

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

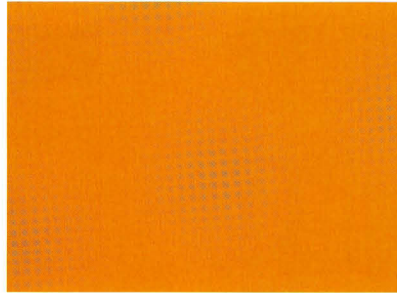


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Dear readers,

Our fourth Annual Report gives you a comprehensive up-to-date overview of major activities and services of the Federal Statistical Office in 2005. It is intended for decision-makers in the political and administrative spheres, for journalists and the interested public. Two interviews with external experts inform about the way in which representatives of the media and scientists use our data. A separate chapter on administration modernisation shows what the Federal Statistical Office is doing to complete its tasks more efficiently. With the Master Plan for a Reform of German Official Statistics, we are working together with the statistical offices of the Länder to exploit efficiency reserves in the federative German statistical system through optimised co-operation (e.g. according to the principle “one for all” and by standardising work processes).

An important milestone in the process of reducing the burden on enterprises caused by statistics requirements was the successful pilot test in 2005 of the new promising eSTATISTIK.core technology. Enterprises now can extract statistics “at the touch of a button” from their business accounting systems and send them to a joint server of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder via the Internet. The eSTATISTIK.core project, which received several awards in 2005, supplements the existing online reporting systems for enterprises continuously extended in 2005.

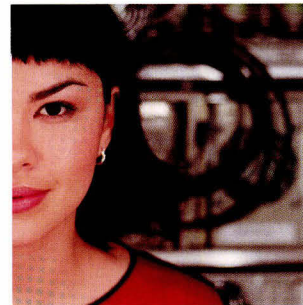
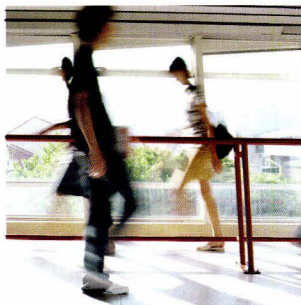
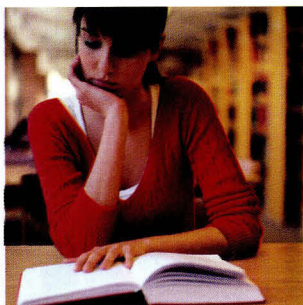
We have made considerable progress in 2005 regarding service and customer friendliness. Our Central Information Service, for instance, improved its largely free range of services by a new web-based customer management system. All this shows that despite staff reductions and scarce financial resources, the Federal Statistical Office managed also in the past year to live up to its reputation as an efficient Information provider.

After the early 2005 Bundestag elections, discussion about reform continues. The Federal Statistical Office contributes its share by providing basic data on important issues of our time. In a period of globalisation and the change towards a service and information society, with the expansion of information and communication technology in all spheres of life and last but not least the effects of demographic change on the state, business and society, one rule holds true more than ever: good policies need good statistics.

Wiesbaden, April 2006

Johann Hahlen
President of the Federal Statistical Office

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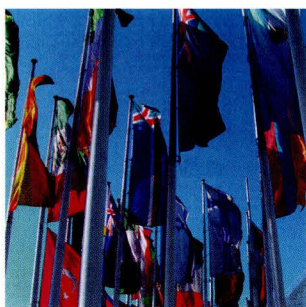
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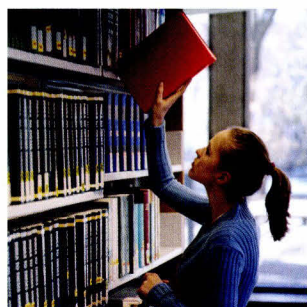
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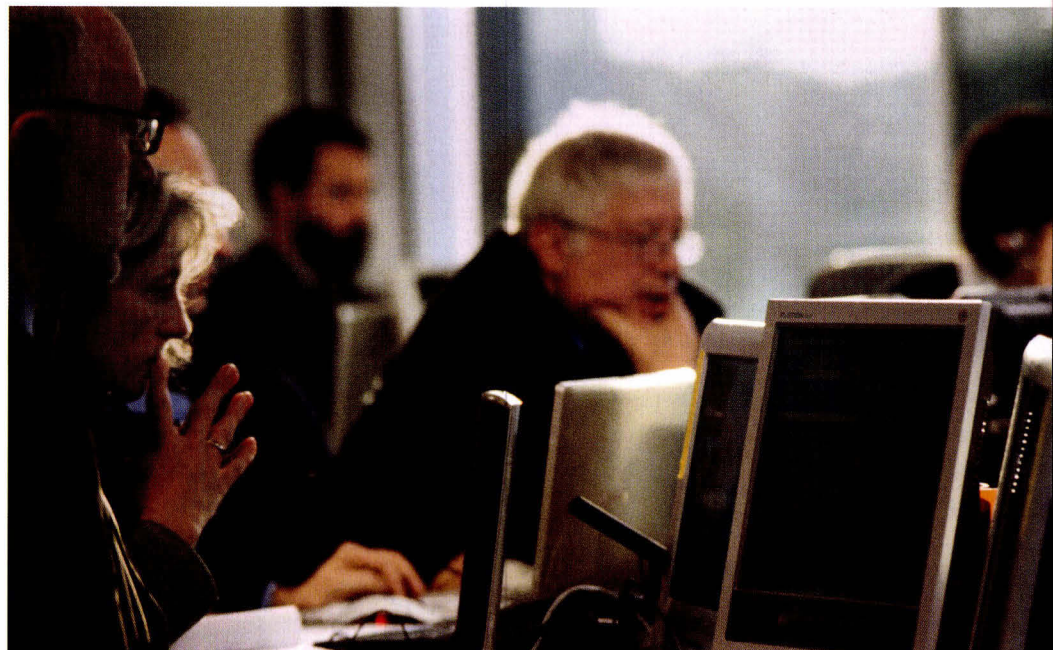
Information serving the customers

At the pulse of time – press work at the Federal Statistical Office

Objective and unbiased were all of the nearly 600 press releases published by the Federal Statistical Office in 2005. Releases on current societal and political issues met with particularly lively responses in the media, like those on the burden imposed on households by higher energy prices, on the “commuter subsidy” and on the German government deficit. New data on economic growth, on the development of consumer prices and German foreign trade received special attention also in 2005. The releases of the Federal Statistical Office tailored to

the needs of the media and the users always had a positive response, be it in the business press or in tabloids, on television or in the internet information services. – Would you have known that EUR 18 billion came into the treasury from taxes on semi-luxury foods in 2004? Or that one tenth of our electricity already originates from renewable energies? Every Tuesday at 11 a.m., the “Zahl der Woche” (Figure of the week) of the Federal Statistical Office is published providing this type of result from official statistics which is easy to remember. The Federal Statistical Office employs state-of-the-art technology to disseminate its releases. The media and other interested parties receive the current press releases via satellite, Internet and by e-mail newsletter.

Expectant: journalists awaiting the Federal Returning Officer's first results

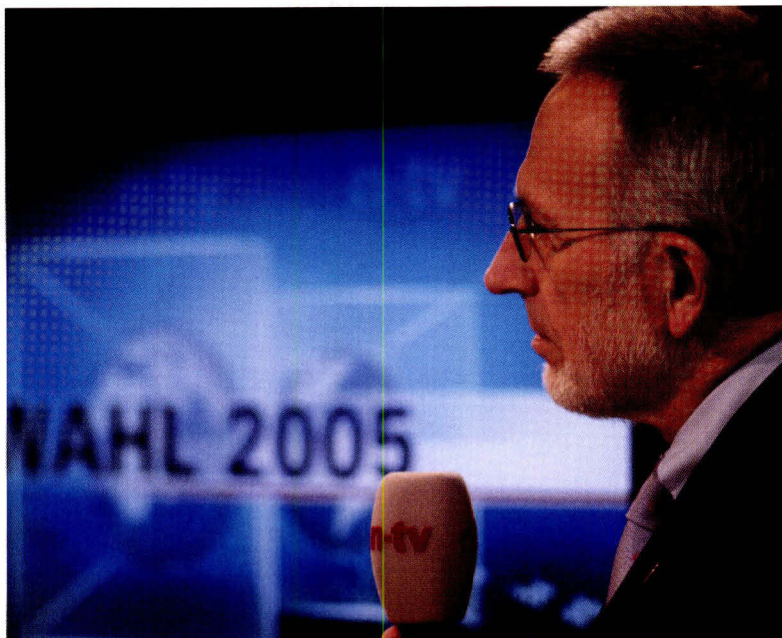
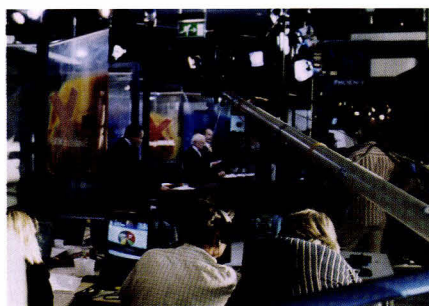


Press conferences as part of active public relations

Press work at the Federal Statistical Office centres on the press conferences held at the Federal Press Conference in Berlin, at the Frankfurt Press Club, or in Wiesbaden. In 2005, the Federal Statistical Office held a total of 14 press briefings. Talking with journalists on such occasions, the press experts of the Federal Statistical Office track down new topics which are of special interest to the public. In 2005, several press events of the Federal Statistical Office again took place where the customers were, for example at the Cebit Computer Fair in Hanover in March 2005 where the Office presented the new eSTATISTIK.core pro-

cedure for extracting data. Headlines in major supra-regional newspapers prove that the data and background information presented by the Federal Statistical Office at the press events are welcomed by the media. "Tuition fees driving away long-term students", "Number of first-year students on the decline" are some of the headlines supra-regional newspapers published the day after a press conference of the Federal Statistical Office in Berlin at the beginning of December 2005 on the subject of Germany as a location of universities. The press work of the Federal Statistical Office is supported by important partners, i.e. German and foreign news agencies who pass the releases from the field of statistics on to the media within a few minutes.

President Johann Hahlen in his capacity as Federal Returning Officer on the night of the Bundestag election





Dr. Wilm Herlyn has been editor-in-chief of the Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH (dpa) since 1990, which is one of the leading news agencies in the world. Its correspondents report around the clock from everywhere on the globe.

Interview with Dr. Wilm Herlyn, dpa press agency

Dr. Herlyn, what do you personally associate with the term “statistics”?

The university student Wilm Herlyn had a horror of statistics. I cannot remember how I managed to get the certificates for the compulsory statistics I and II courses. The journalist Wilm Herlyn has learnt to like statistics, not for the rows of figures but for the many news and stories behind them.

What significance do releases from the Federal Statistical Office have for a global news agency like dpa?

Releases from Wiesbaden are evaluated by dpa with the same parameters as any other event: is it new, is it relevant, is there another aspect to a piece of news? We make a point of not only passing on to our customers from the media the mere figures but explain their significance, the trend they indicate or their background. Such explanatory news really is of value to our customers. This is what the media want to offer and have to offer their customers, namely their readers, listeners and viewers. And these releases from the world of statistics are not only for the regional and national levels but also for our international services.

News agencies are very important for us as multipliers. What do you think of our press services?

We would often like to get more information than there is in the release, such as longer time series or simply explanations of technical terms. The support we get from your staff in such cases is very good. We find less assistance in Wiesbaden when we are looking for the causes of changes – here we have to resort to associations or other experts.

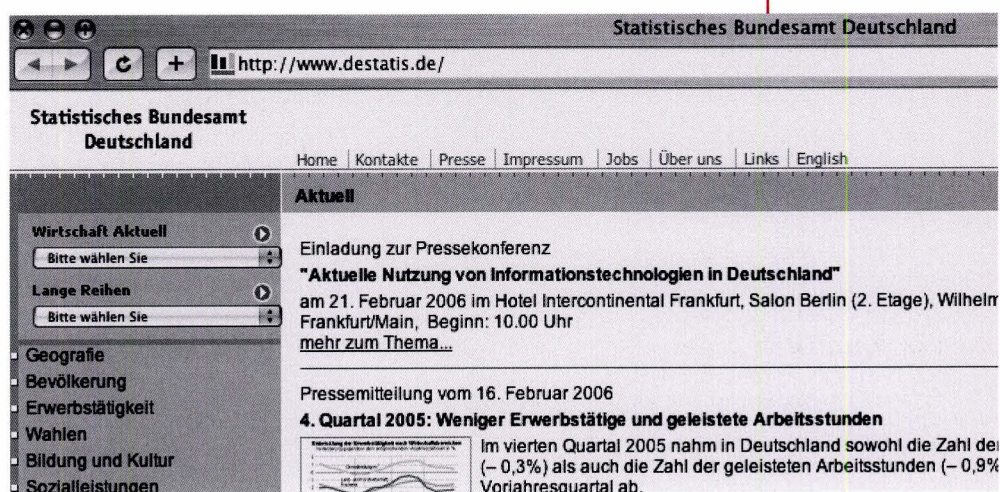
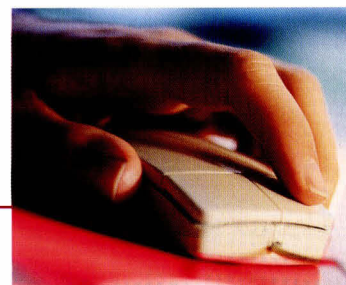
Which releases from official statistics are particularly sought-after by your customers?

Our press agency closely monitors customers' reactions to our releases. News from the Federal Statistical Office which deals with the living conditions of the people receives the most attention – these basically are releases from the social sphere, but also releases on the economy, especially where consumer interests are affected. Major basic data are also important for us, for example the gross domestic product, consumer prices or external trade balances.

Homepage of the Federal Statistical Office provides more information

As many as 24 million page hits in 2005 show that the website of the Federal Statistical Office www.destatis.de has meanwhile become the most important source of information for results from official statistics. In 2005, the Federal Statistical Office supplemented the – generally free – data offered on the website by information on the quality and methodology of statistics (“quality reports”), by Reports on Foreign Countries and by information on excise duties. Users will also find basic statistical data from all fields of official statistics there, current economic data and business indicators, news of the day from official statistics and contact persons for all questions concerning statistics. – You wish to give some feedback on the information supplied or direct an inquiry to the Federal Statistical Office? Then you can use a new contact form now which has been integrated into the website.

The website of the Federal Statistical Office offers current statistical information in various forms: texts, tables and charts give a quick overview. A number of interactive graphics supplement such “traditional” ways of presentation. For the early Bundestag elections in 2005, the Federal Statistical Office provided a newly developed interactive elections atlas as a web application. It contains thematic maps on the election results and on the socio-demographic and economic situation in the constituencies. With the help of this instrument, users may gain a better understanding of differences between East and West, North and South, cities and rural regions also at their PCs at home and analyse regional features of the election results. This innovative in-house product of the Federal Statistical Office was quite a success – many supra-regional newspapers printed graphics which had been produced with the help of the elections atlas.



The website of the Federal Statistical Office: in addition to current data, users find interactive applications and rapid assistance via a contact form

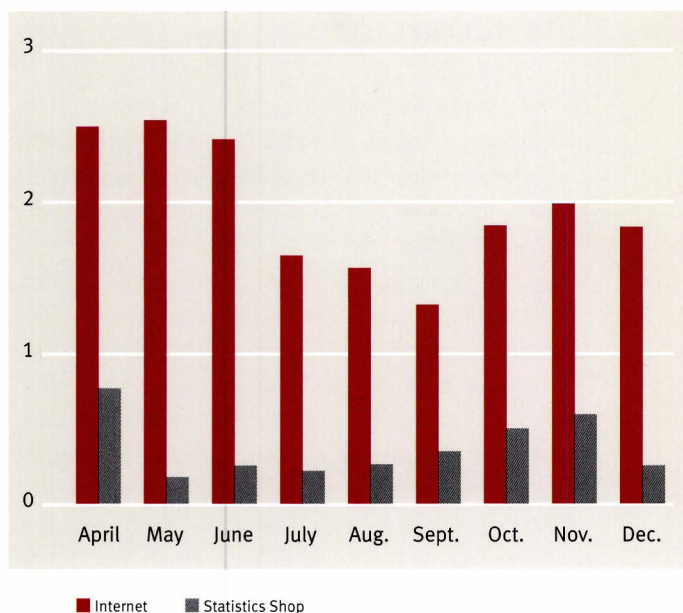
Good response to the Statistics Shop

A major service offered by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) to its customers is the Statistics Shop, the internet-based platform for ordering print publications and for downloading products. All publications of the Federal Statistical Office can be obtained there, including now nearly 2 600 free download products. Extended search functions facilitate customer guidance. About 15 000 customers registered until the end of 2005 to order products they have to pay for. The number of free downloads performed continued to rise in 2005 to 356 000. Statistics Shop page hits (www.destatis.de/shop) totalled 4.5 million in 2005, that is a monthly average of about 380 000.

User numbers still on the rise for the internet-based information database GENESIS-Online

GENESIS-Online, the information database of the Federal Statistical Office, enables everyone to do comprehensive research within the range of statistical data offered. Tables tailored to the customer's specific needs and user-friendly downloading of the results in various data formats are good arguments for setting out to exploit the wealth of statistical data offered on the Internet on one's own. Data from over 100 sets of statistics are available by now. The range of data which can be accessed online is continuously extended and updated. There was another improvement of the Genesis-Online services in 2005. Users now are informed briefly at regular intervals and in a convenient manner about data updates and supplements ('RSS newsfeeds').

FSO general website and Statistics Shop page hits per month in 2005 (in millions)



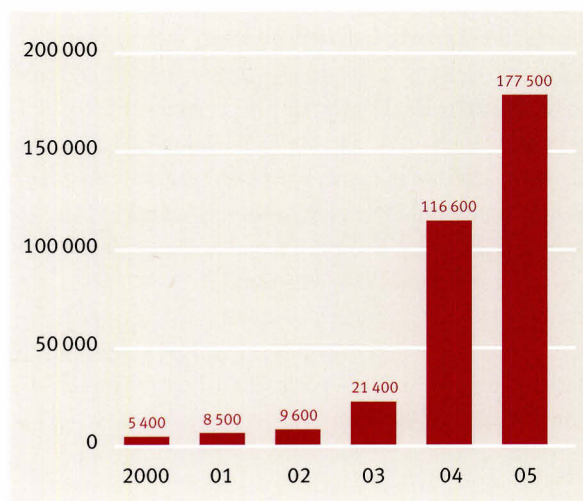
At the end of 2005, a total of 2 300 registered customers were entitled to use all GENESIS-Online data for an annual charge of EUR 50.00. For permanent customers – these mainly are commercial redistributors, banks, associations and research institutions – there is another, more comprehensive deal. They may, for instance, further process selected data sets in their own databases against a higher charge. Guest users have free access to the range of free tables and may do data research. Nearly 150 000 page hits by guests in 2005 show that the opportunity to do online research is well-received.

Health monitoring system of the Federation increasingly popular with internet users

On the Internet, information is provided in abundance by professional associations and scientific institutions. The disadvantage is that the search for information can often be time-consuming and frustrating. On the one hand, the user loses track in the “flood of data”, on the other, it takes a long time to obtain certain information. For data on the German health system, the health monitoring information system of the Federation (www.gbe-bund.de) has provided a solution for quite some time. It combines data from the most different sources and presents them with a clear structure. Quite sought-after is information, among others, from the accounting systems on disease-related costs, health expenditure and health personnel introduced by the Federal Statistical Office.



Monthly average of webpage hits for the health monitoring information system



An essential component of this information system is an online database. Here everyone, whether an expert or an interested layman, rapidly finds compact, transparent and detailed health-relevant information from a multitude of sources presented in the form of tables, texts and graphics. The demand for health data is on the rise. The number of webpage hits for the health monitoring system increased in 2005 by more than fifty percent on a monthly average against the preceding year. The Federal Statistical Office continuously extends this online data supply and updates all data sources at regular intervals. In 2005, for instance, diagnosis data from rehabilitation facilities and data on dentists' services were included among other things.

Numerous publications for the general public issued in 2005

In 2005, the Federal Statistical Office issued numerous new publications for the general public. Whether analyses of societal issues, political decision-making, personal or entrepreneurial planning are at stake – nothing can be done anymore without facts and plain figures. The new image brochure of the Federal Statistical Office “Statistisch gesehen” (The statistical perspective) bridges the gap from statistical data to personal questions of the individual. As part of public relations work at the Federal Statistical Office, the “Annual Report” shows the achievements of the Federal Statistical Office. This edition is the third to be published, and much earlier than in previous years. Of the new brochures, leaflets and compact data collections of the Federal Statistical Office which provide a quick overview of certain subjects, the following shall be mentioned: a compilation of current data entitled “IKT in Deutschland” (ICT in Germany) issued in November 2005 and a brochure entitled “Deutschland aktuell – Ausgabe 2005” (Germany today – 2005 edition) published in January 2005. An overview of Germany in an international comparison is provided by the flyer with the same title of April 2005. The “Länderprofile” (Country profiles) of the Federal Statistical Office supply up-to-date information on other countries, in 2005 on the United States, the Russian Federation, India, Turkey and other countries. Like all other publications offered as part of public relations, they are also available as free downloads at the Statistics Shop.

New publications for decision-makers, experts and scientists

While the general public likes to draw upon leaflets and brochures, the “Statistical Yearbook” is a source of information which members of parliament and other decision-makers like to resort to. The user-friendliness of this statistical reference work was improved in 2005, and explanations were provided for the individual subject areas that are easier to understand. The “Blickpunkt” series (In the spotlight) of the Federal Statistical Office addresses the interested public, experts and journalists. Its volume “Preise in Deutschland” (Prices in Germany) published in February 2005 shows how price statistics works and explains why the bodies of official statistics measure relatively low inflation rates while the population speaks of high price increases since the introduction of the Euro. This publication was accompanied by an interactive Internet application, the “index calculator”. With the publication “Die Bundesländer: Strukturen und Entwicklungen” (The Länder – structures and trends) issued in February 2006, the Federal Statistical Office complies with the request for comparative statistical information on the 16 Länder.

Co-ordinated by the Federal Statistical Office, several joint publications of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder were issued in 2005. An important new publication was the “Museumsbericht 2004” (Report on museums, 2004) on the development and significance of museums in the Länder, which was prepared in co-operation with the Institute for Museum Studies. Intended for experts is the handbook “Anonymising microdata of economic statistics” issued in September 2005. It contains the results of a research project which lasted several years and to which the Federal Statistical Office made a substantial contribution.

The Information Services of the Federal Statistical Office – a service for all citizens

You would like to know what data from official statistics would be of help to you? Or you need specific information relating to official statistics? Then it would be worth while to make a call or access our website www.destatis.de. Via the link 'Kontakte' on the German website (or via 'English' – 'Contact') you will find the Specialised Information Services of the Federal Statistical Office and competent contact persons for major sets of statistics with their telephone numbers. A specific Journalist Information Service fulfils the information requests of the press, the Information Service on International Statistics supplies statistical data of foreign countries. The numerous Information Services of the Federal Statistical Office are sought-after. Day after day hundreds of citizens make a call or ask for data and information by e-mail.

Year after year, the Statistical Information Service of the Federal Statistical Office receives thousands of enquiries by phone or mail from nearly all countries of the world. The roughly 200 calls per day are mainly from customers searching advice regarding the data available and ways of obtaining them. For about 80 especially popular cross-sectional topics, the team of the Information Service has prepared custom-tailored "information packages" which are made available to the customer within a day. In 2005, information on small and middle-sized businesses, on purchasing power and poverty in Germany, and on the ageing of the society were particularly sought-after.



Optimised service with the customer management system Conso+Web

In order to improve its information delivery further, the Federal Statistical Office introduced a web-based customer management system (Conso+Web) in 2005 – initially as a pilot procedure for the Information Service and the microcensus. By means of a contact form on our website, our customers can provide the Federal Statistical Office with the information necessary for dealing with their inquiries. We respond to them without switching between media and much more rapidly than before. With this customer management system, the Federal Statistical Office is able for the first time to record the wishes and requirements of the requesting persons systematically. This makes it much easier to prepare custom-tailored information packages for topics in high demand. Conso+Web has proven itself in practice and is used frequently. It also is a move towards the paperless office. The customer management system will be introduced in the entire Federal Statistical Office from the spring of 2006.

EDS European Data Service informs about European statistics

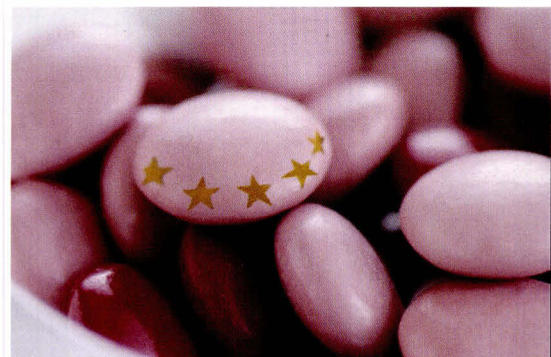
You need data from Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities? Then EDS, the European Data Service of the Federal Statistical Office, can help you. Being the successor of the former Eurostat Data Shop Berlin, it has provided information about the European Union in all of Germany since the end of 2004. The EDS is a result of Eurostat's new dissemination policy: Eurostat databases on the Internet can be used free of charge just as Eurostat's electronic publications. In 2005, the EDS provided answers to nearly 10 000 inquiries concerning European statistics; only 600 answers had to be paid for. So users are glad to make use of the free "help to help yourself".

As a European service point, the EDS is partly financed by Eurostat. In return, the EDS provides its information services, makes Eurostat products known and submits quar-

terly reports. Eurostat co-ordinates a network of 20 official service points all over the EU, the European Statistical Data Support (ESDS), as it is called. With a share of 45 % of all enquiries registered in the network, EDS Germany is by far the largest service point. This may be due to the size of Germany and its specific Internet supply (www.eds-destatis.de) easily available to foreign users in the English language – almost every fifth enquiry comes from abroad. In addition to free assistance, the EDS offers tailor-made solutions against a charge. Users may request individual tables and data subscriptions and can order print publications and special evaluations. The EDS also supports various Eastern European countries in setting up their own European service points. For that reason, delegations from the statistical institutes of Lithuania and the Czech Republic visited the EDS in Berlin in 2005, where two statisticians from Eastern Europe stayed for a six-month practical period.



The European Data Service EDS offers information and optimum service via the website www.eds-destatis.de



Berlin Information Point – the “embassy” of official statistics in the capital

With its Berlin Information Point, the Federal Statistical Office has maintained a special information service in the German capital for more than six years. It offers data and information from official statistics to government and parliament, to federal agencies and diplomatic missions, to business and associations, but also to the public in general. With the ‘special service office for statistics’, the Berlin Information Point has its own representative office in the building of the German Bundestag in the Reichstag (the Marie-Elisabeth-Lüder building). It responds to statistical enquiries from parliament (scientific services and Bundestag parliamentary groups) and thus supports the work of the German Bundestag. In 2005, the service office answered almost 1 000 enquiries. At the same time, co-operation with the Bundestag is established in

the field of specialised statistics. For the first time, the Berlin Information Point contributed statistical data for dossiers which had to be prepared by the scientific services of the Bundestag on the topics of each week of the parliamentary session, they are then made available to all members and staff of the Bundestag.

With a total of 24 actions for the public, the Berlin Information Point was the “embassy” of official statistics in the capital in 2005. In July, for instance, it organised a statistical event for the Club der Handels- und Wirtschafts-räte and the labour and social attachés of the diplomatic representations accredited in Germany. The information stand of the Berlin Information Point also received much attention on the Open Day at the Federal Ministry of the Interior in August 2005. Berlin scientists made intensive use of the safe scientific workstations of the Federal Statistical Office’s research data centre set up at the Berlin Information Point.



Fairs as part of public relations work at the Federal Statistical Office

The presence of the Federal Statistical Office at fairs serves a double purpose. On the one hand, the products and services on offer are advertised to the respective target group at specialised fairs. On the other, a great number of people are reached especially at the large fairs who will realise that it makes sense to participate in official statistical surveys. At 14 fairs and congresses, experts from business, from the scientific community and the interested public learnt more about the Federal Statistical Office in 2005.

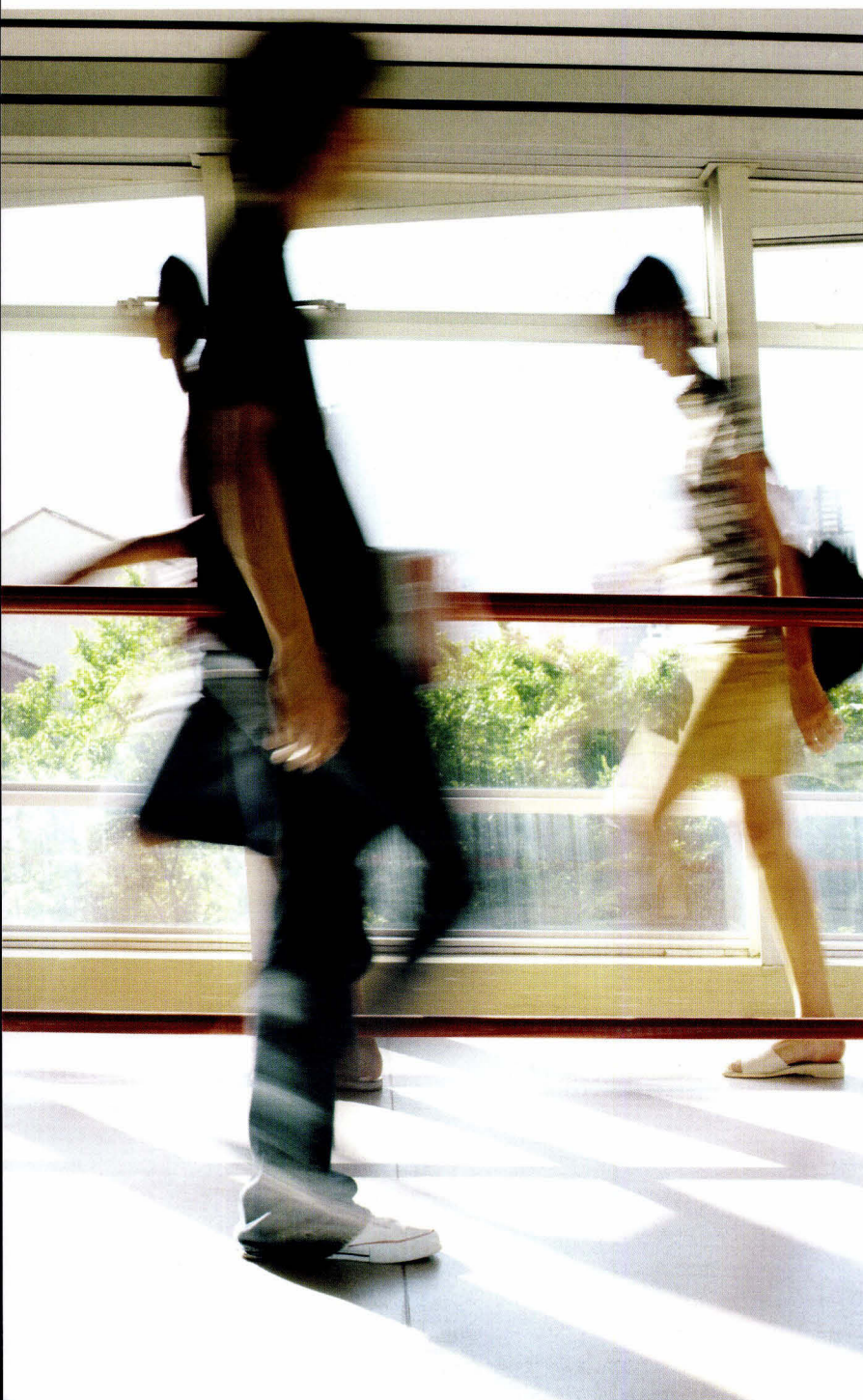
At the Frankfurt Book Fair in October 2005, the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder presented their print products. Much attention was paid to a collection of data on Korea, the country in the focus of the book fair, issued by the Federal Statistical Office for the occasion. At specialised fairs, the Federal Statistical Office informs in particular on relevant sets of statistics which are in the focus of attention at the stand. At the "Didacta", which took place in Stuttgart in February 2005, experts in education statistics from the Federal Statistical Office presented their publications and answered questions.



Participation of the Federal Statistical Office in fairs and information events in 2005

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 28 Feb 05 – 04 March 05 | Trade Fair for Education and Training - Didacta (Stuttgart) * |
| 10 March 05 – 16 March 05 | CeBIT (Hanover) * |
| 15 March 05 – 18 March 05 | German Librarians' Convention (Düsseldorf) |
| 17 March 05 – 30 March 05 | Leipzig Book Fair * |
| 11 April 05 – 15 April 05 | Hanover Fair * |
| 31 May 05 – 01 June 05 | Efficient Government (Berlin) |
| 22 June 05 – 23 June 05 | Education and Training Fair in Wiesbaden |
| 27 Aug 05 – 28 Aug 05 | Open Day at the Federal Ministries (Berlin) |
| 26 Sep 05 – 29 Sep 05 | Statistical Week (Braunschweig) |
| 18 Oct 05 – 19 Oct 05 | German Retail Convention (Berlin) |
| 19 Oct 05 – 23 Oct 05 | Frankfurt Book Fair * |
| 24 Oct 05 – 28 Oct 05 | Systems (Munich) |
| 09 Nov 05 – 10 Nov 05 | ConSozial (Nuremberg) |
| 28 Nov 05 – 29 Nov 05 | Modern Government (Berlin) |

* in co-operation with one or more statistical offices of the Länder

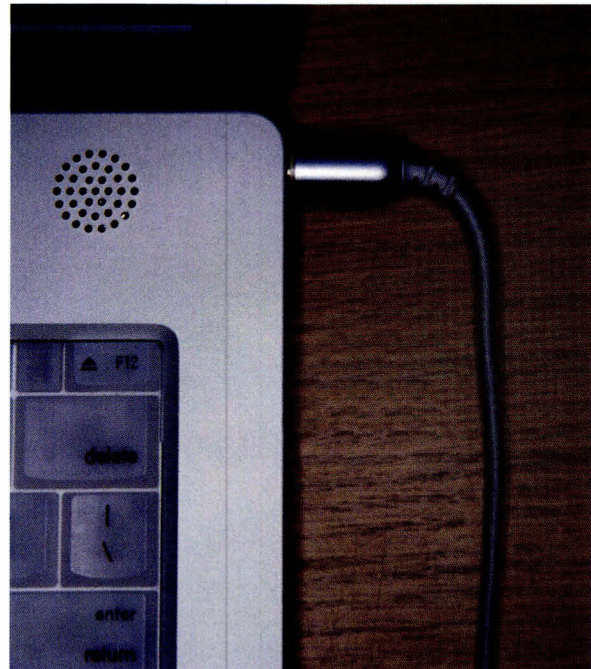


Breaking new ground

30 percent of enterprises take opportunity to report data online

Increasingly, enterprises take the chance to report statistical data via the Internet, a facility created by the Federal Statistical Office in 2000. At the end of 2005, nearly 30 % of respondents used this means to supply data for sets of statistics compiled centrally by the Federal Statistical Office where online reporting is possible. This modern reporting channel reduces the burden on enterprises as it offers assistance in many ways in the dialogue mode. Enterprises also save time and money compared with data delivery on paper forms sent by mail. The advantage for the Federal Statistical Office is the following: data supplied online can be processed without switches between media, which is less expensive.

Since the beginning of 2005, the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder have been changing the former online reporting system to the jointly used IDEV software for all sets of statistics. This has numerous advantages for users, such as new supplementary online information and an e-mail reminding service on specific reporting dates. Pre-checks of the completed forms reduce the checking work at the statistical offices and help to avoid queries which would have to be made later. The aim is to make this reporting channel via IDEV available for more than 50 all-German sets of statistics until the end of 2007. The extension of the online reporting systems is a major element of the Master Plan, the project to reform the German federal system of statistics.



eSTATISTIK.core project further reduces burden on enterprises

By extending the online reporting systems, in the past few years the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder managed to reduce considerably the burden on enterprises caused by statistics. But what can be done so that enterprises no longer need to extract the data required for various statistics from their EDP systems and enter them once again at the computer screen? The solution is an integrated statistics module in the enterprises' data processing systems. The eSTATISTIK.core project enables enterprises for the first time to use such a statistics module and automatically produce their data deliveries for several sets of statistics from the information available in the accounting systems, which are then transferred via the Internet to a central data reception

point. There the data are checked and distributed to the competent statistical offices of the Länder. As a result of the Federal Statistical Office's co-operation with enterprises, associations and software firms, well-known software producers now offer fully functional statistics modules. For wage statistics and the monthly report on industry, first enterprises integrated the required statistics modules into their software without problems in 2005 and delivered their data to the bodies of official statistics "at the touch of a button". The project was developed jointly by the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder in co-operation with well-known software producers and data processing service providers. It was supported by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour.

eSTATISTIK.core project received several awards in 2005

With their eSTATISTIK.core project, the bodies of official statistics did pioneer work in the field of online data collection. The central Internet data reception point for eSTATISTIK.core opened by former Federal Minister of the Interior Otto Schily at the CeBIT computer fair in Hanover in March 2005 will reduce the effort enterprises have to make to report statistical data. In 2005, the project received wide recognition also outside official statistics. The statistical offices won the 5th eGovernment Competi-

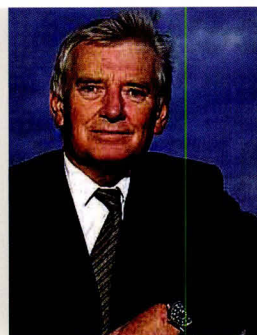
tion in the field of politics "Economy and Employment". Moreover, eSTATISTIK.core won a prize at the 7th Speyer Quality Award and received an award at the "Modern Government" Trade Fair in the "Government to Business"



Presentation of the eGovernment
Competition Award at the CeBIT 2005

category. In the long run, it should be possible to use eSTATISTIK.core for all sets of business statistics. Very small enterprises without expensive business software will also be enabled to use eSTATISTIK.core on the basis of standard office software. The modules required are provided free of charge by the statistics authorities.

■ "This new Germany Online service of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder considerably reduces the burden on enterprises surveyed, notably simplifies reporting for statistical purposes and produces enormous efficiency gains for the statistical offices through online-based distribution of work."

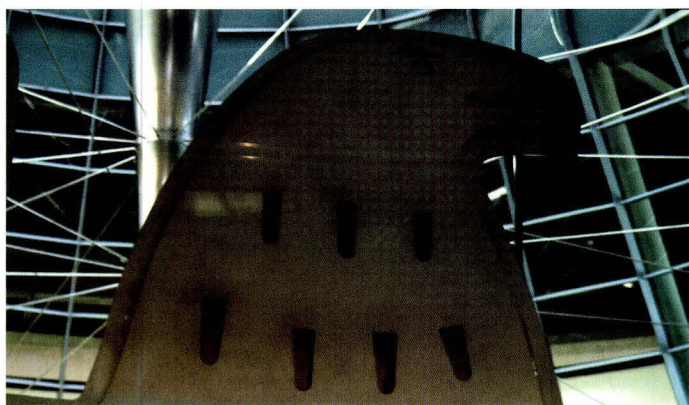


The former Federal Minister of the Interior Otto Schily at the inauguration of the Public Sector Parc at the 2005 CeBIT Computer Fair

Successful implementation of “unscheduled” 2005 Bundestag elections

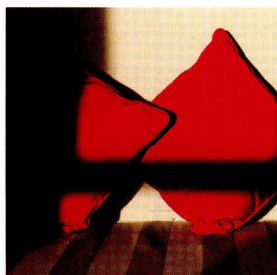
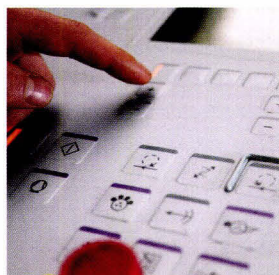
On 22 May 2005, former Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder announced his intention to hold early elections. Months later the Federal President and the Federal Constitutional Court cleared the way for that project. But preparations for the election started at the Federal Statistical Office in May already although the exact election day (18 September 2005) was fixed much later. The reason was that the President of the Federal Statistical Office also has the function of Federal Returning Officer for Bundestag and European elections. Therefore, staff at the Federal Statistical Office is responsible for the organisation and implementation of the elections and the use of information technology. Compared with elections taking place at regular intervals, the time available for preparing the

2005 Bundestag elections was shortened dramatically. That challenge was met by the “elections team” and especially the IT staff of the Federal Statistical Office by working overtime, at weekends and by abandoning holiday plans. The internet-based election implementation system already used in earlier elections proved excellent at the election evening in the Berlin Reichstag and later at the by-election in Dresden. Within a record time of only eight weeks, the IT experts of the Federal Statistical Office also prepared a new, barrier free Internet site for the Federal Returning Officer (www.bundeswahlleiter.de). The practical challenge of installing a separate network in the Berlin Reichstag for the election night and PC hardware on a large scale was also mastered. In the end, the staff of the Federal Statistical Office involved and in particular the IT team organised the 2005 Bundestag elections with their customary diligence and made sure that everything ran smoothly – in about half the time usually available.



Staff members of the Federal Statistical Office
on election night in the Berlin Reichstag

More recent microcensus data on demography, working life and families

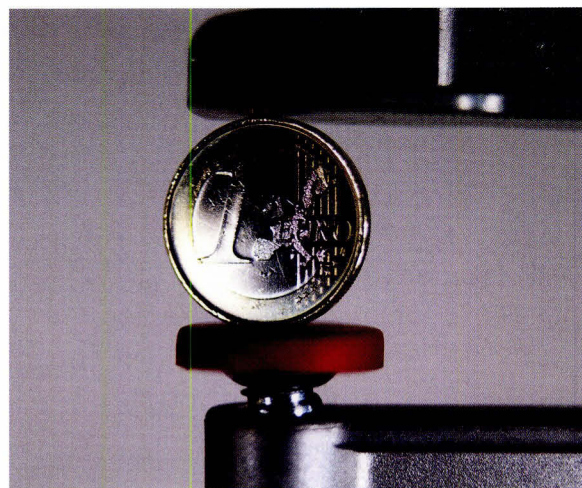


The microcensus, the most important official survey of households and families, has provided quarterly results from 2005 while before only annual results could be offered. Nevertheless, the burden on respondents has not risen as the interviews with about 370 000 households included are now conducted on a continuous basis during the entire year rather than in a fixed reporting week in spring. The quarterly results will provide users with more recent data on demographic, social and employment variables of the population. What is more, the quarterly figures and the resulting annual data are more informative than the former figures – seasonal and cyclical developments can be reflected much better than before. At the same time, the data collection procedure was modernised. The statistical offices of the Länder have used laptops almost everywhere since the beginning of 2005 when conducting personal interviews. This makes it possible to transfer data electronically and carry out integrated quality checks. Due to changes in the list of questions, the microcensus will additionally provide information on immigration, on respondents' migration background and on education in the years 2005 to 2012. On account of the new Microcensus Law of 2005, a new rapid evaluation procedure will also be introduced with the help of which the Federal Statistical Office will supply current monthly data on unemployment and the labour market in the future.

Price statistics with an active communication strategy

When the Euro had been introduced at the beginning of 2002, with the public the new currency quickly earned itself a reputation for rather being a "Teuro", "teuer" meaning "expensive" in German. Was it true that service enterprises and commerce had actually taken the opportunity of the currency changeover to increase prices considerably? When Euro notes and coin were introduced, official price statistics faced entirely new challenges since the moderate inflation rates published by the Federal Statistical Office were no longer compatible with the perception of the public; there were doubts that the official rate of inflation was correct. As a consequence, the Federal Statistical Office decided to explain more clearly to the public and to multipliers at events, by means of publications and via the Internet how the rate of inflation is calculated in order to remove any doubts about the data published.

A highlight of this new communication strategy was a press briefing in Frankfurt in February 2005. On that occa-



sion, the President of the Federal Statistical Office explained how the inflation rate of the year 2004 had been determined and how the bodies of official statistics calculate the official rate of inflation on the basis of a “basket of goods” of an average household. He also commented on various reasons why the general perception of the price development has differed from the official rate of inflation since the currency changeover.

In addition, the Federal Statistical Office provides an interactive index calculator on its website, which was introduced to the public in February 2005 together with a new volume of the “Blickpunkt” series (In the spotlight) on the subject of price statistics. At www.destatis.de/indexrechner everybody may calculate the effect of his or her consumption habits on the “personal inflation rate”. The index calculator met with very positive resonance in the public – even television stations reported on it. Additional information is provided on price statistics by one-page contributions on selected prices, e.g. of medicine, energy and rents, published monthly on the homepage of the Federal Statistical Office.

Price statistics: new study makes perceptions visible

The official rate of inflation is an aggregate indicator of monetary stability – depending on the individual consumption behaviour, the “personal price increase” may differ from the official average. Here is an example: 2004 was not a good year for heavy smokers because the price of tobacco products rose markedly against the preceding year. After Euro notes and coin had been introduced, higher prices had to be paid in particular for goods which were purchased quite often such as newspapers, beer sold in restaurants and rolls. Even though these goods usually do not play an important part in the household budget, households feel the price increase every day when people go shopping.

In co-operation with the University of Freiburg (Switzerland), the Federal Statistical Office therefore conducted a study in 2005 to examine the differences between the public perception of inflation and statistical price measurement. It took into account, among other things, that consumers are more aware of price increases than of price reductions, and also that the frequency with which goods are purchased is decisive for how the price development is perceived. The result of the study was that the price increase subjectively perceived by the consumer is measurably higher than the official one. It became clear that the results of price statistics are comprehensible if one spends some time trying to understand them. One should not, however, rely exclusively on one’s own perception.



Socio-economic reporting system links sets of statistics available



Data of the Federal Statistical Office on the social and economic situation of the population are indispensable for political decision-makers. But how are economic and social developments related? What effects will the foreseeable demographic change have? To answer such questions, statistical information available from various sources needs to be linked. This ambitious goal is pursued by a project group of the Federal Statistical Office set up in 2001 to establish a socio-economic reporting system. Based on the concepts of national accounts it is now possible to shed light for instance on the effects of demographic change on the demand for goods, on production and on income.

In 2005, detailed time series were computed for income and consumption by household groups and for the structures of households and the economically active population, which were made available to a research network for socio-economic modelling. Involved are, among others, the University of Osnabrück, the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research and the Sociological Research Institute at the University of Göttingen. The model calculations will show how the foreseeable changes of population and household structures may influence the economic development in the next two to three decades. The new information is available to scientists and the public without causing a burden through additional surveys as they are based exclusively on existing economic and social statistics.



Professor Dr. Michael Hüther has been Director of the Cologne Institute for Economic Research since July 2004. From 1995 to 1999, he was Secretary General of the Council of Economic Experts, from 1999 to mid-2004 Chief Economist of the DekaBank.

Interview with Professor Dr. Michael Hüther, Cologne Institute for Economic Research

Has your attitude towards official statistics changed now that you no longer work for the Council of Economic Experts but for a research institute close to business?

No, it has not. The Federal Statistical Office is the most important data provider at national level for analyses of the overall economy. This holds true for any economist no matter who he works for. The type of problem at stake determines what data and which data suppliers one resorts to.

Which statistical data are most important for your present research work?

Our data requirements relate to the entire spectrum of economic and socio-political information. In addition to national and international data, we increasingly need regional figures. After all, being the largest private economic research institute in Germany, the Cologne Institute for Economic Research covers a multitude of subjects, from labour market issues and the educational system to economic, distributive and socio-political topics up to environmental economics.

You are also concerned with labour market reforms. What do you think about data of unemployed according to the ILO concept which have been determined by the Federal Statistical Office since March 2005?

The telephone survey closes an important gap as it provides internationally comparable unemployment figures at intervals of less than a year. The erratic development of the number of registered unemployed in the wake of the Hartz IV reform has also shown the importance of labour market monitoring which is independent of social law definitions. For us as a research institute, structural data such as education and training of unemployed and duration of the job search are also very significant. Here the infra-annual microcensus will supply important information in the future.

As a scientist, you use numerous sets of statistics while enterprises complain about the burden caused by statistical surveys. Do you feel that benefits and burdens of statistics are balanced at present?

I cannot give you a representative answer to that question. Every enterprise will answer this question differently, I suppose. It is true that the surveys of the Bonn-based Institute for Research on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises name statistics as a bureaucratic burden, but always in the middle or at the end of the list. It is decisive that on the one hand data are always collected as efficiently as possible and on the other the meaning and usefulness of individual sets of statistics are checked as time passes. Just as industry does with its products, the Federal Statistical Office needs to strive for permanent improvement of processes and products. The general rule is: we all have to understand that politics and business require reliable information on the structural changes of our economy.

Official statistics – an indispensable source of information for economic research

The Cologne Institute for Economic Research (Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln – IW) is one of the major German institutes for economic research. The analyses of the research institute, which is close to business, on structural change and growth, but also on the revision of government activity receive much attention from the media and politics. We wanted to know how important official statistics are for the work of the IW, what is thought of the cooperation with the Federal Statistical Office and what can be done to recommend statistics to business. Two staff members of the IW, Dr. Michael Grömling, responsible for macroeconomics and the journal 'IW-Trends', and Christoph Schröder, expert for distributive and labour market issues, answered our question in detail.

As a data source, official statistics is the first choice for both scientists: high data quality and the impartiality of the producers are a good basis for research and increase the acceptance of the analyses based upon them. The two scientists guess that by far the largest part of the data input of the IW researchers comes from official statistics (Federal Statistical Office, Eurostat, German Bundesbank), from international organisations or publicly subsidised institutes. The IW has a large "statistics library" enabling the staff to use all publications of the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder, especially for regional and international evaluations.



■ **"We live in a world going wild for figures. The question is: Can the public still cope with the flood of data?"**

Dr. Michael Grömling,
editor responsible for "IW-Trends"

But the researchers at the IW also have many personal contacts at the Federal Statistical Office, be it through events like the "Statistical Week" or scientific conferences, through research projects and joint publications. For Dr. Grömling it is important to have good connections to the staff members of the national accounts department at the Federal Statistical Office, his colleague keeps in touch with the "Wages and Salaries, Labour Costs" Division. The IW researchers need competent contacts at the statistics authorities to help with data interpretation.

The IW experts regard the press and public relations work of the Federal Statistical Office as positive. Dr. Michael Grömling and Christoph Schröder approve of the fact that in the last few years the Federal Statistical Office increasingly provided background information and explanations in its press releases. Both think that transparency and information are important in order to explain to the public how data are calculated. They state that price statistics has successfully broken new ground with its studies on perceived inflation and the opportunity to use an index calculator on the homepage of the Federal Statistical Office. Providing information for the interpretation of statistical data is regarded as an important task also by the IW, which pursues the same goal here as the bodies of official statistics.

■ **"The index calculator of the Federal Statistical Office is a good start, showing the public that statistics affects us all."**

Christoph Schröder,
economic researcher at the IW

In the opinion of Dr. Grömling, enterprises are often not really willing to support official surveys because they can not always see the benefits of the surveys. From the viewpoint of enterprises, it is nevertheless important to get more information on current economic trends, e.g. on globalisation. He feels that more feedback provided by the statistics authorities to the enterprises surveyed may improve the readiness of the latter to supply information. Often there were double burdens for enterprises caused by similar surveys of very different institutions. The burden on enterprises would be reduced if the links between official and non-official statistics could be improved and co-operation intensified. The two scientists regard it as positive that the Federal Statistical Office is working on a project making it easier for enterprises to transfer data from business accounting, and that it uses administrative data and registers to an increasing extent.

Numerous scientific events of the Federal Statistical Office also in 2005

For many staff members of the Federal Statistical Office, a close contact with the scientific community is important as it enables them to consider current scientific methods in their daily work and be abreast of recent developments. For that reason, the Federal Statistical Office organised a number of scientific events also in 2005. A good opportunity to exchange scientific experience was provided by the 14th Scientific Colloquium on "Microdata and macrodata as a basis for socio-economic modelling" organised jointly by the Federal Statistical Office and the German Statistical Society at the end of April. As part of this



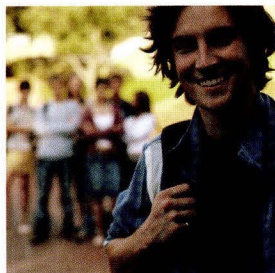
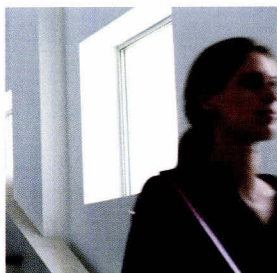
Exchange of thoughts at the Statistical
Week 2005 in Braunschweig

meanwhile firmly established series of events, the Colloquium made a dialogue possible between the bodies of official statistics and major user groups. Another scientifically demanding topic was treated at the Conference on "Data fusion and data integration" on 30 June and 1 July 2005. It was organised by the Federal Statistical Office together with the Association of German Market and Social Research Institutes and the Working Party of Social Science Institutes. The contributions of the participants were included in a publication issued as a volume of the "Tagungsberichte" series (conference volumes) of the Social Science Information Centre.

Federal Statistical Office grants scientific award to junior researchers

Is it possible to link the work of official statistics more closely to universities? How can young scientists be encouraged to use the wide range of official data for their empirical research? These goals are pursued by annually granting the Gerhard Fürst Award, which is named after

the Federal Statistical Office granted the Gerhard Fürst Award to three scientific papers closely related to statistics, another paper was awarded a promotion prize for junior scientists. These doctoral theses and diploma dissertations covered a wide range of subjects: an analysis of innovation activities and an empirical study of earnings structures in Baden-Württemberg were economically oriented, while studies on bi-national marriages in Germany and on the causes and costs of criminality in Germany had a sociological orientation. The prizes were presented by the President of the Federal Statistical Office. As usually, the awards were granted on the recommendation of an independent group of experts. The laudatory speech was held by the chairman of that expert committee, Professor Brachinger, from the University of Freiburg (Switzerland).



the first President of the Federal Statistical Office. In 2005, the scientific award of the Federal Statistical Office was presented at a joint event of the Federal Statistical Office and the member institutes of the Association of German Economic Science Research Institutes, which took place in Wiesbaden on 7 December 2005. This time

Presentation of research work on the occasion of the “Statistical Week”

For staff members of the Federal Statistical Office who are entrusted with research and development work it is absolutely necessary to attend scientific conferences. The “Statistical Week”, an annual meeting of experts from economic and social research, universities and of “field workers” from official statistics, is a good opportunity to present new research and to get to know recent developments of expert colleagues. In September 2005, the Statistical Week in Braunschweig focused on the effects of demographic change. In the opening speech, the President of the Federal Statistical Office commented on the range of official statistical information on demography. He stressed the significance of population projections and the setup of comprehensive reporting systems by the bodies of official statistics. Numerous staff members of the Federal Statistical Office played an active part in this event, be it as chairpersons or participants in technical discussions or with their own speeches and presentations. For instance, experts from the Federal Statistical Office presented the latest findings of research in the field of price statistics, informed about new methods to improve the data quality in data collection and about new ways to automatically extract data from business accounting systems.



President Hahlen (2nd from the left) and Prof. Brachinger (4th from the left) with the prize winners of the Gerhard Fürst Award 2005



Modernising official statistics

Politics provides new stimuli to disburden industry from obligations to report data

Whether reforms of the labour market or of the social systems are at stake – statistical data are an indispensable basis for political decisions. In its Coalition Agreement of mid-November 2005, the new Federal Government named numerous political goals where it intends to measure at the end of the legislative period by means of statistics to what degree they have been attained. The benefits of official statistics are undoubted, even though the burden imposed on enterprises by statistical surveys is a frequent topic in public discussion. So on the one hand, the demand for meaningful statistics on business, society and the environment is growing continuously, while on the other the readiness of enterprises and households to participate in statistical surveys is declining. In this area of tension, the statistical offices have taken their stand: the Federal Statistical Office supports politics in revising and simplifying the statistical programme, especially with a view to small and medium-sized companies. With very few exceptions, the legislator orders statistics to be compiled, so essential decisions to reduce bureaucracy are in the end taken by the legislator. A new stimulus to disburden small and medium-sized enterprises from statistical obligations was provided by the 'job summit' between former Chancellor Schröder and former opposition leader Merkel in March 2005. By the end of May, concrete proposals had been submitted by a working party of the Federation and the Länder, which were however shelved at that time on account of the early elections to the German Bundestag.

Measuring the workload of enterprises due to statistics requirements

The new Government Coalition made another attempt to free enterprises from overregulation. To this end, it agreed at the beginning of November 2005 to relieve in particular small and medium-sized companies and founders of new businesses through new legislation, the "Small Company Act", from services to the statistics authorities. The new Federal Government regards as a priority also the reduction of obligations to supply information. For that purpose, the costs of bureaucracy have to be reliably determined and forecasted for new legislation. Therefore, the Federal Government intends to introduce a model for measuring the burden imposed on enterprises by bureaucracy which has proven itself in several European countries. It is intended to specify on that basis by how much the costs of bureaucracy shall decline until the end of the legislative period. Presently, the statistical offices contribute their share to a research assignment of the Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology given to the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin. The aim is to study how much of a burden is imposed on enterprises by official statistics – and by having to report data to other government agencies. Results will be available at the beginning of 2006. With a 'barometer of burdens', the Federal Statistical Office is also planning to keep track of the further development of business statistics by continuously monitoring the workload caused by the need to provide information. These current studies on the burden imposed on enterprises may make an essential contribution to reliably covering the costs of bureaucracy and show to what extent enterprises are emburdened by statistics.



Statistical Advisory Committee provides recommendations on how to develop official statistics further

It is a fact that statistics is often named as an example of burdens imposed on business by tasks to be fulfilled for the state, but at the same time the demand of business, politics and the scientific community for reliable statistical information is rising. Many users of statistics lament in particular that statistics so far only imperfectly reflect important trends such as globalisation and Germany's change towards a service and information society. The Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder thus have to meet an increasing demand for data and at the same time disburden respondents wherever possible – with personnel and financial resources declining.

In this context, the Statistical Advisory Committee, a body of users, respondents and producers of federal statistics, shortly before the 2005 Bundestag elections gave ten specific recommendations on how to develop the statistical system further in the 16th legislative period. One of the recommendations is to flexibilise the legal framework conditions of statistics to be able to react more rapidly to new requirements. The Statistical Advisory Committee also recommends developing the German statistical system further organisationally and institutionally as part of a reform of federalism. The body of experts furthermore proposes to reform business statistics in such a way that it will be able to supply information for example on new services and recent technological developments. The burden on respondents shall be reduced, among others, by the following measures:

- Complete enumerations should if possible be avoided; every technical possibility to reduce the burden imposed by statistics shall be exploited.
- The bodies of official statistics should be given extensive rights to access and use administrative data, which would actually make some statistics dispensable.

Federal Statistical Office supports the process of reforming the German statistical system

What can the statistical offices do to make the German statistical system fit for the future? This goal is pursued by the “Master Plan for a Reform of German Official Statistics” of February 2003, a strategic programme of the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder controlling their joint modernisation activities. The Master Plan serves to use efficiency potentials in the federative statistical system more than before and to reduce the burden placed on respondents by statistics. In view of the public budgets' efforts to cut costs with their tasks expanding – also due to new statistics requirements of the European Union – the statistical offices thus ensure that they will still be able to offer their customers high-quality products and services in the future. The Federal Statistical Office actively participates in the projects of that reform programme, which may alter the completion of tasks within the German federal statistical system over the medium term. A major component of the Master Plan is the use of modern information technology and of the Internet in data collection – the wide range of possibilities and recent developments of statistics regarding on-line reporting systems have been described in the previous chapter.

Initial experience shows: closer co-operation of statistical offices a success

Another component of the Master Plan is the “optimised co-operation” project. It aims at further improving the co-operation of the statistical offices in fulfilling their tasks. The idea of optimised co-operation is as follows: one statistical office centrally completes tasks for other offices in the field of statistics processing, with the co-operation of the statistical offices involved changing fundamentally in the IT area. The new model of co-operation has been tested since 2003 with six sets of pilot statistics and proved itself in the projects terminated in 2004 and 2005. In 2005, work on the statistics of personnel was successfully concluded. It was managed here to organise all partial statistical processes in the form of an overall process among the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder. Of major importance was the use of a central server at the Land Statistical Office of Brandenburg, also by the Federal Statistical Office.

Another goal of the Master Plan is the reform of business statistics. It focuses on developing a coherent high-quality system of statistics and reducing the burden on business. It is planned to collect statistical data only if they cannot be generated from administrative registers and are not available anyway at the enterprises. The various approaches were discussed by statistics producers and users from politics, business and administration during a workshop in Berlin in mid-December 2005. The proposals of the Working Group of the Federation and the Länder on the Reform of Business Statistics met with a positive response by users.



Federal Statistical Office publishes quality reports for all federal statistics

The strong point of official statistics generally acknowledged by politics and the scientific community is the high quality of the data published, which are unbiased, objective and not under the influence of politics. It is in the interest of both the statistical offices and the users to document that quality and not to permit any compromises here despite the necessity to cut costs. However, statistical results only seldom speak for themselves – in most cases the users also need information on the data to be able to interpret and use them correctly. As a service for users, the Federal Statistical Office therefore published standardised quality reports for all federal statistics in 2005. The quality reports provide detailed information on the quality and survey methodology of each individual set of statistics. They cover the uniform quality criteria used in the European Statistical System, including accuracy, currentness and availability of the data. They answer questions such as “How were the data obtained?”, “What is the share of nonresponse for units and variables?” or “What connections do exist with other surveys?”. The

quality reports are disseminated by the Federal Statistical Office together with the statistical results via various media. They also form part of all statistical Subject-Matter Series and may be downloaded in the Internet at www.destatis.de.

Staff survey proves high motivation of personnel

The high quality of the products and services of the Federal Statistical Office depends upon the commitment of its staff. Therefore, it is an important strategic goal of the Federal Statistical Office to highly motivate its personnel and provide them with as good a qualification as possible. So the Federal Statistical Office conducted a staff survey in 2005 whose results form the basis of a systematic improvement of qualification, human resources management and co-operation. More than 80 % of the staff members participated in the survey – so there was a great interest in influencing working conditions. All in all the results proved that the staff members are very content with the employer 'Federal Statistical Office'. Two thirds of the participating personnel stated that they enjoyed their work and identified with it, four fifths felt they had the expert knowledge required for the job they do. Working conditions and IT equipment were regarded as excellent. However, the survey also indicated numerous chances for improvement, e.g. in the spheres of human resources management and communication. The results of the staff survey were analysed in detail for all organisational units. They served as a basis for discussion between senior employees and their staff and for specific action plans whose success is going to be checked also by the next staff survey to be held in 2007.

Federal Statistical Office provides vocational training for young people

In addition to university graduates from various fields of study, the bodies of official statistics also need "junior staff" with a more practical orientation. Therefore, the Federal Statistical Office has offered vocational training for a long time. In the course of the training offensive for more apprenticeships initiated by the Federal Government in 2004, the Federal Statistical Office further intensified its efforts and now belongs to the top group within the Federal Administration as regards vocational training. About 50 young people started their vocational training at the Federal Statistical Office in 2005, some 25 successfully terminated it that year. At the end of 2005, there were a total of around 160 apprentices in the various training courses of the Federal Statistical Office, 100 of them in Wiesbaden and 60 in Bonn. Just under 140 of the apprentices of the Federal Statistical Office intend to obtain the qualification of "office communications specialist", some 20 of them train to become information technology specialists. From 2006, the young office communications professionals get the chance to take a new



examination of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce. The “additional qualification: commercial know-how”, which the Federal Statistical Office introduced in co-operation with the Wiesbaden Chamber of Industry and Commerce, opens up better perspectives for the office communications specialists when they apply for a job on the regular labour market.



In-house advanced training at the Federal Statistical Office with new focus in 2005

Due to increasing requirements, the expertise and human resources management capabilities of all staff members need to be brushed up and improved regularly. Therefore, in-house advanced training for staff members has a high priority at the Federal Statistical Office, especially regarding IT. Courses to improve the human resources management capabilities and social competence of senior staff are also gaining in importance. In 2005, coaching was introduced for heads of division, which is a structured exchange of experience on issues of human resources management. Numerous courses were offered in 2005 also for junior executive staff on subjects such as team building and human resources management competence. A number of additional brief lectures held in 2005 for the staff of the Federal Statistical Office provided information on how the customers of the Office work with the statistical information. Examples are the lectures of Professor Dr. Klaus Zimmermann, President of the German Institute for Economic Research, and of Professor Dr. Gustav Horn, Director of the Macroeconomic Policy Institute. In addition, there were 30 events being part of joint advanced training provided by the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder – here experienced statisticians with a practical orientation pass their knowledge on to colleagues.

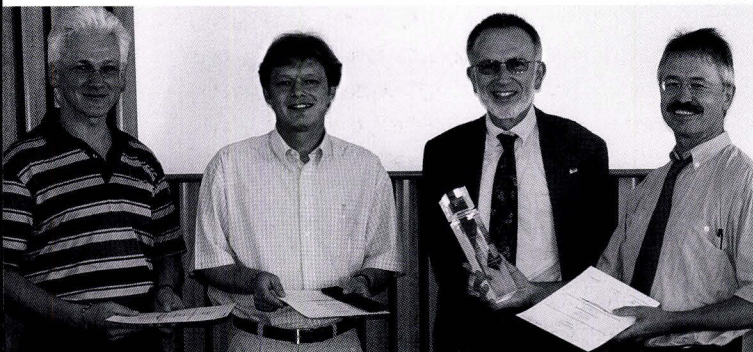
Federal Statistical Office awards prizes to staff members for the first time

The Federal Statistical Office continuously improves the services offered to customers and users. A suggestion scheme for employees motivates the staff to contribute their share to improving work processes and products. In addition to that tested instrument, a prize was introduced in 2005 for staff members of the Federal Statistical Office who had been involved in the development of particularly customer-friendly and innovative products and services. The President of the Federal Statistical Office awarded the first prizes to staff members in June 2005 at a meeting of the Statistical Advisory Committee. A top-class jury which was made up of members of that body of users and producers of official statistics assessed the fourteen suggestions submitted. It selected three suggestions which improve the image of the Federal Statistical Office considerably and also are very user-oriented. The first prize was awarded to the working team of ILO labour market statistics for a proposal which closes a major data gap and cannot be affected by political intervention. The second prize went to staff members who had developed

the online Atlas on regional statistics, the third prize was awarded for services of price statistics. Due to the good response, it is planned to award prizes for innovative products and services of the Federal Statistical Office again in 2006.

Introduction of information and knowledge management system (stage one) a success

The Federal Statistical Office is innovative not only when it comes to developing new products for its customers. Technical improvements also are a decisive factor in making internal work processes more efficient. As an initial result of a longer-term project to develop a comprehensive information and knowledge management system for all locations, all staff members have got access to a noticeably improved Intranet application at their workplace since mid-2005. Functions have been extended and geared to the needs of individual staff members, e.g. for information search, and it is more ambitious journalistically than the former Intranet. Parallel to that, a joint editorial system was set up for the Intranet, for the Internet supply of the Federal Statistical Office and for the network of the statistical offices (StaNet) so that any editorial work for these media is now entirely IT-based. At the end of the information and knowledge management system project, the staff members of the Federal Statistical Office will be able to use just the personal computer to work on open files – the 'electronic file' will then replace in-house correspondence. In the long run, the personnel will thus obtain a personalised communication and working environment which supports the completion of all business transactions by comprehensive and rapidly available information.



The ILO labour market statistics team received the first of the prizes awarded to staff members in 2005

In the interest of all staff members: health days and a room where children can play while parents work



With the slogans “Living healthy – staying healthy” and “Good health enhances the quality of life”, health days for all staff members were held again at the Wiesbaden and Bonn locations of the Federal Statistical Office in 2005. In numerous speeches, mainly external health experts informed about topics such as nutrition and diets or possible psychosomatic effects of working life. For everybody, the following question will surely be the most interesting one: How about my own health and fitness? Therefore the participating health insurance funds carried out health checks at a number of information stands and presented various kinds of sports. The health days are part of health management at the Federal Statistical Office, which was extended in the last few years. Health management at the Federal Statistical Office also includes the option to have workplaces checked on the spot as to whether they meet the requirements of display screen work. Another option is the service of the in-house doctor offered to staff members in the case of urgent health problems.

Another innovation at the Federal Statistical Office promotes the compatibility of job and family: special rooms for parents and their children in Bonn and Wiesbaden. Here parents now have the opportunity to take their child to work at short notice if childcare should not be available unexpectedly some day. As these office, which are suitable for children, have been equipped with personal computers, mothers and fathers can do their work and look after their offspring. For the children there are various toys and even a children’s desk with PC and learning software. The local press in Bonn and Wiesbaden reported in detail on the inauguration of the offices by the President of the Federal Statistical Office.

Complete restoration of the Wiesbaden office building started

The complete restoration of the office building at Gustav-Stresemann-Ring 11 began according to plan in November 2005. After having been used for fifty years, the complex of buildings erected in Wiesbaden in 1956, which became a cultural monument in 1995, urgently needed renovation. The restoration will include extensive static support and technical fire protection measures which require a massive intervention into the basic structure of the building. This complete restoration also involves redesigning the exterior facade of the building and creating attractive working surroundings for the staff. A modern office environment will emerge which corresponds to a communicative concept of work and organisation.

The restoration will be carried out during the next five years in two stages; the estimated overall costs amount to around EUR 54 million. In October 2005, the staff members of the Federal Statistical Office entrusted with organising the removal and the removal firm were successful in meeting the great logistic challenge of transferring the office equipment of some 1 000 staff members to the seven alternative locations in the urban area of Wiesba-

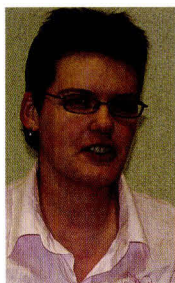
den, on top of that, the library, the printing shop and the sub post office of the Federal Statistical Office were moved. The careful preparatory work paid off: the removal took only four weeks altogether and work at the alternative locations started mostly without problems. During the restoration, the well above 2 800 staff members of the Federal Statistical Office are now distributed over ten locations in Wiesbaden and the two locations Bonn and Berlin.

Combined Staff Council, 2005 – extensive tasks to the benefit of all staff members

The Combined Staff Council of the Federal Statistical Office is the contact for all matters affecting the staff members of the Federal Statistical Office at the three locations Wiesbaden, Bonn and Berlin. It is supported by the local staff representations in Wiesbaden and Bonn, which are responsible for concerns of the personnel “on the spot”.

In 2005, the Combined Staff Council dedicated its work especially to a revision of the regulations on partial retirement, to the conclusion of a management/staff council agreement on the electronic personnel, organisation and job information system and to the introduction of the information and knowledge management system.

In the opinion of the Combined Staff Council, partial retirement is the most socially compatible arrangement for cutting down on personnel in the public service. It therefore advocates preserving this opportunity for all service classes, although regulations at the Federal Statistical Office presently provide otherwise. In 2005, the Combined Staff Council of the Federal Statistical Office also participated in the work on the concept, implementation and assessment of the staff survey and in the establishment of health and social management. There are detailed discussions with the Head of the Office on the latter project at regular intervals. Here the development of an acceptable management/staff council agreement and a convincing personnel scheme is essential for the Combined Staff Council.



Interview with Irmgard Liez and Rita Berning, heads of the Local Staff Councils

Irmgard Liez (right) has been head of the Wiesbaden Local Staff Council of the Federal Statistical Office since November 2002. Rita Berning assumed that function in the Local Staff Council of the Bonn Branch Office in November 2005 where she had been a member of the extended committee.

Ms. Liez and Ms. Berning, what are the successes of the Staff Council you are particularly proud of?

Irmgard Liez: I am very satisfied that the Office’s staff welcomed the flexible working time arrangements advocated by the staff representation which were introduced through a management/staff council agreement at the Federal Statistical Office

in late 2000. Another success is that all colleagues with fixed-term contracts who had been promised a permanent contract in recent years were actually given such a contract. We also regard it as important that the staff is made fit for new challenges by intensive qualification measures to maintain job satisfaction.

Rita Berning: I would like to add something from the Bonn perspective: we are proud that the Local Staff Council managed to successfully accompany and implement together with the colleagues, superiors and the administration the extensive restructuring measures which include the relocation of personnel from the sample survey of income and expenditure to foreign trade statistics. So employees were integrated and back the changes.

All staff members at the Federal Statistical Office are faced with increasing requirements, much is in the process of changing. What stance do the Local Staff Councils as a whole take on administration modernisation?

Rita Berning: You know, administration modernisation is a rather abstract term. What it often means is that jobs change entirely or become obsolete through a more frequent use of EDP technology. It has always been an aim of the staff representations to use restructuring measures to make working conditions more attractive and not let them deteriorate. All in all, most of the colleagues in Bonn and Wiesbaden are glad that their workplaces have become rather more attractive and modern in the last few years. We cannot ignore that there is a need for reform in the public service also due to the financial situation of the public budgets. The Local Staff representations will have to pay more attention in the future to the interests of the staff being protected.

What challenges do you foresee for your work in the years to come?

Irmgard Liez: One issue is the new collective agreement for the public service since there are hardships here for individual groups of employees. We have raised the matter and taken the initiative also as regards the Federal Ministry of the Interior. We are also concerned about our apprentices, as many of them as possible should be offered a job at the Federal Statistical Office once they have finished their training.

The Federal Statistical Office conducted a staff survey in 2005. What conclusions should be drawn from its results?

Irmgard Liez: Well, with a view to several rather unsatisfactory results, for instance regarding the subject of "human resources management", it is important that measures are actually taken. In my opinion, the results should therefore be implemented more rapidly. Anyway, a positive aspect of the survey is that so many staff members have taken part – it shows that the personnel at the Federal Statistical Office are quite interested in influencing their working conditions.

Rita Berning: I am of the same opinion. But also a policy of small steps has to make it clear to the colleagues that there actually is the intention to make improvements on the basis of the staff survey, and first steps need to be taken. But despite all the criticism brought forward in the staff survey: the staff members in Wiesbaden, Bonn and Berlin do a great job, and the Local Staff Councils contribute their part so that the changes and increased challenges can be mastered together with the colleagues without too much 'frictional loss'.



International activities of the Federal Statistical Office

Harmonised statistics for globalised business and politics

The goal of the Federal Statistical Office's wide range of activities at the international level is to provide international markets and players who have become closely integrated in the process of globalisation with the harmonised statistical information they require. As a matter of fact, the results obtained in the context of economic and finance statistics often have immediate effects on the financial markets. The European Central Bank, too, requires reliable statistical information for its monetary policy in the common currency area. Another example of the importance statistics have in an international context is Germany's financial contributions to the European Union's budget and to the budgets of numerous international organisations which depend on the statistical data produced by the Federal Statistical Office. Hence official statistical data compiled on a scientific basis and without political influence are both an essential source of information and a basis for decision-making in international business and politics.

At the same time, the international activities of German official statistics have been designed to support the foreign economic and development policies of the German federal government. The foundation of a Statistics working group in the context of the German and Chinese government partnership, which will take up its work presumably in the first half of 2006, proves the importance of statistics especially to the German foreign trade policy. The mandate for setting up the above working group was given by the then Federal Minister of Economics and Labour, Wolfgang Clement, and the Chinese Minister of Trade, Bo Xilai, during the 12th meeting of the German-Chinese Joint Economic Committee which took place in Berlin on 11th November 2005. The working group's func-

tion will be to examine the discrepancies between the foreign trade statistics of the two countries and, in addition, to further develop co-operation between Chinese and German official statistics.

Federal Statistical Office supports political goals of the United Nations

The Federal Statistical Office works closely together with the statistical divisions of international organisations like the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations (UN). In this way, German official statistics supports the achievement of superordinate political goals such as the Millennium Goals of the United Nations regarding development and environmental sustainability which are to be accomplished by 2015. Measuring the progress made in this area with the help of statistical indicators was one of the issues discussed at a session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2005 which was attended by representatives of the Federal Statistical Office, too. In their Millennium Declaration, the UN Member States in September 2000 undertook to combat poverty all over the world, safeguard peace, protect the environment and make globalisation fully inclusive and equitable. In autumn 2005, the heads of state and government of the UN Member States took stock of the progress made over the period of the first five years. It is in the context of the statistical co-operation activities of the Federal Statistical Office that partner countries were assisted, among other things, in determining the indicators required for this purpose. Generally, the Federal Statistical Office provides partner countries with both subject-related and methodological assistance and consultation regarding cross-sectional management, programme planning, strategy development and quality control matters.



International Monetary Fund confirms the professional nature of the work of German statisticians

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), a specialised agency of the United Nations whose focus is on international co-operation in the area of monetary policy, requires high-quality statistical information for its work. The necessary information is provided by the about 180 Member States. In summer 2005, the IMF checked the quality of German statistics for compliance with the relevant international standards. Over a period of two weeks, a delegation of six representatives examined the national accounts data, producer price statistics and public finance statistics of the Federal Statistical Office and also the balance of payments statistics of the Deutsche Bundesbank. The IMF delegation had a large number of discussions both with colleagues of the above statistical areas in Wiesbaden and Frankfurt and with major users of statistics and representatives of the German federal government and the statistical offices of the Länder. The discussions were based on lists of questions to judge the quality of the individual statistics and the institutional framework. Before the visit took place, the Federal Statistical Office had conducted a survey among approximately 350 major users of macroeconomic data of official statistics. The focus was on the general satisfaction of customers with its data supplies and with the quality, availability and documentation of the data.

On the whole, the IMF delegation arrived at the conclusion that Germany fulfils the requirements of the so-called Special Data Dissemination Standard of the International Monetary Fund and that German statisticians show a remarkable degree of professionalism in accomplishing their tasks. The final report also included some recommendations for further enhancing German official statistics. As seen by the Federal Statistical Office, justified recommendations should be implemented in co-op-

eration with the statistical offices of the Länder and to the extent possible in the conditions prevailing in Germany. Both the IMF final report inclusive of a summary and the official comments of the Federal government will be accessible to the general public as part of the IMF website content presumably in early 2006.

Introducing a Code of Practice for the European Statistical System in 2005

How accurate and timely are statistical data? Are they consistent and easily accessible? – The answers to these questions relating to the quality of statistics have become increasingly important to users. Therefore the European Statistical Institutes are determined to produce high-quality statistical data on the basis of clearly defined standards. In May 2005, the European Commission adopted as a recommendation a Code of Practice for the European Statistical System. The Federal Statistical Office had also been engaged in preparing the Code which aims to strengthen confidence in official statistics and to improve documentation of the quality requirements. As a step towards implementing the Code of Practice, the Federal Statistical Office and the Statistical Institutes of the EU Member States in late 2005 made self-assessments based on a questionnaire harmonised across the whole of Europe. The results of the assessment are planned to be published in a concise form. That first round of self-assessment is to be followed by the preparation of national action plans and by monitoring compliance with the Code of Practice with the help of Peer Reviews. Working out a Code of Practice, the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat at the same time met a requirement of the Council of Economics and Finance Ministers who called for the submission of a proposal for minimum standards to strengthen the independence, integrity and accountability of the National Statistical Institutes.

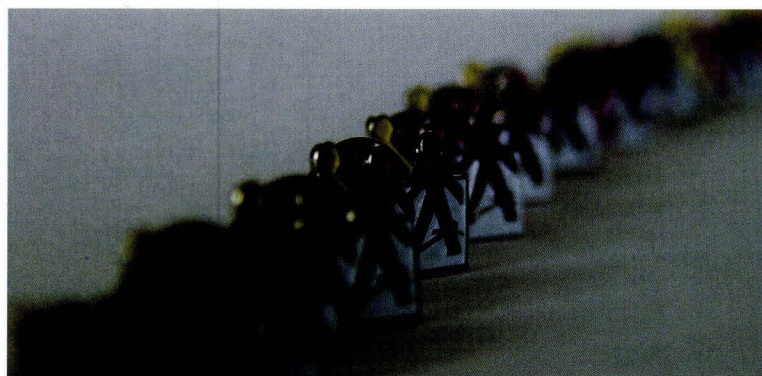
Federal Statistical Office is involved in international methodology developments

The course for the further development of European and German statistics is set in international organisations today. For this reason, the election of Mr. Walter Radermacher, Vice President of the Federal Statistical Office, as Chairman of the UN Committee on Environmental-Economic Accounting is worth mentioning. The Committee will comprise representatives of about 25 countries and international organisations. It will decisively guide and co-ordinate development in the above area of statistics. It was also in the context of environmental-economic accounting that the Federal Statistical Office hosted an OECD workshop in Berlin at the end of May 2005. The workshop concentrated on the introduction of material flow accounts at the international level. During the sessions of the workshop attended by approximately 70 participants, representatives of, for instance, the United States, Canada, Japan, Italy, Austria and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), presented major aspects of their activities, and the Federal Statistical Office of Germany outlined its own new developments in this area of work.

In 2005, too, experts of the Federal Statistical Office attended international conferences to provide the scientific community with information about new projects and trends at their Office. Generally, their participation allows them to keep up to date in research matters. A small delegation of the Federal Statistical Office attended, for instance, the 55th World Session of the International Statistical Institute in Sydney (Australia) in April 2005. The contributions and papers delivered by the representatives of the Federal Statistical Office, which were received with profound interest, covered a wide range of activities. They provided information on issues like the construction of indicators, new ways towards reducing the response burden and the improvement of data quality.

Germany speaks out for clear priorities at the European level

Specialists of the Federal Statistical Office have played an active role in a large number of expert committees and bodies at the European level not least because, in the past few years, the European Union (EU) has had an ever increasing influence on the work of German statistics. Today, more than 60 % of federal statistics are based on EU legislation. In 2005, the Official Journal of the European Communities published a total of 39 European legal provisions that were of relevance to statistics, 20 of which were new (incl. implementing provisions) while 19 amend-



ed existing legal acts. The strings are mainly pulled in Luxembourg which is the seat of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) with its about 700 staff. Germany, the other EU Member States and Eurostat, which the former are closely linked to, form the European Statistical System (ESS).

New statistics in Germany are largely initiated by European requirements. Examples are the continuous European labour force survey, which the Federal Statistical Office started in 2005, and the Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC). Often, however, amendments to existing statistical regulations cause extra work to the National Statistical Institutes of the European Union, too. In view of the continuously increasing data

requirements of the European Union, Germany and other Member States have supported clearer priorities for the European statistical programme and consideration of the limited resources of the Member States in the future. For the above reasons, the Federal Statistical Office has sometimes argued against new statistical regulations. An example was an amendment proposed to the Structural Business Statistics Regulation which would have entailed large-scale new data requirements that would by far have exceeded the planned reductions in other statistical areas.

Appointment of the President of the Federal Statistical Office as Chairman of the Partnership Group



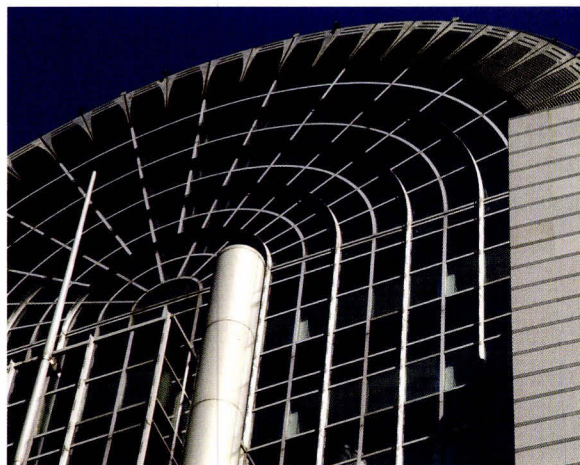
President Johann Hahlen with the Partnership Group
in Wiesbaden in December 2005

It is important for the Federal Statistical Office to be actively involved both in designing the European Statistical System and in European developments in general. Against this background, the appointment of the President of the Federal Statistical Office as Chairman of the Partnership Group in May 2005 was of great importance for Germany. The Partnership Group is a high-ranking European statistical body which consists of six elected Heads of the Statistical Institutes of the EU Member States and of Eurostat representatives. It prepares the meetings of the main European statistical body, namely the Statistical Programme Committee, and discusses questions of strategic importance. Apart from the German representative, current members of the Partnership Group are the Directors-General of the Statistical Institutes of France, the Czech Republic, Great Britain, Portugal and Lithuania. These high-ranking representatives of European statistics meet three times a year. Major goals of the German chairmanship are to strengthen confidence in official statistics in Europe and to further enhance co-operation between Eurostat and the National Statistical


Institutes. In this context, improved programme planning including the definition of clear priorities is of great importance. Further impetus can be gained when the Conference of the Directors-General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) will meet in 2006 to discuss the issue of "Making the System Work".

Members of the European Parliament were invited to attend an informative meeting

In June 2005, the Federal Statistical Office invited the German Members of the European Parliament and their academic staff to attend an informative meeting. The successful meeting was held under the auspices of Dr. Udo Bullmann, Member of the European Parliament, in the buildings of the European Parliament in Brussels. The aims of the meeting were to increase public awareness of statistics and to expand contacts with the European Parliament which, as a co-legislator of the European Union, has a decisive influence on the statistical programme of the EU Member States. As a matter of fact, the current 2003-2007 Statistical Programme of the Community is a legal act of the European Parliament and the Council. During the meeting, the participants had the chance to discuss issues of statistical importance with the President of the Federal Statistical Office and with representatives of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and of the statistical offices of the Länder. The programme was rounded off by papers delivered by Eurostat and staff of the Berlin Information Point of the Federal Statistical Office on statistical dissemination strategies and the range of information offered. The European Parliament is a major user of statistics, too. Hence the information on the services of office set up by the Federal Statistical Office in the German Bundestag as a contact point for questions regarding both German and European statistics was received with particular interest. First queries were received not later than the day after the informative meeting took place.



Face-to-face contact with Brussels: staff members of the Federal Statistical Office talking to members of the EU parliament



Work meetings with heads of Statistical Institutes promote the advancement of the statistical systems

Several times a year, the heads of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany meet heads of Statistical Institutes of the partner countries. The objectives of the bilateral work meetings are to agree on the further development of the statistical systems at the international and supranational levels and to exchange information on how to optimise the internal management of the Statistical Institutes. In 2005, the President of the Federal Statistical Office met the heads of the National Statistical Institutes of Great Britain, the Netherlands, and of Serbia and Montenegro. In addition to the meetings with heads of the National Statistical Institutes, expert meetings are organised every year to exchange information and discuss methodological issues at the working level. Those meetings take place outside project-related co-operation activities such as training and consultation measures. In this context, experts of the Federal Statistical Office last year met statisticians, for instance, from North Korea, Thailand, Japan, New Zealand and Great Britain.

New focus of the Federal Statistical Office's international statistics co-operation

The Federal Statistical Office's international statistics co-operation is guided by the EU support programmes for accession and candidate countries and for third countries with whom the EU Member States co-operate in the context of the European neighbourhood policy. The support programmes for those countries have been continued after the ten new Member States in central and eastern Europe and the Mediterranean region acceded to the European Union on 1 May 2004. As the EU standards now are largely met, the regional focus of assistance has however shifted. Currently, the focus is above all on countries such as Romania and Bulgaria, with whom accession negotiations could be closed in 2004, and on Turkey and Croatia with whom accession negotiations were officially opened on 3 October 2005. This new orientation will be also reflected by a restructured system of EU external assistance to be aimed at a stronger harmonisation of support guidelines. From 2007, assistance will be provided based on the "Principle of concentric circles". The new Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) will then be used to support Turkey and Croatia and also potential candidate countries in the Western Balkans. The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is designed to support co-operation with the EU neighbouring states which, for the time being, have no accession prospects. Last but not least, the aim of a third instrument is to promote development co-operation. In view of those new support programmes, the efforts of German statistics co-operation are aimed at positioning itself adequately at the European level.

Successful EU Twinning Projects in 2005

The fact that the Federal Statistical Office has refocused its co-operation activities is not least reflected by its Twinning Projects which it has been engaged in for several years. The Twinning Projects are an essential pillar of the statistical co-operation activities of the Federal Statistical Office which have encompassed a total of about 1 400 individual measures with more than 10 500 participants since 1992. The Twinning Projects, which are promoted by the European Union, are designed as partnerships between the administrations of an EU Member State and an accession country. The instrument of administrative co-operation was first used in relation to the former EU candidate countries. However, its application has now been extended to the states which are covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy. The Federal Statistical Office regards this instrument as a chance to continue to distinguish itself in the area of international co-operation, not least because of the very good results it has always

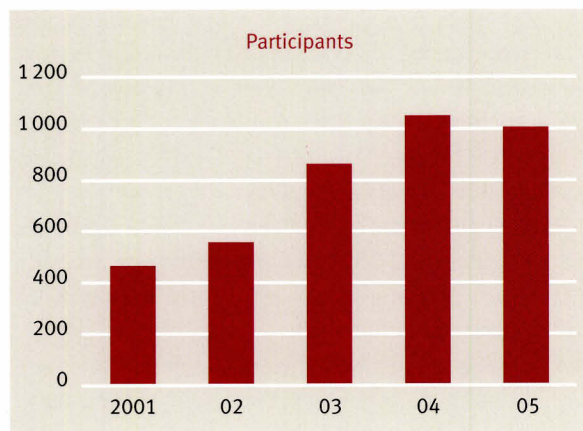


German-Turkish co-operation project on the publication of statistical information

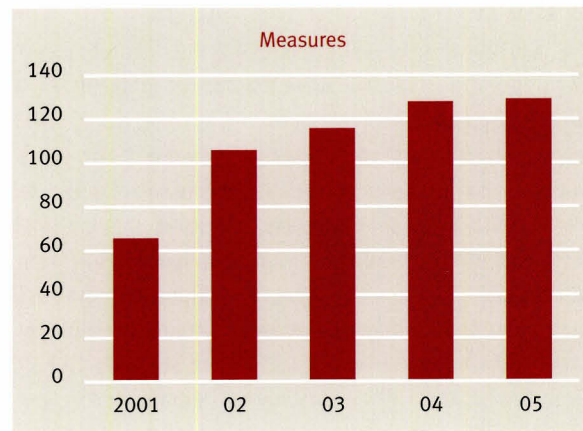
achieved in Twinning Project evaluations made by the European Commission. In view of future strategic partnerships, e.g. in EU statistical bodies, Twinning Projects are of high political importance in the area of statistics. The bodies of German official statistics have successfully completed several Twinning Projects, and new projects are in preparation. In 2005, the following results were achieved in this area of work:

- In June 2005, a contract was signed for a new Twinning Project with Bulgaria, which will be carried out by the Federal Statistical Office in a consortium with Statistics Denmark. The project will run over a period of 27 months and cover three different sets of statistics.
- A Twinning-Light Project on iron and steel statistics was concluded successfully with Slovakia. It encompassed ten consultative missions to Slovakia and three study visits to Germany.
- In 2005, the Federal Statistical Office continued to participate in a Twinning Project with Poland under the direction of Sweden. The project's focus was on short-term economic indicators, quality management and information technology.
- Further Twinning Projects are presently in the planning stage or initiation phase. Examples are a Twinning Project with Latvia whose contract was won by the Federal Statistical Office and which will start in early 2006, and a Twinning Project with Macedonia.

Statistics co-operation of the Federal Statistical Office in the period 2001 to 2005



(2005 data are estimates)



Close co-operation between the Federal Statistical Office and the Turkish Statistical Institute in 2005

In 2005, the Federal Statistical Office continued its intensive co-operation with the Turkish Statistical Institute. Consultation measures were carried out in the context of the "Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey" project (USST programme), which was launched in spring 2004 and will end in November 2006. The programme is aimed at Turkey's adoption of the EU standards of statistical methodology in view of its objective to join the European Union. The USST programme has gained further importance since the European Union opened the accession negotiations with Turkey on 3 October 2005. Presently,

the experts of the Federal Statistical Office support their Turkish partners, among other things, in the fields of business registers, business statistics, classifications and data dissemination. The more than 30 consultative missions carried out in 2005 concerned various topics in areas such as business registers, business statistics, agricultural statistics and data dissemination. They took place in the Turkish Statistical Institute in Ankara, the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden and also the statistical offices of the Länder of Schleswig-Holstein and Berlin. In its progress evaluation of more than 20 projects, the EU Delegation, i.e. the Representation of the European Commission in Ankara, arrived at the conclusion that the USST programme was the most successfully managed project to prepare Turkey for meeting the standards of an EU accession.

Seminar with participation of high-ranking representatives – highlight of the German-Chinese statistical co-operation

The People's Republic of China has been one of the major co-operation partners of the Federal Statistical Office in the field of official statistics and even its most important partner outside Europe for more than a decade. Over 700 statisticians from both countries participated in not less than 175 consultation and advanced training measures in the two countries. In 2005, 11 more study visits and consultation activities took place in Germany and in China. A highlight of the German-Chinese statistical co-operation was the seminar on the "Strategies of national statistical offices to meet future information demand" organised jointly by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China and the National Statistical Office of the Republic of Korea. The seminar was held in Gustav-Stresemann-Institut in Bonn on 6 and 7 July 2005. It was opened by the President of the Federal Statistical Office and the Commissioners of the Chinese Bureau of Statistics and the Korean Statistical Office. In addition to the heads of the statistical offices, high-ranking representatives of the statistical, political, economic and science and research communities of the three countries, who were either producers or users of official statistics, delivered papers in the course of the three seminar sessions. As the seminar conducted in this form for the first time was a success, the Commissioner of the Korean Statistical Office suggested to conduct a similar seminar on another topic in the Republic of Korea in 2007.



Milestones of statistical work in various areas in 2005

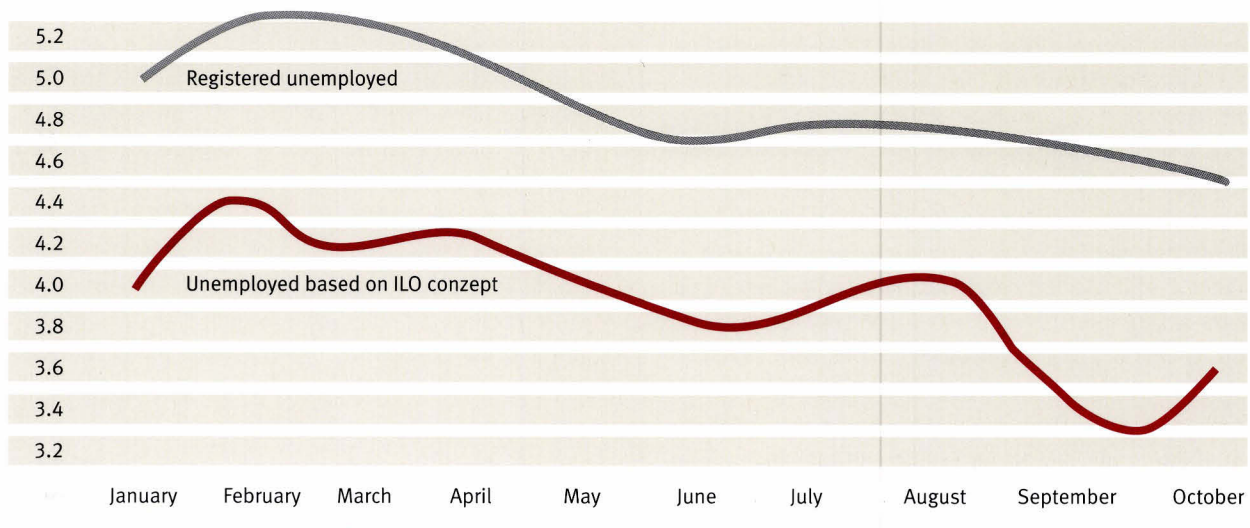
The core activities of the Federal Statistical Office are to prepare and conduct statistical surveys and to publish their results. As far as decentralised statistics are concerned, the Federal Statistical Office works closely together with the statistical offices of the Länder. This chapter presents a selection of statistical results produced in the context of the Office's core activities in 2005 and, in addition, introduces new or enlarged ranges of statistical data provided by the Office. The chapter ends with a description of interesting data developments and the studies and projects the Office completed in 2005.

Statistical results

ILO statistics supply important information on the labour market

Since January 2005, the Federal Statistical Office has published monthly labour market statistics based on the ILO concept. The Office's statistics include information on the number of persons employed, which is now released by more than one month earlier than before, and for the first time also current data on unemployment in Germany based on the above concept. The new internationally comparable unemployment figures proved to be a valuable supplement to the German labour market data in 2005. The definition of unemployed as applied in the German ILO labour market statistics based on the internationally recognised concept of the International Labour Organization differs from the definition of the number of registered unemployed according to the German Social Security Code (SGB) which is the basis of the figures published by the Federal Employment

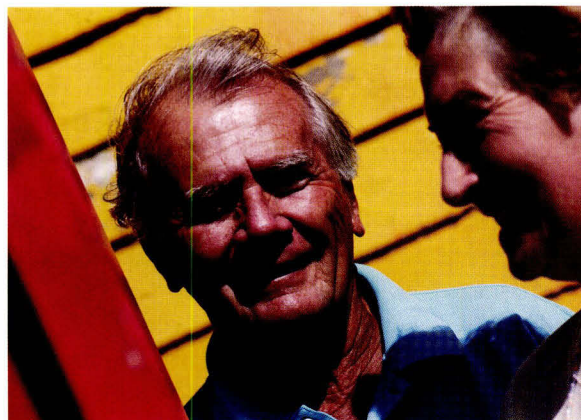
Trends of unemployment based on the ILO concept and according to the definition of the German Social Security Code in 2005 (in million persons)



Agency. The ILO concept is rather geared to a given person's behaviour during the reference month than his/her legal status. In accordance with that concept, any person who is not employed, actively sought work over the past four weeks and is prepared to start work within the next fortnight is considered unemployed. In line with the ILO definition, persons who are employed for only few hours a week cannot be regarded as unemployed. The statistics of the Federal Employment Agency, however, consider such persons as unemployed provided they have registered as such. As the below chart shows, the levels and trends of the unemployment figures based on the ILO concept differ markedly from the figures of unemployed persons registered by the Federal Employment Agency. In October 2005, for instance, the number of unemployed based on the ILO definition amounted to 3.55 million while the number of registered unemployed totalled 4.56 million.

High voter participation among senior citizens also in the 2005 Bundestag election

The representative election statistics compiled by the Federal Statistical Office is indispensable for analysing the results of elections in the country. The statistics supply information on the electoral participation and behaviour of men and women by age groups and for western and eastern Germany. With the aim to compile representative election statistics on the occasion of the 2005 Bundestag election, voter participation was evaluated in about 2 500 selected polling districts and the votes cast were analysed in approximately 2 600 selected districts. The polling districts were selected by random sampling from a universe of about 80 000 districts. The method applied ensured that secrecy of the ballot was maintained. Drawing conclusions on the votes of individual voters was not possible.



The results of the election statistics confirm that voter participation in the most recent Bundestag election was particularly high among senior citizens. Not less than 84.6 % of those aged between 60 and 69 exercised their voting right, that percentage being by far higher than overall voter participation (77.7 %). In contrast, not more than a good two thirds (about 69.0 %) of those under 35 years of age exercised their right to vote. Generally, voter participation rises with increasing age starting from the age group of the 21 to 24 year olds.

Preferences regarding the party to vote also depend clearly on the age group of the voters. Selected examples are the electoral success of the CDU/CSU (Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union) and of the GREENS. The results achieved by the CDU and CSU depended much more on the different age groups than was the case with any other party. The electoral success of the CDU/CSU ranged between 26.1 % with the group of voters aged 18 to 24 and 42.3 % with those who were at least 60 years old. As regards the GREENS, mainly women and men of the middle-aged groups voted for that party. Among that group of the population, the party won partly two-digit shares of the vote (from 10.0 % to nearly 13.0 %).

Last results of public assistance statistics for the year 2004

The fourth Law on modern services in the labour market ("Hartz IV"), which came into force on 1 January 2005, has merged the former unemployment relief and public assistance benefits into a new benefit for needy jobless and indigent persons who are able to work. For this reason, the majority of recipients of public assistance benefits were covered in the statistics on public assistance for the last time at the end of 2004. The main results of public assistance statistics were the following in late 2004, i.e. immediately before "Hartz IV" came into force:

- About 2.91 million people in 1.46 million households in Germany received public assistance in the narrow sense to meet their basic subsistence needs, above all for food, clothing, accommodation and heating. The number of recipients of public assistance hence reached a new all-time high at the end of 2004, increasing 3.3 % from a year earlier.
- A total of 3.5 % of the population received public assistance at the end of 2004. The share of women claiming public assistance was larger than that of men (3.8 % versus 3.3 %), and the public assistance rate of foreigners (8.7 %) was considerably higher than that of Germans (3.0 %).
- On the whole, 96 000 children below 15 years of age, i.e. every twelfth child in that age group, were in need of public assistance at the end of 2004.
- At that time, about 2.2 million recipients of public assistance lived in the former territory of the Federal Republic of Germany (excl. Berlin), while their number amounted to 445 000 in the new Länder (excl. Berlin).
- Approximately 930 000 recipients of public assistance were registered unemployed in late 2004, which was about 50 % of all public assistance recipients of working age between 15 and 64 years.
- In 2004, net expenditure for public assistance in the narrow sense (i.e. subsistence payments) amounted to EUR 8.8 billion.

About 90% of the former public assistance recipients now receive "Hartz-IV" benefits

Since 1 January 2005, transfer payments have been made in accordance with the "Hartz-IV Law" to former recipients of unemployment relief and recipients of public assistance who are able to work, and to their families. The statistical data on what is called the basic provision for jobseekers in accordance with the Second Social Security Code (SGB II) are compiled by the Federal Employment Agency. Due to the above changes in legislation, an estimated 90 % of former recipients of public assistance will no longer be covered by the public assistance statistics of the Federal Statistical Office as they now receive benefits based on SGB II. The changes in legislation concern recipients of public assistance who are between 15 and 64 years old and are able to work, and also the members of their families. The number of recipients of public assistance in that age group amounted to about 1.9 million at the end of 2004.

However, the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the German Länder continue to carry out several surveys regarding public assistance benefits. In legal terms, those surveys are based on provisions of SGB XII. Compared to the former statistics, in particular the survey of persons receiving benefits called assistance in special circumstances until the end of 2004 will provide even more detailed information in the future. The informative value of the statistical data the Federal Statistical Office compiles on that group of persons will further increase. As a matter of fact, the benefits paid to them totalled EUR 14.2 billion, i.e. about two thirds of overall public assistance, in 2004.



Childlessness among women reflected by microcensus results

Against the background of demographic changes, both the general public and scientists currently discuss the reasons for and consequences of childlessness among women, in particular academic graduates. Relevant data are supplied by the microcensus which is the largest sample survey among households in Germany. In March 2004, 30 % of the 37 to 40 year old German women were childless, i.e. minors did not live in their households. The proportion of the childless was much smaller among German women of that age in the new Länder and Berlin-East (22 %). However, childlessness was at a significantly higher level among women aged 37 to 40 who had a degree of an institution of higher education. In March 2004, 43 % of the female German academic graduates were childless in western Germany, while their proportion amounted to 24 % in eastern Germany. Living arrangements, too, have an impact on the parenthood of women – admittedly far more substantially in western Germany than in eastern Germany. Thus the share of 37 to 40 year old women with minor children who lived in a consensual union or as singles without a partner in the household was by far smaller in western Germany than in the eastern part of the country. More data are included in a paper on childlessness among women which was prepared together by the Federal Statistical Office and the Centre for Survey Research and Methodology (ZUMA). The paper is accessible free of charge as part of the Office's website content at <http://www.destatis.de/download/d/wista/kinderlosigkeit.pdf>.

Results of a survey to evaluate the businesses' demand for services

Services are of an enormous importance to the German business sector. In 2003, the value of services bought by businesses amounted to an impressive EUR 423 billion, which equalled about one seventh of the turnover

achieved by the businesses. The services mainly bought were, in terms of their value, transport and logistics services (EUR 103 billion), hiring, renting and leasing services (EUR 66 billion), and marketing and sales services (EUR 56 billion). Those services were primarily demanded by the manufacturing sector which bought not less than 40 % of them. It was followed, only at a certain distance, by enterprises of the transport and communication (23 %) and the distributive trade (18 %) sectors. The vast majority of businesses in Germany look for service providers in the region where they are based themselves. There are only very few businesses which focus on service providers abroad. The foremost reason is the distance from the provider, while language problems or legal difficulty hinder to a lesser extent purchases of services from abroad.

The above and more information was obtained from a Demand for services survey carried out by the Federal Statistical Office in co-operation with several statistical offices of the Länder and the Statistical Office of the European Communities for the reference year 2003. The survey covered, on a voluntary basis, representatively selected enterprises with 20 or more persons employed in almost all branches of economic activity. In August 2005, the Federal Statistical Office published both the results and information on the methodology of the survey in a detailed project report which can be acquired from the Statistics Shop of the Federal Statistical Office.

Material requirements of the German economy are increasingly met by importation

One of the goals of the National Sustainability Policy of the German federal government, which was adopted in 2002, has been to decouple economic growth from raw material consumption in order to save natural resources. The data of the Federal Statistical Office which were presented at a press conference in early November 2005 show that a

decoupling trend was observed between 1994 and 2004. During that period, the input of material by the German economy declined 10.5 % while, at the same time, overall economic performance increased 15.6 %. The results of environmental-economic accounting considered, among other things, such materials as construction raw materials, energy sources and ores, i.e. non-renewable natural resources.

The environmental-economic accounts data also show that the German economy's material requirements are increasingly covered by importation. While, between 1994 and 2003, the withdrawal of raw materials from inside the country declined 20 %, imports of raw materials and semi-finished and finished products rose about 16 %. Hence the share of imported products in the total input of primary materials increased from about one quarter to approximately one third in the given reference period. This means that domestic nature was increasingly taken care of while environmental loads resulting from both the withdrawal of raw materials and their further processing were shifted abroad. The above data on raw material consumption are only one example of the wide range of information offered by environmental-economic accounts.

Extended or new ranges of data

New type of data on German foreign trade with EU partner countries

The foreign trade statistics which the Federal Statistical Office produces in a centralised manner traditionally supplies goods-related results. The statistics provides information, for instance, on German exports of motorcars or products of mechanical engineering. In the past, however, the statistics did not supply any information on the foreign trade by branches of economic activity. In 2005, the Federal Statistical Office for the first time released branch-related foreign trade data in its Statistical Year-

book. The data were obtained as a result of complex and special evaluations based on linking the data records of foreign trade statistics with the comprehensive information stored in the statistical business register. The new data concern the foreign trade with EU partner countries whose share (on a value basis) in the total German foreign trade amounts to approximately two thirds.

The data for the individual branches of economic activity confirm, for instance, the importance of motor vehicle manufacturing for the German export business. In 2004, the share of the branch "Manufacture of vehicles" totalled one quarter (25.3 %) in all German exports into European Union countries, while the proportion of the branch "Sale of motor vehicles" amounted to another 14.5 %. Having a look at the volume of the intra-EU trade activities of enterprises is also very informative. While the 500 largest exporters accounted for 55 % of the exports into EU countries, the 140,000 smaller enterprises engaged in intra-EU trade together accounted for not more than 0.5 %.

| Enterprises with intra-Community trade turnover from EUR ... to under EUR ... | Exports into EU partner countries in 2004 | | | |
|---|---|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Enterprises | | Intra-Community trade | |
| | Number | Share in % | EUR bn | Share in % |
| under 100 000 | 140 402 | 68.2 | 2.7 | 0.6 |
| 100 000 – 1 mn | 43 262 | 21.0 | 16.1 | 3.6 |
| 1 mn – 10 mn | 17 776 | 8.6 | 60.0 | 13.4 |
| 10 mn – 100 mn | 4 056 | 2.0 | 120.4 | 26.9 |
| 100 mn – 1 bn | 457 | 0.2 | 122.7 | 27.4 |
| 1 bn and over | 27 | 0.0 | 125.8 | 28.1 |

Table: Exports of German enterprises into EU countries by volume of their trade (intra-Community trade)

Business register to supply information on groups of enterprises in the future

The importance of groups of enterprises both at the national and the international level is growing in view of continued globalisation and liberalisation of business. For this reason, European legislation will soon instruct the Member States to include in their registers information on the affiliation of businesses with groups of enterprises. The German statistical business register encompasses data on all enterprises and their local units in Germany. However, it includes information neither on their interrelationships nor on their affiliation with groups of enterprises. Since the data required in this context have not yet been available from administrative sources, the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder have obtained them from commercial data providers since 2005.

Integrating information on business interrelationships into the statistical business register will allow a more detailed description of economic structures in the future including, for instance, a revision of the definition of small and medium-sized enterprises. Also, various new fields will be opened up for analyses. And it will be possible to depict international interrelations and to quantify the economic activities of enterprises under foreign control in the future. For this reason, the Federal Statistical Office will participate in a project of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) aimed at gaining information on international groups of enterprises across Europe which will be launched in 2006.

Results of the income tax statistics now available on an annual basis

Since 2005 the Federal Statistical Office has provided annual income tax data (from the 2001 year of assessment), thus further expanding the range of information offered in the area of tax statistics. Previously, the results of the statistics, which received considerable attention in both public and political discussion, were only published every three years. The current annual income tax statistics is a secondary statistics produced in a centralised manner by the Federal Statistical Office. The statistics is based on data which the supreme tax authorities of the Länder transmit to the Office. Hence the relevant statistical information is obtained without placing any additional burden on respondents.

Contribution of taxpayers to tax revenue, 2001

| Upper ... % of tax- payers | Incomes, total from EUR ... | Cumulated share | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| | | in assessed income tax | in total income |
| 0.1 | 597 308 | 10.2 % | 4.7 % |
| 1 | 164 143 | 23.3 % | 11.4 % |
| 10 | 64 271 | 53.4 % | 34.2 % |
| 20 | 47 874 | 69.1 % | 50.1 % |
| 30 | 38 474 | 79.7 % | 62.5 % |
| 40 | 31 835 | 87.2 % | 72.6 % |
| 50 | 26 763 | 92.7 % | 81.0 % |
| lower 50 % of taxpayers | ... to EUR 26 763 | 7.3 % | 19.0 % |

The income tax statistics provides information, among other things, on income distribution and tax revenue in Germany. The new 'statistical product' proved its worth in the context of the early Bundestag election where tax issues played an important role. Before the election took place, experts of the Federal Statistical Office had to answer a large number of questions from politicians, press agencies and the research community regarding such issues as a "tax for the rich" and the flat kilometre tax allowance. Since the successful launch of the statistics, the Federal Statistical Office has further increased the range of data offered – from simple tables to microdata provided to researchers. Selected results of the income tax statistics are presented in the below table. More recent results are also available, though they are only provisional due to the frequently protracted procedures and long deadlines of tax assessment.

Amendment of the environmental statistics law in 2005

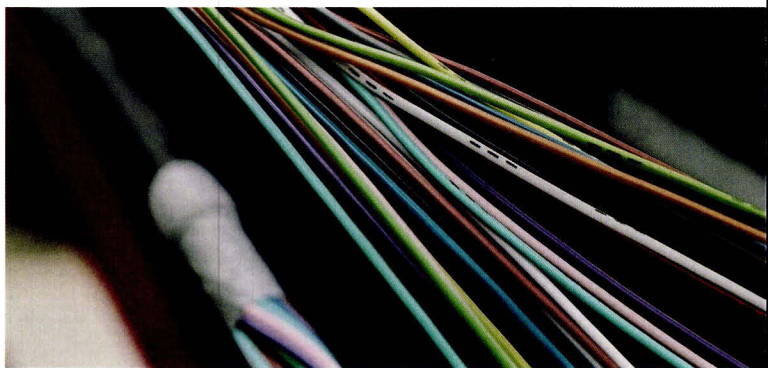
The Federal Statistical Office is of the firm opinion that new information requirements of users should be considered and the burden on respondents be reduced to the extent possible in revising larger statistical systems. Those aspects were kept in mind in amending the law on environmental statistics, too. The amended law called Law for streamlining environmental statistics came into force on 20 August 2005. The current changes in the environmental statistics law, which had last been amended in 1994, were necessary in view of the increasing importance of environmental policy and progressing legislation at the EU level. Like in the past, the amended law governs statistical production in the areas of waste management, water extraction and waste-water disposal, air quality control and environmental economics.

While maintaining the previous concept of the statistics, political recommendations for reducing the burden on

respondents have been met by deleting individual variables, expanding survey periodicities and defining new cut-off limits. Examples are the following surveys which were discontinued: the survey of waste collection as part of waste statistics, the survey of air emissions as part of air statistics, and the survey of drinking water quality as part of water statistics. The survey of environmental protection expenditure will in future be carried out every three years instead of every year. However, new environmental information will be offered, too. An example is the information to be provided on water and waste water fees and on the production of waste by branches of economic activity.

Research data centre offers a wider range of data

Set up in 2001, the research data centre of the Federal Statistical Office enables the scientific community to get controlled access to microdata of official statistics, i.e. to anonymised individual data. In 2005, the research data centre enlarged its range of data. Access is now additionally provided to anonymised data files of the time use survey, the 2002 and 2003 microcensus and public assistance statistics, and to three sets of economic statistics obtained in the context of the project on De facto anonymisation of microdata of economic statistics.



In addition to the Campus Files of the 1998 micro-census, the 1998 public assistance statistics and the 1999 cost structure survey, the research data centre since early 2006 has offered students a free download of a Campus File of the 1998 wage and income tax statistics at www.forschungsdatenzentren.de. In 2005, too, the research data centre continued with its development of innovative forms of data use like, for instance, the development of technologies for an exclusively remote data access and the production of integrated microdata files. With the successful evaluation of the research data centre activities in 2004, the first phase of promotion by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research was completed and a second three-year promotion phase launched.

Developments, studies and projects

Federal Statistical Office engaged in developing and testing questionnaires

Have you ever participated in an opinion poll, for instance, of a market research institute? If so, you have probably come across unclear terms or potentially misleading questions. However, readily comprehensible questionnaires are a condition for providing users with high-quality statistical information. For this reason, any questionnaire prepared for an official statistical survey is systematically tested before being distributed. The Federal Statistical Office is involved in developing methods for testing survey documents at the international level. The Office is currently co-operating with six National Statistical Institutes and the Centre for Survey Research and Methodology (ZUMA) in a project whose aim is the elaboration of harmonised recommendations for questionnaire development and testing at the European level.

One of the major results of the project will be the availability of a detailed manual scheduled for publication in mid-

2006. It will definitely become an important reference book – not only for official statistics. The range of methods applied particularly in the area of test procedures has been considerably extended in the past few years. In addition to rounds of discussions with experts and interviewers, they today also encompass methods of a cognitive psychological nature. Thus problems can be realised at an early stage, measurement errors be minimised and the response burden be reduced. The Federal Statistical Office has planned to set up its own pretest laboratory in 2006 where test persons will be given questionnaires with the aim to find out whether improvements will be required to parts of the phraseology or the structure of the questionnaires.

Successful launch of the new LIVING IN EUROPE survey



In March 2005, official statistics launched the new LIVING IN EUROPA survey in Germany. This new type of statistics called EU-SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) is compiled across the European Union and in Nor-



way and Island. The statistical survey has been designed to study the living conditions in the EU area based on a harmonised methodology. The main focus of the survey is on harmonised income measurements across the European Union. LIVING IN EUROPE provides answers to the following questions:

- How is income distributed in Germany and, by comparison, in Europe in general?
- How are children under 12 years of age looked after?
- What are the living conditions of households in Germany and in Europe in general?

The data of the new survey are a fundamental basis for both European and national social reporting. Among other things, they are used in working out national programmes of action to combat poverty and social exclusion. The German results of the survey are scheduled for a first publication in the second half of 2006.


The data of the LIVING IN EUROPE survey in Germany are collected in a written format from about 14 000 households every year. The response rate amounted to 60 % in 2005 which was quite a promising result of a household

survey conducted in writing on a voluntary basis. In line with the relevant European legal basis, the households to participate in the survey have to be selected by random sampling. German official statistics has used an innovative instrument in this context, namely a permanent sample of households ready to participate in data collection, which has been constructed since 2004. The permanent sample only consists of households which participated in the microcensus survey and are interested in continuing their co-operation with the bodies of official statistics. They are asked to participate in voluntary response surveys of official statistics at regular intervals.

Revision of national accounts

The national accounts data of the Federal Statistical Office reflect in a detailed and comprehensive manner economic activity in Germany. They hence supply indispensable information for economic analyses like data on economic growth, employment, production, consumption and capital formation. In late April 2005, the Federal Statistical Office published fundamentally revised national accounts results for the period 1991 to 2004. The results and methods used in national accounting are revised at regular intervals of five to ten years (before in 1999) with the aim to enhance the quality of the data published and to ensure their international comparability. Revisions are also used to introduce new concepts and to integrate bases or methods of calculation which are either new or have not been applied so far.

Examples of new developments in national accounting which were implemented by the 2005 revision are the modified presentation of "real" results – i.e. data adjusted for price changes - in the form of chain indices, the application of modern methods of price adjustment, and the changed treatment of financial intermediation services. And, as is done in the context of any revision of that kind, new basic data – among other things from services



statistics – were included in the calculations. As a result of the revision, price-adjusted economic growth was 0.2 percentage points higher on an annual average than before. In 2006, the Federal Statistical Office will publish revised national accounts results for the former territory of the Federal Republic of Germany for the period 1970 to 1991. More detailed information on the large-scale national accounts revision is provided in a paper published in “Wirtschaft und Statistik” (Economy and Statistics) (5/2005) and in the national accounts section of the Federal Statistical Office’s website content.

Federal Statistical Office calculates a harmonised index of consumer prices at constant tax rates

The causes of increases in consumer prices are diverse. Increases may be due to inflationary processes, tax rises or other administrative measures. Thus, for instance, repeated increases in the tobacco tax in the past few years have had a clear influence on the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) computed by the Federal Statistical Office. The index whose rate of change is often referred to as inflation rate is based on the prices households pay when buying something. The HICP hence takes into account the excise duties imposed on goods and also price reductions granted, for instance, in end-of-season sales or for goods on special offer.

For many purposes, however, it is useful to exclude from the consumer price index price changes which are the result of government intervention since a modified index of consumer prices can more clearly describe inflation in a country’s national economy. Upon request of the European Central Bank, the Member States of the European Union recently agreed to calculate an HICP at constant tax rates in addition to the conventional harmonised consumer price index. The index will be computed without considering tax changes of whatever kind. The Federal Statistical Office is

currently developing the necessary methods and creating the required technical and organisational preconditions. The first publication of an HICP at constant tax rates for Germany is scheduled for autumn 2006. The funding and co-ordination of the project lies with Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, so that the new index will be comparable across all EU Member States.

Results of a research project on combined modes of freight transport

A major goal of traffic policy is to shift freight transport from road to rail or water. Ideally, goods are only collected or distributed by road, while environmentally friendly means of transport are used to cover the main transport distances. What are the regional hubs and arteries in combined transport? What types of transport could today be shifted from road to alternative modes of transport? Answers to these important questions are given by a study on Intermodal transport chains which was carried out by the Federal Statistical Office. The results of the study commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing were published in April 2005. In the future, the Federal Statistical Office will regularly release data on combined transport which are required by policy, business and research communities. As the relevant results were derived from existing transport statistics, their compilation did not cause any response burden. Some results of the study will be outlined in the following:

- Hamburg, Bremen/Bremerhaven, Duisburg, Cologne and Ludwigshafen/Mannheim were the major traffic districts in combined container transport in 2003. In this context, the main rail connection was between Cologne and Italy, while the main inland waterway connected Duisburg and Rotterdam.
- If all containers transported on German vehicles over a distance of more than 300 kilometres were shifted to rail, combined transport on rail increased by about one third (35 %).

Federal Statistical Office advances its system of indicators of university statistics

In March 2000, the EU heads of state and government agreed on the ambitious goal to make the EU the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-driven economy by 2010. In this context, institutions of education, in particular of higher education, play a central role. The latter are faced with challenges such as internationalising research and education and coping with the increasing demand for higher education and the stronger competition for best students and highly qualified personnel. Against this background, the system of indicators of university education requires further development as it forms an essential basis of educational planning and higher education policy. For this reason, the Higher Education Statistics Committee in 2005 agreed on far-reaching modifications of and additions to the existing system of indicators by 2006. Based on a detailed set of indicators, the Federal Statistical Office will then provide information, among other things, on participation in education, educational success, educational assistance and staff at institutions of higher education, the internationalisation of studies and the mobility of new entrants and students inside the country, and on the financial situation of institutions of higher education and the recruitment of third-party funds for research purposes. The OECD regularly releases indicators which describe both the German system of education as a whole and its ranking in international comparison. From 2006, the Federal Statistical Office will additionally publish indicators of higher education in Germany which will be compiled along the lines of the OECD indicators and facilitate international comparisons at the level of the German Länder, too. The first publication of those indicators is scheduled for 2006. They will, to the extent possible, cover the years 1995 and 2000 to 2004.



Staff and budget of the Federal Statistical Office



Restructuring of staff continues

In October 2005, the Federal Statistical Office had 2 810 employees, of whom 2 028 worked at the Office's headquarters in Wiesbaden and 765 at its Branch Office in Bonn. A team of 17 employees worked at the Berlin Information Point of the Federal Statistical Office, which also comprises the European Data Service (EDS). Although at present more than half of the Office's staff are women (54.5%), they account for only a third (35.6%) of the higher service employees. For this reason, it is one of the aims of the Federal Statistical Office's human resources policy to increase the number of female executive employees. This objective was also incorporated in the Gender Equality Plan of the Federal Statistical Office, which entered into force in January 2004.

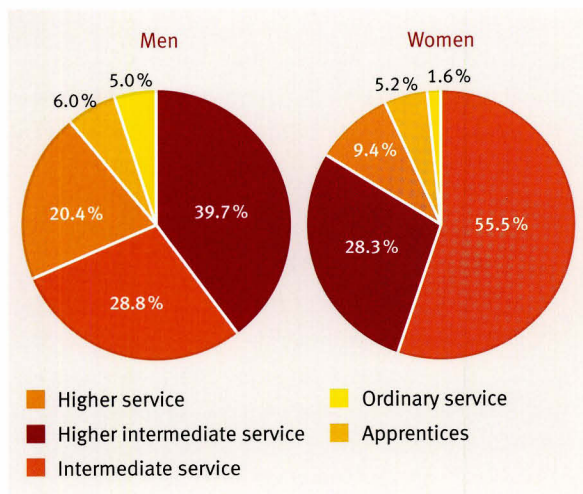
Due to economy measures, the public service across Germany has to make do with a significantly reduced number of staff. At the Federal Statistical Office, too, the number of staff dropped by 206, or 6.8 %, from 2000 to 2005. Over the same period, however, the number of higher service employees increased by 83, which raised their share in the total number of staff to 14.3 %. This rise is mainly due to the recruitment of new academic staff. It also strengthens the Office's capacity to successfully accomplish future tasks of a scientific nature. It should also be mentioned that the Federal Statistical Office is committed to vocational education and training. In October 2005, 156 young employees received training at the Federal Statistical Office to become office communications specialists or information technology specialists (in the field of application development).

Employees of the Federal Statistical Office by sex and service category (October 2005)

| Service category | Total | | Men | | Women | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| Total | 2 810 | 100 % | 1 278 | 45.5 % | 1 532 | 54.5 % |
| Higher service | 405 | 100 % | 261 | 64.4 % | 144 | 35.6 % |
| Higher intermediate service | 941 | 100 % | 508 | 54.0 % | 433 | 46.0 % |
| Intermediate service | 1 219 | 100 % | 368 | 30.2 % | 851 | 69.8 % |
| Ordinary service* | 89 | 100 % | 64 | 71.9 % | 25 | 28.1 % |
| Apprentices | 156 | 100 % | 77 | 49.4 % | 79 | 50.6 % |

*Including former manual workers

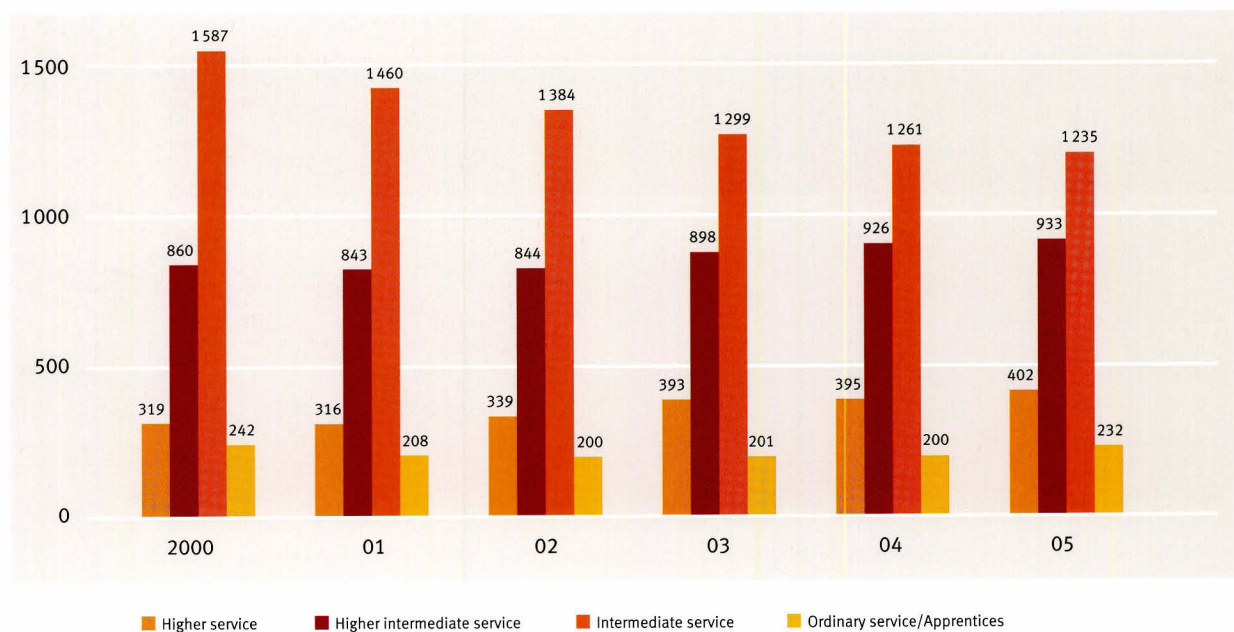
Employees of the Federal Statistical Office by sex and service category



The 2005 budget of the Federal Statistical Office

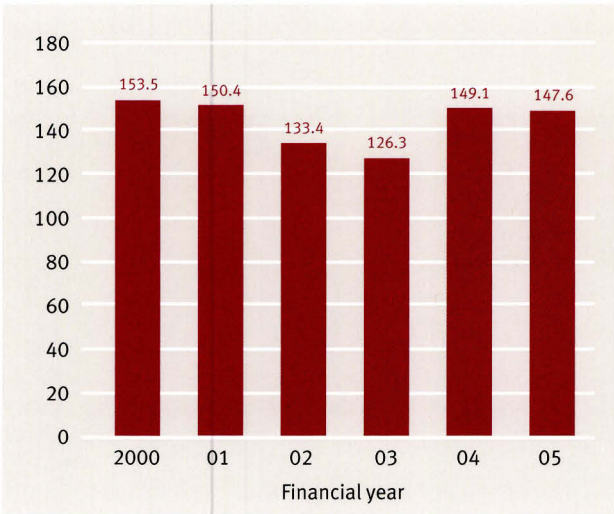
In 2005, the estimated budget (budget estimates) of the Federal Statistical Office totalled EUR 147.6 million. Upon a politically determined general cut in spending (nearly EUR 10 million), the Federal Statistical Office had at its disposal a total of about EUR 138 million in 2005. In that year, the budget estimates declined by EUR 1.5 million compared to 2004 while, upon consideration of the 2004 general cut in spending, the budget available was up EUR 8.3 million on 2004.

Employees of the Federal Statistical Office from 2000 to 2005, by service category (as at January of the year concerned)

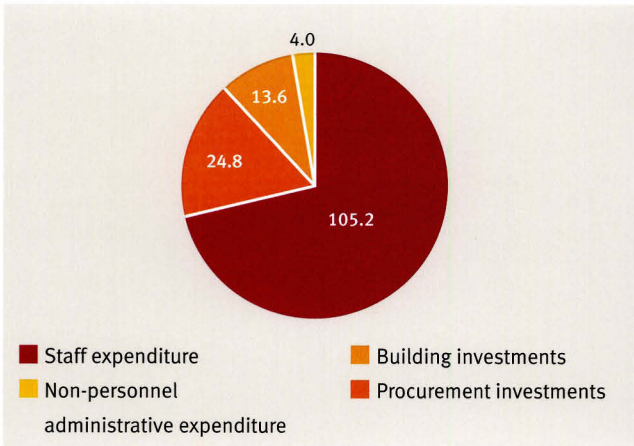


Staff expenses traditionally constitute the biggest item of expenditure of the Federal Statistical Office because the production, processing and dissemination of statistics require a large number of staff despite the increasing use of information technology. In the 2005 budget, staff expenses accounted for 71 % of the estimated expenditure, followed by non-personnel administrative expenditure with a share of 17 % and by building and procurement investments with a joint share of 12 %. Approximately EUR 13.6 million of the 2005 estimated budget total were allotted to the complete restoration of the Wiesbaden office building which had already started. The overall cost of restoration whose completion is scheduled for July 2010 will amount to EUR 54.4 million.

Estimated budget of the Federal Statistical Office
(EUR in millions)



Estimated expenditure of the Federal Statistical Office in 2005 (EUR in millions)



Current organisational structure of the Federal Statistical Office
April 2006



President
Johann Hahlen



Vice-president
Walter Radermacher



Department Z

Administration

Dr. Werner Nowak



Department I

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

Günter Kopsch



Department II

Information Technology,
Mathematical-Statistical
Methods

Dieter Sarreither



Department III

National and Environmental
Accounts, Employment

Wolfgang Strohm



Department IV

Business Register,
Industry, Domestic Trade

Dr. Roland Gnos

Organisation, Quality
Management,
Controlling

Budget, Cost and
Performance Accounts,
Internal Service

Human Resources,
Advanced Training

Legal Questions

Questions of Principle,
National and International
Co-ordination

Institute for Research
and Development in
Federal Statistics

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Publications,
Corporate Design

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Information Services,
Library

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Countries, Translation
Service

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Expenditure

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External Economic

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National Wealth
Accounts

Employment

Environmental-Economic
Accounting

Business Register,

Co-ordination of
Business Statistics
Classifications

Economic Activity in the
Industry, Production

Structure of the
Industry, Crafts, Energy,
Business Notifications

Domestic Trade,
Hotel and Restaurant
Industry, Tourism



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Prices, Foreign Trade,
Transport, Earnings

Sibylle von
Oppeln-Bronikowski



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Enterprises

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The Federal Statistical Office at a glance

Our major tasks and services:


- We produce statistics on the economy, society and environment in co-operation with the 15 statistical offices of the Länder.
- We provide the media and the general public with statistical information through our active public and press relations.
- We offer information for everyone via our press and information services, on our website at www.destatis.de and in various online databases.
- We advise and support businesses and citizens who are surveyed or who provide information.
- We do research into methodology, provide political advice and carry out data analyses.
- Via our research data centre and the research data centres of the statistical offices of the Länder, the bodies of official statistics give empirical researchers in Germany access to anonymised microdata of official statistics.

About us:

- We have a staff of about 2 800 employees, more than half of whom (55 %) are women.
- We work more efficiently: although the workload has increased, the number of our staff has dropped by almost 7 % since the year 2000.
- We are located in Wiesbaden (headquarters), Bonn (Branch Office) and Berlin (European Data Service and i-point).
- Target-oriented advanced training courses are part of our staff development policy.

The basic conditions of our work:

- In 2005, about EUR 138 million were allocated to us from the federal budget.
- We use state-of-the-art information technology and make an important contribution to the eGovernment project of the Federation through our internet-based services and innovations: our new reporting procedure eStatistik.core, which enables businesses to meet their obligation to report by providing data online direct from their accounting records, received several awards in 2005.
- We participate actively in the further development of the European Statistical System and in international statistical co-operation.



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