and duly carried out by the Länder;  
c) It shall compile the results in the required material and regional breakdown for the Federation, as well as publish and present them for general purposes;
2. a) It shall collect and process federal statistics insofar as this is provided by this Law or another federal law or as the Länder concerned agree;  
b) It shall carry out follow-up processings for federal purposes and special processings where this processing work is not performed by the statistical offices of the Länder themselves;
3. It shall compile statistics on behalf of highest federal authorities pursuant to Article 8;
4. It shall compile statistics of other countries, of the European Communities and of international organisations, and publish and present their results for general purposes;
5. It shall see to it that the statistics or statistical processings referred to in Nos. 1 to 3 and in Articles 8 and 26, para. 1 are reconciled with each other materially, in point of time and space;
6. It shall assist in the preparation of the programme of federal statistics and of the legal provisions and general administrative regulations of the Federation which touch upon federal statistics;
7. It shall establish national accounts and other integrated systems of statistical data for federal purposes, as well as publish and present them for general purposes;
8. It shall operate the Statistical Information System of the Federation and participate in the coordination of special data banks of other federal agencies; the same applies where the Federation is called upon to participate in relevant projects outside the federal administration;
9. It shall, in order to simplify and improve data collection and processing for purposes of federal statistics, participate in numbering projects and federal endeavours aimed at the automation of administrative processes and legal proceedings; the same applies where the Federation is called upon to participate in relevant schemes outside the federal administration;

10. It shall advise the federal authorities in connection with the granting of research assignments with a view to obtaining and providing statistical data, as well as, on behalf of the highest federal authorities, carry out research assignments in the field of federal statistics, render expert opinions and perform other work of a statistical or similar nature.

(2) The statistical offices of the Länder and the other agencies entrusted with the compilation of federal statistics provide the Federal Statistical Office upon demand with individual data as far as this is necessary for the methodological and technical preparation of federal statistics and their further development according to para. 1, No. 1, letter a, or for performing processing work according to para. 1, No. 2, letter b; the same applies to meeting the corresponding tasks of the Federal Statistical Office in the supranational and international sphere.

(3) In the case of Land statistics for which there exists a federal interest as far as their uniform compilation for the entire Federation is concerned, the Federal Statistical Office may, according to para. 1, No. 1, take care of the tasks insofar as the Länder concerned agree.

*Article 4<sup>1),2)</sup>*

**Statistical Advisory Committee**

(1) The statistical Advisory Committee is attached to the Federal Statistical Office.

(2) The Statistical Advisory Committee shall have the task of advising the Federal Statistical Office in fundamental questions.

(3) The Statistical Advisory Committee shall consist of

1. one representative each of the federal ministries, the Federal Audit Office and the Deutsche Bundesbank;
2. the heads of the statistical offices of the Länder;
3. the Federal Data Protection Commissioner;
4. one representative each of the principal communal associations;
5. seven representatives of commerce and industry, one representative of the liberal professions, and one representative of the employers' associations;
6. three representatives of the trade unions;
7. two representatives of agriculture;
8. two representatives of the institutes for economic science;
9. two representatives of the institutions of higher education.

The conduct of the business of the Statistical Advisory Committee shall be incumbent on the Federal Statistical Office. The Statistical Advisory Committee shall meet under the

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<sup>1)</sup> Article 4 para. 3 No. 1 amended pursuant to Article 6 para. 36 of the Law of 27 December 1993 (BGBl. I p. 2378).

<sup>2)</sup> Article 4 para. 3 No. 5 amended pursuant to Article 2 of the Law of 16 June 1998 (BGBl. I p. 1300).

chairmanship of the President of the Federal Statistical Office. Where decisions are to be taken, the President of the Federal Statistical Office and the members enumerated under Nos. 1 to 3 shall attend in an advisory capacity only; they shall not be included in the quorum.

(4) The Statistical Advisory Committee shall adopt rules of procedure.

(5) The Länder governments shall be invited to the meetings of the Committee. Their representatives must be heard at any time.

(6) The representatives listed in para. 3, Nos. 4 to 9, shall be appointed by the President of the Federal Statistical Office on the proposal of the appropriate associations and institutions, which in turn shall be selected by the competent federal minister.

(7) The Statistical Advisory Committee shall have the right to establish expert committees or working parties for dealing with special subjects. Experts can be called to the meetings of the Statistical Advisory Committee, the expert committees and working parties. The federal ministries must be invited to the meetings of the expert committees and working parties and heard at any time.

(8) All members of the Statistical Advisory Committee, the expert committees and the working parties shall serve on an honorary basis.

#### *Article 5*

#### **Ordering of Federal Statistics**

(1) The federal statistics shall be ordered by law, unless otherwise provided by this Law or another legal provision. The relevant legal provision shall also make allowance for the informational needs of the Länder.

(2) Subject to approval by the Bundesrat, the Federal Government shall be authorised to order by legal regulation with a period of validity not exceeding three years economic and environmental statistics involving enterprises, establishments and local units as well as other statistics which are conducted as federal statistics, provided that

1. the results of the federal statistics are required for specific federal purposes already laid down at the date of the survey,
2. the federal statistics cover only a limited number of respondents,
3. at federal and Länder levels together, including the communities and local authorities, the estimated costs of the respective federal statistics, excluding those of the publication, do not exceed 2 million Deutsche Marks for the surveys conducted within one year.

Economic and environmental statistics may be ordered subject to the obligation to provide information, other statistics only without that obligation.

(3) At two years' intervals, and for the first time in 1988, the Federal Government shall submit to the German Bundestag a report on the statistics ordered according to para. 2 as well as on the statistics pursuant to Article 7. This report shall state the estimated costs to be defrayed by the Federation and the Länder including the communities and local authorities. It shall also consider the burden to be imposed on the respondents.

(4) Subject to approval by the Bundesrat, the Federal Government shall be authorised to suspend by legal regulation for up to four years the operation of federal statistics or the recording of individual characteristics, to extend the periodicity, to postpone the survey dates as well as to reduce the number of respondents to be covered, if the results are no longer needed at all, not in as great detail or as frequently as was originally envisaged, or if the actual conditions which gave rise to the compilation of a federal statistics have ceased to exist or have been subject to major changes. Subject to approval by the Bundesrat, the Federal Government shall also be authorised to change over by way of a legal regulation for up to four years from an inquiry subject to the obligation to provide information as stipulated in a legal provision to an inquiry without that obligation, if and insofar as sufficient results of a federal statistics may also be obtained by an inquiry without the obligation to provide information.

(5) Federal statistics drawing exclusively upon data from generally accessible sources shall not be subject to ordering by law or legal regulation. The same applies to federal statistics using exclusively data from public registers, insofar as the Federal Statistical Office or the statistical offices of the Länder have been granted a special right of access to these registers by a legal regulation.

#### *Article 6<sup>1)</sup>*

### **Measures for the Preparation and Operation of Federal Statistics**

(1) For the preparation and operation of federal statistics ordered by a legal provision, the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder may

1. collect data in order to determine the group of respondents to be covered and their statistical allocation,
2. test questionnaires and survey procedures with regard to their expediency.

For federal statistics without an obligation to provide information, the data according to Nos. 1 and 2 shall not be subject to that obligation either. For federal statistics subject to an obligation to provide information, this applies only to data according to No. 2. The data according to Nos. 1 and 2 shall be deleted at the earliest possible time, the data according to No. 1 at the latest after the data to be covered as part of the operation of the respective federal statistics have been checked for conclusiveness and completeness; the data according to No. 2 shall be deleted at the latest three years after the tests have been made. As for the data according to No. 2, the name and address must be separated from the other data at the earliest possible time and be stored separately.

(2) Data according to para. 1 No. 1 may be used for setting up and keeping the statistical register pursuant to Article 1 para. 1 of the Law on Statistical Registers, provided that they were collected for the purpose of preparing and operating economic and environmental statistics ordered by legal provisions.

(3) Also for the preparation of a legal provision ordering federal statistics, the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder may

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<sup>1)</sup> Article 6 para. 2 inserted pursuant to Article 2 of the Law of 16 June 1998 (BGBl. I p. 1300), Article 6 para. 2 becomes para. 3.

1. collect data in order to determine the group of respondents to be covered and their statistical allocation,
2. test questionnaires and survey procedures with regard to their expediency.

There shall be no obligation to provide information concerning the data according to Nos. 1 and 2. They shall be deleted at the earliest possible time, the data according to No. 2 at the latest three years after the tests have been made. As for the data according to No. 2, the name and address must be separated from the other data at the earliest possible time and be stored separately.

#### *Article 7*

### **Surveys for Special Purposes**

(1) In order to meet short-term data requirements for the purpose of preparing and motivating impending decisions of highest federal authorities, federal statistics may be performed without an obligation to provide information if a highest federal authority demands such federal statistics.

(2) In order to settle scientific-methodological questions in the sphere of statistics, federal statistics may be conducted without an obligation to provide information.

(3) The Federal Statistical Office shall be authorised to perform the federal statistics according to paras. 1 and 2 insofar as in the cases in para. 1 this is not done by the statistical offices of the Länder within the time limits set by the highest federal authorities and in the cases stated in para. 2 by the statistical offices of the Länder themselves.

(4) Federal statistics pursuant to paras. 1 and 2 may cover a maximum of 10,000 respondents each.

(5) Repetitive inquiries for the purpose of flow analysis shall be permissible for up to 5 years after the first inquiry.

#### *Article 8*

### **Processing of Data from Administrative Processes**

(1) Insofar as administrative agencies of the Federation are collecting data pursuant to non-statistical legal or administrative provisions, or where such data are accruing in another way, the Federal Statistical Office may entirely or in part be entrusted with the statistical processing of these data. Subject to the approval of the commissioning agency, the Federal Statistical Office shall be authorised to present and publish from the processed data statistical results for general purposes.

(2) Special regulations in a legal provision ordering a federal statistics remain unaffected.

#### *Article 9*

### **Scope of Regulation in Legal Provisions of Federal Statistics**

(1) The legal provision ordering a federal statistics must determine the survey characteristics, the auxiliary characteristics, the type of survey, the reference period, the reference date, the periodicity and the group of respondents to be covered.



(2) Consecutive and reference numbers for the operation of federal statistics need to be determined in a legal provision ordering a federal statistics only insofar as they comprise data on personal circumstances and the material situation which extend beyond the survey and auxiliary characteristics.

#### *Article 10*

### **Survey and Auxiliary Characteristics**

(1) Federal statistics are compiled on the basis of survey and auxiliary characteristics. Survey characteristics comprise data on personal circumstances and the material situation which are intended for statistical purposes. Auxiliary characteristics are data used for the technical operation of federal statistics. They may be used for other purposes only as far as this is permissible according to para. 2 or another law.

(2) The name of the community and the block side may be used for the regional allocation of the survey characteristics. The other parts of the address may be used for the allocation to block sides for a period of up to four years after the termination of the respective survey. Special regulations in a legal provision ordering a federal statistics remain unaffected.

(3) A block side is the side of a block in a built-up area delimited by road junctions or similar lines of delineation which bears a single street name.

#### *Article 11*

### **Survey Forms**

(1) If survey forms have to be completed by the respondents, the answers must be given in the survey forms as prescribed.

(2) If this has been provided for in the survey forms, the correctness of the data will have to be certified by signature.

(3) The survey forms may be of the machine-readable type. They must not contain any questions about personal circumstances or the material situation which extend beyond the survey and auxiliary characteristics.

(4) The legal foundation of the respective federal statistics and the auxiliary characteristics used for its operation shall be indicated on the survey forms.

#### *Article 11a<sup>1)</sup>*

(1) Data collection for the purposes of federal statistics can be based on computer-assisted procedures.

(2) If data collection for the purposes of federal statistics is based on computer-assisted procedures, replies can be in a written form except as otherwise specifically provided in a legal provision governing federal statistics.

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<sup>1)</sup> Article 11a added pursuant to Article 2 of the Law of 17 January 1996 (BGBl. I p. 34).

## *Article 12*

### **Separation and Cancellation of the Auxiliary Characteristics**

(1) Auxiliary characteristics shall be cancelled, unless otherwise provided by para. 2, Article 10, para. 2, Article 13 or another legal provision, as soon as the checks of conclusiveness and completeness of the survey and auxiliary characteristics have been concluded at the statistical offices. They shall be separated from the survey characteristics at the earliest possible time and be stored separately.

(2) In the case of periodical surveys for purposes of federal statistics, the auxiliary characteristics required for determining the group of respondents to be covered may be stored separately as far as they are needed for subsequent surveys. They shall be cancelled upon the elapse of the period of the recurrent surveys.

## *Article 13<sup>1),2)</sup>*

### **Address Files**

(1) For their spheres of competence, the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder shall maintain files of addresses as far as they relate to economic and environmental statistics conducted at enterprises, establishments and local units and are required

1. for the preparation of federal statistics
  - a) for recording the statistical units,
  - b) for selecting the statistical units to be included in sample surveys according to mathematical procedures,
  - c) for establishing rotation schedules and for limiting the burden imposed on the respondents to be covered,
2. for the collection of federal statistics for
  - a) mailing the questionnaires,
  - b) checking the receipts and for queries with the respondents,
3. for the processing of federal statistics for
  - a) checking the correctness of the results,
  - b) statistical allocations and evaluations,
  - c) extrapolations for sample surveys.

(2) The following auxiliary and survey characteristics from economic and environmental statistics conducted at enterprises, establishments and local units, and from generally accessible sources, may be used for maintaining the address files according to para. 1:

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<sup>2)</sup> Article 13 para. 1 No. 3 (b) modified, para. 2 sentence 2 added, para. 3 modified, para. 4 amended pursuant to the Law of 17 December 1990 (BGBl. I p. 2837).

<sup>3)</sup> Article 13 para. 2 sentence 1, para. 2 No. 1, and para. 2 No. 3 amended pursuant to Article 2 of the Law of 16 June 1998 (BGBl. I p. 1300).

1. Names/designations and addresses of the statistical units, for enterprises also of their parts, and of the persons responsible for providing statistical data including the numbers of telecommunication lines, for establishments also of the seat of the enterprise and the head office as well as the names of the proprietors or managers of the establishments;
2. Legal form of enterprise;
3. Branch of economic activity, entries into the Official Crafts Register and into the Register of Proprietors of Crafts-related Companies, kind of activities performed, place and number of entry into the Commercial Register, the Public Register of Cooperatives, the Register of Associations or the Partnership Register, identifiers from business notifications, and membership in an integrated group of companies;
4. Number of persons working in the enterprise/establishment;
5. Indication of the statistics for which the enterprise or establishment is submitting reports;
6. Date of inclusion in the address file.

An identification number shall be provided for each statistical unit. This number must not include any names/designations according to sentence 1 No. 1 or any characteristics in addition to those referred to in sentence 1 Nos. 1 to 6.

(3) The Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder shall communicate among each other the characteristics according to para. 2 sentence 1, the identification numbers according to sentence 2, and relevant changes, insofar as address files are being maintained in their spheres of competence.

(4) The characteristics according to para. 2 sentence 1, the identification numbers according to para. 2 sentence 2, and the identification numbers within the data records containing the survey characteristics of the statistical units shall be cancelled as soon as they are no longer required for the purposes mentioned in para. 1.

(5) The legal provisions ordering federal statistics and stipulating the maintenance of files remain unaffected.

#### *Article 13a<sup>1)</sup>*

### **Matching of Data Records from Different Federal Statistics**

(1) Data records from statistics according to Article 13 para. 1, which are based on different legal provisions, may be matched, provided that matching is required in order to obtain information without conducting additional statistical surveys. For this purpose, numbers shall be used which cannot be related to the identification numbers according to Article 13 para. 2 sentence 2. All data records of one survey unit shall contain the same number. The President of the Federal Statistical Office and the heads of the statistical offices of the Länder shall decide for their spheres of competence on matchings according to sentence 1.

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<sup>1)</sup> Article 13a inserted pursuant to the Law of 17 December 1990 (BGBl. I p. 2837).

(2) The report to be submitted by the Federal Government according to Article 5 para. 3 shall also cover matchings according to para. 1 sentence 1 carried out by the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder.

#### *Article 14*

### **Persons Entrusted with the Execution of a Survey**

(1) If persons entrusted with the execution of a survey are appointed for the operation of a federal statistics, their reliability and discretion must be warranted. Persons entrusted with the execution of a survey may not be employed if due to their occupational activity or otherwise there is reason for concern that information gained in the course of their activity as persons entrusted with the execution of a survey might be used against the respondents.

(2) Persons entrusted with the execution of a survey are not allowed to use in other processes or for other purposes information gained in the course of their activity. They will be obligated in writing to safeguard statistical secrecy according to Article 16 and to keep confidential also any information which they may have gained during their activity. This obligation applies also after the termination of their activity.

(3) Persons entrusted with the execution of a survey are under the obligation to comply with the instructions of the survey offices. When performing their activity, they will prove their identity.

(4) Persons entrusted with the execution of a survey will be instructed on their rights and duties.

#### *Article 15*

### **Obligation to Provide Information**

(1) The legal provisions ordering a federal statistics must determine whether and to what extent the survey is to be conducted with or without an obligation to provide information. If an obligation to provide information has been stipulated, all natural and legal persons under private and public law, associations of persons, public authorities of the Federation and the Länder as well as communities and local authorities shall be liable to reply to duly ordered questions.

(2) The obligation to provide information exists towards the agencies and persons officially entrusted with the execution of federal statistics.

(3) The reply must be given truthfully, completely and within the time limits set by the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder. If the information is provided in writing, the reply is not considered to have been given until the duly completed survey forms have been received by the survey office. The reply must be provided free of charge and postage paid to the recipient, unless otherwise provided in a legal provision.

(4) If persons entrusted with the execution of a survey are employed, the questions contained in the survey forms may be answered orally or in writing.

(5) If in the cases of para. 4 the information is provided in writing, the completed survey forms will be handed over to the persons entrusted with the execution of a survey, in a sealed envelope if desired, brought to the survey office or sent there.

(6) Objections and actions for rescission brought against the summons to provide information will not have a suspensive effect.

## *Article 16* **Confidentiality**

(1) Individual data on personal circumstances or the material situation provided for federal statistics shall not be disclosed by the incumbents and the persons specially sworn in for public service who are entrusted with the operation of federal statistics, unless otherwise stipulated by a special legal provision. This does not apply to

1. individual data for the transmission or publication of which the respondent has given his/her written approval;
2. individual data from generally accessible sources, if they relate to the public agencies referred to in Article 15, para. 1, even if there exists an obligation to provide information due to a legal provision ordering a federal statistics;
3. individual data which have been summarised with the individual data of other respondents by the Federal Statistical Office or the statistical offices of the Länder and are presented as statistical results;
4. individual data if they cannot be allocated to the respondent or the person concerned.

Articles 93, 97, 105, para. 1; Article 111, para. 5 in conjunction with Article 105, para. 1 and Article 116, para. 1 of the "Abgabenordnung" (Taxation Code) of 16 March 1976 (Bundesgesetzblatt I, p. 613; 1977 I, p. 269), last amended by Article 1 of the Law of 19 December 1985 (Bundesgesetzblatt I, p. 2436), are not applicable to persons and agencies as far as they are entrusted with the operation of federal, Länder and communal statistics.

(2) The passing on of individual data between persons and agencies entrusted with the operation of a federal statistics is permissible to the extent that this is necessary for the compilation of the federal statistics.

(3) For the purpose of special evaluations on a regional basis, the Federal Statistical Office shall be entitled to transmit to the statistical offices of the Länder the individual data concerning their respective spheres of survey. For the compilation of the national accounts of the Federation and the Länder, the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder may transmit to each other individual data from federal statistics.

(4) For utilisation with regard to the legislative bodies and for planning purposes, but not for regulating individual cases, tables presenting statistical results may be transmitted to the highest federal and Land authorities by the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder, even if table elements record only one individual case. Transmission in accordance with sentence 1 is only permissible to the extent that the legal provisions ordering a federal statistics permit the transfer of individual data to highest federal and Länder authorities.

(5) For exclusively statistical purposes, the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder may transmit individual data to agencies of communities and local authorities responsible for the accomplishment of statistical tasks if the transmission has been provided for in a law ordering a federal statistics and the kind as well as the quantity of the individual data to be transmitted have been determined. Transmission will be permissible only if Land legislation guarantees that these agencies will be separate from other community administrative agencies and the organisation and procedures adopted ensure the maintenance of statistical secrecy.

(6) For the purpose of scientific projects, the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder may transfer individual data to institutions of higher education or other institutions entrusted with tasks of independent scientific research if an allocation of the individual data is possible only with an excessive amount of time, expenses and manpower, and if the recipients are incumbents, persons specially sworn in for public service or persons obligated according to para. 7.

(7) Persons to be provided with individual data pursuant to para. 6 must prior to the transmission be especially committed to confidentiality, unless they are incumbents or persons specially sworn in for public service. Article 1, paras. 2, 3 and 4, No. 4 of the "Verpflichtungsgesetz" (Law on the Commitment of Persons to Secrecy) of 2 March 1974 (Bundesgesetzblatt I, p. 469, Article 42) as amended by the Law of 15 August 1974 (Bundesgesetzblatt I, p. 1942) apply mutatis mutandis. As regards the application of the provisions of the Penal Code on infringements of private secrets (Article 203, paras. 2, 4 and 5; Articles 204, 205) and of the disclosure of official secrets (Article 353 b, para. 1), persons who have been especially committed in accordance with sentence 1 are treated equally with persons especially sworn in for public service.

(8) The individual data passed on pursuant to a special legal provision or according to paras. 4, 5 or 6 may be used only for the purposes for which they were transmitted. In the cases of para. 6 they will be deleted as soon as the scientific project has been completed. At agencies to which individual data are transmitted, it must be warranted by means of organisational and technical measures that only incumbents, persons especially sworn in for public service or persons committed according to para. 7, sentence 1 are recipients of individual data.

(9) For the transmission pursuant to a special legal provision or according to paras. 4, 5 or 6, the statistical offices shall keep a record on contents, recipient agency, forwarding date and purpose of transmission. These records will be preserved for a minimum of five years.

(10) The obligation to confidentiality according to para. 1 applies also to those persons who are recipients of individual data pursuant to a special legal provision, in accordance with paras. 5 and 6 or of tables according to para. 4. This does not apply to obvious facts in the case of a transmission pursuant to para. 4.

## *Article 17*

### **Notification**

The respondents to be covered will be notified in writing on:

1. Purpose, type and scope of the survey,
2. Statistical confidentiality (Article 16),
3. The obligation to provide information or the voluntariness of the provision of information (Article 5, para. 2 and Article 15),
4. The separation and cancellation (Article 12),
5. The rights and duties of the persons entrusted with the execution of a survey (Article 14),
6. The fact that objections and actions to invalidate brought against the summons to provide information will not have a suspensive effect (Article 15, para. 6),
7. The auxiliary and survey characteristics for the maintenance of address files (Article 13, para. 2),
8. The significance and contents of consecutive and reference numbers (Article 9, para. 2).

## *Article 18*

### **Statistical Surveys of the European Communities**

(1) The provisions of this Law concerning federal statistics apply *mutatis mutandis*, except as provided in para. 2, to surveys ordering with immediate lawful effect by legislative acts of the European Communities insofar as the legislative acts of the European Communities do not contain provisions to the contrary.

(2) Insofar as the characteristics of the surveys ordered with immediate lawful effect by legislative acts of the European Communities do not correspond to the characteristics of a legal provision ordering a federal statistics, or are not equated with these characteristics, the provision of information shall be voluntary unless the legislative acts of the European Communities explicitly stipulate an obligation to provide information.

## *Article 19*

### **Supranational and International Tasks of the Federal Statistical Office**

In the supranational and international sphere, the Federal Statistical Office has especially the task of cooperating in the preparation of statistical programmes and legal provisions, as well as in the methodological and technical preparation and harmonisation of statistics, the establishment of national accounts and other integrated systems of statistical data for purposes of the European Communities and international organisations, and of passing the results on to the European Communities and the international organisations.

*Article 20*  
**Costs of Federal Statistics**

The costs of federal statistics shall be defrayed by the Federal Government insofar as they accrue to the federal authorities; in all other cases they shall be paid by the governments of the Länder.

*Article 21*  
**Reidentification Ban**

It is prohibited to match individual data from federal statistics or to combine such individual data with other information for establishing a reference to persons, enterprises, establishments or local units for other than the statistical purposes of this Law or of a legal provision ordering a federal statistics.

*Article 22*  
**Penal Provision**

Whosoever, contrary to Article 21, brings together individual data from federal statistics, or combines such individual data with other information, will be liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year or to a fine.

*Article 23*  
**Provision on Fines**

(1) It will be considered an irregularity if a person wilfully or negligently, contrary to Article 15, para. 1, sentence 2, paras. 2 and 3, sentence 1, does not render information at all or misleadingly, not completely or not in due time.

(2) It will also be considered an irregularity if a person, contrary to Article 11, para. 1, does not give the answers in the survey documents in the prescribed form.

(3) The irregularity may be punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand Deutsche Marks.

*Article 24*  
**Administrative Authority as Defined by the Law on Breaches of Regulations**

Administrative authority as defined by Article 36, para. 1 of the Law on Breaches of Regulations is the Federal Statistical Office, insofar as it

1. prepares federal statistics according to Article 3, para. 1, No. 1, letter a in conjunction with Article 6, para. 1 or
2. conducts federal statistics pursuant to Article 3, para. 1, No. 2, letter a, also in conjunction with Article 5, para. 2 and Article 6, para. 1, or
3. processes federal statistics pursuant to this or another federal law.

The same applies insofar as corresponding tasks are incumbent on the Federal Statistical Office during the operation of the surveys according to Article 18.



#### *Article 25*

### **Suspensive Effect of Objection and Action to Invalidate in Land and Community Statistics**

It may be stipulated by Land legislation that objections and actions to invalidate brought against the summons to provide information for Land and community statistics ordered by a legal provision have no suspensive effect.

#### *Article 26*

### **Transitional Provision**

(1) Insofar as the Federal Government authorises a federal minister or an agency appointed by him to entirely or partly accomplish the tasks of Article 3, para. 1, Nos. 1 and 2 for specific federal statistics, this authorisation continues only if at the appointed agency the separation of the organisational unit entrusted with the execution of statistical tasks from the other spheres of functions is warranted and statistical secrecy is guaranteed by the organisation and the procedure adopted.

(2) Insofar as surveys are conducted pursuant to legal provisions already in effect ordering federal statistics, those data may be covered as auxiliary characteristics which are required for the technical implementation and serve the following purposes:

1. Determination of the identity of the respondents to be covered and making of necessary queries as well as determination of the address for the request for information, such as names and addresses, telephone and telex numbers,
2. Statistical allocation of the respondents to be covered, such as group of respondents to be covered and kind of economic activity,
3. Allocation and assessment of the survey characteristics,
4. Identification of the person concerned.

Except as provided by a special legal provision, identifications according to No. 4 are permissible only as far as they cannot be attributed to the persons concerned by the statistical offices of the Federation or the Länder.

(3) As far as legal provisions ordering federal statistics, which entered into force prior to the 31 December 1984, stipulate a transmission of individual data to an extent exceeding the provisions of Article 16, para. 4, sentence 1 or para. 6, these stipulations will cease to have effect at the latest four years after the entry into force of this Law.

(4) An obligation to provide information is also considered to have been stipulated in accordance with Article 15, para. 1, sentence 2 insofar as surveys are conducted pursuant to already effective legal provisions ordering federal statistics and where it has not explicitly been stated that the provision of answers is voluntary. The Federal Government shall submit to the German Bundestag until 1 January 1988 a report on the question for which statistics there exists a statutory obligation to provide information on the part of the respondents to be covered and as to what extent this obligation should be sustained considering the purpose of the statistics, the interests of its users and the burden imposed on the respondents to be covered. Moreover, the report shall explain whether and to what extent the purpose pursued by this Law could give rise to further modifications of legal provisions relating to individual statistics.

*Article 27*  
**Berlin Clause**

This Law will also be applicable in Land Berlin in accordance with the provisions of Article 13, para. 1 of the Third Transition Law. Legal regulations which are issued under this Law will be valid in Land Berlin in accordance with Article 14 of the Third Transition Law.

*Article 28*  
**Entry into Force**

With the exception of Article 26, para. 1, this Law will enter into force on the day after its promulgation. Article 26, para. 1 will enter into force on 1 January 1989. At the same time as this Law enters into force

1. the Law on Statistics for Federal Purposes of 14 March 1980 (Bundesgesetzblatt I, p. 289) and
2. the legal regulation on the Jurisdiction for the Prosecution and Punishment of Breaches of Regulations in the Sphere of Statistics for Federal Purposes of 20 December 1968 (Bundesgesetzblatt I, p. 1410)

will cease to have effect.

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The above Law is herewith being signed and  
will be promulgated in the Bundesgesetzblatt.

Bonn, 22 January 1987

The Federal President  
Weizsäcker

The Federal Chancellor  
Dr. Helmut Kohl

The Federal Minister of the Interior  
Dr. Zimmermann

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## **List of statistics**

### **1 Population**

- 1.1 Population census**
- 1.2 Microcensus**
- 1.3 Area, total number of the population, population projections**
- 1.4 Statistics of naturalisations**
- 1.5 Statistics of foreigners**
- 1.6 Vital statistics**
  - Marriages, births and deaths
  - Table computations in the form of nuptiality and life tables
  - Statistics of decrees absolute in matrimonial cases
- 1.7 Migration statistics**

### **2 Elections**

- 2.1 Statistics on elections to the Bundestag**
- 2.2 Statistics on elections to the European Parliament**

### **3 Employment**

- 3.1 Census of population and occupation**
- 3.2 Microcensus**
- 3.3 Statistics of employees subject to social insurance contributions**
- 3.4 Computations of average employment**
- 3.5 Labour market statistics**
- 3.6 Statistics on strikes and lockouts**
- 3.7 Labour force survey of the European Communities**
- 3.8 EC statistics on foreign labour**

### **4 Enterprises and local units**

- 4.1 Census of non-agricultural local units**
- 4.2 Statistics of the cost structure**
- 4.3 Statistics on incorporated enterprises**
- 4.4 Balance-sheet statistics**
- 4.5 Statistics on bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings**

## **5 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries**

### **5.1 Holdings and labour**

- Reports on agriculture
- Census of agriculture
- EU survey of the structure of agricultural holdings
- Recording of holdings (*size structure of holdings*)
- Statistics on labour in agriculture
- Statistics on purchase values of agricultural real property
- Special statistics (*statistics on bookkeeping, reports on the reallocation of land, vocational training and advisory services in agriculture*)

### **5.2 Land use and yields**

- Survey of land use (*survey of areas, main survey of land use, survey of the cultivation of vegetables and ornamental plants, survey of tree nurseries, survey of the cultivation of fruit*)
- Crop reports
- Viticultural statistics (*Statistics of wine production*)
- Timber statistics

### **5.3 Livestock farming and fisheries**

- Livestock censuses
- Poultry statistics
- Slaughtering statistics (*statistics on slaughtering weights*)
- Veterinary statistics (*statistics on the inspection of slaughter animals and meat, statistics on the hygienic supervision of the production of poultry meat, statistics on epizootic diseases*)
- Statistics on milk production and utilisation
- Statistics on fisheries

### **5.4 Food production**

## **6 Production industries**

### **Mining and manufacturing**

- 6.1 Survey of local units in manufacturing, mining and quarrying**
- 6.2 Survey of enterprises in manufacturing, mining and quarrying**
- 6.3 Specialised statistics for individual branches of manufacturing, mining and quarrying**

### **Construction industry**

- 6.4 Survey of local units in the construction industry**
- 6.5 Survey of enterprises in the construction industry**

### **Energy and water supply**

- 6.6 Survey of local units of energy and water supply**
- 6.7 Survey of enterprises of energy and water supply**
- 6.8 Special statistics of energy and water supply**

### **Crafts**

- 6.9 Census of crafts**
- 6.10 Quarterly reports on crafts**

## **7 Building activity and dwellings**

- 7.1 Statistics on building activity** (statistics on building permits, statistics on completions of buildings, statistics on work under construction, survey of retirements)
- 7.2 Statistics on the financing of residential construction**
- 7.3 Census of buildings and housing**
- 7.4 Current adjustment of the stocks of residential buildings and dwellings**
- 7.5 Housing sample survey**

## **8 Distributive trade, hotel and restaurant industry, tourism**

- 8.1 Census of distributive trade and the hotel and restaurant industry**
- 8.2 Wholesale trade statistics**
- 8.3 Commission trade statistics**
- 8.4 Retail trade statistics**
- 8.5 Statistics on the hotel and restaurant industry**
- 8.6 Statistics on accommodation in tourism**

## **9 Foreign trade**

### **9.1 Foreign trade statistics**

### **9.2 Statistics on imported solid fuels**

## **10 Transport**

### **10.1 Railway statistics** (statistics on operating accidents)

### **10.2 Road traffic statistics**

- Statistics on roads of other than local transport (*statistics on federal autobahn junctions, auxiliary autobahn facilities and services*)
- Statistics on the stock of motor vehicles and trailers and its changes
- Statistics on driving licences
- Statistics on provisional driving licences
- Statistics on the central transport register
- Statistics on defective vehicles
- Statistics on road passenger transport
- Statistics on freight transport by road (*statistics on distances run and volume of transport*)
- Statistics on frontier-crossing transport by motor vehicles
- Statistics on road traffic accidents

### **10.3 Statistics of inland waterways transport and maritime shipping**

- Statistics on inland waterways transport
- Statistics of maritime shipping (*sailor statistics, statistics of sea transport*)

### **10.4 Air transport statistics** (statistics on airlines, statistics of air traffic at airports, statistics of air traffic accidents)

### **10.5 Pipeline statistics**

### **10.6 Statistics of the German Meteorological Service**

## **11 Money and banking, insurance**

### **Money and banking**

#### **11.1 Overall monetary survey**

- Consolidated balance sheet of the banking system
- Statistical data on the volume of money
- Statistical data on bank liquidity

#### **11.2 Deutsche Bundesbank**

- Return of the Deutsche Bundesbank
- Data on the external position of the Deutsche Bundesbank
- Minimum reserve statistics

#### **11.3 Credit institutions**

- Interim balance-sheet statistics
- Credit statistics
- Statistics on credits granted
- Statistics on security holdings
- Statistics on deposits and borrowing
- Statistics on safe custody accounts for securities
- Statistics on interim balance sheets of the foreign branches of German credit institutions
- Statistics on interim balance sheets of foreign credit institutions majority-owned by German credit institutions
- Statistics on profit and loss accounts of credit institutions
- Statistics on assets and liabilities of domestic credit institutions in relation to foreign countries
- Statistics on assets and liabilities of the foreign branches of German credit institutions in relation to foreign countries
- Statistics on assets and liabilities of the foreign subsidiaries of German credit institutions in relation to business partners outside the Federal Republic of Germany
- Statistics of building and loan associations

#### **11.4 Securities markets**

- Statistics on securities issued
- Statistics on prices and yields of fixed-interest bearing securities
- Statistics of stock exchange turnover
- Investment statistics

#### **11.5 Interest and currencies**

- Statistics on foreign exchange quotations
- Statistics on interest rates

#### **Insurance**

#### **11.6 Insurance statistics**

- Statistics on the insurance industry
- Life assurance statistics
- Statistics on pension funds
- Statistics on burial funds
- Statistics on health insurance
- Statistics on indemnity and accident insurance
- Statistics on the reinsurance business

### **12 Justice**

**12.1 Statistics on the administration of justice** (statistics of the number of courts and of personnel in the administration of justice, statistics of cases settled or pending at the courts)

**12.2 Crime statistics of the police**

**12.3 Criminal statistics of the courts**

**12.4 Statistics on the execution of sentences**

**12.5 Probation statistics**

**12.6 Statistics on extraditions**



## **18 Wages and salaries**

### **18.1 Continuous statistics of earnings**

### **18.2 Labour cost surveys**

### **18.3 Structure of earnings survey in trade and industry and the service sector**

### **18.4 Statistics of agreed wages and salaries**

### **18.5 Statistics on employee pension schemes**

## **19 Prices**

### **19.1 Statistics on producer and wholesale prices**

### **19.2 Statistics on purchase prices of farm supplies**

### **19.3 Statistics on foreign trade prices**

### **19.4 Statistics on purchase values of building land**

### **19.5 Statistics on construction prices**

### **19.6 Statistics on consumer prices**

### **19.7 Statistics on transport prices**

## **20 National accounts** (economic and finance statistics, national wealth accounts, financial accounts)

## **21 Balance of payments**

### **21.1 Balance of payments statistics**

### **21.2 Statistics on external assets and liabilities**

## **22 Environment**

### **22.1 Statistics on waste management**

### **22.2 Statistics on water management**

### **22.3 Statistics on accidents in handling and transporting water-endangering substances**

### **22.4 Statistics on air quality control**

### **22.5 Environmental-economic statistics**

### **22.6 Environmental-Economic Accounting**

## **23 Statistics of foreign countries**

### **23.1 Reports covering several countries**

### **23.2 Subject-Matter Series including statistics of foreign countries**



## List of abbreviations

CCC	Customs Co-operation Council
CCR	Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR)
CD	Danube Commission
EC	European Communities
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ECMT	European Conference of Ministers of Transport
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EDP	Electronic Data Processing
EEA	Environmental-Economic Accounting
EEC	European Economic Community
EIONET	Environmental Information and Observation Network
ESA	European System of Integrated Economic Accounts
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EU	European Union
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Communities
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FORCE	Action Programme for the implementation of a European Community Vocational Training Policy
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDR	German Democratic Republic
GNP	Gross National Product
IARIW	International Association for Research in Income and Wealth
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INTRASTAT	Intra-Community Trade Statistics
ISI	International Statistical Institute
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IUSSP	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PHARE	Poland and Hungary Action for Restructuring the Economies
SNA	System of National Accounts
SPC	Statistical Programme Committee
STABIS	Statistical Information System on Land Use
STATIS-BUND	Statistical Information System of the Federation
TACIS	Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WHO	World Health Organization



# Addresses of the statistical offices

## Annex 5

### Statistisches Bundesamt (Federal Statistical Office)

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Außenstelle Düsseldorf  
(Düsseldorf Subsidiary Office)  
Postfach 10 48 51  
D-40039 Düsseldorf\*  
Hüttenstraße 5 a  
D-40215 Düsseldorf  
Telefon: (02 11) 3 84 11 - 0  
Telefax: (02 11) 3 84 11 28

Eurostat Data Shop Berlin  
Otto-Braun-Straße 70 -72  
D-10178 Berlin  
Telefon: (030) 23 24 - 64 27/28  
Telefax: (030) 23 24 64 30  
e-mail: [stba-berlin.datashop@t-online.de](mailto:stba-berlin.datashop@t-online.de)

### Statistical offices of the Länder

Statistisches Landesamt  
Baden-Württemberg  
(Land Statistical Office of  
Baden-Württemberg)  
Postfach 10 60 33  
D-70049 Stuttgart\*  
Böblinger Straße 68  
D-70199 Stuttgart  
Telefon: (07 11) 641 - 0  
Telefax: (07 11) 6 41 24 40  
<http://www.statistik.baden-wuerttemberg.de>  
e-mail: [stala.bw@t-online.de](mailto:stala.bw@t-online.de)

Bayerisches Landesamt für  
Statistik und Datenverarbeitung  
(Bavarian Land Office for  
Statistics and Data Processing)  
D-80288 München\*  
Neuhauser Straße 8  
D-80331 München  
Telefon: (089) 21 19 - 0  
Telefax: (089) 2 11 94 10  
<http://www.bayern.de/LFSTAD>  
e-mail: [poststelle@lfstad.bayern.de](mailto:poststelle@lfstad.bayern.de)

Statistisches Landesamt  
Berlin  
(Land Statistical Office of Berlin)  
D-10306 Berlin\*  
Alt Friedrichsfelde 60  
D-10315 Berlin  
Telefon: (030) 90 21 - 0  
Telefax: (030) 90 21 36 55  
<http://www.statistik-berlin.icf.de>  
e-mail: [stala-berlin@t-online.de](mailto:stala-berlin@t-online.de)

Landesamt für Daten-  
verarbeitung und Statistik  
Brandenburg  
(Land Office for Data Processing  
and Statistics of Brandenburg)  
Postfach 60 10 52  
D-14410 Potsdam\*  
Dortustraße 46  
D-14467 Potsdam  
Telefon: (03 31) 39 - 0  
Telefax: (03 31) 3 95 21  
<http://www.brandenburg.de/lds/index.html>  
e-mail: [Info@lds.brandenburg.de](mailto:Info@lds.brandenburg.de)

Statistisches Landesamt  
Bremen  
(Land Statistical Office of  
Bremen)  
Postfach 10 13 09  
D-28013 Bremen\*  
An der Weide 14 - 16  
D-28195 Bremen  
Telefon: (04 21) 361 - 0  
Telefax: (04 21) 3 61 43 10  
<http://www.bremen.de/info/statistik>

Statistisches Landesamt  
Hamburg  
(Land Statistical Office of  
Hamburg)  
D-20453 Hamburg\*  
Steckelhörn 12  
D-20457 Hamburg  
Telefon: (040) 36 81 - 0  
Telefax: (040) 36 81 17 00  
<http://www.statistik-hamburg.de>  
e-mail: [Statistik-Hamburg@t-online.de](mailto:Statistik-Hamburg@t-online.de)

Hessisches Statistisches  
Landesamt  
(Hessian Land Statistical  
Office)  
D-65175 Wiesbaden\*  
Rheinstraße 35 – 37  
D-65185 Wiesbaden  
Telefon: (06 11) 38 02 - 0  
Telefax: (06 11) 3 80 29 90  
<http://www.hsl.de>  
e-mail: [hsl@wiesbaden.netsurf.de](mailto:hsl@wiesbaden.netsurf.de)

Landesamt für Daten-  
verarbeitung und Statistik  
Nordrhein-Westfalen  
(Land Office for Data  
Processing and Statistics of  
North Rhine-Westphalia)  
D-40193 Düsseldorf\*  
Mauerstraße 51  
D-40476 Düsseldorf  
Telefon: (02 11) 94 49 - 01  
Telefax: (02 11) 44 20 06  
<http://www.lids.nrw.de>  
e-mail: [wolfgang.zentarra@lds.nrw.de](mailto:wolfgang.zentarra@lds.nrw.de)

Statistisches Landesamt  
des Freistaates Sachsen  
(Land Statistical Office of the  
Free State of Saxony)  
Postfach 105  
D-01911 Kamenz\*  
Macherstraße 31  
D-01917 Kamenz  
Telefon: (0 35 78) 33 - 0  
Telefax: (0 35 78) 33 15 55  
<http://www.statistik.sachsen.de>  
e-mail: [WebMaster@statistik.sachsen.de](mailto:WebMaster@statistik.sachsen.de)

Thüringer Landesamt für Statistik  
(Thuringian Land Statistical  
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Postfach 90 01 63  
D-99104 Erfurt\*  
Europaplatz 3  
D-99091 Erfurt  
Telefon: (03 61) 37 - 900  
Telefax: (03 61) 3 78 46 99  
<http://www.th-online.de/tls>  
e-mail: [tls-thueringen@t-online.de](mailto:tls-thueringen@t-online.de)

Statistisches Landesamt  
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
(Land Statistical Office of  
Mecklenburg-Western  
Pomerania)  
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D-19018 Schwerin\*  
Lübecker Straße 287  
D-19059 Schwerin  
Telefon: (03 85) 48 01 - 0  
Telefax: (03 85) 4 80 11 23  
<http://www.mvnet.de/inmv/stala>  
e-mail: [stala@mvnet.de](mailto:stala@mvnet.de)

Statistisches Landesamt  
Rheinland-Pfalz  
(Land Statistical Office of  
Rhineland-Palatinate)  
Mainzer Straße 14 – 16  
D-56130 Bad Ems  
Telefon: (0 26 03) 71 - 0  
Telefax: (0 26 03) 7 13 15

Statistisches Landesamt  
Sachsen-Anhalt  
(Land Statistical Office of  
Saxony-Anhalt)  
Postfach 20 11 56  
D-06012 Halle (Saale)\*  
Merseburger Straße 2  
D-06112 Halle (Saale)  
Telefon: (03 45) 23 18 - 0  
Telefax: (03 45) 2 31 89 13  
<http://www.stala.sachsen-anhalt.de>  
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Geibelstraße 61 – 65  
D-30173 Hannover  
Telefon: (05 11) 98 98 - 0  
Telefax: (05 11) 9 89 84 00  
<http://www.nls.niedersachsen.de>  
e-mail: [Postmaster@NLS.Niedersachsen.de](mailto:Postmaster@NLS.Niedersachsen.de)

Statistisches Landesamt  
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Schleswig-Holstein  
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Fröbelstraße 15 – 17  
D-24113 Kiel  
Telefon: (04 31) 68 95 - 0  
Telefax: (04 31) 6 89 54 98  
<http://www.statistik-sh.de>  
e-mail: [statistik-sh@t-online.de](mailto:statistik-sh@t-online.de)

\* Postal address.

The statistical offices of the Länder issue their own lists of publications. An outline of their largely uniform "Statistische Berichte" (Statistical Reports) is contained in the Gesamtverzeichnis "Statistische Berichte der Statistischen Landesämter" (General List of Statistical Reports Published by the Statistical Offices of the Länder), which may be obtained from the respective Land offices.

Municipal Offices

When contacting these offices, please write as follows:

"Städtestatistisches Amt der Stadt ...".



