2001
The annual report was written in 2001, an anniversary year for Statistics Norway. The Central Bureau of Statistics was founded in 1876.

Important events in 2000

January
- Seminar for administrators on systematic quality work. Initiator: Jan Carling, former director of Statistics Sweden

February
- Final report from Technology Shift Project was finished
- National accounts for 1999 and Economic Survey are presented
- The IDUN project (information and data exchange with business and industry) was established
- The first results from the Census of Agriculture 1999 were published
- All municipalities in the KOSTRA project (108 municipalities and five countries) implemented electronic reporting for 1999

May
- Social Trends 2000 was published
- Natural Resources and the Environment 2000 was published
- MMI's trust barometer – Statistics Norway is included for the first time
- News from Statistics Norway on wap: wap.ssb.no

June
- Cecilie Wilberg takes up post as director of Administrative Affairs
- National accounts for first quarter and economic trends presented

July
- Office of the Auditor General had comments on Statistics Norway's 1999 accounts

August
- Annual meeting of Nordic chief statisticians at Åland
- Millennium issue of Statistical Yearbook of Norway with historical profile
- Groundwork commences on new addition in Kongsvinger

September
- The national accounts for the second quarter and economic trends were presented

October
- The LINK project, which works with analyses of the world economy based on a large system of national models, held its annual meeting in Oslo in the period 2-6 October
- The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians met in Oslo
- The draft state budget contains a general cut of NOK 8 million for Statistics Norway along with an earmarked amount of NOK 5 million for the numerical revision of the national accounts

November
- Building Statistics, which were stopped in early 1999 due a problem with maintaining quality, resumed publication
- Mission Norway: Statistics Norway presented itself to Eurostat
- The Research Department celebrated its 50th anniversary by publishing "Kunnskapens krav" (Demands of Knowledge), written by former Research Director Olav Bjerkholt
- New monthly record: 2 million web visits in November
- Osloprosessen (The Oslo Process) – a book by Kjartan Fløgstad based on statistics from Statistics Norway, was published

December
- National accounts for the third quarter and economic trends were presented to Statistics Norway's organization

Statistics Norway's organization

Statistics Norway's top management consists of the director general and directors of the five departments. In consequence of the Storting's wish to decentralize state institutions, Statistics Norway has been physically divided between Oslo and Kongsvinger since 1975. Around 500 people work in Oslo, 380 in Kongsvinger. Oslo, however, is not the main office and Kongsvinger a regional office. With the exception of the Research Department and the Department of Industry Statistics, all departments have employees in both towns. A joint computer and phone network, videoconferences, trains and buses ensure daily contact between employees.

Because of geography and history, our current organizational chart is not strictly logical. For this reason the operations described in the annual report are not fully consistent with the organizational structure. Statistics Norway's research activities take place in several departments, not just the Research Department, so for this reason accounts of our research activities are consolidated under Research and Analysis. The same applies to interdepartmental activities that not only take place in the Department of Administrative Affairs and independent units, but also in cooperation with several departments. In other words, it is not always natural to sort the activity under a specific department.

The Coordination and Development Department was closed at the end of 2000 and the divisions for IT, Statistical Methods and Standards and Information and Publishing are now independent divisions that report directly to the Directors' meeting. At the end of the year a new division was formed: the Division for External Trade. This area was previously handled by the present Division for Energy and Industrial Production Statistics. In keeping with its duties the Division for Data Registration changed its name to the Division for Data Collection.

Per 17 April 2001

Chairman of the Board
Åge Danielsen

Director General
Svein Longva

Department of Economic Statistics
Olav Ljones

Divisions

National Accounts
Liv H. Simpson

Environmental Statistics
Svein Homstvedt

Energy and Industrial Production Statistics
Bjørn Bleskestad

Economic Indicators
Lasse Sandberg

Public Finance and Credit Market Statistics
Anna Rømo

Labour Market Statistics
Ole Sandvik

External Trade
Tom L. Andersen

Offices

Administration
Siri Holand Andresen

IT
Bjørn Pedersen

Department of Social Statistics
Johan-Kristian Tønder

Divisions

Social and Demographic Research
Kari Skrede

Population and Education Statistics
Elisabetta Vassenden

Health Statistics
Ann Lisbet Brathaug

Sample Surveys
Helge Næsheim/
Anne Skranefjell

Social Welfare Statistics
Berit Otnes

Population and Housing Census
Paul Inge Severeide

Offices

Administration
Johan H. Heir

IT
Kristian Lønø

Department of Industry Statistics
Nils Håvard Lund

Divisions

Business Register
Jan O. Furseth

Income and Wage Statistics
Per Ove Smogeli

Primary Industry Statistics
Ole O. Moss

Transport and Tourism Statistics
Peder Næs

Data Collection
Sindre Børke

Construction and Service Statistics
Roger Jensen

Offices

Administration
Heidi Karin Nylænder

IT
Matz Ivan Faldmo

Research Department
Ådne Cappelen

Divisions

Public Economics
Nils Martin Stølen

Resource and Environmental Economics
Torstein Arne Bye

Macroeconomics
Erling Holmøy

Microeconometrics
Jørgen Aasness

Department of Administrative Affairs
Cecilie Wilberg

Divisions

Budget and Accounting
Pål Mathisen

Personnel Administration
Heidi Torstensen

Offices

Joint Services, Oslo
Geten Engelstad

Joint Services, Kongsvinger
Karin Wang

Divisions outside Departments

IT	Statistical Methods and Standards	Information and Publishing	International Consulting
Rune Gløersen	Jan Bjørnstad	Anne Skranefjell	Bjørn K. Wold

Report of the Board of Directors

The Board is pleased that Statistics Norway achieved most of the goals set for its work in 2000. The figures for releases of new statistics show an increase in production, and indicators for various quality goals, such as timeliness and response rates, show that the quality was also good in 2000.

The Board's responsibilities and duties are set forth in the 1989 Statistics Act, which states that the Board shall consider and decide Statistics Norway's long-term programme, budget proposals and annual work programme according to the proposals of the Director General and shall present these matters together with Statistics Norway's annual report to the Ministry of Finance. The Board shall otherwise supervise the development of official statistics and Statistics Norway's operations.

- The year started well with a successful technology shift (implemented in 1999), which was Statistics Norway's strategy to ensure a problem-free transition to 2000.
- The large IDUN project was launched early in the year. It main mission is to ensure that respondents in the business community can supply their data electronically. In the long term this will simplify the situation for many respondents.
- There was considerable excitement about the first round of electronic reports from municipalities and counties participating in the KOSTRA project. 108 municipalities and five counties were to deliver their reports for 1999. The reporting was successful, although several areas were targeted for improvements before the next round in 2001.
- Preliminary results of the Census of Agriculture 1999 were published as early as February 2000 and showed that Norway has fewer and larger farms, while the agricultural area has increased by 5 per cent since 1989.
- A future-oriented programme was started by which companies that fill out energy consumption forms receive fact sheets analyzing their consumption of energy as thanks.
- Separate income statistics for persons and families were published for the first time.

Public confidence in Statistics Norway

All the information Statistics Norway possesses is of rather little interest if it does not reach users, and if the various user groups cannot have confidence in the institution's statistics and analytical results. The commitment to using the Internet to reach users continued in 2000, and the number of visits to Statistics Norway's website increased from just under 12 million visits in 1999 to just under 20 million in 2000. Just as important as reaching users is that they trust the information from Statistics Norway and the institution itself. A survey conducted by MMI in May 2000 showed that fully 69 per cent of those asked had great confidence in Statistics Norway, with only 4 per cent saying that they did not trust the institution. The study showed that the public trusted Statistics Norway more than the armed forces, education system and courts. Only the police rank higher than Statistics Norway with respect to enjoying a high level of trust. It is important that there are institutions that people view as trustworthy, and Statistics Norway has a special responsibility, precisely because many have great confidence in Statistics Norway's professional neutrality. The Board believes that this shows that Statistics Norway did a good job in discharging its information duties in 2000.

Better financial management

The Board was troubled by the report that the Office of the Auditor General could not approve Statistics Norway's 1999 accounts without comment. The main reason for the comment was that it was not possible to trace all transactions in the accounts, that the technical systems were not good enough, and that the manual routines were not as good as they should be. The comment from the Office of the Auditor General only relates to the technical aspects of the accounting process and not to management of funds. The Board was pleased that Statistics Norway took immediate steps to remedy the situation, hiring, inter alia, outside experts, who in close cooperation with Statistics Norway employees, worked the entire autumn of 2000 on improving routines and documentation. The goal was to deliver accounts for 2000 with an opening balance from 1999 that the Office of the Auditor General could approve without remarks. The Board is confident that Statistics Norway has achieved this goal and pleased that the work on routines and instructions will continue in 2001 so that the situation will be improved on a more permanent basis.

2001
Statistics Norway celebrates its 125th anniversary

Photo: Hanne Marit Svensrud

Composition of the Board:

Åge Danielsen, Assistant Director General, Chairman of the Board
Hege Torp, Director of Research, Vice Chair
Ingrid I. Willoch, Politician
Thor Bjarne Bore, Editor
Eva Hildrum, Deputy Secretary
Rune Sørensen, Professor
Kjell Erik Kordal, Senior Executive Officer

Deputy members:
Ellen Fjeldstad, Statistical Adviser
Bjørn Henrichsen, Director General
Berit Kvæven, Head of Division
Torunn Bragstad, Research Fellow
Anne Gro Juelsen, Executive Officer

Wider authority is desirable

The Board is aware that it is not unproblematic to administrate according to the rules and principles that apply to public enterprises. Among other things, cash accounting, which requires all recorded revenues and expenditures to be balanced out in the same calendar year, creates problems and gives unclear management signals. This is particularly difficult for an institution such as Statistics Norway, with almost a quarter of its revenues funded directly by users. The Board has discussed many times whether the institution should have other and wider authority in the finance area than public activities only funded via the fiscal budget, and the dialogue with the Ministry of Finance on this matter will continue in 2001.

Users are funding ever more assignments

The Board has a positive attitude towards users funding many of Statistics Norway's assignments. In so doing, users are helping to prioritize statistical and research work, and also provide useful user information to the work funded via the government assignment. There is nevertheless reason to discuss to what degree activities should be dependent on external funds, which can vary widely from one year to the next. Too much user funding can make it difficult to ensure a coherent statistical product and can jeopardize statistics as a public benefit and the professional freedom of Statistics Norway. The Board will put this issue on the agenda in 2001 as part of its effort to develop a new strategy for Statistics Norway.

New strategy

Statistics Norway prepared a strategic plan that was presented in early 1997. In the years since then extensive changes have taken place internally in the organization and with respect to technological developments, the types of statistics and analyses needed by users, how Statistics Norway collects data, and social trends in general. A new strategic plan is therefore needed. The initial work started in 2000 and will continue with full force in 2001. The plan will probably be finished in early 2002. During the process a number of issues will be discussed internally in various bodies in Statistics Norway. Many of these will concern internal matters of a technical and organizational type or external conditions relating to discussions of needs and demands of users and data suppliers. For its part, the Board will in particular address the role Statistics Norway should play in Norwegian society in the future. Statistics Norway is an institution that possesses extensive contemporary and historical knowledge about Norwegian society. It is important that the institution be given a framework in the future that permits it to provide the authorities, business and industry and individuals with the knowledge they need to design policies, operate and develop businesses or to understand and take part in public debate.

The Board would like to thank the staff for their good work in 2000.

Åge Danielsen, Assistant Director General, Chairman of the Board

Hege Torp, Director of Research, Vice Chair

Thor Bjarne Bore, Editor

Ingrid I. Willoch, Politician

Kjell Erik Kordal, Senior Executive Officer

Rune Sørensen, Professor

Eva Hildrum, Deputy Secretary

A good year for Statistics Norway

The level of activity in 2000 was about the same as the year before. The scope of user-funded assignments grew while the activity level of the government assignment declined somewhat. Overall activities increased.

Statistics Norway had an operating surplus of NOK 1.5 million, around NOK 3.4 million better than budgeted. The improvement was attributed to unused earmarked appropriations for the IDUN project and Population and Housing Census 2001. Corrected for this the operating result was around NOK 1.5 million worse than budgeted.

Increase in overall activities

Revenues in 2000, including refunds, totalled NOK 466.9 million. Activities were carried out within the budget framework and basically in accordance with the goals set for operations in 2000. Activities in 2000, measured by man-hours worked, were about the same as the year before. User-funded assignments increased, while activities under the government assignment dipped somewhat compared with 1999.

Better operating result than budgeted

The operating surplus for 2000 was around NOK 1.5 million, while an operating deficit of NOK 1.9 million was budgeted. The operating result for the government assignment was better than planned, while the operating result for user-funded assignments was about as budgeted.

The improvement in the operating result was mainly attributed to the postponement of a large portion of the IDUN project until 2001.

Funding for the government assignment cut

Excluding inflation and earmarked appropriations, government funding of Statistics Norway was cut by about NOK 8 million in 2000. As a result of the cut, activities in 2000 were reduced somewhat and concentrated on central areas. A number of projects were postponed until 2001 or 2002.

Higher revenues from user-funded assignments

Revenues from user-funded assignments were just over NOK 13 million higher than originally budgeted. This was basically because of cautious budgeting. Revenues were just over NOK 10 million higher than in 1999. Ministries and other state institutions are the main user groups and contribute around 64 per cent of user-funded revenues. The portion funded by the Research Council of Norway was 8.5 per cent in 2000, somewhat lower than the year before.

Revenues not included in the annual accounts

Revenues from the sale of publications are not included in Statistics Norway's accounts. Nor are revenues from compulsory fines levied pursuant to the Statistics Act. Sales revenues are included in the national accounts under Chapter 4620 Item 01 Sales revenues and amounted to a total of NOK 4.8 million for 2000, an increase on 1999. Compulsory fine revenues are entered in the national accounts under Chapter 4620 Item 04 Compulsory fines and amounted to NOK 5.1 million in 2000. This is an increase of about NOK 2 million from 1999.

Investments have declined

In 2000 around NOK 5.2 million was spent on new purchases. This was lower than budgeted and slightly lower than in 1999.

Accounting principles

Statistics Norway keeps its accounts according to the cash-accounting principle, as required by the government. The accounts accordingly show the expenditures and revenues recorded during the fiscal year. For user-funded assignments only the revenues actually received are included in the accounts, outstanding claims are not shown while advance payments are included.

Annual accounts 2000 (NOK 1 000)

	Accounts 1999	Budget 2000	Accounts 2000	Budget 2001
Revenues[1]	400 500	445 084	457 807	474 741
Government appropriation[2]	311 800	359 400	358 718	360 900
Commission revenues[3]	88 700	85 684	99 089	113 841
Refunds[4]	2 566		9 137	
Total revenues[5]	403 066	445 084	466 944	474 741
Expenditures[6]	402 025	446 940	465 427	477 000
Operating result[7]	1 041	-1 856	1 517	-2 259
Brought forward from the year before[8]	10 024	11 065	11 283	12 800
Brought forward to next year[9]	11 065	9 209	12 800	10 541
Total expenditures	402 025	446 940	465 427	477 000
Wages[10]	264 460	265 608	279 283	287 739
IDUN undistributed	0	8 000		
PaH undistributed[11]	0	42 000	37 151	23 200
Wage settlement, 01.09.99 undistributed	0	1 168		
Operating expenditures[12]	137 565	130 164	148 993	166 061
Machinery, furniture, fixtures and equipment*[13]	14 404	9 244	18 545	9 241
Consumption articles	5 029	4 875	5 486	6 156
Travel etc.[14]	14 540	14 101	20 742	15 298
Various IT expenditures	20 410	16 964	14 262	19 603
Printing	5 240	4 817	4 888	7 941
Postage	9 023	7 515	8 435	23 600
Telephone	5 532	4 610	4 158	7 896
EEA membership fee	6 996	9 300	8 889	9 400
Expert assistance[15]	7 411	8 086	15 832	11 608
Library	1 049	1 160	1 136	1 050
Building management and premises rental	34 619	35 931	35 441	36 910
Various operating expenditures	13 312	13 561	11 180	17 358

Notes to the tables

[1] *Revenues*
Revenues in 2000 were NOK 57 million higher than in 1999. NOK 41 million in increased appropriations to the Population and Housing Census 2001 (PaH) and NOK 10.4 million in higher revenues from user-funded assignments accounted for the largest part of the nominal growth in revenues. Revenues were NOK 12.7 million larger than budgeted.

[2] *Government appropriation*
Nominal growth of the government appropriation was NOK 47 million from 1999 to 2000. The appropriation for PaH increased by NOK 41 million, while the nominal growth of the government assignment was NOK 6 million. The appropriation this year was reduced by NOK 5.2 million. Of this NOK 1 million was a budget cut and NOK 4.2 million a withdrawal in consequence of the switch to direct refunding of sickness benefits. An addition was the NOK 4.5 million compensation for the effect of the wage settlement in 2000. The net change was thus a reduction of NOK 0.7 million compared with the original budget for 2000.

[3] *Commission revenues*
Revenues from user-funded assignments were NOK 13.4 million higher than budgeted and NOK 10.4 million higher than in 1999. The increase indicates a general growth in the scope of user-funded assignments, which the 2001 budget also shows.

[4] *Refunds*
Refunds in 2000 were far higher than in 1999. This occurred above all because of the switch to direct refunding of sickness benefits for absences beyond the employer period of 16 days. Refunding of sickness benefits amounted to NOK 5.4 million and refunding of maternity benefits NOK 3.7 million in 2000. By order of the Ministry of Finance, all refunding of sickness benefits was recorded as revenues in the government assignment, Chapter 4620 Item 18, including refunds for persons paid via Item 21 The market assignment.

[5] *Total revenues*
Total revenues in 2000 were NOK 21.8 million higher than budgeted and NOK 64 million higher than in 1999.

[6] *Expenditures*
Total expenditures in 2000 were NOK 465.4 million. This is NOK 18.5 million higher than budgeted and NOK 63.4 million higher in 1999.

[7] *Operating result*
The operating result was NOK 3.4 million better than budgeted and slightly better than in 1999. It was primarily the operating result for the government assignment that was better than expected. A

lower level of activity than planned on the IDUN project and the Population and Housing Census 2001 led to savings of - or an improvement of the operating result by - a total of NOK 5 million in relation to budget. Apart from these savings the operating result was about NOK 2 million worse than budgeted. On user-funded assignments the operating result was NOK 0.4 million better than expected. The cash-accounting principle leads to somewhat random distributions between the years, which means that Statistics Norway will receive revenues in 2001 for work done in 2000. The 2001 budget therefore shows an operating result of approx. NOK 3.3 million in user-funded assignments.

[8] Brought forward from the year before
In its letter of 5 April 2000, the Ministry of Finance announced that Statistics Norway could transfer altogether NOK 11.3 million in appropriations for the government assignment and user-funded assignments from 1999 to 2000. This is NOK 218 000 higher than the calculated transfer to next year in the 1999 accounts, as shown in the 2000 budget. Compared to what was in the accounts, the transfers were NOK 216 000 higher for user-funded assignments and NOK 2 000 higher for the government assignment.

[9] Brought forward to next year
We assume that the operating result plus transfers from 1999 will yield a total transfer to 2001 of NOK 12.8 million. The amount is within the transfer appropriation, which is 5 per cent for both the government and market assignment, Items 01 and 21.

[10] Expenditure on wages
Wage expenditures were NOK 13.7 million higher than budgeted and NOK 14.8 million higher than in 1999. Wage expenditures for the government assignment increased by around NOK 9 million in relation to the budget, and assignment-related expenditures increased by around NOK 4 million. The increase was precipitated by the effect of the wage settlement, which for the government assignment corresponded to about NOK 4.5 million, and higher expenditure on wages beyond what was budgeted against similar refund revenues.

[11] PaH undistributed
Of the total appropriation in 2000 of NOK 53 million to the PaH, NOK 42 million was set aside for the residence address project, where most of the money was to go to the municipalities to cover the work they did on the project. In 2000 Statistics Norway only paid the municipalities NOK 4.8 million via the Norwegian Mapping Authority. NOK 37.2 million listed as PaH undistributed in the accounts for 2000 are funds that will be paid to municipalities in 2001. The postponement in disbursements from 2000 to 2001 entails no delay in the residence address project. The municipalities did what they were expected to do in 2000. The remaining funds will be paid when the work is completed, i.e. in 2001. The PaH appropriation for 2001 is NOK 63.2 million. Of these funds, NOK 23.2 million is listed as not distributed to the residence address project, where the vast majority will go to cover activities that will be done by the municipalities and others.

[12] Operating expenditures
Operating expenditures in 2000 were NOK 19 million higher than budgeted and NOK 11.4 million higher than for 1999. In relation to the level in 1999 the largest increase was in user-funded assignments, while compared with the budget there was an increase of about NOK 9 million on both the government assignment and user-funded assignments.

[13] Machinery, furniture, fixtures and equipment
Expenditure on machinery, furniture, fixtures and equipment was NOK 18.5 million in 2000, NOK 9 million higher than budgeted and NOK 4 million higher than for 1999. This was caused partly by major uncertainties at the time of the budget was prepared, and partly by higher activities than expected and because expenditures are budgeted under Various IT expenditures, but recorded under Machinery, furniture, fixtures and equipment.

[14] Travel
Expenditure on travel etc. was NOK 7.7 million higher than budgeted. The explanation for the deviation is higher than expected activity and uncertainty about the distribution of operating expenditures at the time the budget was prepared.

[15] Expert assistance
Expenditure on expert assistance increased by NOK 8.4 million in relation to the level in 1999 and was NOK 7.7 million higher than budgeted. The main reason for the increase is that the activities that the municipalities carry out under the residence address project, PaH, are charged as expense under Expert assistance. Expenditure on municipalities was around NOK 4.1 million in 2000. In the 2000 budget the expenditure on Expert assistance for the residence address project was included in PaH undistributed in the amount of NOK 42 million.

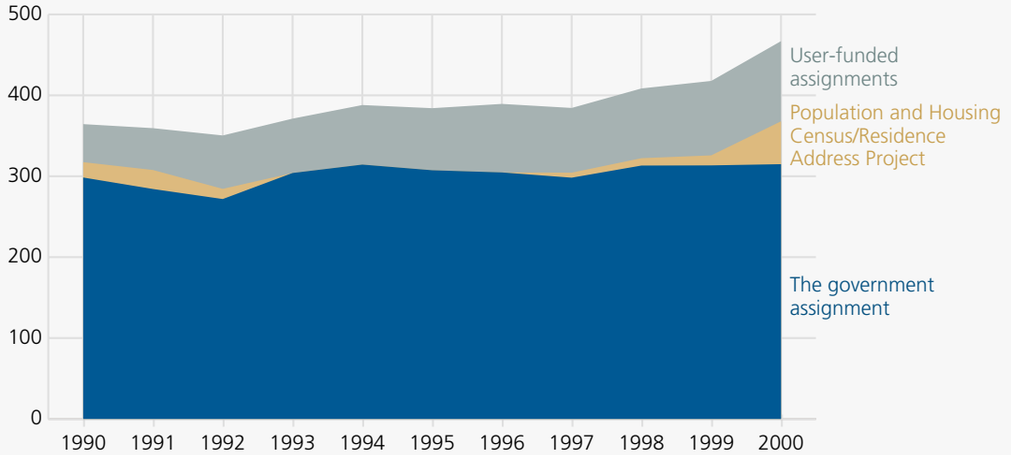
Accounts 2000. The government assignment (NOK 1 000)

	Accounts 1999	Budget 2000	Accounts 2000	Budget 2001
Revenues (government appropriation)[2]	311 800	359 400	358 718	360 900
Refunds[4]	2 566	0	9 137	
Total revenues	314 366	359 400	367 855	360 900
Expenditures:	315 017	359 849	365 366	366 445
Operating result	-651	-449	2 489	-5 545
Brought forward from the year before[8]	7 177	6 526	6 528	9 017
Brought forward to next year	6 526	6 077	9 017	3 472
Total expenditures	315 017	359 849	365 366	366 445
Expenditure on wages[10]	209 488	209 024	218 336	213 769
IDUN undistributed	0	8 000		
PaH undistributed[11]	0	42 000	37 151	23 200
Wage settlement 01.09.99 undistributed	0	1 168		
Operating expenditures[12]	105 529	99 657	109 879	129 476

Accounts 2000. Major new purchases (NOK 1 000)

	Accounts 1999	Budget 2000	Accounts 2000	Budget 2001
Revenues (government appropriation)	7 400	7 500	7 500	7 600
Expenditures	6 056	7 500	5 226	7 600
Unused funds	1 344	-	2 274	-
Brought forward from the year before	0	1 344	1 344	3 618
Brought forward to next year	1 344	1 344	3 618	3 618

Historical accounts. Revenues 1990-2000. Constant 2000 prices. Million kroner



Accounts 2000. User-funded assignments (NOK 1 000)

	Accounts 1999	Budget 2000	Accounts 2000	Budget 2001
Commission revenues[3]	88 700	85 684	99 089	113 841
Expenditures	87 008	87 091	100 060	110 555
Operating result[7]	1 692	-1 407	-971	3 286
Brought forward from the year before[8]	2 847	4 539	4 755	3 784
Brought forward to next year[9]	4 539	3 132	3 784	7 069
Total expenditures	87 008	87 091	100 060	110 555
Expenditure on wages[10]	54 972	56 584	60 947	73 970
Operating expenditures[12]	32 036	30 507	39 113	36 585

User-funded assignments, by client group. 1999 and 2000

	1999		2000	
	Mill. kroner	Per cent	Mill. kroner	Per cent
Total	81.4	100.0	99.0	100.0
Government ministries	34.2	42.0	44.1	44.5
Other government agencies	9	11.0	18.9	19.1
Private clients	9	11.0	10.1	10.2
Municipal clients	1.6	2.0	1.0	1.0
Foreign clients	9.8	12.0	12.1	12.2
Research institutes and universities	6.5	8.0	4.4	4.4
Research Council of Norway	11.4	14.0	8.4	8.5

Office of the Auditor General criticized the accounts for 1999

After auditing the accounts for 1999, Office of the Auditor General criticized the structure and preparation of Statistics Norway's accounts. The 1999 accounts were approved with reservation. The reservation was that the accounting was not done in accordance with the rules, making it impossible to ascertain whether the accounts were done correctly. The problem was particularly sizeable with respect to the wage account, as it was not possible to track all the transactions in the account. The reason for this was shortcomings in both the technical system and the manual routines. In certain areas incorrect entries were also discovered that made it necessary to correct the 2000 accounts. Because of the way the accounts were handled, Statistics Norway was the subject of a comment in document no. 1 from the Office of the Auditor General, which is presented to the Storting, Norway's national legislature, each autumn. Several of the problematic aspects of operations persisted until the autumn of 2000, and it was necessary to use the whole of 2000 to solve the biggest problems. In the autumn consultants were brought in to deal with the lag so that old matters could be concluded. Development projects were furthermore carried out so that finance, payroll and the personnel systems now function better individually and in cooperation with each other. Another result of the audit is that the Budget and Accounting division will add an accounting specialist to its staff.

Statistics Norway has taken the Office of the Auditor General's comprehensive and wide-ranging criticism seriously and has invested considerable resources, both internal and external, to deal with the problem. The Board believes that the improved routines resulting from the work of closing the old wage-related issues and the other development steps taken will provide far better documentation and correct figures in the 2000 accounts than was the case in the 1999 accounts.

Statistics on statistics

Statistics Norway released 761 statistics in 2000. This works out to more than three statistics for each workday throughout the year. The number of visits to www.ssb.no increased by 66 per cent from the year before.

Completely new statistics and statistics that underwent major changes in 2000:

- *Labour Force Survey – restructured with occupational breakdowns and quarterly county figures*
- *Wholesale earnings survey*
- *Waste accounts for textiles*
- *Waste accounts for wood*
- *Construction waste*
- *Building statistics – resumed after halt in 1999*
- *Ferry statistics – now cover both arrivals and departures*
- *Household statistics*
- *Use of ICT in business and industry*
- *Statistics for the ICT sector on Employment, Turnover, Value added and External trade*
- *Income statistics. Persons and families*
- *Census of Agriculture 1999 – preliminary figures*
- *Continuity, frequency of contact and satisfaction with medical service*
- *Securities broking enterprises*

The main goal for 2000 was to maintain the production volume at the same level as previously. This was an ambitious goal because all production was transferred to a new technological platform in connection with the changeover to 2000, and because the activity level of the government assignment was lower. The production goal was achieved. A total of 761 statistics were released in 2000, against 740 the year before, and the number of visits to Statistics Norway's website increased monthly. Only the number of publications dipped slightly, to the level of 1998.

Other results such as precision, timeliness, response rates and response burden have specific goals:

- The precision goal is for as many statistics as possible to be released at the time previously announced in the statistics calendar. The result in 2000 was almost as good as the year before.
- The goal of improving timeliness relates particularly to annual statistics. The timeliness of monthly and quarterly was assessed as good, and the goals were achieved. Overall, the timeliness goal set for annual statistics was not met.
- The response rates to the Statistics Norway's surveys are generally good, but in certain areas the response rates were too low or declining.
- The response burden associated with Statistics Norway's surveys constitutes a relatively small portion of the total response burden placed on business, though the distribution is extremely lopsided. Statistics Norway has yet to implement a system for coordinating samples that will permit us to distribute the burden more evenly.

Production volume

More statistics were released in 2000 than the year before. The 2.8 per cent increase reflected the issuance of 13 completely new statistics in 2000, and the introduction of more monthly and period statistics in 1999, which impacted the volume produced in 2000. Releases of statistics is not the same as statistics, as some statistics are released several times per year, such as monthly and quarterly statistics. Statistics Norway has around 250 different statistics, 200 of which are annual, 30 quarterly, 15 monthly and two weekly. No statistics were discontinued in 2000.

Releases of statistics	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total	642	754	740	761

Publications

The category "periodical" includes publications such as the Weekly Bulletin of Statistics, Monthly Bulletin of External Trade, Bygginfo (Building Information) and Aktuell utdanningsstatistikk (Current Education

Statistics) in addition to the more analytical periodicals Economic Survey and Samfunnsspeilet (Mirror of Society). The overall number of publications fell to 1998 level. Publishing at Statistics Norway is gradually shifting from traditional tabular publications in hardcopy to daily web publishing and more analytical and detailed hardcopy publications.

Publications	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total	258	268	286	316	284
NOS	83	76	61	64	48
Analytical publications	66	77	84	97	85
Periodicals	109	115	141	155	151
- Economic Survey	9	9	9	9	9
- Samfunnsspeilet	4	4	6	6	6

Research activities – external publishing

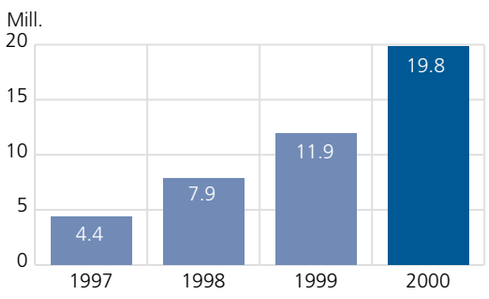
Increasing international publishing is an important goal of research activities. The scope of such publishing increased in 2000 compared with earlier years. Publishing of books and periodicals in Norwegian also increased.

External publishing	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Articles in periodicals	28	20	39	24	41
- international	21	13	17	15	28
- Norwegian	7	7	22	9	13
Books and articles in books	8	7	4	13	18
- internationale	5	-	2	12	13
- Norwegian	3	7	2	1	5

Visits to www.ssb.no

The number of visits to Statistics Norway's website increased by 66 per cent from 1999 to 2000. The number has risen from 7.9 million in 1998 to 11.9 in 1999 and 19.8 million in 2000.

Number of web visits



Comments

Statistics Norway is often included in the consultative process when new laws and regulations are drafted and in connection with public studies. In 2000 submissions were prepared on 83 such proposals, 10 more than the year before. The submissions are available on Statistics Norway's website.

Media clippings

The use of statistics and research or analysis results from Statistics Norway is inter alia measured by the number of media clippings. The number is based on a sample of clippings from the largest newspapers, radio and television. The number of media clipping increased from 2 429 in 1999 to 3 344 in 2000.

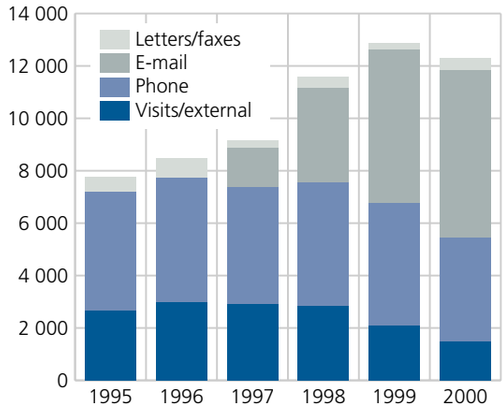
Language – Nynorsk per cent

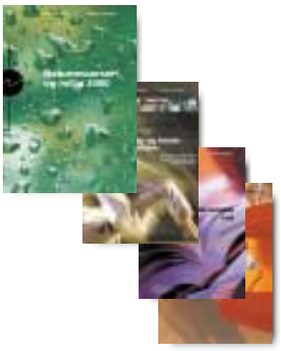
Statistics Norway did not comply with the requirements of the Language Act in 2000. Only 9 per cent of the publications were in Nynorsk and none of the brochures. On the other hand there was a monthly increase in 2000 in the daily releases of statistics (23 per cent) and for job vacancies (30 per cent) and forms.

Questions received by the library

The number of questions received by the library increased in the 1990s, but are now in the process of stabilizing. There have been marked changes in how the questions arrive, with a decrease in external visits and phone calls and an increase in e-mails. The decline in visitors is probably related to the fact that more and more statistics and other products are available on Statistics Norway's website.

Number of enquiries handled by Statistics Norway's library





1881
The first Statistical Yearbook of Norway is published.

Precision and timeliness

The release of each statistic is listed in the statistics calendar and great emphasis is placed on keeping the schedule. The statistic should not be released too early or too late. In 2000, 85 per cent of the statistics were released at the previously announced time. This was a slightly poorer result than the year before, when 87 per cent of the statistics were on time. The result is related to the fact that Today's Statistics took over from the Weekly Bulletin of Statistics in the summer of 1999, which meant that the changes made on the following day were are also recorded compared with a whole week before.

Precision. Deviation in relation to announced time. Per cent

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total deviation	14	10	13	15
Too early	6	2	4	2
Too late	8	8	9	13

The timeliness of statistics is measured by how many weeks elapse from the end of the reference period until the statistics are released or published. This is also the usual way of measuring timeliness internationally. Timeliness is by and large very satisfactory for monthly and quarterly statistics, while there is still room for improvement for the annual statistics.

Timeliness. Time elapsed from end of reference period to publication. Weeks

	1998	1999	2000	
			Target	Result
Monthly statistics	3,8	3,8	3,8	3,8
Quarterly statistics	9,1	8,6	8,2	8,0
Annual statistics	44,9	41,0	43,8	45,4

Response burden

Information on response burden is based on estimates of average time used per form by each respondent. The reduction from 1999 to 2000 is related to the fact that the collection of data for the Census of Agriculture was carried out in 1999.

Response burden. Man-years

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total	200	196	188	148
Business and industry	110	113	138	98

Response rates

The percentage of respondents who answer questionnaire surveys determines to a large degree the quality of the statistics based on surveys. The response rates to Statistics Norway surveys are generally high, particularly for mandatory surveys. Although the response rates are basically satisfactory, the impression is that it is becoming increasingly more demanding to keep it to an acceptable level. In the table below, the wage statistics have been taken out as a separate group to avoid having too much influence on the overall percentage.

Response rates

	1998	1999	2000
mandatory			
- wage statistics	84	95	96
- other	92	91	89
voluntary	69	73	74

Use of resources in various areas

The use of resources breakdown is calculated on the basis of information in the product and man-hour system. The work on management by objectives and results and revision of products and product numbers in 1999 led to a restructuring of types of operations. The table therefore covers only 1999 and 2000. The overview shows the breakdown of resources when absence (holiday, sickness and leaves) is excluded.

Breakdown of man-hours into various types of operations. 1999 and 2000. Per cent

Type of operation	1999	2000
Total	100	100
Statistics production	61	61
- current production of statistics	55	53
- development project	6	8
Research and analysis projects	9	9
Management, administration and planning	10	9
Internal support	20	20

Long-time staffers keep the machinery humming

More than 40 per cent of the nearly 900 employees at Statistics Norway have worked for institution for 20 or more years. In 2000 only five long-time staffers resigned.

Altogether 77 employees resigned or took leave in 2000. The vast majority of these people, 72 per cent, had been employed by Statistics Norway for four years or less. Those who resigned were on average younger than the average employee at Statistics Norway.

One in three has been at Statistics Norway for less than five years

Forty-one per cent of the employees have been with Statistics Norway for 20 or more years, while 33 per cent have been employed less than five years. There are huge differences between the departments with respect to years of service. At the Department of Industry Statistics in Kongsvinger, 70 per cent of the employees have worked for Statistics Norway for more than 20 years. In the Department of Economic Statistics and Department of Social Statistics, 51 and 40 per cent respectively of employees have been with Statistics Norway for less than five years.

More women than men

Statistics Norway has more female than male employees. The ratio at the start of 2001 was 55 per cent women and 45 per cent men, the same as one year previously. There are clearly more women than men in the age group over 35 years and a majority of men under 35 years of age. Statistics Norway Oslo has more men than women, while there is a large majority of women at Statistics Norway Kongsvinger. Twenty-six per cent of the women and 60 per cent of the men had a higher education.

Small decline in absence due to illness

Total sickness absence for 2000 was 5.0 per cent, while it was 5.1 per cent in 1999. Two-thirds of the sickness absence in 2000 was of more than 14 days' duration. The Training for Health project continued at Kongsvinger in 2000 with good results and will start in Oslo in 2001.

More women in management

There are 43 managerial positions at Statistics Norway. Twelve are filled by women, compared with 10 before the turn of the year. The percentage of women in management is almost 30 per cent. The average age of division heads was 47 at the start of 2001.

Skills development

Statistics Norway is committed to developing the skills of its employees. In the course of the year, just over NOK 5 million was spent on organized external and development programmes. Forty per cent of these funds were channelled via the Bureau School, which organizes the in-service courses. In the course of the year courses were organized through the Bureau School for altogether 839 participants. A major activity in this area for the year 2000 and the years to come, is the project Systematic quality work. Other major development programmes include the annual internal project manager course (ProMut), which had 21 participants.

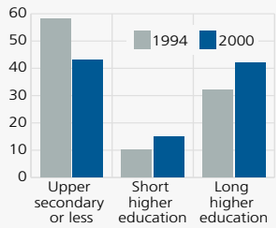
Salaries of managers. 2000. Kroner

Director General	755 000
Director of Research	580 000
Department Directors	490 000 - 509 000
Division Heads/Heads of Research	355 500 - 435 500
Office Managers	331 100 - 375 000

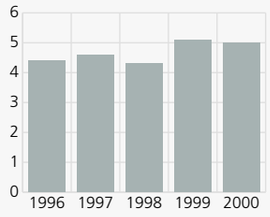
Budgeted man-years. 1990 - 2000

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total man-years	814	785	769	785	798	798	813	823	821	838	839
The government assignment	734	690	659	645	619	612	619	624	652	664	659
Market assignments	80	95	110	140	179	186	194	199	169	174	180

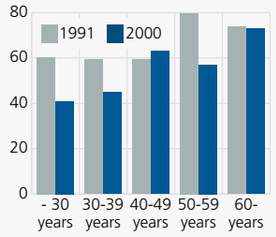
Employees by highest education. Per cent



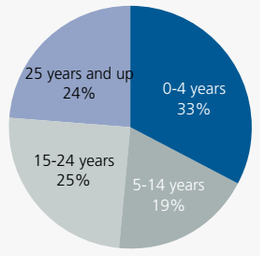
Absence due to illness. 1996-1999. Per cent



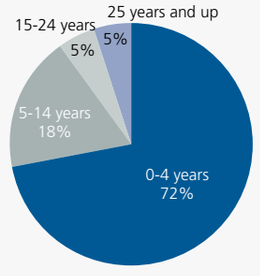
Women employees in various age groups. 1991 and 2000. Per cent



Employees by years of service. Per cent



Employees who resigned in 2000, by years of services. Per cent



Report of the Director General

Professional independence and neutrality are major reasons why many perceive Statistics Norway as being an institution they can depend on. Neither politicians nor business and industry lay down the guidelines for the kinds of methods we use, the results we arrive at or how the results are to be published.

1876
Anders Nicolai Kiær was appointed the first Director General of the bureau.

Equal rights to statistics

Statistics Norway (SSB) is an institution serving the entire population. Everyone can avail themselves of the knowledge that Statistics Norway collects and produces. Statistics Norway is thus a service institution for everyone. In recent years Statistics Norway's services have become increasingly available 24 hours a day via the steadily growing number of products found on Statistics Norway's website. The service is free. Sooner or later everyone has use for the information found in one of our statistics, or that is based on the results of research or analysis projects at Statistics Norway. While the need for such information is often professionally motivated, it is possible that just as many users are private citizens interested in participating in public debate, the democratic exchange of opinions and political elections. In both cases there is a need for factual knowledge, which is Statistics Norway's most important product.

Our professional independence and neutrality are major reasons why many look upon Statistics Norway as being an institution they can depend on. In a survey conducted in the spring of 2000, Statistics Norway was one of the institutions in Norwegian society that people trusted the most. In order for everyone to be able to believe that Statistics Norway is professionally independent, it is important that all users be treated in the same manner and have access to the same information when the various statistics are published. An important tool in this connection is the advance release calendar that makes our publishing schedule available to all. Protecting our professional freedom and neutrality is essential. Protecting the privacy of the data as well as possible is just as important, so that individuals can be assured that their private or professional data do not fall into the wrong hands.

Employees are our most important resource

As a knowledge institution, Statistics Norway has always been interested in development or attracting the best qualified employees. Our goal has been to develop the skills of our employees so that those who do not have a higher education or in some cases an obsolete education are given the opportunity to obtain new and expanded skills through internal courses or participation in external educational programmes. The goal is to enable them to do work requiring higher qualifications. At the same time it is important for Statistics Norway to recruit highly qualified employees. In recent years efforts have also been directed at trying to reduce the turnover among the best qualified groups of employees. High turnover in some job groups is a problem we probably will have to struggle with for many years to come.

In 2000 Statistics Norway employees showed once again that they have a high capacity for dealing with change. Preserving this ability will be important in the future. Well qualified employees who give their all are Statistics Norway's most important resource.

Target was met in 2000

A major goal in 2000 was to maintain production at the same high level as in 1999. This meant just as many releases of statistics, and that the research and analysis activities were to continue on at least the same level as in 1999. In reality, this was an ambitious goal since all production in 2000 was moved onto a new technological platform. The target was met: 761 statistics were released in 2000 against 740 in 1999. The statistics were published almost always at the previously announced time. Timeliness and response rates to our surveys stayed at a satisfactory level, although declining response rates are a problem in some areas.

Most of the schedule was carried out as planned, but there are still areas that have shown themselves to be more difficult than expected. One such area is user-friendly interactive databases on the Internet. Despite several years of persistent effort, we failed to complete the project in 2000.

Banner year for more statistics based on administrative data

Data capture is increasingly based on administrative registers and accounting data. This development has several advantages. The burden of delivering data and reports to Statistics Norway can be lessened for business and industry because companies and enterprises do not have to fill out forms with the information Statistics Norway needs. At the same time the statistical process becomes more rational and efficient. The first round of the KOSTRA project, whose purpose is to facilitate electronic reporting between municipa-

lities and the central government, was successfully completed in the beginning of the year. The same period saw the start of the first comprehensive effort to bring about electronic delivery of business data, the IDUN project, which will run over many years.

Commitment to quality will become more important

Quality work was an important part of the working plan in 2000. Quality is becoming increasingly important, because statistics are not only used as general information, but in a growing number of contexts are used directly as authoritative information, for example in the allocation of state funds to the municipalities in the fiscal budget, in building contracts and leases and in evaluations and comparisons. This is one of the reasons why Statistics Norway made a broad commitment to improving quality in 2000. Quality in this context consists of several elements such as relevance, documentation, timeliness, punctual publishing and coherence. The commitment is aimed at many aspects of the concept of quality. Better documentation of a long list of statistics was achieved, several questionnaires were improved, revision procedures were carried out that will serve as a pattern in the future, and work commenced on systematic work on quality, which is particularly concerned with achieving quality throughout the work process. This work will continue in the years to come.

Publishing and information in English

Publishing and dissemination are important areas for Statistics Norway. It is crucial to reach users so that they can make use of statistics and analysis results. In recent years the strategy has been to use the Internet for electronic dissemination. It was a good decision, judging by the numbers that show how many people use this channel to obtain information. Last year our website was visited almost 20 million times. So far most of the information on Statistics Norway' website has been in Norwegian, but last year a special effort was made to translate more material into English. Around 60 per cent of the daily releases of statistics are now accessible to the English-speaking public. In 2000 Statistics Norway also met its language target of 25 per cent Nynorsk in the daily releases of statistics and job vacancy postings, although improvements are still necessary with respect to paper publications. Another programme in 2000 was an all-out effort to publish meta-data, so that everyone could see what the statistics are based on, the definitions that are used, and the sources of error that should be taken into account.

Commitment to international collaboration

The commitment to English-language publishing is naturally related to the fact that Norwegian statistics are part of a larger international collaboration in statistics, which is becoming increasingly important. The cooperation with the EU via the European Economic Area Agreement is particularly important. This cooperation is more binding that other collaboration. A major goal is to develop joint methods and definitions to make it easier to make international comparisons. Reporting of data and statistics to international bodies is a major part of this collaboration. Steps were taken last year internally by Statistics Norway to implement and partly automate this work, but there is still quite a bit of work to do to achieve this in a satisfactory way. Another major factor in the internationalization process is giving statistical advice to countries in the process of building their own statistical institutions.

New challenges - new strategic plan

Last year it was decided that it was time to start work on a new strategic plan because many internal and external changes had made parts of the 1997 plan irrelevant. Among other things, electronic exchanging of information and publishing had advanced more quickly than anticipated. Considerable changes have also taken place in a number of areas of Statistics Norway's programme after the 1997 Strategic Plan was written. Statistical products have been expanded by the production of more statistics for service industries. There are nevertheless areas that are not sufficiently covered by statistics, although the main emphasis in the future will probably be on improvements and quality assurance of the statistics currently produced. International collaboration has also led to the restructuring of some statistics, mostly in consequence of the binding statistical collaboration in the EEA.

There are many challenges involved in drawing up a strategy. The structure of society changes and this has an impact on how easy it is to collect data for statistical production. The borderlines between the various types of economic activity in the information society are being erased. Entities change rapidly, small operations flourish and disappear, definitions and activities become increasingly more complex, businesses may have no physical premises, and the globalization of the entire world makes it increasingly difficult to register entities and flows across national borders.

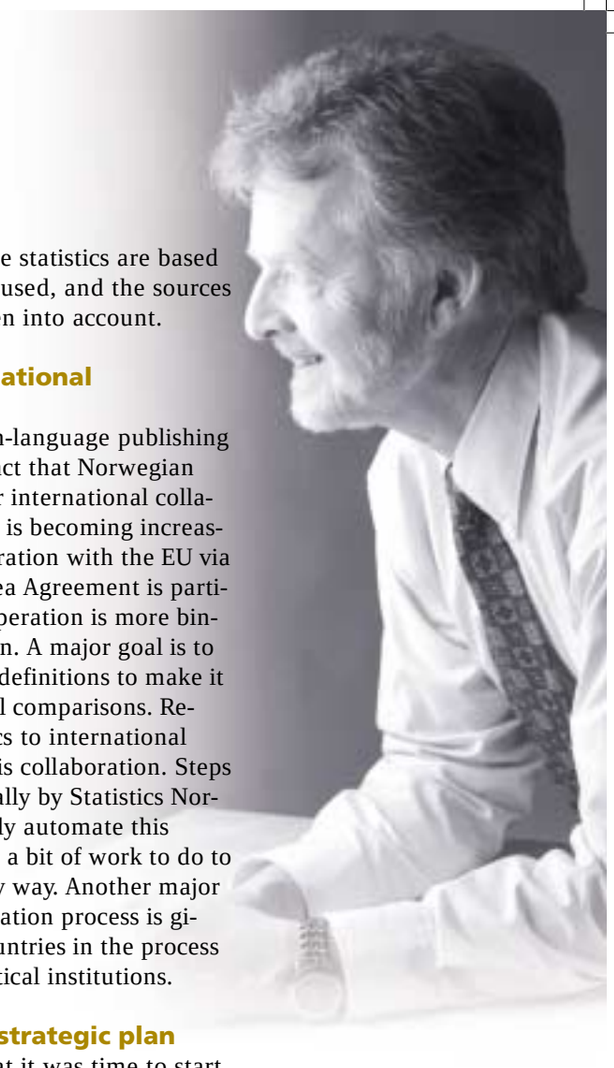


Photo: Torunn Nilsen

Because of the public's high level of trust in Statistics Norway our statistics are used directly as official information, for example in the allocations received by the municipalities through the fiscal budget process and in building contracts and leases. This prompted Statistics Norway to redouble its commitment to quality in 2000.

Department of Economic Statistics

Assistant Director General: Olav Ljones

At the end of 2000 the department had 195 employees (94 women and 101 men), who worked a total of 188 man-years in 2000.

The accounts for 2000 show NOK 50.6 million in appropriations via the fiscal budget and NOK 15.6 million in commission revenues.

Assistant Director General's staff: 3 man-years

Division for National Accounts
Liv H. Simpson
27.8 man-years/Oslo

Division for Environmental Statistics
Svein Homstvedt
20.6 man-years/Oslo/Kongsvinger

Division for Energy and Industrial Production Statistics
Bjørn Bleskestad
24.6 man-years/Oslo

Division for Economic Indicators
Lasse Sandberg
20.1 man-years/Oslo

Division for Public Finance and Credit Market Statistics
Anna Rømo
27.4 man-years/Oslo

Division for Labour Market Statistics
Ole Sandvik
26.6 man-years/Oslo

Division for External Trade
Tom L. Andersen
19.7 man-years/Oslo

Administration Office
Stig Braathen
6.8 man-years/Oslo

IT Office
Bjørn Pedersen
11.5 man-years/Oslo

The Department of Economic Statistics prepares statistics and analyses covering:

- Annual statistics on oil and gas activity
- Balance of payments
- Bankruptcy proceedings
- Church accounts statistics
- Construction waste
- Consumer price index
- District heating statistics
- Electrical power, prices
- Electricity statistics
- Emissions to air
- Employee statistics for immigrants
- Employees by municipality of work-place and selected industries
- Energy accounts
- Energy balance
- Energy use in industry
- Environmental protection costs in industry
- External trade in goods
- Financial holding companies
- Financial institutions
- Foreign assets and liabilities
- General business tendency survey
- General government assets and liabilities
- General government revenue and expenditure
- Goods consumption index
- Harmonized consumer price index for Norway
- Harmonized consumer price indices EU/EEA
- Index of production
- Industry statistics
- Investment statistics
- Labour Force Survey
- Land cover in densely populated areas
- Life and non-life insurance companies
- Local government. Revenue and expenditure
- Municipal accounts statistics
- Municipal discharges
- Municipal fees
- Municipal waste
- National accounts
- National accounts revenue and expenditure
- National insurance fund balance sheet
- Order statistics
- Packaging waste
- Parental payments, kindergartens
- Portfolio survey
- Price index of first-hand domestic transactions
- Private and municipal pension funds and reserves
- Producer price index
- Public expenditure on development aid
- Public purchasing
- Research and development in business and industry
- Reservoir levels
- Sale of petroleum products
- Sales statistics
- Salmon exports
- Satellite accounts for tourism
- Statistics of accounts
- Tax accounts statistics
- Taxes of OECD countries
- Treatment and discharges of waste water
- Unemployment among immigrants
- Warehouse statistics

Main revision of the national accounts is finished

In 2000 Statistics Norway published the revised national accounts figures for 1970-1978. This means that the national account statistics that are based on the same definitions and classifications, are now ready for all years dating back to 1970.

The figures are based on international guidelines from the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993 and the European national accounts system ENS 1995. With time series dating back to 1970, Statistics Norway satisfies Eurostat requirements, while the publication also marks the conclusion of the main revision of the national accounts.

In addition to the change in definitions and classifications, information was incorporated from sources of data that previously had not been used in the national accounts for the period 1970-1978. The revision work has been demanding because industry statistics and other major statistics for the 1970s are basically not adapted to the new definitions.

For the gross domestic product the revised figures for 1970-1978 are higher than the previously published figures for this period. The largest upward adjustments of the gross product were in wholesale and retail trade and business services. The revision results are in accordance with the figures previously published from the main revision of the national accounts for the years since 1978.

Statistics Norway has now begun working on a new and more limited revision of the national accounts, a so-called numerical revision. The main purpose of this revision is to incorporate new information about trends in the service industries for the latter half of the 1990s.

Uncertain statistics on greenhouse gases

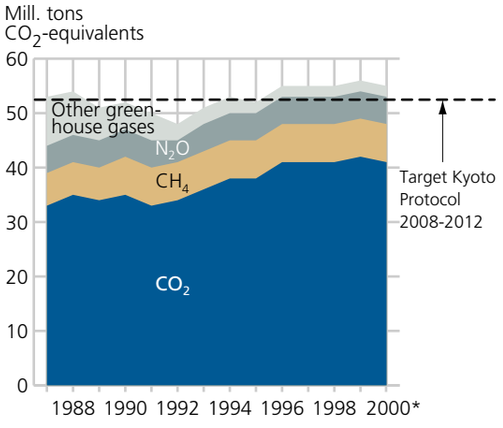
The level of emissions of greenhouse gases can have an error of margin of up to 20 per cent, calculations done by Statistics Norway in 2000 show.

Emissions of greenhouse gases can only be measured directly in a few cases. The figures are therefore computed from the statistics on activities and emission factors. In Norway, Statistics Norway works with the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority on this task. But because of the lack of relevant data and knowledge the figures can be very uncertain. Statistics Norway calculated in 2000 that the level of the total discharges of the gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol could have an error of margin of up to 20 per cent. The main reason for this is the emissions of nitrous oxide from agriculture, but it is also true of methane from landfills and fluor gases from the production of aluminium.

The changes in the Norwegian emissions of greenhouse gases are estimated to have a margin of error of about 4 per cent. In the Kyoto Protocol the various countries have committed themselves to reducing emissions by various percentage values. For example, Norway is permitted to increase its emissions by only 1 per cent from 1990 to 2008-2012. A margin of error of 4 per cent means that it can be difficult to be sure in 2010 that emissions have actually declined as much as countries have obligated themselves to achieving. Under the Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas quotas may be bought and sold by countries. Such trading is also being studied internally in Norway. Uncertain emission statistics can make such trading more complicated.

Improvements in calculation methods will result in more certain statistics in the future, although they still will not be completely reliable. The reports countries submit will therefore probably have to undergo an external audit that can ensure that numbers are not adapted to the set targets.

Emissions of greenhouse gases in Norway. 1987-2000



1956
Research Director Odd Aukrust defends his doctorate on the theoretical and practical structure of national accounts.

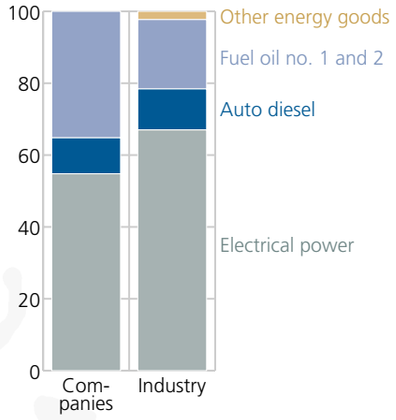
Analysis as a thank you

Around 1 000 companies that filled out forms about their consumption of energy received a special thank you in the post: a four to five-page fact sheet with an analysis of the company's consumption of energy.

For example, a bakery might receive the following message: Your bakery could have reduced its energy costs by NOK 65 500 if it had used just as little energy per ton of finished goods as the most energy-efficient bakery.

On the fact sheet each company receives an overview of its own consumption of energy, the breakdown by electrical power, diesel, fuel oil or other energy goods, the price of the energy and how much energy the company uses to produce one ton of goods. The company's energy use is also compared with the average in the industry and with the companies that use the least energy to produce one ton of goods. Each company will thus have an overview of their status and what is theoretically possible to save by changing their use of energy.

Composition of energy use. Company and industry. Per cent



This is the first time Statistics Norway has sent customized analyses back to companies that participate in a survey. This project is partly funded by the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Administration (NVE), which wants to make companies aware of their energy consumption and how they can save energy. The savings potential is theoretical, and local conditions can make it profitable to continue to use more energy than others operating in the same industry, e.g. because it is extremely costly to buy new energy-efficient equipment. Differences in energy consumption can also be related to various combinations of the products produced in one industry. Statistics Norway asks the companies to respond whether the information is useful and to propose any possible changes.

To improve quality and get statistics out more quickly to users, Statistics Norway has made changes in its production of energy statistics for manufacturing. Previously, questions about energy use was a part of the form in the structural statistics for manufacturing, but they have now been taken out and put on a separate form, which will be sent to a sample of companies. Because of earlier mailings and more intensive revision and production of preliminary figures the statistics are now published 11 months after the end of the reference year. Compared with previous years, improvements have also been made in control routines and more time is spent on ensuring the quality of the data. As part of the project, two new industry reports on energy use in manufacturing have been prepared, one on the Web and one printed.

How much research is done in Norway?

Every other year, Statistics Norway conducts a survey on research and development spending (R&D) by business and industry. Similar surveys are conducted in the institutional sector and the university and college sector by the Norwegian Institute for Studies and Research and Higher Education (NIFU). In combination, the surveys showed how much Norway spends on R&D each year.

Around half of Norwegian R&D is carried out by business and industry. This is about the same as in most other OECD countries. Statistics Norway's survey contained information on R&D funding, R&D staff and type of research and the distribution among the various industries.

The statistics are compiled for the Research Council of Norway and are stored according to guidelines drawn up by the OECD and EU. Similar surveys are conducted in most OECD countries, and comparisons with other countries have gradually attracted considerable attention. In 1999, Norway spent 1.7 per cent of GDP on R&D, while Denmark and Finland spent 2.1 and 3.1 per cent respectively. Sweden and Iceland also spent more of their GDP on R&D than Norway in 1999. Norway's GDP is somewhat higher than our neighbour countries, but measured in kroner per capita, Norway ranks last on the Nordic list.

Absence due to illness statistics still absent

Statistics Norway was also unable to present an overview of absence due to illness in Norway. The reason is that the National Insurance Administration has not been given a concession to establish a register of all doctor's certificates. Towards the end of the year the National Insurance Administration and the Data Inspectorate signed a framework agreement, and the register now appears to be imminent. This will enable Statistics Norway to compile statistics based on the figures.

No statistics on overall absence due to illness currently exist in Norway, there are only fragmented overviews of, e.g., government employees, municipal employees and employees of companies affiliated with the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry.

New forms of ownership cause statistical problems

More and more public agencies are under new forms of ownership, creating challenges for Statistics Norway, whose job is to compile statistics about them.

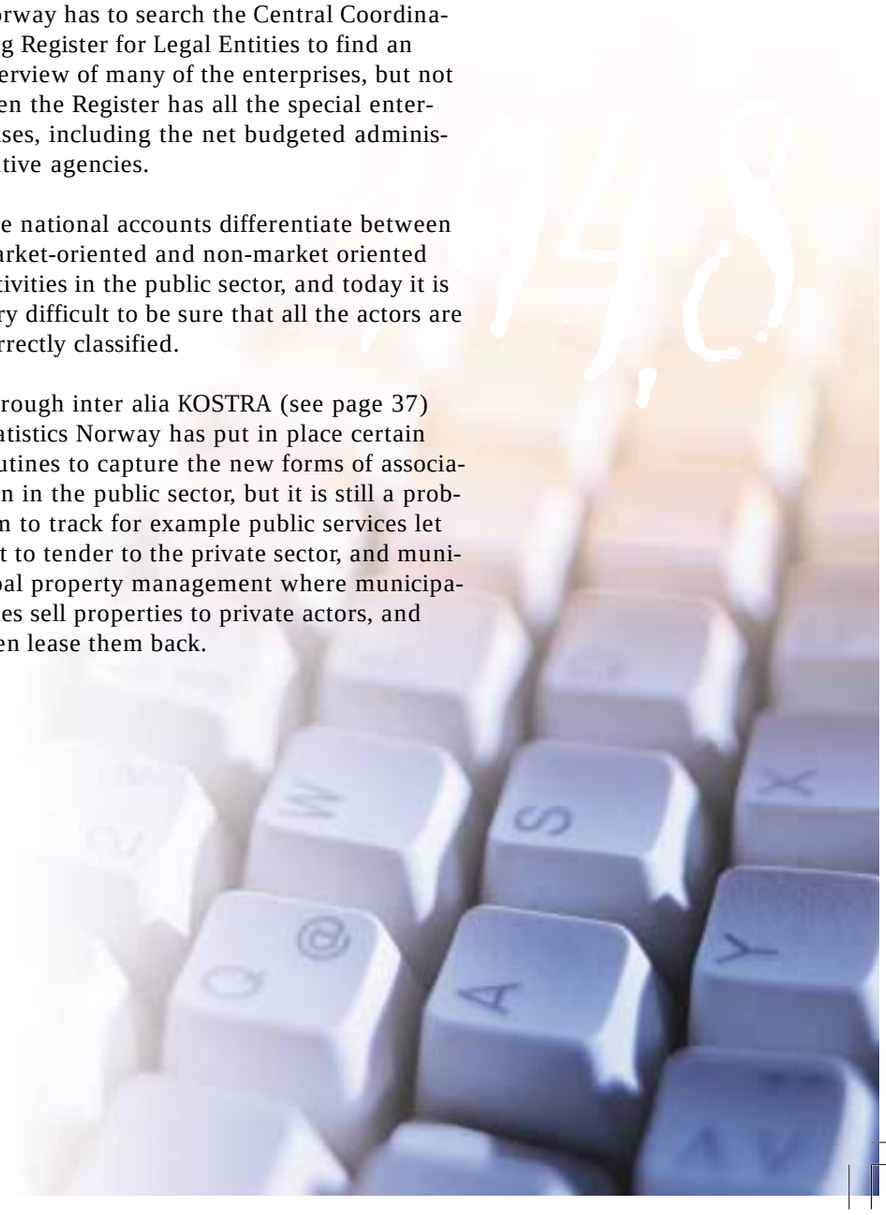
Although there has not been very much direct privatization of state-owned companies, deregulation has taken place in areas previously completely dominated by public actors. For example, the power, telecommunications and pharmaceutical markets have been opened up to competition. The government wants to partly privatize Statoil, and Telenor was recently partly privatized and listed on the stock exchange. We otherwise have examples of segments of sectors that have been opened up to competition, such and the postal service and alcohol.

The main dividing line runs between enterprises that are juristic persons under central or local government control and enterprises that are independent legal entities.

For Statistics Norway the situation can be chaotic at times, with a number of different forms of association ranging from public corporations to completely independent companies at the state, county and municipal level. In Norway, it is up to each municipality and each municipal council to decide the form of organization, so that, for example, waterworks run the gamut from being run totally by the municipality to separate joint-stock companies. In the past, basically all information about public bodies and companies was found as gross budgeted entities in national and municipal accounts. Today, Statistics Norway has to search the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities to find an overview of many of the enterprises, but not even the Register has all the special enterprises, including the net budgeted administrative agencies.

The national accounts differentiate between market-oriented and non-market oriented activities in the public sector, and today it is very difficult to be sure that all the actors are correctly classified.

Through inter alia KOSTRA (see page 37) Statistics Norway has put in place certain routines to capture the new forms of association in the public sector, but it is still a problem to track for example public services let out to tender to the private sector, and municipal property management where municipalities sell properties to private actors, and then lease them back.



Department of Social Statistics

Assistant Director General: Johan-Kristian Tønder

At the end of 2000 the Department had 179 employees, 99 women and 80 men, who worked a total of 171 man-years. In addition, 140 interviewers paid by the hour worked out of their home communities.

The accounts for 2000 show NOK 48.8 million in appropriations via the fiscal budget and NOK 23.3 million in commission revenues, plus NOK 14.8 million for the Population and Housing Census 2001 via the fiscal budget.

Assistant Director General's staff: 4.6 man-years

Division for Social and Demographic Research

Kari Skrede
14.7 man-years/Oslo

Division for Population and Education Statistics

Elisabetta Vassenden
43.6 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Health Statistics

Ann Lisbet Brathaug
27.3 man-years/Oslo

Division for Sample Surveys

Helge Næsheim and Anne Skranefjell
26.3 man-years/Oslo

Division for Social Welfare Statistics

Berit Otnes
21 man-years/Oslo

Division for Population and Housing Census

Paul Inge Severeide
14 man-years/Kongsvinger

Administration Office

Johan H. Heir
7.8 man-years/Oslo

IT Office

Kristian Lønø
11.8 man-years/Oslo

The Department of Social Statistics prepares statistics and analyses covering:

- Adoptions
- Activities of educational associations
- Admissions to penal institutions
- Ambulance service
- Apprentices and journeymen's tests passes
- Attitudes towards immigrants and immigration policy
- Births
- Books, newspaper and periodicals
- Cash benefits scheme, care and labour participation
- Causes of death
- Child welfare
- Children
- Church of Norway
- Cohabitant statistics
- Deaths
- Disputes dealt with by conciliation boards
- Distance education institutions
- Divorces and separations
- Economic assistance
- Eligible voters in municipal and county elections
- Foreign citizens
- Immigrant population
- Immigration and emigration
- Induced abortions
- Infant nutrition
- Kindergartens
- Living conditions of students
- Marriages and registered partnerships
- Municipal health service
- Museums and collections
- Naturalizations
- Norwegian media barometer
- Nursing and care services
- Offences investigated by the police
- Offences reported to the police
- Patient statistics
- Personnel in social services
- Personnel in the child welfare service
- Population
- Population projections
- Primary schools
- Pupils and students
- Pupils under the Upper Secondary Education Act
- Refugees
- Religious and philosophical communities
- Senior citizens centres
- Smoking habits of Norwegians
- Social assistance
- Specialist and research libraries
- Specialist health service
- Statistics of accounts for private kindergartens
- Sterilizations
- Students at universities and scientific colleges
- Survey of consumer expenditure
- Survey of living conditions
- Svalbard statistics
- Teachers
- Time use
- Working environment and adaptation

Regular doctor reform reforms the statistics

Over the course of the summer of 2001 everyone in Norway will be assigned a regular doctor. From then on we will also have better statistics of the activities of general practitioners.

Today there are hardly any statistics on the primary medical service beyond the number of doctors. In the autumn of 2000 Statistics Norway launched the Central Data for the Primary Medical Service (SEDA) project for the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The project involves transferring data from the electronic patient journals to Statistics Norway, so that statistics can be compiled on why people go to the doctor, how often they go to the doctor, whether they are referred to other doctors, the diagnosis and treatment received. The results will inter alia be used in following up the regular doctor reform.

Not from here but at home

The "Utenfra, men hjemme - inn-vandrer-ungdom i storbyen" "Not From Here, But at Home - Immigrant Youth in the City" conference was held in Oslo in March 2000 with nearly 400 participants. Statistics Norway was assigned by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development (KRD) to collect a number of statistics on children and young people with an immigrant background, and the data were distributed to all participants. The organizer was the Research Council of Norway in cooperation with KRD and the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs. Both speeches and parallel sessions addressed issues relating to young people and immigrants.

Statistics Norway's data cover four fields: demographics, education, crime and child welfare. It is also available on Statistics Norway's website.

Statistics for small areas

Demand grew sharply for population statistics for small areas, i.e. at levels lower than municipalities. The basic statistical unit is the smallest unit for which Statistics Norway produces statistics, but basic statistical units vary considerably with respect to population and size. There are particularly large differences in basic statistical units in densely populated and sparsely populated areas. Statistics Norway has now commenced a project in which we compare geographical areas of equal size, e.g. squares of 1 km^2.

Cohabitants move into the statistics

So far it has been difficult to compile reliable statistics on cohabitants, since they are not registered in the same way as married persons. In the autumn of 2000 a project was started to develop new statistics on cohabitancies and terminated cohabitancies. The goal is also for current statistics on population changes and families to be more in accordance with the actual situation. The project was financed by the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs.

Statistics on abortions and sterilizations have been revamped

Statistics on induced abortions and sterilizations were revamped in 2000, and the production process has been considerably simplified. The statistics on induced abortions are published in April while we plan to publish the sterilization statistics in the autumn.

Children with asthma do not always receive the social security benefits they are entitled to

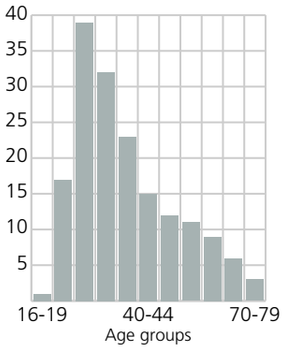
Families with asthmatic children do not always know what rights they have to social security benefits. While around 4 per cent of all children under the age of nine have asthma, only 0.5 per cent receive benefits. According to a survey presented by Statistics Norway in the spring of 2000, the main recipients of the benefits are families with a high level of education and contact with health care workers who inform them of their rights.

Through periodic surveys conducted among the chronically ill and other frequent users of health services, our goal to see how social welfare services function. A fundamental theme is how treatments vary from one person to the next.

Norway's population hits the 4.5 million mark

At the end of September 2000 Norway welcomed inhabitant number 4 500 000. Several towns in Norway also celebrated population milestones in 2000. Bergen passed the 230 000 mark, Trondheim 150 000 and Tromsø 60 000. On 1 January 2001 Norway had 4 503 364 inhabitants. Never before have so many people lived in this country. In 1975 Norway's population was four million, and since then the population has risen an average of about 20 000 per year.

Share of cohabitants in all age groups. Men 1999. Per cent



The representative survey method was presented by Kiær in 1895 at the International Statistical Institute in Bern

1892
The first social surveys were conducted.

Social Trends - the last time

In the spring of 2000 Social Trends was published for the eighth and probably last time in its present form. Social Trends was meant to provide a broad overview of how Norwegians live, and in the 2000 edition the last 20 years were summed up as follows: Incomes and consumption have increased sharply in the period. At the same time the differences have become wider. Norway now has both more social clients and more people with very high incomes. Women are out in greater numbers in the labour force and educational system but still have the main responsibility for caring for their home and children, and there are few women executives in business.

Social Trends has been published at regular intervals since 1974 and covers education, employment, income, health, social participation, leisure time and cultural participation, crime, social security and housing. The 2000-edition is probably the last time Social Trends will be published as a book.

In the future smaller publications will be published on the various subjects, and a lengthy survey article commenting on trends and the main social indicators will be published in Samfunnsspeilet.


Folketellingen i Kongeriget Norge

Hovedoversigt.

Population censuses are a main source of information about the population, and have been conducted every 10 years. The census that should have been done in 1940 was postponed until after the end of the war in 1946 and the next one was conducted as soon as 1950.

Population and housing census step by step

The final form-based population and housing census in Norway will be conducted in 2001. The preparations have been extensive and involved many people in and outside Statistics Norway.

It is 11 years since the last population and housing census was done in Norway. In 1990 only a sample of the population were given forms. In 2001 all personal information will be obtained from various public registers, while Statistics Norway will carry out a complete form census for residences and households. At the same time, the foundation will be laid so that statistics of this type can be compiled without form-based censuses.

Much information is collected by other public institutions

Most of the data needed for the Population and Housing Census are already being collected by other public institutions. Statistics Norway began using such register data as early as the 1970 census, and the scope has increased since then. Today, all personal information included in the census is obtained in this way. The quality, however, varies, and as part of the Population and Housing Census 2001 Statistics Norway is implementing a number of quality control steps. These are aimed at both the administrative registers and Statistics Norway's own system for comparing and using data from various sources. What is lacking in order to conduct a complete register-based census in 2001 is information about residences and households.

Everyone will have their own address

This deficiency will be remedied by a project in which all residences in Norway will be given a unique address. Today, only detached homes and row houses have a unique address. Those who live in a block of flats or multi-dwelling buildings, have the same official address as the other residents of the same entrance. By carrying out this project we will complete a system that currently goes only half way. It is impractical in many instances for everyone not to have a unique address that is different from their neighbours. Denmark and Finland have had such systems in place for many years. Norway is working on it now and Sweden will be finished by 2005. The residence address project was worked on throughout 2000 and will continue in 2001 until the population and housing census is finished in November. The project is being

The Population and Housing Census covers both small and large households.

conducted by the Norwegian Mapping Authority, as the owner of the Ground Property, Address and Building Register (GAB), the Directorate of Taxes, as the owner of the Central Population Register, and Statistics Norway, which is the project manager.

The decision that all residences in Norway should have a unique address was made by the Storting. To achieve this we first have to identify all the residences in multi-dwelling buildings and give them a unique address. This assignment is a huge task by itself and involves all the municipalities in Norway. The new, extended addressed will be entered into the GAB Register. Thereafter each of the residences in question (flats in blocks etc.) will be given an address label to be fastened to the inside of the frame of the entrance door. The address label will contain the current address plus a residence number. Together they will comprise the new residence address. The residence number will consist of five symbols. The first three show the floor of the residence, and the last two indicate the number of the residence on the floor. This number will be used in change of address reports and in conjuction with the sale of the residence.

Housing Census 2001

On 3 November 2001 the housing census will be carried out by which all families in Norway will receive a form with questions about their residence and household. Households living in a multi-dwelling building will enter the new extended address of the household on this form. On 1 July 2002 this address will be entered into the Population Register, in accordance with the new addresses in the GAB Register. Selected household information will furthermore be transferred from the housing census to the GAB Register. Norway will then have a complete register system for data of this type, and it will no longer be necessary to conduct form-based population and housing censuses. The register system will enable Statistics Norway to produce better statistics on major areas such as residences and households, and it will be possible to produce "census data" when necessary.

Trial census in 2000

The trial census conducted on 4 November 2000 in Stange in Hedmark was a dress rehearsal for the main census in which all aspects of the census was tested, not least the link to the residence address project. A phone survey was conducted among a sample of the population in Stange to hear what they thought about the trial census.

All aspects of the trial census will be assessed and carefully evaluated. Everything is crucial for making adjustments to the form and the content of the major census in 2001.

The trial census in Stange showed that we are basically on the right track. The participation target was achieved: 70 per cent of the households in Stange responded, and this is a good result in a voluntary survey. In the main census, which everyone is required by law to answer, the response rate should be almost 100 per cent. The form itself appeared to function well, people understood the questions. At the same time the information about the trial was on target; most people knew about the census before they received the material in the post. What is not working well enough is the address labels. In Stange there were problems relating to whether people actually received the address label and whether they wrote the new precise address on the form. Bette information, clarification of the address question on the housing form and improvements to the material to be sent out will therefore be important steps in 2001.

1920 Census
Population 2 649 775. Forty-five per cent lived in densely populated areas

More information: http://www.ssb.no/fob2001/

Department of Industry Statistics

Assistant Director General: Nils Håvard Lund

At the end of 2000 the department had 238 employees (161 women and 77 men), who worked 211 man-years in 2000.

The accounts for 2000 show NOK 59.3 million in appropriations via the fiscal budget and NOK 9.0 in commission revenues.

Division for Business Register

Jan O. Furseth
26 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Income and Wage Statistics

Per Ove Smogeli
33.3 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Primary Industry Statistics

Ole O. Moss
27.3 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Transport and Tourism Statistics

Peder Næs
27.5 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Data Collection

Knut Kvisla
44.4 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Construction and Service Statistics

Roger Jensen
35 man-years/Kongsvinger

Administration Office

Heidi Karin Nylænder
4.5 man-years/Kongsvinger

IT Office

Matz Ivan Faldmo
11.5 man-years/Kongsvinger

The Department of Industry Statistics prepares statistics and analyses covering:

- Accounts of non-financial joint-stock companies
- Agricultural area and livestock
- Agricultural production
- Alcohol
- Building cost index, construction
- Building cost index, houses
- Building cost index, plumbing work in office and commercial buildings
- Building statistics
- Building stock
- Buses and coaches
- Camping
- Controlled slaughtering
- Cost index for lorry transport
- Deer hunting
- Deer. Registered reduction outside ordinary hunting
- Domestic scheduled services
- Domestic transport performances
- Earnings of central government employees
- Earnings of employees in construction
- Earnings of employees in electricity, gas and water supply
- Earnings of employers in financing
- Earnings of employees in health and social work
- Earnings of employees in manufacturing
- Earnings of employees in oil and gas extraction and mining
- Earnings of employees in private education
- Earnings of employees in publicly maintained schools
- Earnings of employees in real estate, renting and business activities
- Earnings of employees in social and personal services
- Earnings of employees in trade
- Earnings of employees in transport, storage and communication
- Earnings of full-time salaried employees in manufacturing and construction
- Earnings of municipal and county employees
- Earnings of seamen in scheduled coasting trade
- Express Coastal Liner Bergen-Kirkenes
- Ferry transport between Norway and abroad
- Fish farming
- Forest regeneration
- Forest roads for motor vehicles
- Goods transport by lorry across the border
- Goods vehicles
- Grain and oil crops
- Gross freight and operating expenses of ocean-going ships
- Holders' substitute service
- Holiday dwelling referral agents
- Holiday dwellings
- Holiday survey
- Hotel statistics

- Hotels and restaurants
- Hourly earnings in manufacturing and private construction
- Hunter register
- Income and property distribution for women and men
- Income distribution survey for households
- Income of immigrants
- Income of joint-stock companies
- Income of national insurance pensioners
- Income of oil companies
- Income of self-employed persons
- Index of retail sales
- Inheritance tax
- Investments in agriculture
- Livestock
- Lorry survey
- Marine casualties
- Moose hunting
- Norwegian fisheries
- Norwegian-registered ship calls to foreign ports
- Norwegian-registered ships in coasting trade
- Ocean fishing for salmon and sea trout
- Orders, construction
- Pension schemes outside national insurance
- Personal services
- Port statistics
- Price index for wholesale trade
- Price index, existing houses
- Price index, new detached houses
- Price statistics for new multi-dwelling houses
- Production index, construction
- Professional and industrial bodies
- Property sales
- Registered reduction of large predators and eagles
- Research and development work
- River fishing for salmon and sea trout
- Road traffic accidents involving person injury
- Road traffic accidents with combination vehicles
- Road transport
- Roundwood cut
- Sample surveys for agriculture
- Sewer and refuse disposal activities
- Shares
- Small game hunting
- Square metre prices for detached houses
- Tax return statistics
- Taxes
- Taxes, power plants
- Taxes, shipping companies
- Travel agencies
- Turnover
- Vehicles discarded against refund
- Volume index for wholesale trade
- Wage change
- Wage index
- Wild reindeer hunting
- Work stoppages

Building statistics resumes publication

Statistics Norway resumed publication of the monthly building statistics after their production was halted in March 1999 due to poor data.

The statistics are based on reporting of building activities by the municipalities to the Ground Property, Address and Building (GAB) Register at the Norwegian Mapping Authority. Late reporting became a problem. The building statistics contain important information for public planners, political decision makers and the building industry. In addition, the statistics function as a sort of economic indicator, a measure of how the Norwegian economy is doing. The absence of these statistics put many users at loss.

Both Statistics Norway and the Norwegian Mapping Authority have invested huge resources in finding out why reporting to the GAB Register was so late. Both Statistics Norway and the Norwegian Mapping Authority contacted the municipalities that were way behind on their reporting and the delays were cut. From April to September 2000 the average delay in the registration of dwelling units started was three months, and is thus at a level that permits Statistics Norway to resume publishing the statistics. By comparison, the average delay for residences in 1999 was five months, or two more months. For commercial buildings the reporting from April to September 2000 was 3.9 months late, while it was 5.3 months in 1999. In addition to the shorter delays, they do not vary so much from month to month as they did in 1999.

Just over 350 000 businesses on the map

Around 350 000 businesses in the Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises are in the process of being placed on the map with precise coordinates.

"All told, there are 450 000 businesses in Statistics Norway's Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises. This means that nearly three-fourths of all businesses are in the process of being sited with precise geographic coordinates and will be put on the map," says Jan Furseth, head of the Business Register Division at Statistics Norway. He added that the final 25 per cent, which will not be given map coordinates, will be assigned a basic statistical unit code.

Why is this information so important?
"An increasing number of people ask where the businesses are located, and the information can be used for statistical purposes and in various analyses, such as social planning at the regional level. An example is transport and land use planning and various market analyses. It provides a splendid overview of the actual situation when businesses are placed on a map."

Does the work have other important aspects?
"In conjunction with the Population and Housing Census 2001, the placement of the businesses is important inter alia in order to describe and analyze commuting patterns directly from the information in the various registers. In addition, the work has a positive impact on analyses of centre structures and

"The Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises is virtually comprehensive and will be an important resource for statistical work at Statistics Norway and in social planning," says Jan Furseth, head of the Business Register Division at Statistics Norway.
(Photo: Torbjørn A. Tjernsberg)

trade regions. Information about the activities of businesses and how close they are located to each other makes it easier to delineate centres and regions. At the same time it provides information about trading and market potential when the population base and commuters are factored in.

"Statistics Norway has done the mapping and is responsible for most costs, while funding is being provided by three ministries: Trade and Industry, Environment, and Local Government and Regional Development.

"The Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises is a comprehensive register covering all relevant entities in Norwegian business and industry and the public sector. This naturally has a lot to say for the quality of the various thematic statistics compiled by Statistics Norway, and for coherence with the national accounts. The quality of the basic information is good. The register has grown from around 220 000 enterprises when we started working with the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities in 1995, to around 425 000 enterprises and 450 000 establishments today.

The business mapping project will soon graduate from the development and set-up phase to an operational phase that will, not least, be user oriented."

What can this be used for?
"An example is supplying tables and eventually map-related information. A number of data use agreements have been signed today with entities in the public and private sectors. This is part of the effort to get more people to reuse entities, structures and information from the Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises."

Does this mean that in future many businesses will be able to avoid the "hassle" of filling out forms about themselves and their affairs?
"This is precisely the main reason why the cooperation with the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities was arranged, to ensure the recycling of data. Today, Statistics Norway makes considerable use of the register rather than asking businesses for the information.

"Another important thing we are doing is adding e-mail addresses to the register to increase the use of electronic communication instead of paper forms sent in the post."

Separate income statistics for persons

2000 saw the first publication of separate income statistics for persons and families. The statistics are a complete census and provide detailed information on incomes from various income sources for all persons living in the country.

An important prerequisite in compiling comprehensive income statistics on all persons is that all the important information on income can be found in registers. When the tax department began using IT in connection with tax returns, all tax return information became accessible in electronic form. Information became available on several types of income that previously could only be obtained from a sample of persons. This applied, for example, to various types of employment income, pensions and capital income. The new income statistics also cover other income that is not taxable, but is still found on registers, such as housing allowance, social assistance, scholarships and cash benefit for parents of small children. Linking these registers provi-

des a good basis for studying the distribution of income and levels in various groups.

The current statistical unit is person and family, we are not able to give figures for households yet. This will first be possible when the Residence Address Project and Population and Housing Census 2001 has been completed (see p. 24).

The greatest benefit of the income statistics for persons and families is that they can be used to compile statistics on smaller groups of people and for smaller geographic areas. The income statistics publish inter alia the average figure for various types of families at the municipal level, and the data basis has been used to shed light on, for example, the income of immigrants.

In addition to comprising separate statistics for persons and families the data basis is also used to obtain income information for other surveys and databases, such as the Surveys of Living Conditions and the Population and Housing Census 2001.

Census of Agriculture out to the people

The initial results of the Census of Agriculture 1999 were published in February 2000. The use of administrative data sources together with traditional data collection on forms made this record early publication possible. The main challenge in many respects lay in coordinating the administrative data and data collected on special forms to create consistency in the data material. Many municipalities worked in 2000 on their own plans for agriculture, and in this context the results of the census were highy useful. The results have been in demand in many research institutes.

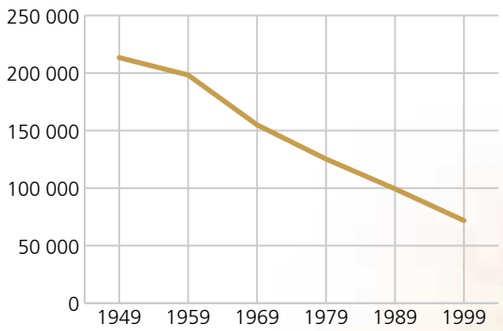
Fundamental information about the number of farms with agricultural area in use, the use of the area and the number of livestock was initially published. The 1999 figures were presented by municipality together with the corresponding figures for 1989 on Statistics Norway's website, which received many visits. The results were widely covered by a number of newspapers and by radio and television. Because of the strong municipal angle, local newspapers throughout the country carried the results. In the period from March to May 2000 results were presented based on the information on the main form of the census. A sample of municipalities was drawn as the basis for the results, which were presented at the regional level. This publication also received wide coverage in the media, and the data were used by the Budget Commission for Agriculture as a basis for work on the overall calculation for agriculture and as the background material for the agriculture negotiations.

In December the first final municipal results were posted on the Web. The figures were presented by municipality one county at a time. The results span a wide spectrum of subjects relating to agriculture.

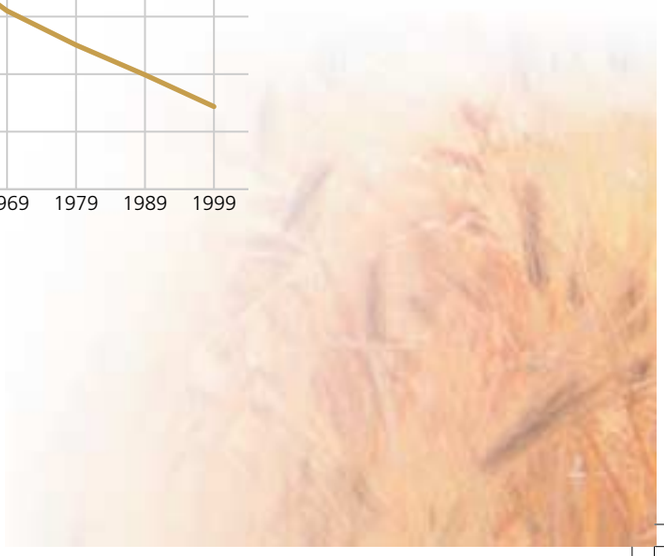
The results are freely available to everyone at http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/10/04/10/jt1999_en/

The results of the agricultural census document that agriculture has undergone major structural changes in the direction of fewer and larger farms in most areas of production. The number of farms with land in production has declined from 99 400 in 1989 to 70 700 in 1999, while agricultural area has increased by 5 per cent. Thirty-one per cent of all area in production was rented land, an increase of 8 percentage points since 1989. Total our input in agriculture and horticulture in 1998-1999 was 79 400 man-years.

The number of active holdings with at least 5 decares in production. 1949-1999



1907
Census of Agriculture
The first census with data on area.



1923
The wholesale price index was prepared for the first time.

Simplified reporting soon ready

It will soon be easier for the police to transfer data on traffic accidents to Statistics Norway. For some time now the police have been recording the accidents electronically and sending the paper transcripts to Statistics Norway, which then entered the data into its system.

In 2000 the Police Computing Service and Statistics Norway agreed to a system for transferring data direct from the police to Statistics Norway, without using paper transcripts. This system will probably come on stream in the spring of 2001 and will free up two man-years at Statistics Norway. The system will also simplify matters at the Directorate of Public Roads, which so far has been recording the same information as Statistics Norway in its computer system

The data will also be improved at the same time. Statistics Norway has been involved in preparing a system for logical controls in police registration photos, which will be operational starting in 2001.

Retail sales sample doubled

The number of businesses reporting sales of retail goods was doubled in 2000 without burdening the industry with more reporting work. On the contrary the response burden declined.

This is because the reporting for more than half of the companies is done directly from the chain offices and not by each business. So even though the number of businesses that belong to the index of retail sales has risen from 5 000 to 9 000, the number of forms filled out each month has fallen from 5 000 to 4 000.

The coverage degree of the index of retail sales went from 30 to 62 per cent of the sales of retail businesses in 2000. For the retail sales in non-specialized stores sector, which consists for the most part of grocery stores, the degree of coverage is all of 82 per cent of sales. This greatly reduces sampling errors in both the final and preliminary releases. The practice of direct reporting from the chain offices also provides better quality industry codes and faster updates on status and new businesses in the Register of Establishments and Enterprises.

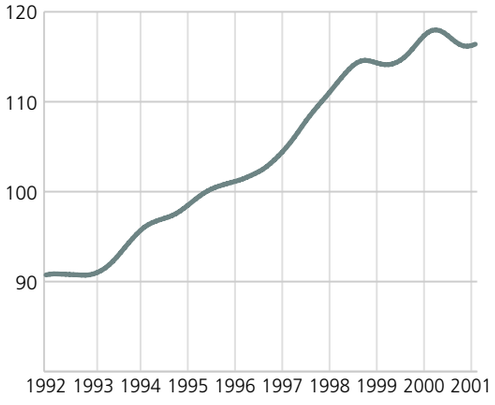
PORTwin arrives

A new administrative data system, PORTwin, was implemented in most Norwegian public ports in early 2000. Among others, the data system makes it easier to compile reliable port statistics.

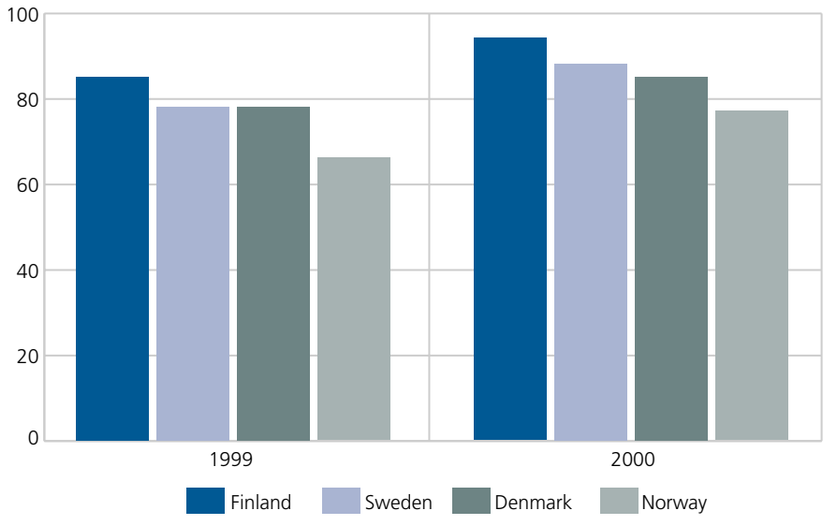
With PORTwin, the ports can administrate ship calls and cargo handling and they can plan ship calls and invoice harbour dues on goods and services. The ports can also take out statistical reports from PORTwin. PORTwin records inter alia a number of ship-related technical information, the docks used by the ships and the type of cargo and goods carried by the ships.

PORTwin generates data that are sent electronically to Statistics Norway. In terms of the resources spent on filling out forms and data entry, PORTwin saves both the ports and Statistics Norway time.

Retail sales.
Volume index. Monthly figures. Trend. 1995=100



Share of businesses with access to the Internet. Per cent 1999-2000. Per cent



PORTwin provides detailed statistics and relatively quick reporting to Statistics Norway. With electronic reporting the data are processed more quickly and the quality of the statistic is also better. PORTwin is used by 80 per cent of public Norwegian ports and was developed inter alia on the basis of a maritime EU directive.

More ICT statistics

In 2000, Statistics Norway contributed to a report on the value and composition of the Information and Communications Technology industry in the Nordic countries. The report shows that the ICT sector has much less of an impact on employment and value creation in Norway than in Sweden and Finland. This is particularly true of the ICT industry, while Norway is more involved in ICT services.

Norwegian enterprises use ICT less in business than other Nordic countries do. Access to the Internet is the most widespread in Finland, while Swedish enterprises use websites more often than neighbour countries. This must be seen in connection with the fact that Norway has a large number of small businesses, which use ICT less than large businesses. The extent of e-commerce is still modest in the Nordic countries. These are some of the results of a report compiled by Statistics Norway in 2000 in cooperation with the central bureaux of statistics in Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

For Norway these results are based on new surveys established in 2000. A survey of external trade in ICT goods was also done last year.

ICT statistics are now collected on a separate site:
http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/10/03/ikt_en/

1894
The first Hollerith punch card machine was delivered. It could process 700 cards an hour on average. The Bureau had 21 punch card machines and three counting machines.

Research Department

Forskingsdirektør: Ådne Cappelen

Research Director: Ådne Cappelen
At the end of 2000 the department had 78 employees (25 women and 53 men), who worked 72 man-years in 2000.

The accounts for 2000 show NOK 22.9 million in appropriations via the fiscal budget and NOK 12.3 million in commission revenues.

Director's staff: 8.3 man-years

Division for Public Economics

Nils Martin Stølen
17.5 man-years/Oslo

Division for Resource and Environmental Economics

Torstein Arne Bye
16.8 man-years/Oslo

Division for Macroeconomics

Knut Moum
20.7 man-years/Oslo

Division for Microeconometrics

Jørgen Aasness
8.7 man-years/Oslo

Department of Social Statistics

Division for Social and Demographic Research

Kari Skrede
14.7 man-years/Oslo

Research units work inter alia on:

- Attitudes towards immigrants and immigration policy
- Chronic poverty
- Cohabitant statistics and analyses
- Company taxation
- Comparisons of fertility intentions and behaviour
- Comprehensive analyses of living conditions
- Consumer behaviour
- Corporate behaviour and productivity
- Cost efficiency of endogenic technical development
- Direction-determined substitution elasticities
- Drafting of international environmental agreements
- Early retirement
- Econometric analysis of exports and imports
- Economic activity reports
- Economic living conditions of children
- Education and growth
- Effect of climate measures
- Effective rates of industrial support
- Emission and discharge consequences of trade liberalization
- Energy efficiency
- Energy demand of households
- Environmental effects of Norwegian exports of gas energy
- Evaluation of cash benefits scheme
- Fertility analyses
- Flexible energy use
- Green consumers and producers
- Greenhouse effect
- Historical statistics for industry
- History of statistics
- Housing quality and market value
- Housing taxes
- Housing and welfare analyses
- Immigration and living conditions of immigrants
- Indirect taxes
- Inflation targets or fixed rate policy
- Investment behaviour
- Job offerings
- Labour market econometrics
- Living conditions
- Living conditions of the agricultural population
- Market power in the power market
- Marriage and cohabitation trends
- Migration and mortality trends
- Municipal distribution analysis
- Municipal efficiency analyses
- National insurance analyses
- Norway without oil
- Organizational forms in public services
- Petroleum market and emissions of greenhouse gases
- Petroleum market in the 21st century
- Population and projections, national and regional

- Power trading and transmission capacity
- Price formation
- Price indices
- Projection of labour supply
- Projection of waste quantities
- Putty-clay models
- Regional economic overviews
- Regional labour market mobility
- Regional wages differences
- Renewable sources of energy/ effect of climate agreement
- Social capital and environment
- Social norms for undeclared work
- Starting a family
- Sustainable administration of national assets
- Tax computations for the Storting and Ministry of Finance
- Taxes and transfers
- The broadened concept of income
- Time use
- Trade, growth and the environment
- Tradable quotas versus taxes in climate policy
- Treatment of waste
- Voluntary environmental protection: moral and social norms
- Wage structure and employment
- Welfare and distribution

Underestimation of the price of oil

Estimates of macroeconomic trends in 2000 were presented eight times in the economic analyses published by Statistics Norway in the last two years. The first time was in Economic Analyses no. 1/99 (February 1999). How have the estimates changed over time, as new information and new preconditions have been incorporated?

Not surprisingly, the biggest obvious error was the sizeable underestimation of the price of oil and thus the current balance. When the prognoses for 2000 were made towards the end of January 1999, oil prices were record low and the 1998 current account was negative. We believed the price of oil would rise modestly and that the current account balance would improve from NOK -9 billion in 1998 to "all of" NOK 66 billion in 2000. The actual improvement of the current account balance was significantly larger than the estimate because of the formidable increase in the price of oil.

The activity level in Mainland-Norway was somewhat underestimated for some time, and unemployment was set a little too high. The basic reason for this in the earlier estimates was the underestimation of economic growth in 1999. It was low, but not as low as we believed. As for the demand components, it was particularly the estimates of the investments in Mainland Norway that caused this change. Had it not been for the increase in power production (and as is known the weather is not easy to predict one to two years ahead of time), the estimate of the increase in the gross domestic product (GDP) for Mainland Norway in 2000 would have been completely correct in February 1999, in addition to several of the subsequent economic reports.

Outstanding for 50 years

Statistics Norway is one of very few national bureaux of statistics with its own research department. In 2000 the Research Department celebrated its 50th anniversary.

In conjunction with the jubilee, former Research Department Olav Bjerkholt wrote "Kunnskapens krav" (Requirements of Knowledge), a book covering how the Research Department was established in 1950, how the national accounts were developed, and how they began to construct large macroeconomic models. Bjerkholt gave Petter Jakob Bjerve and Odd Aukrust the credit for the fact that Statistics Norway even has a research department:

"Without them, research assignments, recruiting and division of resources would probably have been different. The bureau would have had weaker and changing leadership, and it would probably have resulted in much narrower research activities," says Bjerkholt.

From the book "Kunnskapens krav" (Requirements of Knowledge) by Olav Bjerkholt

Economic analyses (EA) 1/99-9/00
Growth rates in per cent unless otherwise noted

	EA1/99	EA5/99	EA6/99	EA9/99	EA1/00	EA5/00	EA6/00	EA9/00	Result
GDP Mainland-Norway	1,3	1,1	1,0	1,3	1,3	1,7	2,0	1,8	1,8
LFS unemployment (level)	3,9	3,9	3,5	3,5	3,6	3,6	3,3	3,4	3,4
Consumer price index	2,7	2,1	2,0	2,1	2,4	2,8	3,0	3,1	3,1
Money market interest (level)	4,5	4,5	5,0	5,2	5,7	6,3	6,6	6,6	6,6
Current account balance, billion kroner	66	47	82	98	130	158	169	189	195
Crude oil price, kroner per barrel	101	107	125	151	169	207	231	255	252

How moral are we?

Are people egoists who always do what is economically beneficial, or do we also permit ourselves to be driven by moral and social norms? Recent months has seen the launching of a Research Council of Norway funded research project at Statistics Norway on economic modelling of social and moral norms. The project is partly focused on theoretical development, but we have also studied norms in the Norwegian population with respect to voluntary waste sorting, volunteerism and smoking behaviour.

Photo: Hanne Marit Svensrud

Karine Nyborg is one of the main persons behind the "Environmental Behaviour Norms" project.

Moral motivation is about the fact that people want to look upon themselves as morally responsible people. To preserve a good self-image people can be willing to take on costs without any ostensible benefit: such as contributing time or money to an environmental protection organization or carrying their rubbish home after a hiking trip across the mountains or doing volunteer work for schools, clubs, organizations etc. There will still be a limit for how far people are willing to stretch themselves: If the costs are too great, many will prefer to accept a somewhat poorer self image.

If people think like this, politics in some cases could produce other activities than those predicted in traditional economic models. Interview data from the project shows for instance that if people had to pay a fee of NOK 100 for not showing up for a volunteer activity, 15 per cent answered that they would come less often if NOK 100 was enough to pay others to do the job. Such a fee can be perceived as a way of "buying their way out" of the moral obligation to show up, and thus can have the opposite effect.

Social norms are associated with the need to be accepted by others, and are upheld by the threat of social sanctions against those who do not fall in line with the norm. This often leads to "sheep-like behaviour", giving rise to good or bad circles. More recent data indicate that a dramatic change has taken place in the social norms relating to smoking in Norway. Ten or 15 years ago it was quite common to subject others to passive smoking in homes. Today this is the exception rather than the rule even though homes are not covered by smoking laws. Those who continue to subject others to passive smoking can expect stronger negative reactions than before.

The Smoking Act may have initiated a process that has changed social norms, thereby modifying smoking behaviour where the law does not apply. Public policy can therefore have other effects on social and moral norms that we could predict on the basis of traditional economic models.

Gas power is not profitable

"The people making cocksure statements about the environmental impact of building gas power plants in Norway were wrong. Our calculations show that it will have neither a huge positive nor negative effect on the environment. What is certain is that it will not be economically profitable for many years."

This was said by Torstein Bye, head of the Division for Resource and Environmental Economics. Together with a team of other researchers at Statistics Norway he has charted whether building a gas power plant in Norway will produce higher or lower global emissions of greenhouse gases. The project was commissioned by the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy. The Stoltenberg Government had come to power in the spring of 2000, precisely because it supported building gas power plants. Researchers at Statistics Norway concluded in their analyses that emissions would decline in the short term. The dominant effect in the short term would be that Norwegian power plants will replace more polluting coal-fired power plants on the Continent. But eventually the increased supply of power, lower prices and increased demand would be the dominant effect. There would thus still be a market for coal-fired plants and emissions of CO2 would be higher than without Norwegian gas power plants.

"The answer is not clear cut. If we build gas-fired power plants it can go both ways, causing increased or reduced emissions. But as things stand, it will not be profitable to build these power plants for a long time. The cost of gas-fired power will be around 20 øre per kilowatt hour, while calculations show that the price of electricity will stay at an annual average of 15 øre for some years to come. In other words, it would be a loss-making project at this point. Consequently

we can say that in the short term a gas power plant in Norway is not about economic calculations, but about politics," says Bye.

World economy in a model

In October 2000 Statistics Norway organized a so-called LINK conference in Oslo. The conference is part of the UN-organized LINK project involving macroeconomic research and analysis units in many countries. In the project, national econometric models have been integrated into a comprehensive global model used for prognoses for the global economy and for analyses of global economic issues.

The meeting was attended by 170 representatives of various research and policy institutes and major international organizations. The conference also attracted well-known people, including Nobel Prize winner Lawrence Klein. The programme and introductions are available on LINK's website at www.chass.utoronto.ca/link.

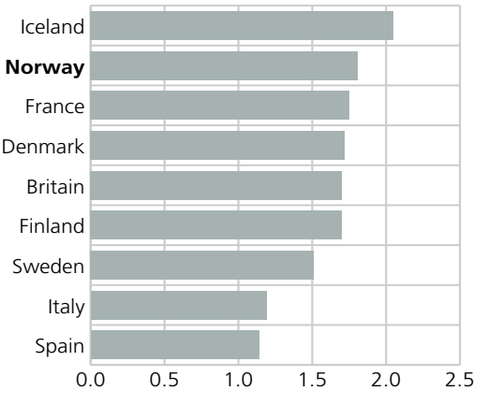
Focus on fertility

In 2000 the results began to come in from Statistics Norway's two-year study of fertility trends in Norway over the past decade. Fertility in Norway was also charted in 1977 and 1988. At that time a sample of the population was interviewed. Today we use information from registers, which yields a more reliable result than before, particularly with respect to smaller groups in the population. Access to register data is greater today and modern technology makes its considerably more simple, faster and cheaper than analyses of vast quantities of data. It is also more economic and less time-consuming to use data from registers than to conduct large interview surveys.

Researchers are analyzing geographic differences in fertility, whether there are differences based on education, and the differences between various groups in society. A report on the fertility of immigrant women was also presented in 2000.

The fertility study has attracted several external clients and will continue for several years. For example, researchers will take a closer look at the birth dates of men and examine whether there are any differences between men with high and low incomes with respect to how many children they have.

Total fertility rates for selected countries, c. 1998



Norway has one of the highest fertility rates in Europe, and there is international interest in the reasons. This research project can probably provide some answers.

"Report butchers Jens' tax plan"

ran the headline in Dagsavisen on 8 December 2000. Other newspapers wrote: "Higher children's allowance better than low tax on food", "Crushes tax myths "and "Statistics Norway, wealth and equalization". The headlines related to a Statistics Norway research report by Research Department division head Jørgen Asness and researchers Andreas Bendictow and Mohamed F. Hussein. Its release coincided with the final round of the fiscal budget 2001 debate in which the distributive effect of reducing the tax on food was on the agenda.

The conclusion of the research report, which was presented in Economic Analyses 9/2001, was as follows: We arrived at this ranking of the tax changes according to how much welfare they yield per krone in increased overall consumption, taking into consideration a welfare goal that combines higher living standards and more equitable distribution:

1. increased children's allowance for third or more children
2. increased tax deduction for dependants
3. increased children's allowance for first child
4. increased tax allowance for child-care expenses
5. reduced VAT on food
6. reduced electricity tax
7. reduced VAT on all goods on which VAT is currently imposed
8. reduced taxes on tobacco, spirits and wine
9. reduced petrol tax
10. reduced income tax
11. reduced wealth tax
12. reduced surtax.

Interdepartmental activities take place throughout Statistics Norway. The Department of Administrative Affairs and divisions for IT, Statistical Methods and Standards, Information and Publishing and International Consulting and the staff of the Director General all have interdepartmental duties.

The accounts for 2000 for these units show a total of NOK 131.8 million in appropriations via the fiscal budget and NOK 39.9 million in commission revenues. The units had 193 employees at the end of 2000.

The three statistics departments and the Research Department also carry out interdepartmental activities. The largest user-financed commission in 1999, Kostra (see page 40), is for example under the direction of the Department of Economic Statistics.

Department of Administrative Affairs
Administration Director: Cecilie Wilberg
Staff: 5 man-years

The department has 74 employees (47 women and 27 men), who worked a total of 67 man-years in 2000.

Division for Budget and Accounting
Pål Mathisen
9.3 man-years/Oslo

Division for Personnel Administration
Heidi Torstensen
8.9 man-years/Oslo

Joint Services Office, Oslo
Geten Engelstad
23.6 man-years/Oslo

Joint Services Office, Kongsvinger
Karin Wang
20.3 man-years/Kongsvinger

Divisions outside Departments

IT
Rune Gløersen
45 man-years/Oslo and Kongsvinger,
46 employees (10 women and 36 men)

Statistical Methods and Standards
Leiv Solheim
14.9 man-years/Oslo, 16 employees
(7 women and 9 men)

Information and Publishing
Anne Skranefjell
42.8 man-years/Oslo and Kongsvinger,
46 employees (36 women and 10 men)

International Consulting
Bjørn K. Wold
4.8 man-years/Oslo - 5 employees

In addition there are short-term consultants (c. five man-years), distributed among all the other divisions and funded with project funds.

Staff of the Director General
6 man-years/Oslo and Kongsvinger,
6 employees

Data capture and electronic exchange of data

One of our goals is for all data to be sent to Statistics Norway in electronic form, either from administrative registers or from respondents. The information will thus only be recorded once in one place, thus saving time and resources. For interviewing persons such a system has been established through the CAI system (computer-assisted interviewing) and the activities of the KOSTRA project are aimed at the electronic exchange of data in the public sector. Work also commenced on designing the products and infrastructure for broad-based reporting from business and industry through the IDUN project (information and exchange of data with business and industry). Implementation of the project is scheduled for 2000-2003, making it easier to communicate electronically with business and industry. Communication should be a two-way street. The primary goal is to reduce the response burden for business and industry and make such communication more user friendly. The IDUN project was formally established in February 2000.

The SLN project

SLN (tax assessment system for self-employed persons) was established by the Directorate of Taxes as early as 1997. Statistics Norway, the Brønnøysund Register Centre and the Directorate of Taxes are working on a reception system, and we are now at the pilot 3 stage. The solutions up to now have not been good enough and work was done in 2000 to find a simple solution that can be used for real reporting in 2001.

Other cooperative projects with the Directorate of Taxes and the Brønnøysund Register Centre

Via the Coordinating Forum, which is made up of directors from Statistics Norway, the Directorate of Taxes and the Brønnøysund Register Centre, a cooperative venture has been established in two other fields in addition to the SLN project. One is development of electronic forms, while the other is a collaboration to design the framework for a web solution. For Statistics Norway these three areas of cooperation are parts of the internal IDUN project.

Statistics Norway's web solution

On 1 September work commenced on a web solution for two surveys by which persons or businesses can fill out forms on the Internet. If the pilot project is successful, it is our ambition to provide web options for a large number of Statistics Norway forms by the end of 2001.

Transfer from computer systems

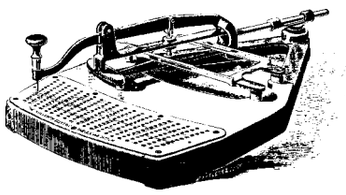
Significant reductions in the response burden can only be achieved by a "direct" transfer of data from the computer systems of respondents to Statistics Norway's systems. Work is taking place in two main areas: accounting data, where the work originates from the SLN project, and administrative data, which is aimed at a payroll-related project.

Use of "special solutions"

Development of electronic data transfer systems so far has largely been aimed at finding solutions for certain major respondents, or for groups of respondents, such as store chains. The solution arrived at will gradually draw on the general basic organization derived from the project, at the same time as "customizing" often expresses wishes and solutions that turn out to be general.

Division for Data Collection

An increasingly larger share of the data capture at Statistics Norway is being concentrated on a joint reception unit: the Division for Data Collection. For many areas of statistics this applies to the entire capture of data, from production of forms to the delivery of complete data files. Data capture also includes information and guidance for respondents.



This punch card machine was used in the 1900 population census.

KOSTRA – most is in place

KOSTRA is a system for exchanging information between municipalities and the central government. Municipalities register data on use of resources, target groups and services/users according to a joint structure. Statistics Norway then publishes key figures on priorities, degrees of coverage and productivity/unit costs. With KOSTRA the reporting from municipalities is done electronically, and municipal key figures are published on the Internet.

During the spring 2000 reporting, most elements of the electronic reporting chain were in place. One hundred and seven municipalities and five counties reported their data electronically, and key figures for 1999 were published on the Internet one month after the reporting process was completed. The first version of a new production system and new organization for the presentation of key figures on the Internet was utilized during the publishing process. The experience with the new systems is good, and the systems have been refined for the spring 2001 publishing process.

Key figures on the KOSTRA project

2000:	217 municipalities use the system
	Seven counties use the system
	Budget: NOK 12.1 million (market commissions),
	NOK 3.6 million (Statistics Norway-funded)
	Man-years in Statistics Norway on KOSTRA: 21
	Project manager: Anne-Britt Svinnset
	Steering committee leader: Olav Ljones
Plans for 2001:	All municipalities and countries in the country use the system
	Budget: NOK 13 million (market commissions),
	NOK 3.4 million (Statistics Norway-funded)
	Man-years in Statistics Norway on KOSTRA: 18
	Reporting deadline for 2000 municipalities: 15 February
	Feedback from Statistics Norway: 15 March
	Publishing of statistics covering the 2000 municipalities: 15 June

Barely half of the municipalities and counties in the country will do their reporting for 2000 with KOSTRA. Security solutions have been put in place that make it possible to report sensitive information via phone lines for the first time.

KOSTRA will be in full-scale operation starting with the 2001 accounting and reporting year, and reporting by the KOSTRA system will be obligatory starting in the spring of 2002.

Standards make life easier

Standards are hardly a subject that sets hearts on fire, but in many cases deviating from the standards has at the least set off tempers because it makes life more problematic. The problem can apply to everything from IKEA screws that don't quite fit to statistics that can't be compared from year to year or from subject to subject because the statistics are published with different groups of variables.

We surround ourselves with standards in many areas of our lives, and for most it is difficult to think of a day without standardized measures of distance or time or standardized traffic signs. In fact, the Sumerians had defined standards as far back as 5 000 years ago, particularly in conjunction with construction. A standard must be defined as precisely as possible and an example of this is the British definition of yard. Its permanency over time can be debated in that it was always defined as the distance from the tip of King Henry I's nose to the tip of his left thumb.

ISI
In 1885 the International Statistical Institute (ISI) was established. Director General Petter Jakob Bjerve was president of the Institute in 1971-1975.

Statistics Norway is in the process of developing a database in which all of SSB's approximately 120 statistical standards are stored. The purpose of the database is to store the current version of each standard here so that everyone who uses the standard can obtain it from here. There are plans to place it on Statistics Norway's Web service.

In 2000 Statistics Norway appointed a working group to evaluate the use of country codes in external trade, population statistics and other statistics. Other standards-related work included a project for standardizing the question sequence used to identify households in sample surveys. A lot of work is being done on standards in international fora. Common international standards are a prerequisite for being able to compare statistics across national borders. Considerable resources are saved by having international standards instead of each country setting their own. The international standards are administered by important bodies involved in the international cooperation on statistics, such as the UN, Eurostat and the OECD. The Norwegian Standard Classification of Education is one of many Norwegian standards based on corresponding international standards of education.

All of Statistics Norway's statistics on the Web will have a related description called About the statistics. The description is built up the same way for each statistic. Around 60 per cent of the 250 statistics we publish, had an About the statistics in place at the end of 2000. About the statistics are to be published in Norwegian and English. At the end of 2000 approx. 30 per cent of the English translations were ready.

All of the main standards at Statistics Norway are published in Norwegian (Bokmål and Nynorsk) and English. The most frequently used standards are

- Standard Classification of Education
- Standard Industrial Classification
- International Standard Classification of Occupation
- Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death
- Various standards relating to national accounts
- Various regional standards (such as municipal and economic regions)
- Standard variables relating to family and household statistics

The future is on the agenda

The institution Statistics Norway needs an extra layer of fat, a reserve to meet tomorrow's needs, says Cecilie Wilberg, director of the Department of Administrative Affairs.

Not everyone goes straight from university to a director position at Statistics Norway, but that's what Cecilie Wilberg did in spring 2000. Rightly so, she was not a student, but for 17 years she had held a number of positions at the University of Oslo, including that of budget manager and head of the financial management project at the University.

The position of director of administrative affairs had been empty for a number of months. Many regard the job as one open to criticism, and after Wilberg started at Statistics Norway there has been no shortage of challenges. The Office of the Auditor General criticized the accounts (see also page 11), and there have been newspaper stories of employees complaining about poor personnel policies. Wilberg says the criticism from the Office of the Auditor General was the most demanding challenge.

– The institution Statistics Norway is like a woman's body..

"It's not easy receiving a comment from the Office of the Auditor General. We were criticized for not keeping our accounts according to the rules. So this autumn we invested a lot of work in making the financial management system work faster, more usefully and in line with the rules. This has required considerable resources, and we had to hire expensive assistance from the outside," she said.

– It's not easy receiving a comment from the Office of the Auditor General.

"One of the problems has been that the administrative data systems we are required to use, are not adapted to all requirements from the government for, among other things, financial management. In addition, it takes time to find out how to comply with the new rules we have to follow, while also using steadily less time on administration and simplifying government in general. The Department of Administrative Affairs has a lot of capable people who want to do a good job. Most jobs are done well, but there are always changes, and it doesn't take long to fall behind."

To avoid falling behind she believes it is necessary to save resources which today are spent on administrative routines. The routines will now be streamlined. "We have to free ourselves from old ways of thinking, and many routines have to be reorganized to do things in the same way, no matter where in the system you are. Electronic tools can also give us more efficient routines, thereby simplifying the work, and saving resources which we instead can use to think ahead. This applies to all areas in administration. The institution Statistics Norway is like a woman's body, it needs an extra layer of fat, a reserve to meet the demands of tomorrow. If we create an organization only adapted to current demands, we won't have enough capacity to see the demands of tomorrow. We would then be at the mercy of developments instead of controlling them. Someone has to have time to lift up their eyes," says Wilberg.

She has lifted her own sights at least five years ahead, and she sees quite a different Statistics Norway.

"In five years we will most likely have another form of ownership than today. Other state enterprises, such as Norwegian State Railways (NSB), Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK), Norway Post (Posten), the Research Council of Norway, universities and state hospitals have found various forms of ownership, and I don't rule out the possibility that we could become a public corporation, which will bring with it a much greater degree of autonomy than we have today. At the same time there will be greater demands on us to show what we do with the money, what Norway receives for the millions of kroner it costs to run Statistics Norway," says Wilberg, who believes she has most of her head above water after half a year as Statistics Norway's director of administrative affairs. And she intends to continue: "Things are happening the entire time, the pace of change is faster and faster and we have no other choice than to hang in there."

– In five years we will most likely have another form of ownership than today.

Photo: Torunn Nilsen

Director of Administrative Affairs
Name: Cecilie Wilberg
Age: 47
Started 1 June 2000
Field: Administration

Petter Jakob Bjerve, Director General of Statistics Norway from 1949 to 1980:

"We have to listen to what the numbers say"

Petter Jakob Bjerve has virtually written himself into Norwegian history by means of statistics. He was Director General of Statistics Norway for 30 years, retired in 1980, but had an office at the bureau for another 20 years. Statistics Norway's Research Department became a reality under him, and Norway would not have had superb national accounts without Petter Jakob Bjerve, who could equally well have been a miller.

Bjerve is simply a legend in Norwegian economics history and in the history of Statistics Norway. No matter who you ask, this is how he is portrayed. He shaped Statistics Norway into what it is today. He presided over Statistics Norway's transformation from a rather small and unstructured bureau of statistics into a strong trend-setting social institution.

A native of Trøndelag, Bjerve also served as Minister of Finance from 1960 to 1963 for the Labour Party and was actively and extensively involved in statistics at the international level. The man has left clear footprints but he is not a person to boast. Quite the contrary.

Petter J. Bjerve together with his son Steinar aboard the "Stavangerfjord". The photo was taken in May 1949 on the way home to his new job as director. (Private photo).

From no to yes

Shortly after the new government was formed in November 1945, the economist Petter Jakob Bjerve was summoned by newly appointed Minister of Finance Erik Brofoss. Brofoss proposed that Bjerve should join the Ministry of Finance as department head of the national budget division. Bjerve stayed at the Ministry until the summer of 1947 and was responsible for the first two budgets. Shortly afterwards he went to the United States to continue his studies. One year later Brofoss summoned Bjerve again, this time to ask him to take over as head of the Central Bureau of Statistics (now Statistics Norway).

When Bjerve was offered the directorship, he insisted that a research department be established or he would not accept the offer. Bjerve ran a hard strategic campaign against Brofoss, refusing the job three times before he got his way and could sit down in the director's chair with the comment:

"If I am going to take on the job as head of the Bureau, it has to be for the purpose of turning the Bureau into a research and analysis institution…"

Analyses are necessary

With the establishment of the Research Department in 1950, work on research expanded rapidly with respect to assignments, responsibilities and personnel. Outside the universities the Department is the largest economic research institution in the country. Statistics Norway is one of the few bureaux of statistics in the world to have its own extensive research activities.

- Why were you so insistent about establishing a research department in the bureau?
- Numbers say little by themselves. Analyses are necessary to get them to speak and tell us something about our society. Numbers should never control us. They are meant to be a tool for politicians and others who make decisions. That's why I was so adamant about demanding the establishment of a research department in the bureau before I would take on the job of director general. Brofoss didn't like it, but Einar Gerhardsen and the rest of the government at that time did...
How about a little more tea? Bjerve asked as he leaned forward in his easy chair at home in Gladvoll terasse in Oslo.

Without a conscious relationship with the past, the road into the future will be needlessly uncertain, says Bjerve.
(Photo: Torbjørn A. Tjernsberg)

Number 13

PPetter Jakob Bjerve was born in 1913 in Stjørdal as the 13th child in a family of 13 children. The Bjerve name is originally from Hobøl, but in 1869 his grandfather was at choral festival in Trondheim and was also looking for a farm to buy. He found one in Nord-Trøndelag, at Gråbrek. The property had two waterfalls, which his grandfather thought boded well. The farm with the waterfalls was purchased and mills were built for grain, bone and fishmeal. His son took over and he in turn put young Petter J. to work.

"I worked about a year in the mill," Bjerve said, recalling the sounds and smells of the industrial activities at home on the farm. He wasn't cut out to be a miller though. Bjerve took his university qualifying examination at Orkdal upper secondary school in 1934. Here he met Odd Aukrust, also known as "bror min" ("my brother") in the books written by his brother Kjell, the well-known humorist.

"At that time we disagreed on most things, Odd and I. Our debates could get pretty vociferous. Later on we got along better, and for several decades Aukrust was an excellent and outstanding director of research at Statistics Norway."

Across the ocean

After upper secondary school, Bjerve began studying economics and then left for a year to study at American University in Washington, D.C. in 1938-39.
- It wasn't very common to before the war to study in the United States? How did you end up there?
- Well, I stumbled over an advertisement in a newspaper, Nidaros, where a scholarship was advertised for someone that wanted to study abroad. So I packed my bags and left.

Back home in Norway Bjerve got a job as a research assistant at the Economics Institute, where he worked on structural overviews. He worked closely with Ragnar Frisch in design-

ing national accounts. In 1941, he earned his cand.oecon. (economics) degree, continued working as an assistant at the Institute and was aiming at an academic career.

As early as 1941 he taught and began teaching foundation courses the year after. In 1942 he married Rannveig Ørbech Bremer, an economics student. In the autumn of 1943 he began teaching foundation courses again until the university was closed during the war.

- What did you do when the University of Oslo closed?
- I had to work so I went down to talk to Gunnar Jahn, the director of Statistics Norway, to hear if he had any jobs for me, which he did.

The Bureau

Bjerve started as a secretary at the Central Bureau of Statistics in 1944, working under division head Antoni Skøien on national income calculations that Jahn had started during the war. The work resulted in the publication "Nasjonalinntekten i Norge 1935 til 1943" (National Income in Norway 1935 to 1943). The computations were done by several young Frisch students. Bjerve worked on and wrote the theoretical portions.
"The thinking was quite clear. The point was first to set political goals and then find the best means of reaching them. The goals of the economic policy were crystal clear: full employment and best possible utilization of the national means of production," says Bjerve quite simply.

- Economic and statistical knowledge are particularly important in this connection, don't you think?
- We have to have economic and statistical knowledge and development of macro and microeconomic tools to be able to govern a modern society. And we constantly have to refine the tools in order to be able to build and maintain a society that is best for people. That is why the work and research surrounding such questions have to continue at Statistics Norway and elsewhere.

During the war Bjerve and Aukrust also worked on the book "Hva krigen kostet Norge" (What the War Cost Norway). The subtitle was almost like a slogan "Utviklingen under krigen, problemene i dag, politikken i framtida" (Development during the war, current problems, future policy). The monetary circulation illustration on the cover signals that the reader will also be given the answers to the questions.

The last paper

The former Director General of Statistics Norway claims he has just finished writing his last paper. By his own admission he has put down his pen and tidied his home office.

- What is your last paper about?
- It is quite simply a list of the titles of everything I have written over the years and published in various ways, he says, disappearing into his office a second and returning with a stapled booklet entitled "Arkiv for framstillingar av Petter Jakob Bjerve" (Record of the Writings of Petter Jakob Bjerve). The thickness of the paper bears witness to an impressive body of work throughout a long life. The list alone covers 32 full pages. It is filled to the brim with overviews of articles, theories and thoughts that have helped shape both economic and statistical research, but have also affected Norway and the governance of the country.

- Taking it easy has never exactly been one of your attributes over the years.
- There has never been a lack of exciting problems to work on at the Bureau, he said.

Past and future

- What do you do with your time now?
- When I'm not playing bridge with my wife, children and grandchildren, I read history books.

As with most things Bjerve is systematic. He has just ploughed through 23 volumes of world history and is now reading vol. 11 of the history of Norway.

- Why this burning interest in history by someone who has made history?
- Without a thorough knowledge of history it is difficult to shape the present. And without the past the course towards the future can be rather uncertain. That's why we should learn from knowledge, numbers and words and create new lessons for shaping a good society in which to live. We have to listen to learn, says Petter Jacob Bjerve.

Statistics Norway is involved in PARIS21

Since November 1999, Statistics Norway has been involved in PARIS21, a project to ensure systematic statistics for developing countries. The goal is to make it possible to see whether United Nations development goals will be achieved in 2015.

In November 1999, Statistics Norway participated in the first meeting held in Paris by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, during which time discussions were held on how to build statistical capacity in the individual countries. The goal is to monitor whether the development goals set at the UN summit in the 1990s are actually achieved by 2015. The initiative is called the Partnerships in Statistics for development in the 21th century (PARIS21) and covers seven areas: poverty, education, gender equality, infant mortality, maternal mortality, health and environment. The participants have agreed to monitor development with the aid of a total of 21 indicators. The initiative is based on two understandings: The countries must build up their capacity to systematically collect data, and contact between producers and users of statistics must be better and more reliable.

At the close of 2000, PARIS21 held two large regional conferences, one for East Africa and the Horn of Africa in Uganda and one for Southern Africa in Zambia. Statistics Norway participated actively in the latter conference and in 2001 will work with several countries in Africa and possibly the Mideast with a view to organizing national systems for poverty statistics.

Over 1 million figures on Norway in Eurostat database

An analysis of the content of Eurostat's main information database, New Cronos, shows that at the end of 2000 the database contained more than one million figures with statistics on Norway. By comparison, Sweden, an EU member, had 1.2 million figures. In many ways Norway is at the same level as EU countries with respect to the scope and coverage of population statistics, forestry, energy and R&D. Statistics Norway has an agreement on the dissemination of data from Eurostat and New Cronos to Norwegian users.

The basis for harmonizing figures and deliveries to Eurostat is increasingly stipulated through binding legal acts. Statistics Norway and Norway must now comply with just over 70 statistics-related legal acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement. Eighteen revised and new legal acts were included in the statistical cooperation in 2000 alone. Following a lengthy process, two important legal acts relating to labour force surveys and short-term statistics were incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

Particularly in the area of short-term statistics, which covers monthly and quarterly statistics in a number of areas such as manufacturing, construction, trade and other services, there are increasing demands on all countries for improved timeliness and more relevant content relating to new European cooperation-related needs.

Development of harmonized international statistics requires extensive professional discussions and development work. In 2000, Norway participated actively in a total of 137 meetings organized by Eurostat. The meetings ranged from formal committees to informal expert groups. On the basis of the EEA Agreement, and particularly Protocol 30 which covers statistical cooperation, Norway has the opportunity to participate fully in these groups, apart from the few times a formal vote is taken.

Statistics Norway shows the way

One welcome piece of news in 2000 was the new calculations of the Norwegian coast by the Norwegian Mapping Authority. The mainland coast turned out to be 19 per cent longer than previously estimated - it is now more than 25 000 kilometres long. But the feather in Statistics Norway's cap was the way the Authority covered the news in its in-house publication A la kart: "The new figures fit well with what Statistics Norway and the Directorate for Nature Management previously estimated. The difference in comparison with Statistics Norway's calculation is only 0.1 per cent for the entire coastline. This shows that the method now used is reliable."

Open 24 hours a day in five languages

Statistics Norway's website now offers statistics in five languages 24 hours a day. In 2000 the English portion of the site underwent extensive expansion, and now just about all

new statistics are published in Norwegian and English. In addition, less extensive web pages in German, French and Spanish contain major facts about Norway and a short presentation of Statistics Norway.

People trust Statistics Norway

Official statistics are largely a question of confidence. If our statistics are to be trusted, Statistics Norway must be perceived as an impartial and professional independent institution that treats information confidentially and produces reliable statistics.

The figures from MMI's "Trust barometer" in the spring of 2000 show that 69 per cent of the population have a high level of trust in Statistics Norway. Statistics Norway is thus more trusted than the armed forces, the education system and the courts. Only the police ranked higher than Statistics Norway in the "very high level of trust" category.

MMI's question:

"I will now read out the names of some of the institutions found in our society. For each name that I read out loud, would you please indicate whether you have a high level of trust, fairly high level of trust, little trust or no trust at all in the institution?"

Fifteen per cent said that they have a very high level of trust in Statistics Norway, 54 have a fairly high level of trust, 12 per cent have little trust, 4 per cent have no trust and 16 per cent don't know.

Only the police ranked higher than Statistics Norway in the "very high level of trust" (17 per cent) category. If the "don't know" group is excluded, Statistics Norway actually had the highest "very high level of trust" ranking among the institutions included in the survey.

If the "very high level of trust" and "fairly high level of trust" categories are combined, the Consumer Ombudsman ranks first, with the police and Statistics Norway in second and third place respectively. Next in line are the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, the banks, Norwegian newspapers and the armed forces.

wap.ssb.no

In May 2000 Statistics Norway began publishing statistics for wap mobile phones. This service is updated daily at 10.00 with new statistics and information. Wap users can also calculate inflation and check the name statistics. Previous releases of major statistics such as the consumer price index, economic trends, external trade, population and unemployment can be accessed.

Wap technology was developed to make the Internet accessible to mobile phone users. The service resembles the regular Internet, but to access it users type in this address **http://wap.ssb.no/.** The service had 75 000 hits in 2000.