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1. Statistics Norway's organisation

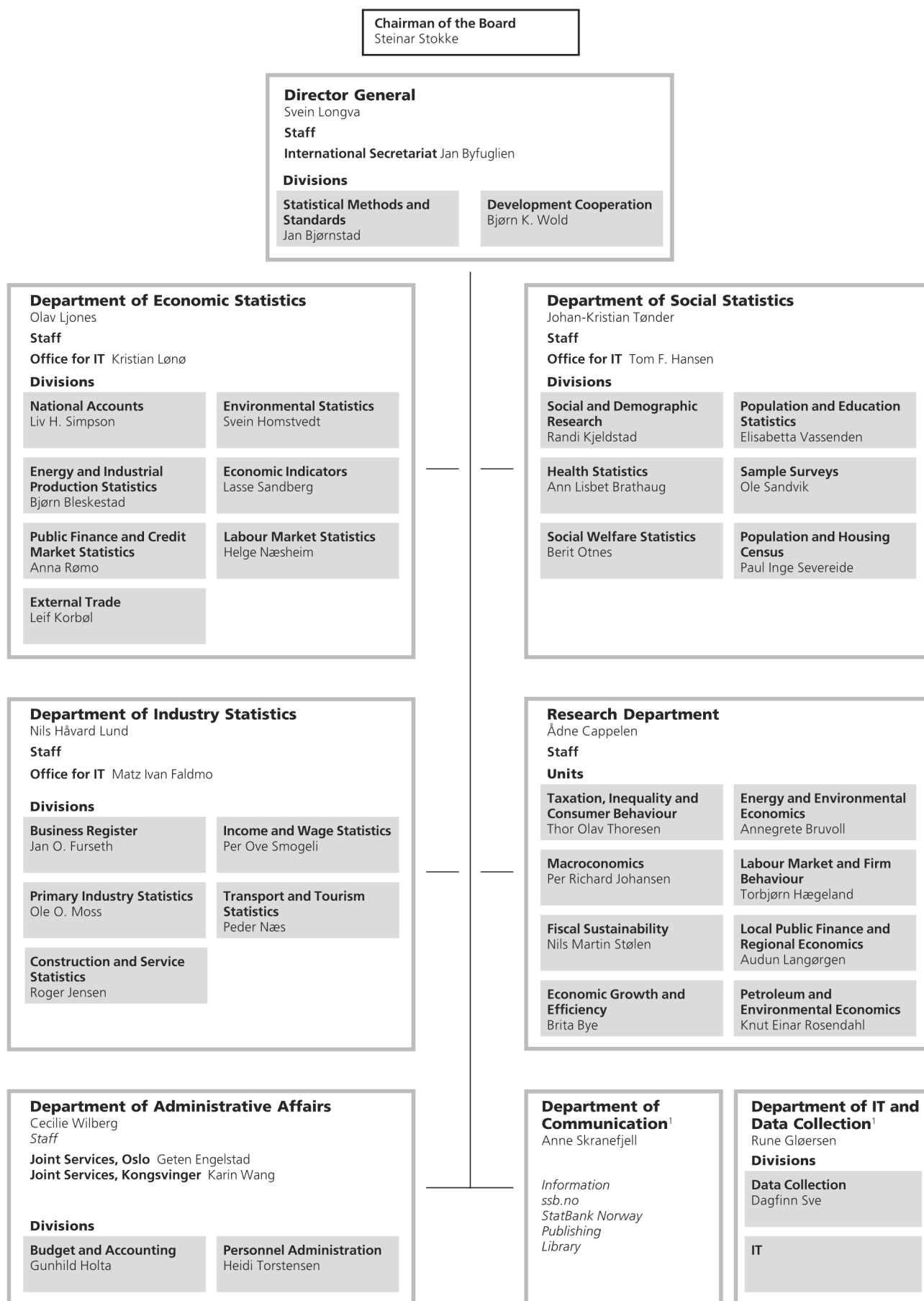
Statistics Norway's top management consists of the Director General and directors for seven departments. The organisation comprises three statistical departments (economic statistics, social statistics and industry statistics), a research department, an administrative affairs department, a communication department and a department for IT and data collection.

In line with the recommendations of the Strategy Plan 2002, Statistics Norway examined the organisational structure in order to find out if some of the aims and main objectives of the strategy plan could more easily be achieved with a different type of organisation. This examination led to two new departments being established from 2003, one for communication and one for information technology and data collection. Furthermore, the administration of salary and personnel tasks was centralised.

In addition the research department was reorganised in 2002. The department now consists of eight groups that are led by research executives in functions of restricted periods.

Since 1975, Statistics Norway has been physically divided between Oslo and Kongsvinger as a result of the Norwegian Parliament's policy to decentralise government institutions. With the exception of the Research Department and the Department of Industry Statistics, all departments have staff in both cities. Joint data and telephone networks, video meetings, a Bureau car, the Norwegian State Railways and the bus service ensure daily contact between the employees.

Per 1 February 2003



¹ The departments are newly established and still in the process of being organized

2. Report of the Board of Directors

The year 2002 was a productive year for Statistics Norway. The goals outlined in the operating plan were achieved in most areas, and great efforts enabled important milestones to be reached.

New strategy plan

In 2002 the Board adopted Statistics Norway's new strategy plan. This plan forms the basis for the development of Statistics Norway in the years ahead. The strategy plan presents guidelines and principles that Statistics Norway is to abide by, and also refers to how the institution pictures the development of official statistics in general and Statistics Norway's activities in particular.

The strategy plan was distributed for review, and more than 60 institutions have responded with useful information about what Statistics Norway should concentrate on in the years to come. The Board is grateful for this input, which has contributed to giving Strategy 2002 a good basis for the further development of Statistics Norway. The Board is particularly pleased with the positive responses to the proposal to establish a statistics council together with other public institutions that produce statistics, and is looking forward to this being effected.

The new strategy plan emphasises that Statistics Norway is to be an institution with an overall view of its product, which in turn assumes that the statistics systems are adequate and coordinated, that data capture is efficient, that communication is user-oriented, and that quality is emphasised in all areas. The Board considers it important that Statistics Norway always has the world outside the institution as a starting point so that data capture, statistics production, analysis and communication are at all times aimed at serving the public, industry and the authorities in the best possible way.

High activity level

The two large projects, the Population and Housing Census 2001 and KOSTRA (Kommune-Stat-Rapportering – Municipality and State Reporting) have been accomplished according to the 2002 plan. A successful Population and Housing Census provides important statistics on Norwegian society at a detailed geographical level. The central registers are now updated, so it is no longer necessary to send out population census forms. The Housing Address Project is not quite ready, and the Board emphasises the importance of continuing this work with vigour in 2003. In 2002 KOSTRA published for the first time figures for all the Norwegian municipalities and county authorities. From now on KOSTRA is to be the main tool for information about the municipalities' priorities, activities and results.

At the same time, the production and dissemination of the rest of Statistics Norway's statistics have remained at a high level, both in scope and quality. In 2002 there were more releases of statistics – including several different statistics than previously – and a marked increase in hits on ssb.no, whereas the number of paper publications has been reduced. The Board also observes with satisfaction that timeliness has improved as well. Monthly statistics are now published on average 3.8 weeks after the relevant period. Annual statistics are ready on average 43.1 weeks after the pertinent year. The annual statistics still have the potential for improvement, and the Board will direct its attention to this.

Quality and confidence

The population of Norway has great confidence in Statistics Norway. The confidence survey conducted by the Market and Media Institute in October 2002 shows that 69 per cent of the respondents had very great or great confidence in Statistics Norway. If we exclude those who have not made up their minds about Statistics Norway, 80 per cent of the population actually have great confidence in the institution. Statistics Norway is thus ranked at fourth place, preceded only by the police, the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation and the consumers' ombudsman.

Great confidence has been enjoyed by Statistics Norway for several years. Confidence is a prerequisite for Statistics Norway's entire activity: If people do not have confidence in the statistics and the analyses that Statistics Norway delivers, they have no value. And if Statistics Norway loses this confidence, it will take a long time to rebuild it. It is therefore satisfying to the Board to note that work on creating confidence is central to Statistics Norway, inter alia through systematic quality work and competence building.

An examination made by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also shows that key areas of Statistics Norway's economics statistics are of high quality. Statistics Norway did well in the evaluation, and the IMF indicated that Norwegian statistics production is of a high quality internationally. The Board was pleased with this evaluation, and would like to emphasise the importance of such international comparisons.

Available statistics Statistics Norway's products are easily available for most people in Norway with regard to statistics and to research and analyses results. Coverage on the Internet is particularly extensive and is often used: during 2002 more than 30 million hits were recorded for ssb.no. The Board is pleased with the effort that has been made to satisfy the public's need through presentations of statistical news with brief overviews on Statistics Norway's home page, linked to more comprehensive texts, tables, diagrams and meta-data. Web technology is well suited for disseminating news and statistics to users with varied needs and background.

The Board emphasises that statistics are to be released according to a statistics calendar. This makes the users aware of when the statistics will appear, and it underlines Statistics Norway's independence when it comes to deciding the time of release. In 2002 only 10 per cent of the releases did not appear at the scheduled time.

Statistics Norway's web service made headway when StatBank was established on 1 July 2002. Here the users can choose tables and variables, and can retrieve exactly the figures they are interested in. In addition they can download software without charge, which enables them to handle large volumes of data and for instance present them as maps. StatBank represents a step forward with regard to both technology and adjustments to the different needs of the users. Both experts and schoolchildren can find the figures they want here. StatBank will be more and more useful when additional statistics materials are included – and when users become acquainted with the facilities offered.

Stable economy and good management The accounts for 2002 are mainly in agreement with the budget, and this fact shows that Statistics Norway has a stable economy. A negative operating result of NOK 27 million is first and foremost because large parts of the 2001 funds – intended for the Population and Housing Census – were used in 2002 instead. The total operating result plus transfers from 2001 entail a transfer of NOK 14.3 million to 2003. User-funded assignments had a deficit of NOK 6.5 million, which must be seen in connection with the fact that not all payments were received before the end of the year.

Less response burden Large parts of the economic statistics are based on information from industry, and the work of filling in forms is of great value.

Statistics Norway attempts to keep the response burden at the lowest possible level. From 1998 to 2001 this burden was reduced by 20 per cent. Work with forms now amounts to less than 2 per cent of the industries' total response burden to the State.

The authorities' goal is that industry shall report information only once to a public authority, and that the authorities themselves are to ensure re-use in other government services. This will reduce the burden for the individual establishments,

but it assumes a close cooperation between the different services. In 2002 Statistics Norway has cooperated with the Central Registers in Brønnøysund and the Directorate of Taxes on the AltInn (All-In) project. AltInn is to be a joint channel for electronic reporting from industry. In the longer term most of the government services of interest are to join this cooperation.

- Guaranteed service* To enable users to know what they can expect from Statistics Norway, a service declaration was drawn up in 2002. This guarantees that the statistics are to be of high quality, that the protection of privacy is ensured, and that those who consult Statistics Norway will receive a prompt response. A declaration of this type is helpful since it offers users a realistic picture of Statistics Norway's services.
- Personal protection delegate* In connection with the introduction of new personal data legislation, Statistics Norway now has its own personal protection delegate, an independent person who is to ensure compliance with the legislation. The delegate is also to handle questions, complaints and other enquiries about personal privacy protection from the public, the press, cooperating partners and Statistics Norway's employees, i.e. enquires that the Data Inspectorate would otherwise have received. The Board emphasises the importance of the protection of privacy to Statistics Norway, not least for retaining the confidence it has among the public.

Without Statistics Norway's competent employees and their daily efforts, Norway would have been a less enlightened society. The Board would therefore like to thank each and every one of the employees for their effort in 2002.

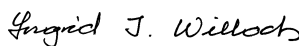
The Board's responsibilities and duties are set forth in the Statistics Act (The Statistics Act of 16 June 1989 no 54 relating to official statistics and Statistics Norway). This states that the Board shall consider and determine long-term programmes, budget proposals and annual work programmes according to proposals from the Director General, and shall present these matters together with Statistics Norway's annual report to the Ministry of Finance. In addition, the Board shall supervise developments in official statistics and Statistics Norway's operations.



Director General. Steinar Stokke, Chairman of the Board



Director of Research Hege Torp, Vice Chair



Politician Ingrid I. Willoch



Professor Rune Sørensen



Former editor Thor Bjørne Bore



Senior Executive Officer Hanne Marit Svensrud

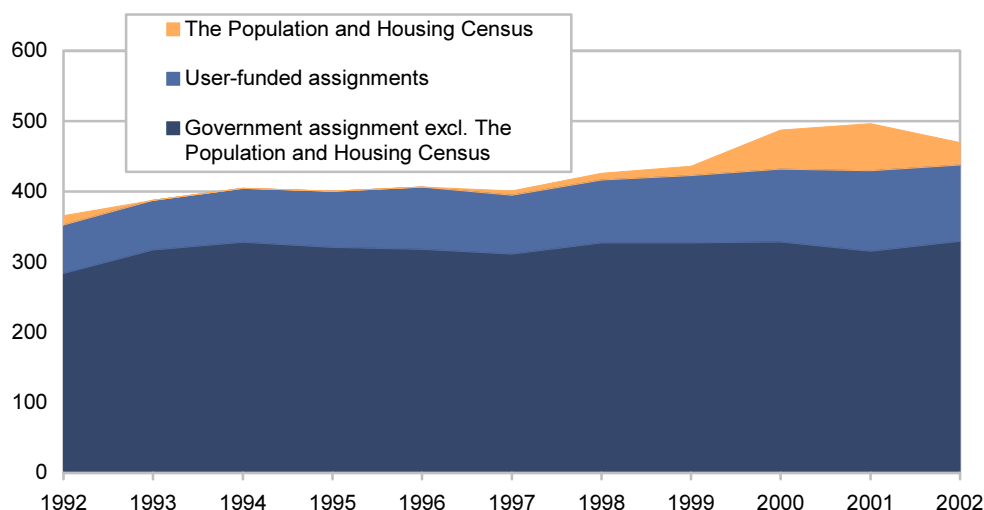


Deputy Secretary Eva Hildrum

3. Accounts

The accounts show that 2002 was a productive year for Statistics Norway. A negative operating result of NOK 27 million is first and foremost caused by the fact that large parts of the 2001 funds for the Population and Housing Census were employed in 2002 instead. The total operating result plus transfers from 2002 give a transfer of NOK 14.3 million to 2003.

Historical accounts. Income 1992 - 2002, in fixed 2002 prices. Million NOK



The figure shows that the inflation-adjusted income from government assignments has been close to constant in the last decade. User-funded assignments have shown a steady growth. The Population and Housing Census had a marked reduction during last year, and contributed to the decline in Statistics Norway's total activity compared with the year before.

A productive year for Statistics Norway

Government funding declined somewhat compared with the previous year, from NOK 366.6 million in 2001 to NOK 349.5 million in 2002. This is due to the decrease of funds to the Population and Housing Census. The Census itself took place in 2001, and budget needs naturally declined in 2002. Excluding the Census, other government funds have increased from 2001 to 2002. This is mainly caused by increased funds for earmarked purposes such as international cooperation and the development of statistics on foreign transactions. The compensation for the pay settlement is another reason for the rise.

Concerning income from user-funded assignments, the accounts show a misleading picture due to cash accounting. It may appear that the income from these assignments has declined compared with the previous year, while in reality it has increased.

Ministries and other state institutions are the most important customers, and they contribute 66 per cent of the user-financed income. The portion financed by the Norwegian Research Council was 12 per cent, somewhat higher than the previous year.

Increase in number of man-years

The expenditure side of the accounts shows that total salary expenses have increased by NOK 22.4 million compared with the previous year's figures. This is due to salary increases and an increase in the number of man-years, amounting to 15 man-years. Government commissions had an increase of 8 man-years, whereas market commissions increased by seven.

Reduction of total expenditure

The total operating results decreased compared with figures from the previous year, from NOK 201.6 million in 2001 to NOK 177.0 million in 2002 due to a reduction in expenses related to the Population and Housing Census. The Census's dwelling address project had among other things NOK 45.0 million in transfers to municipalities, large parts of which were charged to 2001. Operating expenses for the

remaining government commissions increased, whereas operating expenses for user-financed commissions decreased. Total salary and operating expenses decreased by NOK 2.2 million from 2001 to 2002.

Operating result and transfers to the following year

The total operating accounts show an operating result of NOK -26.9 million, divided between NOK 2.0 million to government commissions excluding the Population and Housing Census, NOK -22.3 million to the Census, and NOK -6.6 million to user-financed commissions. The main reason for the negative operating result for the Population and Housing Census is the large negative transfer from 2001. This transfer came to NOK 28.9 million and was employed in addition to the government appropriations. The total operating result plus the total operating transfers result in a transfer of NOK 14.3 million to 2003. This transfer includes NOK 9.2 million in government commission transfers (excluding the Population and Housing Census) and NOK 6.5 million in transfers for the Census. For user-financed commissions the result is a negative transfer of NOK 1.4 million, which must be seen in connection with shifts in payments at the turn of the year.

More compulsory fines

Revenues from the sale of publications are not included in Statistics Norway's accounts – nor are revenues from compulsory fines. These revenues are credited centrally to the state accounts.

Sales revenues amounted to a total of NOK 3.1 million in 2002, the same as in 2001. Revenues from compulsory fines increased from NOK 5.8 million in 2001 to NOK 6.8 million in 2002.

Increase in investments

The accounts for 2002 show that large new acquisitions have been undertaken. The amount spent was NOK 12.5 million, an increase of NOK 9.7 million compared with figures from the previous year. As usual IT investments made up the major part of the new acquisitions.

Annual accounts 2002. Total overview (summation of government commissions, Population and Housing Census and user-financed commissions, excluding large new acquisitions). NOK 1 000

	Noter	Regnskap 2001	Budsjett 2002	Regnskap 2002	Budsjett 2003
Government appropriations	2,7	366 590	343 450	349 530	369 300
Commission revenues	10	112 880	115 793	108 482	126 151
Refunds	3	10 636	0	11 753	0
Total revenues and refunds.....		490 106	459 243	469 765	495 451
Wage expenditures	4, 8, 11	297 256	299 386	319 655	327 802
Operating expenditures.....	1, 5, 8, 11	201 594	187 724	177 037	174 803
Total expenditure		498 850	487 110	496 692	502 605
Operating result	6, 9, 12	-8 744	-27 867	-26 927	-7 154
Brought forward from the year before..		49 950	41 205	41 205	14 278
Brought forward to next yearår	6, 9, 12	41 206	13 338	14 278	7 124

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

Government assignments excluding the Population and Housing Census NOK 1000

	Notes	Accounts 2001	Budget 2002	Accounts 2002	Budget 2003
Government appropriations	2	300 690	311 450	317 530	356 100
Refunds	3	10 636		11 753	
Total revenues and refunds		311 326	311 450	329 283	356 100
Wage expenditures	4	216 133	210 529	227 223	236 051
Operating expenditures	5	95 318	101 171	100 070	122 414
Total expenditures		311 451	311 700	327 293	358 465
Operating result	6	-125	-250	1 990	-2 365
Brought forward from the previous year		7 330	7 205	7 205	9 195
Brought forward to next year	6	7 205	6 955	9 195	6 830

The Population and Housing Census NOK 1 000

	Notes	Accounts 2001	Budget 2002	Accounts 2002	Budget 2003
Total revenues (government appropriations)	7	65 900	32 000	32 000	13 200
Wage expenditures		9 249	9 531	11 579	4 753
Operating expenditures		66 633	51 323	42 757	14 965
Total expenditures	8	75 882	60 854	54 336	19 718
Operating result	9	-9 982	-28 854	-22 336	-6 518
Brought forward from the previous year		38 836	28 854	28 854	6 518
Brought forward to next year	9	28 854	0	6 518	0

User-funded assignments (market assignments) NOK 1 000

	Notes	Accounts 2001	Budget 2002	Accounts 2002	Budget 2003
Appropriations		106 000	106 000	106 000	110 100
Additional income		6 880	9 793	2 482	16 051
Commission revenues	10	112 880	115 793	108 482	126 151
Wage expenditures		71 874	79 326	80 853	86 998
Operating expenditures		39 643	35 230	34 210	37 424
Total expenditures	11	111 517	114 556	115 063	124 422
Operating result	12	1 363	1 237	-6 581	1 729
Brought forward from the previous year		3 784	5 146	5 146	-1 435
Brought forward to next year	12	5 146	6 383	-1 435	294

Large new acquisitions NOK 1000

	Notes	Accounts 2001	Budget 2002	Accounts 2002	Budget 2003
Government appropriations	13	7 570	7 650	7 650	7 780
Total expenditures	14	2 799	7 650	12 521	7 780
Result	15	4 771	0	-4 871	0
Brought forward from the previous year		3 618	8 389	8 389	3 518
Brought forward to next year	15	8 389	8 389	3 518	3 518

Notes to the tables

¹ Total operating expenditures (excluding large new acquisitions)

Specification, operating expenditures	Accounts 2001	Budget 2002	Accounts 2002
Machines, inventory, equipment	12 092	14 435	12 014
Equipment and supplies	6 362	5 487	5 331
Travelling expenses etc.	19 062	19 781	20 171
Various IT expenses	19 913	18 940	19 156
Expenses for printing	5 976	3 855	2 558
Of this the Population and Housing Census	2 544	1 100	782
Postage	26 525	16 242	14 190
Of this the Population and Housing Census	17 631	6 200	4 942
Telephone expenses	5 375	5 133	5 292
EEA membership fee	8 557	9 900	9 633
Expert advice	48 461	39 759	39 484
Of this the Housing and Population Census	37 496	30 178	29 743
Library	1 098	1 050	1 062
Management/rental of buildings	36 092	37 195	38 846
Various operating expenses	12 081	15 947	9 300
Total operating expenditures	201 594	187 724	177 037

The larger variations, such as postage, expert advice and printing, are caused by the Population and Housing Census. The Census had big expenses for all these items in 2001, and these expenses were considerably reduced in 2002. There are fewer variations in the other items.

² Government appropriations excluding the Population and Housing Census

Government appropriations (excluding the Census) came to NOK 317.5 million in 2002. This is an increase of NOK 16.8 million compared with figures from 2001. There are three main reasons for this. Firstly, NOK 7.0 million was allocated to a new priority area – international statistical cooperation. Furthermore, the UT project (development of foreign trade transactions) was allocated NOK 6.4 million. Compensation for the wage settlement gave a framework increase of NOK 7.5 million. During the budget year the framework cut came to a total of NOK 1.4 million.

³ Reimbursements for absence due to illness and births

These reimbursements increased by NOK 1.1 million from 2001 to 2002, i.e. 10.5 per cent. The increase was partly due to salary rises and partly due to an increase in absence due to illness from 4.7 per cent in 2001 to 5.6 per cent in 2002.

⁴ Salary expenses excluding the Population and Housing Census

Salary expenses increased by NOK 11.1 million compared with 2001. The increase is due to additional expenditures related to the wage settlement, plus salary expenses to projects with earmarked government appropriations. If the salary expenses in the accounts for 2002 are compared with the budget, they are NOK 16.7 million higher than budgeted. This is due to expenses – which have been refunded – for substitutes for sick employees, plus extra expenses in connection with the wage settlement (compensated for by additional appropriation).

⁵ Operating expenses excluding the Population and Housing Census

Operating expenses increased by NOK 4.8 million compared with the 2001 accounts. The increase is mainly caused by expenses related to projects with earmarked government appropriations. When comparing expenses in the 2002 accounts with the budget, the expenses are NOK 1.1 million lower than budgeted. Among other things this is related to a payment of NOK 0.9 million to the Directorate of Taxes that was not included in the accounts, plus a real saving on the postage budget.

⁶ Operating result excluding the Population and Housing Census

The operating result in 2002 came to NOK 2.0 million. The positive result is due to less expenditure on salaries, which in turn is due to large refunds for absence due to illness and the delayed payment to the Directorate of Taxes of NOK 0.9 million that was not included in the budget. The savings made on postage should also be mentioned.

- ⁷ *Government appropriations to the Population and Housing Census* Government appropriations to the Census were NOK 32.0 million in 2002, a reduction of NOK 33.9 million compared with the year before. The actual Census was carried out in 2001.
- ⁸ *Expenses for the Population and Housing Census* The accounts show NOK 54.3 million in expenses in 2002. Included in this amount are also expenses of NOK 23.7 million for 2001.
- ⁹ *Operating result for the Population and Housing Census* The negative operating result of NOK 22.3 million must be considered in connection with funds transferred from 2001. The operating result of NOK -22.3 million plus transfers from 2001 of NOK 28.8 million result in transfers to 2003 of NOK 6.5 million. In 2003, transferred funds will be employed on completing the dwelling address project.
- ¹⁰ *User-funded assignments* The accounts show that revenues for 2002 were NOK 4.4 million lower than in 2001. In reality, however, the assignment activities increased from 2001 to 2002. The lower figures are due to cash accounting.

User-financed assignment by customer group. 2001 and 2002

	2001		2002	
	Mill. NOK	Per cent	Mill. NOK	Per cent
Total	112,9	100,0	108,5	100,0
Ministries	48,9	43,3	50,0	46,1
Other government agencies	22,9	20,3	22,1	20,4
Private customers	11,9	10,5	13,2	12,2
Municipal customers	1,0	0,9	1,0	0,9
Foreign customers	4,4	3,9	4,0	3,7
Research institutes and universities	12,9	11,4	5,0	4,6
Research Council of Norway	10,9	9,7	13,2	12,2

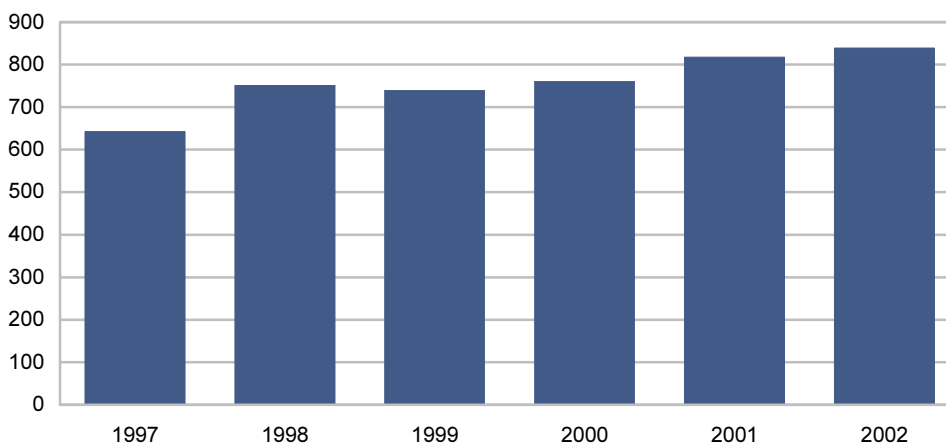
The table shows that ministries and other government agencies are the most important customers, and they contribute 66 per cent of user-financed income. The portion financed by the Research Council is 12 per cent, somewhat higher than last year's.

- ¹¹ *Expenditures – user-financed assignments* Salary expenses for market assignments increased by NOK 9.0 million compared with figures from 2001, while operating expenses decreased by NOK 5.4 million.
- ¹² *Operating result – user-financed assignments* The operating result came to NOK -6.6 million.
- ¹³ *Government appropriations for large new acquisitions* These appropriations amounted to NOK 7.7 million in 2002, an increase of NOK 0.1 million compared with the year before. The increase is due to price adjustment of the appropriations.
- ¹⁴ *Expenditures for large new acquisitions* The accounts for 2002 show that NOK 12.5 million has been spent on large new acquisitions in 2002, NOK 9.7 million more than in 2001. As usual, IT investments made up the main part of the new acquisitions.
- ¹⁵ *Transfer – large new acquisitions* The result of NOK -4.9 million, plus the transfer from 2001 of NOK 8.4 million, leads to a transfer to 2003 of NOK 3.5 million for large new acquisitions.

4. Statistics on statistics

Number of releases In 2002, the number of released statistics increased to 839, 22 more than in 2001. Many of the releases take place several times a year (weekly, monthly or quarterly), so the number is actually higher.

Number of releases



New statistics in 2001

- Absence due to illness, self- and doctor-certified, quarterly
- Accounting figures for limited liability companies in the ICT sector, annually
- Active hunters, annually
- Bankruptcy proceedings in the ICT sector, annually
- Criminal prosecutions, currently once
- Domestic maritime transport, annually
- Education statistics. Pupils in AMO (labour market training) courses, county colleges etc., annually
- Enterprises, annually
- Environment protection investments in manufacturing and in mining and quarrying, annually
- Establishments, annually
- Health and social personnel – register-based statistics, annually
- Income indicators for national insurance recipients, annually
- Internet survey, quarterly
- National accounts and environment 1991-2000, annually
- Price index for building engineering consultancy, quarterly
- Services connected to transport, structure statistics, annually
- Statistics on agriculture buildings and properties, frequency not decided
- Transport and communication, structure statistics, annually
- Use of pesticides in agriculture, every second year
- Wage statistics, employees in hotels and restaurants, annually
- Wage statistics, full-time employees, annually
- Waste accounts for Norway, annually

Publishing from the Population and Housing Census 2001

- Housing census at municipal level
- Households
- Immigrants' housing
- Immigrants' households
- Register-based commuter statistics
- Students' actual housing and living conditions
- Employees in the week of the census and education

New publishing related to KOSTRA, annual statistics

- Fire and accident protection
- Family counselling
- Physical planning, cultural monuments, nature and local environment
- Church
- Municipally-managed housing units and housing instruments
- Municipalities' and county authorities' financial situation
- Cultural facilities in the municipalities
- Transport and communication
- Dental health care
- Water, drainage and sanitation

Publishing from interview surveys

- The national travel survey
- Physical activities among the elderly
- Functionally disabled and the labour force (additional to the labour force survey)
- Leadership survey
- Living conditions in agriculture
- Election survey 2001

Statistics that are expanded, resumed or considerably changed

- Waste handling, annually
- Research and Development (R&D) and innovation in industry, every second year
- Overnight accommodation (merging of camping and holiday dwellings), monthly
- International lorry survey, resumption, quarterly
- Harbour statistics, quarterly
- Income for persons and families, expanded with characteristics for single parents, annually
- Register-based employment statistics (previously only for employees), annually per the fourth quarter
- Statistics on agriculture income, assets, debts and taxes (from sample survey to entire population), annually
- Preliminary figures on structure statistics (annually) required by Eurostat for the sectors transport, hotels, building and construction, trade in goods, property management, commercial services, and rental business.

Adoption of filing requirement and/or compulsory fines in 2002

- Information from electric power plants
- Foreign-going shipping
- Quarterly turnover statistics for transport, communication and tourism
- KOSTRA – physical planning, cultural monuments, nature and local environment
- Cost survey for index of building costs for road construction
- Wage statistics for fish farming and hatcheries
- Rail transport

Titles in different publication series

The number of publications has decreased since 1999 and is according to plans for reducing paper publications and for publishing more on ssb.no. The large decrease from 2001 to 2002 is first and foremost due to the fact that certain smaller publications such as Weekly Statistics, Monthly statistics on Foreign Trade and Bank and Credit Statistics are no longer published on paper. The decline in analysis publications is because there are fewer publications of Reprints and Reports.

Publications	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ¹	2002
Total	258	268	286	316	284	274	161
Norway's official statistics ..	83	76	61	64	48	66	46
Analytical publications	66	77	84	97	95	107	74
Other publications	109	115	141	155	141	101	41
- Economic Analyses	9	9	9	9	9	6	6
- Samfunnsspeilet	4	4	6	6	6	6	5

¹ The large number of NOS publications in 2001 is because the Agriculture Survey 1999 was published for all counties.

Social and Economic Studies

- Career in the melting pot, selected works by Kari Skrede
- Immigrants' housing pattern in Oslo

Statistics Analyses

- Single parents in the labour force 1980-1999
- Health and care services
- ICT barometer 2001
- Immigration and immigrants 2002
- Criminality and the judicial system
- Natural resources and the environment 2002
- Norwegian media barometer 2001
- At all hours of the day

Research activity – external publishing

Increased external publishing is an important goal for the research activity. The extent of such publishing was about the same as last year, but there were fewer books and articles published than in the years around 2000.

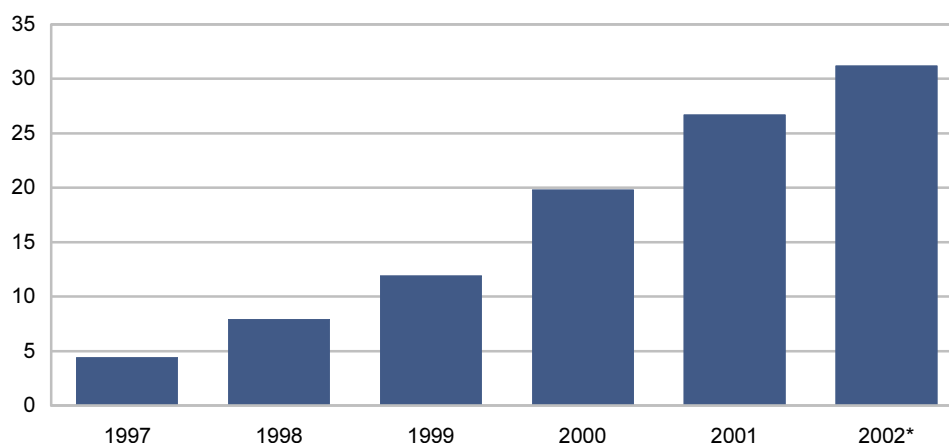
External publishing	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Periodicals	28	20	39	24	41	35	34
- international periodicals	21	13	17	15	28	22	17
- Norwegian periodicals	7	7	22	9	13	13	17
Books and articles in books	8	7	4	13	18	17	8
- international	5	-	2	12	13	12	5
- Norwegian	3	7	2	1	5	5	3

Hearings

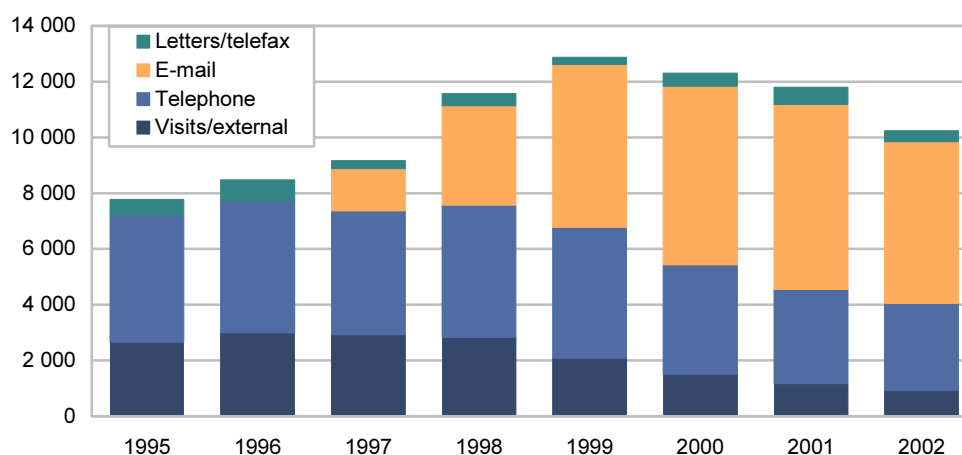
Statistics Norway is often engaged in the consultative process when new laws and regulations are drafted, and in connection with public reports. In 2002, submissions were prepared for 49 such proposals.

Statistics Norway's web site

The number of visits to Statistics Norway's web site increased from 11.9 million in 1999 to 18.8 in 2000 and further to 26.7 in 2001. 31.2 million visited the web site in 2002.

Number of web visits*Inquiries to the library*

The number of inquiries has diminished from 2000, and is in line with the increase in the use of Statistics Norway's web services. The relative large decrease from 2001 to 2002 is most likely due to the establishment of StatBank on ssb.no.

Number of inquiries to Statistics Norway's library*StatBank*

In StatBank's first half-year of operating (in operation from 1 July) about 25 000 tables were designed each month, 1 100 each day and a total of 160 000. Compared with the other Nordic countries this is a very good result after such a short operating time – even without taking all relevant statistics into account.

Media use

The use of statistics and research and analysis results from Statistics Norway may be measured by looking at the number of times Statistics Norway is quoted in the media. Statistics Norway has information about this related to the approximately 100 electronic media that exist in Norway. The figure for 2002 is 4 437 compared with 3 883 in 2001.

Language – percentage "Nynorsk"

The situation is improving regarding meeting the requirement of the Language Act. The result for 2002 is good for daily releases, forms and job advertisements, but still not adequate with regard to publications. The proportion of releases in Nynorsk has increased from 13 per cent in 1999 to 30 in 2002, weekly releases not included.

Punctuality and timeliness The statistics calendar announces when the different statistics are to be released. The emphasis is on releasing the statistics at the announced time. In 2002, 90 per cent of the statistics met this goal.

Punctuality. Deviations from the announced time. Per cent

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total deviations	14	10	13	15	13	10
- too early.....	6	2	4	2	3	2
- too late	8	8	9	13	10	8

Timeliness 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 satisfactory for monthly and quarterly statistics, and is improving for annual statistics, even if the goal of 42 weeks was not reached. Since 2000, timeliness has improved by 3.8 weeks for the annual statistics.

Timeliness. Time from the reference period's expiration to publishing

	Weeks Number	2000		2001		2002	
		Goal	Result	Goal	Result	Goal	Result
Monthly statistics	12	3,8	4,1	3,8	3,9	3,8	3,8
Quarterly statistics	14	8,4	8,4	8,9	9,1	8,1	8,8
Annual statistics.....	82	44,7	46,9	43,3	44,8	42,0	43,1

Response rates By and large the response rates for Statistics Norway's surveys are high, especially for mandatory surveys. In the table below, wage statistics are shown as a special group to avoid undue influence on the total percentage. It should be noted that an increase of voluntary surveys was registered, and that improvements are recorded for several individual statistics.

Even if the response rates are in general satisfactory, it is still more and more demanding to maintain them at an acceptable level.

Response rates

Surveys	Number	2000		2001		2002	
		Goal	Result	Goal	Result	Goal	Result
Mandatory surveys							
- wage statistics.....	11	100	97	100	97	100	96
- other.....	17	96	94	95	94	97	95
Voluntary surveys	21	78	72	77	73	79	77

Response burden Information on the response burden is based on estimates of average time used per form by each respondent. In relation to the public administration's total response burden for industry, Statistics Norway's portion is estimated to be about 2 per cent.

Response burden. Man-labour years¹

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ²	2002
Total	200	196	196	189	169	178
Industry.....	110	113	113	97	94	98

¹ Examination and checking of Statistics Norway's product register may lead to adjustments of figures from previous years.

² Response burden relating to the Population and Housing Census 2001 is not included in the figures for 2001. Estimated response burden is 368 man-labour years.

Use of resources The use of resources in areas is calculated on the basis of information in the product and man-hour system. The overview shows the resource distribution when absences (holidays, sick leave and leave of absence) are excluded.

Distribution of man-hours on different types of activities. 1999-2002. Per cent

Type of activity	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total	100	100	100	100
Production of statistics	60	62	63	62
- Ongoing production of statistics	53	54	54	52
- Development projects	7	8	9	10
Research and analysis projects	10	10	9	10
Management, administration and planning	10	9	9	10
Internal support functions	20	19	19	18

Stable confidence in Statistics Norway

Great confidence in Statistics Norway is shown by 69 per cent of the population. This is the result of the Market and Media Institute's recent survey on confidence in different Norwegian institutions. The result is more or less the same as that of 2001.

Statistics Norway was ranked at eighth place. The police, the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation and the consumers' ombudsman led the ranking with 84, 80 and 79 per cent confidence respectively. Since Statistics Norway was included in the survey, about two-thirds of the respondents have stated that they have "great confidence in" or "very great confidence in" us. The percentage that have "little confidence" is 14, and 3 per cent have "no confidence".

Percentages with "great confidence in" or "very great confidence in" Statistics Norway. May 2000 - October 2002. Per cent



As before, a relatively large proportion of the respondents, 14 per cent, answered that they had no opinion of Statistics Norway (do not know/unanswered). If we exclude this group and rank according to the ones who do have an opinion, Statistics Norway is ranked as fourth. As in previous surveys, persons with higher education/income have great confidence in Statistics Norway. The survey was conducted in the period 14-26 October 2002 and is based on interviews with 991 persons over the age of 15.

5. Working in Statistics Norway

Staff members Included in the budget for 2002 were 867 man-years compared with 852 in 2001.

Budgeted man-years 1992 - 2002

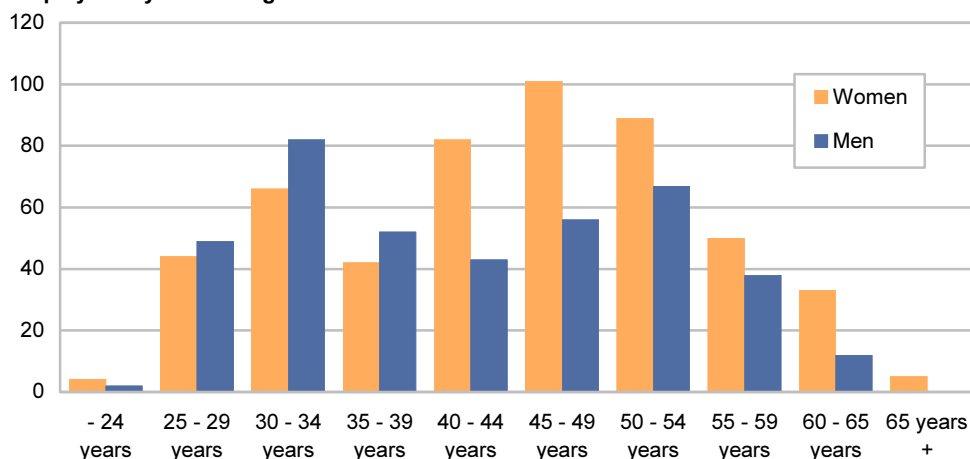
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total man-years	769	785	798	798	813	823	821	838	839	852	867
Government commissions	659	645	619	612	619	624	652	664	659	650	658
- of these, temporary	74	43	35	24	32	38	42	55	43	59	67
Market commissions	110	140	179	186	194	199	169 ¹	174	180	202	209

¹ The drop in market commissions from 199 man-years in 1997 to 169 man-years in 1998 is because an extensive registration commission from the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund was finished in 1997.

At the beginning of 2003, there were 917 employees in Statistics Norway, including 20 on maternity leave. At the beginning of 2002 there were 900 employees. The greatest changes were in the division for data collection, where the number of employees was reduced when the Population and Housing Census was completed, and in the division for interview surveys, where the number of employees has increased in connection with carrying out the extensive Adult reading/comprehension competency survey. There were 543 employees in Oslo and 374 in Kongsvinger. In addition to the employees mentioned above, there are 155 local interviewers around the country and 32 centrally working on surveys.

There are more women than men on the staff. The distribution at the beginning of 2003 was 56 per cent females and 44 per cent males, the same as the previous year. There are clearly more females in the age groups above 40, and there are more males among those below 40.

Employees by sex and age



In Oslo there is an even distribution, but in Kongsvinger there are about twice as many women as men.

Eleven per cent of the employees are aged less than 29, 26 per cent are in the age group 30-39, 31 per cent in the group 40-49, 27 per cent in the group 50-59, and 5 per cent are above 60 years of age.

A total of 40 per cent of the employees in Statistics Norway have worked there for 20 years or more, whereas 34 per cent have been employed for less than 5 years. The remaining employees are distributed more or less evenly among terms of service of 5-9 years, 10-14 years and 15-19 years. The number of employees with a length of service of 30 years or more has increased by 10 during 2002 to 113.

At the beginning of 2003, 42 per cent had higher degrees from universities, and 19 per cent had lower degrees or a college education.

There are gender differences in level of education: 28 per cent of the women had higher degrees, and 61 per cent of the men. Half of the employees with higher education have been employed less than 5 years.

At the beginning of 2003 there were 47 organisational units in Statistics Norway that varied in size from 3 to 62 employees, with an average of 20 and including all staff members and local administration offices. If these are excluded, the average is 23. The average age of the managers is 48, and the female proportion is 32.6 per cent compared with 30 the previous year. Fifteen of the managers are female.

The employees are represented by five trade unions in the Working Environment Committee and the Working Environment and Liaison Committee. The posts of board member and deputy board member are rotated among the unions. The unions participate actively in both the professional and the personnel policy work in Statistics Norway. The cooperation between the unions and the management is functioning well.

An inclusive working life

In the autumn of 2002 Statistics Norway signed Intention Agreements with the working life centres in Oslo and Hedmark, effective as of 1 January 2003. The agreements resulted from a proposal from the unions.

The sub-goals that were chosen are:

- Statistics Norway will actively work to keep absence due to illness at a continued low level
- Through an active life phase policy Statistics Norway will protect the resources that employees of all ages represent.

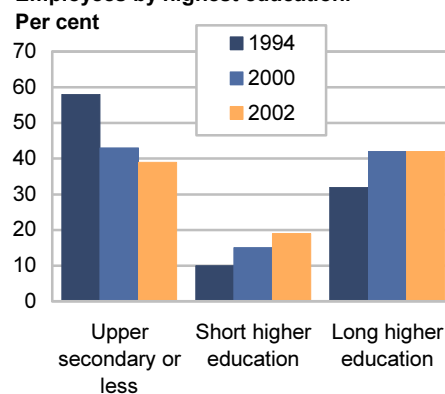
In 2002 the total absence due to illness was 5.6 per cent, whereas in 2001 it was 4.7 per cent. Most of the absence is still due to sick leave of more than 14 days.

All departments are working on health, environment and safety through for instance internal inspection rounds with each staff member and through appraisal interviews. Yearly reports are compiled with specific follow-up measures. The occupational health service is functioning as planned, and the routines for monitoring absence due to illness are being followed. The project Training for health continued in 2002.

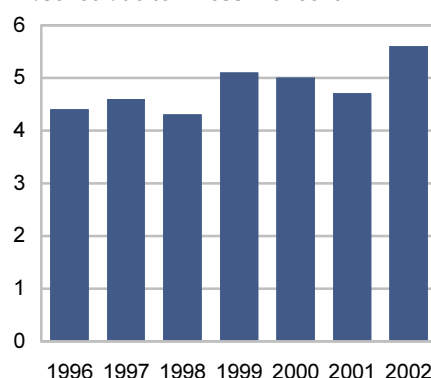
Competence development and recruiting

Seventy-three staff members were employed in 2002. Of these, 65 had higher education, and 44 had post-graduate degrees from universities. Five per cent of the employees, 49 persons, resigned in 2002 compared with 81 the previous year. In the group with higher education with period of service 0-4 years, 7 per cent resigned compared with 16 per cent the previous year. Of those who resigned, 78 per cent had higher education and 45 per cent had been employed 0-4 years.

Employees by highest education.



Absence due to illness. Per cent



In addition, 24 persons left who had been engaged for some months answering telephones and receiving forms in connection with the Population and Housing Census.

In 2002 more than NOK 6 million was spent on external and internal competence development. Half of this amount was employed through the internal course programme, and during the year 61 internal courses were offered, with 762 persons participating.

Statistics Norway has recently dedicated time to project work, and has provided staff members training in this activity. The development programme Project and teamwork ended in the spring of 2002. In autumn 2002, 18 quality pilots in systematic quality work were trained. A new programme for new employees was carried out three times during the year.

Six staff members received a doctorate degree in 2002. All in all 26 of Statistics Norway's employees have a doctorate. Eight new researchers were trained in 2002. Statistics Norway has a total of 60 employees with research competence – three researchers 0, 20 researchers I, 34 researchers II, and three researchers III.

A pilot project intended to evaluate applicants for positions as statistics advisors was carried out in 2002. There were 18 applicants, and ten were accepted. There are several requirements for this position: competence equivalent to a university degree is required, as well as competence in statistical methods and a thorough knowledge of official statistics and statistics production. Furthermore, there are requirements for insight into Statistics Norway's basic legislation and its standards and personal information protection, and also project experience, requirements for independent, efficient and critical work methods, good assessment ability, written/oral communication ability and good results/experience from several statistics areas and from international statistics work.

In the spring of 2002 a management development programme was carried out for top and middle management. The programme lasted for four months with a total of four sessions, and resulted in 11 leadership criteria being developed.

6. Report of the Director General

The year 2002 has been characterised by great activity, and we have reached several important milestones. The most important projects that were concluded in 2001 were the publishing of the Population and Housing Census 2001, the KOSTRA project that reached its operating phase, and the completion of the revision of figures for the National Accounts.

The Population and Housing Census ended with a response rate of 97 after overdue notices were sent out in January and March. This is quite an acceptable level. Results from both the housing and population parts have been published throughout 2002. In August the Central Population Register was updated with dwelling numbers from the Census. It still remains to completely update the National Register and the Register for real property, address and dwellings, but the work already finished in connection with the Census and the introduction of dwelling numbers will result in the registers being complete enough to collect data from these in the future. Accordingly, no more forms need to be sent out to the population in Norway. This concludes an important era in Norwegian official statistics, which started with the first Census in 1769.

<i>KOSTRA published for the entire country</i>	The KOSTRA project was concluded as a project in 2002 and is now operating. KOSTRA has the responsibility for electronic reporting from the municipalities to the state and statistics on the municipalities in Norway. The project was evaluated in the autumn of 2002 and has been considered successful. However, we will continue to work for several years on improvements related to operating, quality, and the use of KOSTRA figures within both the municipal sector and the health enterprises. KOSTRA has created interest internationally, and we are ahead in this area.
<i>Revision of figures concluded</i>	The revision of figures for the National Accounts ended in 2002. In recent years Statistics Norway has prepared new structure statistics for several industries. For certain service industries the changes were so extensive that this information could not be incorporated on an ongoing basis. In 1999 Statistics Norway therefore decided to carry out a revision of figures for the National Accounts. The goal was to utilise the new structure statistics and other statistics in a coordinated and concentrated effort to improve the quality of the National Accounts time series. In addition to the structure statistics, new price indices have been incorporated in the National Accounts, such as new indices for exports and imports and quality-adjusted indices for certain capital goods. The National Accounts now operate with revised consecutive time series back to 1970.
<i>Statistics on establishments</i>	In 2002 we reached our goal concerning quality in the Establishment and Enterprise Register when we for the first time published statistics on the Norwegian establishment market based on this register. We also obtained total absence due to illness statistics that cover all employees and that include both self-certified and doctor-certified absences. This enables the public debate on this subject to be based on common figures.
<i>StatBank</i>	Statistics Norway published 839 statistics in 2001, an increase of 22 from 2001. The statistics were presented on ssb.no as news articles, tables and diagrams. In addition StatBank was established – a decisive milestone in communication with our users. In StatBank the users can themselves define tables and put together statistics the way they want to. StatBank is especially useful for those who are familiar with statistics and who need to use statistics in their own processing. The Bank has been developed in cooperation with our colleagues in Sweden and Denmark, who both have a similar facility.
<i>Quality and competence</i>	Quality and competence are keywords in a knowledge-based institution such as Statistics Norway. Our long-term work on systematic quality assurance continued

in 2002 and included training 18 new quality pilots. These participate in several projects in order to ensure quality in all project-oriented development work. In addition, ten of our employees qualified as statistics advisers. Like the evaluation of researchers, this is a concept associated with a high-quality level for work with statistics. But as always, the daily training related to statistics production and analysis work is central in the development of competence. Employees' competence is the foundation of an institution such as Statistics Norway. It is therefore especially gratifying that one of our employees received His Majesty the King's Order of Merit in 2002. Research manager Torbjørn Hægeland was awarded His Majesty the King's Gold Medal for his doctorate thesis "Human Capital, Earnings and Productivity". The Gold Medal is a prize awarded to outstanding young researchers for scientific work judged at the University of Oslo. Hægeland is employed as research manager of the group Labour Market and Firm Behaviour. Six employees received their doctorates in 2002.

Variables and standards

In Strategy 2002- it is emphasised that Statistics Norway is to be an institution with an overall statistics product. The assumption is that the concepts in statistics have the same meaning across the statistics, and that the statistics are presented with a basis in common standards. Without this it is impossible to make comparisons across statistics. "Vardok", which is a documentation of all variables used in statistics, and "Stabas", the standard database, are responsible for these concepts, and in 2001 we made progress in this coordination work.

More international comparisons

International cooperation is important in Statistics Norway, and a key goal is to produce more comparable statistics. Cooperation with the EU is central, but also other international organisations such as the UN and the OECD are important players. Norway is currently represented in the EU by as many as 63 of a total of 75 structure indicators which together are to describe the EU/EEA. The IMF's very positive evaluation of central economic statistics in Norway in the autumn of 2002 was of great importance to the bureau – not least for our employees, who received positive feedback from this major international agency.

Two new departments

An organisation should always change in keeping with new tasks and new development areas. On the basis of Strategy 2002-, Statistics Norway has established two new departments – a communication department and a department for IT and data collection, both representing key areas for the further development of the institution. In addition the research department has been given a new organisational form that is more suited to its field of work. Eight groups have been established, each with its own manager and with a fixed term of years, along with a small council of experienced researchers who work across the groups as support persons and developers.

An inclusive institution

Statistics Norway has signed an agreement with the National Insurance Service on working for a more inclusive working life. This means that through an active life phase policy Statistics Norway undertakes to work actively to maintain absence due to illness at a continued low level and to safeguard the resources that employees of all ages represent. The goal is to reduce absence due to illness and to make life easier for employees who suffer from poor health. It still needs to be emphasized that absence due to illness is lower than the average for civil servants.

A job-satisfaction survey conducted at the end of 2002 shows that as many as 74 per cent of the employees are satisfied with their jobs. In order for Statistics Norway to deliver good statistics, analysis and research to the society, we are dependent on having employees who enjoy their jobs. Good management is vital for employees to enjoy their work and achieve good results. Statistics Norway has therefore conducted the first part of a management development programme for all its managers in 2002.

Svein Ingvær

7. Activity report

7.1 Strategy 2002-

In January 2002 a draft of Statistics Norway's new strategy plan, Strategy 2002-, was circulated for hearing to about 150 institutions of which around 60 have expressed their views. After revision and the Board's approval, Strategy 2002- – along with comments from the hearings – were sent to the Ministry in June 2002. Strategy 2002- can be found on the Internet and is published in Norwegian and English.

Strategy 2002- presents the guidelines and principles for official statistics that Statistics Norway is to follow. The plan also covers how the institution imagines the development of official statistics in general and Statistics Norway's activity in particular. More details of the plan and changes will be discussed in the annual activity plans.

Strategy 2002- emphasises that Statistics Norway is to be an institution with an overall product. This means:

- Adequate and coordinated statistical systems
- Efficient and coordinated data collection
- User-oriented communication
- Quality and competence

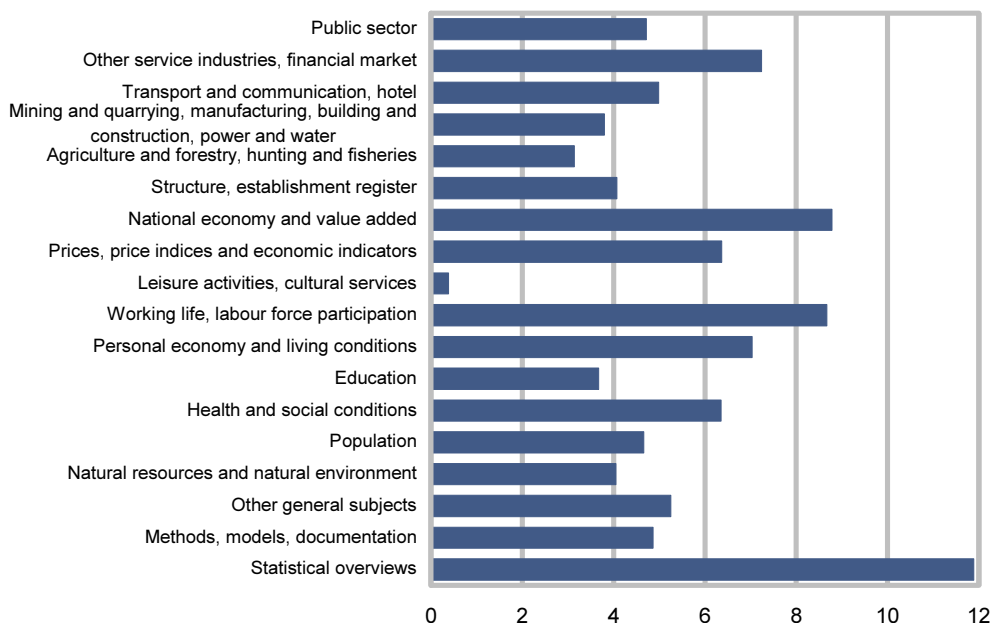
The importance of national coordination of statistics production is reflected in the strategy's proposal to establish a statistics council responsible for coordinating the production and communication of official statistics in Norway.

In connection with considering the establishment of a statistics council and the specification of its members, work has started on defining the content of the concept official statistics more specifically and drawing up quality requirements for such statistics. These requirements will form the basis of both the Bureau's and others' production and communication of official statistics.

7.2 Subject areas

In 2002 the work was distributed among the following subject areas.

Distributed man-hours on different types of activities in 2002. Per cent



7.3 Economic statistics and industry statistics

Evaluated by the IMF

In autumn 2002 the IMF was in Norway to evaluate some economic statistics in relation to the Monetary Fund's standard for the communication of statistics. Quality in the following areas was evaluated: National Accounts, balance of payments, statistics on public finances, the consumer price index, the producer price index and credit market statistics.

The examination included Statistics Norway, the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance. Statistics Norway did well in the evaluation, gaining top grades in almost all fields. A detailed report will be compiled in the spring of 2003.

Revision of figures in the National Accounts

The work on revising figures started in November 2000. In the first half of 2002 work was concentrated on a final evaluation and quality assurance of new final figures in current and fixed prices for the period 1991-1999. The figures were published on 14 June, one week later than planned. At the same time revised preliminary figures for 2000 and 2001 – based on quarterly National Accounts – were published. The most important priority areas and main results from the revision were published in articles in *Economic Analyses 3/2002* and *Economic Survey 2/2002*.

In the second half of 2002 depreciation in public administration was revised for the years 1970-1990 by using the same estimation methods as for the years after 1991. Calculations for a new grouping for consumption in households were made for the years 1970-1990. The revised figures were published in November. This means that the National Accounts have consecutive time series back to 1970.

The work with revision and harmonising quarterly figures for the years 1991-1999 proceeded throughout 2002. The revised quarterly figures will be published in the first quarter of 2003.

Deflation of the index of retail sales

Throughout 2002 it was noted that the price index of retail sales had a systematically different development from the price growth in partly comparable sub-indices in the consumer price index. This created uncertainty in the interpretation of the volume development in retail sales as a measurement for production development in the trade link and as an indicator for the development of commodity consumption in households.

As a result of this, the extent of the publishing of the volume index for retail sales was significantly reduced from October 2002, and the method for calculation of the price indices for retail sales was changed. The total volume index and the sub-indices with a new deflator were published with revised figures back to August 1999.

The new method is based on the price development of commodity groups from the consumer price index and the composition of commodities in the different industries. The composition of commodities has been acquired from the Wholesale Earnings Survey 1996, and will be updated as soon as results from an equivalent survey for 2002 are available. The revised method for calculating a price index for retail sales is founded on the same principles that form the basis for the calculation of the deflator for the retail sales component in the commodity consumption index.

Consumer price index

In connection with the project "better price measurements for the consumer price index", new surveys for financial services and mobile telephony were developed and established. Better price measures for cars should according to plan have started in 2002 – including removal of duties for car prices for incorporation in the consumer price index adjusted for changes in duties (KPI-JA) – but have been postponed until 2003.

The work of making data collection more efficient by establishing electronic collection of scanner data from the consumer price index continued from 2001. Electronic data collection is established close to full scale within the grocery trade, and contacts with other trades have been established. Work on the grocery trade has been prioritised and has produced good results, but the utilisation of the complete data material remains.

Service statistics Data collection from Internet suppliers made it possible to publish new statistics for the ICT area in June. The spreading of broadband is of great interest. Furthermore, quarterly harbour statistics, which meet the maritime EEA directive, were published in 2002, and statistics from KOSTRA – transportation and communication – were published for the first time.

The timeliness of the structure statistics was further improved. Final figures were sent to Eurostat according to the deadline laid down in the regulation of 18 months after the end of the reference year. The requirement concerning preliminary figures was also met for the first time when data for 2001 were sent during the autumn. For the first time data have also been sent to the OECD.

Foreign-going shipping has been included in the routines for structure statistics for 2001. The timeliness of the holiday survey was moreover significantly improved in 2002. Furthermore, considerable resources were allocated to implementing an improved industry standard for the travel and telecommunication industries.

The structure statistics for 2000 for the different industries were completed in the summer of 2002. This is an improvement of timeliness of between two and six weeks compared with previous publishing. In addition, for the first time preliminary figures for employment and turnover were published in November.

A price index for technical consultancy was published for the first time in 2002.

Turnover statistics by terms Due to changes in the technical solutions in the Directorate of Taxes, deliveries of the term-based turnover data from the VAT register were considerably delayed for a period. Errors in optical reading of the turnover statements delivered to the Directorate via the County Tax offices also led to considerable errors in the data. This has caused delays in the publishing of Statistics Norway's term-based turnover statistics.

An agreement has been made with the Directorate of Taxes about deliveries of turnover data 15-20 days after the respondents' deadline, which is the tenth of the second month after the expiration of the term. There are also to be more checks, so possible errors connected to optical reading will be corrected before data are sent to Statistics Norway. This may also speed up the publishing.

Establishment and enterprise demography After many years' efforts, the quality of the Establishment and Enterprise Register has reached a level that makes it possible to publish official statistics for establishment and enterprise demography across all industries. Among other things the statistics offer figures for new registrations and new establishments, departures and other types of changes in the population. Furthermore, figures for the entire population with associated economic quantities are published.

R&D and the innovation survey The main results from the R&D and innovation survey 2001 were published in 2002. The analysis project on regional research and development was also carried out.

The planning of a R&D survey with a small sample started in 2002. This is to give main results for the industries for the intervening years compared to the large two-year survey. In cooperation with other agencies work was carried out on a link to the scheme for reporting for a new tax exemption scheme for R&D.

<i>Wage statistics</i>	Quarterly statistics for wages were released 30 days earlier in 2002 than in previous years. In addition the statistics have been extended to cover the wage development for employees in the power supply sector. The annual wage statistics were expanded in 2002 to cover employees in hotel and restaurant activities and to give wage level and wage structure for all full-time employees. This will result in better coverage for both national and international requirements. However, some development work in this area remains in order to compile full-time equivalents that include part-time employees.
<i>Statistics on absence due to illness</i>	In 2002 the statistics gave full coverage by including the self-certified absences in the figures. Work is being done on reducing the production time for self-certified absences so that figures for both doctor- and self-certified absences can be published at the same time.
<i>Statistics on foreign trade transactions (UT)</i>	<p>The UT project is a joint project between Statistics Norway and the Central Bank of Norway. Statistics Norway has the main responsibility for the project and for the development of a scheme for all sectors except the financial institutions (apart from insurance), which are the Central Bank's responsibility. The project will go on throughout 2004.</p> <p>The plan is to collect data for a quarterly balance of payments rather than the currently monthly system. To meet the Central Bank's needs, some monthly estimates will still be produced. The new balance of payments will satisfy international requirements and recommendations.</p> <p>Structure statistics for service sectors and production statistics for mining and quarrying and for manufacturing for 2001 included questions that would help map these industries' imports and exports of services. This formed the basis for implementing pilot surveys of small samples in the autumn of 2002. In connection with the establishment of new shipping statistics, a plan is to be made that will satisfy the requirements for the balance of payments. Contact has been established with some large shipping companies in order to carry out a pilot project.</p> <p>Based on this inquiry, more comprehensive pilot surveys are planned for 2003. A new production routine – based on electronic reporting – will then be tested.</p> <p>The UT project must primarily be founded on data collection from the enterprises, and it is planned to base activities on electronic data collection. Work on assessing a scheme for extracting data from the enterprises' accounting systems has started.</p> <p>When the foreign currency statistics are concluded, the overview of the population of enterprises that have economic relations with countries abroad will be lost. A key task is therefore to establish a system that offers a good overview of this population. This work has started, and links and analyses of different registers have been carried out (foreign exchange statistics, the Establishment and Enterprise Register etc.). To meet the control authorities' needs, the Directorate of Customs and Excise has started work on establishing an alternative and simplified register on foreign transactions based on registrations in banks. Access to such a register may largely solve the population problem, and by using data from such a register the response burden for industry may be reduced.</p>
<i>Environment statistics</i>	<p>"Natural Resources and Environment" was published in a shorter version in 2002. The focus was on the main results, and the publication has been well received.</p> <p>Statistics from KOSTRA for water, drainage, household waste, physical planning, cultural monuments, nature and local environment were published for the first time.</p>

Grouped figures for the National Accounts and environment 1991-2000 (NOREEA) and environment protection investments in "end-of-pipe" in mining and quarrying and in manufacturing were published for the first time in this form, and the plan is for these to become regular, ongoing statistics.

The model for estimating emissions to the air was changed in 2002. The first estimates using the new model were published in February 2003. Emission figures related to heating with wood are the most uncertain ones we have, and in the autumn of 2002 an extensive survey was carried out in Oslo in order to acquire data that may contribute to reducing the uncertainty of the emission calculations.

Energy statistics Regular statistics from Statistics Norway contribute to illustrating the development in the electricity market. This area is covered by statistics on the water levels in the reservoirs, monthly statistics on production, consumption, imports/exports of electricity and quarterly price statistics for electricity.

In 2002, about 1 000 manufacturing establishments received fact sheets on energy use. An evaluation of domestic use of natural gas has also been made, including how this is to be covered in the statistical system. A plan for publishing annual key figures and measures to improve the data basis has also been proposed.

Based on grouping of data from the National Accounts and the energy accounts, energy indicators for industries have been compiled, along with an analysis of the development in energy use in relation to gross product and employment from 1991 to 2000.

Changes in agriculture statistics As in a number of European countries, Norwegian agriculture statistics are currently in a process of extensive change in order to adjust to new needs, in particular in relation to the environment, development in rural districts and agriculture households' living conditions and economy. Attempts are being made to solve this challenge by making existing routines more efficient and by a more intensive use of administrative data sources and external financing. In 2002 this led to more extensive statistics on income, assets and taxes, and new statistics that link agriculture property, dwellings and buildings. The annual agriculture survey with theme rotation is used actively to map areas where there are shortcomings in administrative sources. In 2002 it started to address topics such as investments and environment adjustments. Based on a postal special survey, statistics on pesticides could be presented for the first time.

7.4 Social statistics

Population and Housing Census and Dwelling Address Project The Housing Census was carried out according to plan on 3 November 2001, with two reminders in January and March. The response rate was about 97. More than 210 000 families or 10 per cent of the population answered via the Internet. Preliminary figures were published on 22 April, and final figures from the housing part on 2 September 2002. The first results from the Population Census, which are based on register data, were published in October 2002.

The main phase of the dwelling address project has been completed. In August 2002 *The central population register* was updated with dwelling numbers collected from the census.

The work that remains to be done is connected to quality. It has been obvious throughout that it would not be possible to upgrade the registers one hundred per cent during the first phase. There are numerous components, and the possibility for errors is definitely present. The final quality work will be carried out in two steps, with a thorough quality analysis as a basis. Phase 1 covers the establishment of addresses in cooperation with the municipalities, contact with house owners who have not distributed address labels with dwelling numbers, and dispatch of new dwelling numbers to the dwellings that are missing. For most municipalities this

work was completed at the turn of the year 2002/2003. Oslo may need large parts of 2003 to complete this work. Phase 2, the dispatch of forms to those who lack a complete address in the population register, will have to be done twice in 2003. For the country (excluding Oslo) this will take place in March, and for Oslo in November.

<i>Time-use survey</i>	The main results from the time-use survey 2000/2001 were published in May 2002. The data file was made available for researchers via the Norwegian Social Science Data Services in June. Several analyses based on the time-use survey were presented as articles in <i>Samfunnsspeilet</i> in September.
<i>Social reporting and development of income indicators</i>	In 2001 Statistics Norway began a cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs on a scheme for social reporting for certain groups of social security recipients (those receiving old-age, disability and contractual pensions, and single parents and the long-term sick). In 2002 the agreement was expanded to include social welfare recipients. Statistics Norway has also established annual statistics that present various income indicators for the mentioned groups. The statistics will gradually be extended to include groups such as the long-term unemployed, families with children, immigrants etc., and will also focus on low-income indicators (see Storting report no. 6, 2002-2003 Plan against poverty). The work also constitutes part of the international reporting of structure indicators and the establishment of Statistics on Income and Living Condition.
<i>Reading comprehension survey</i>	Statistics Norway is responsible for the data collection in the new reading comprehension survey. The centre for reading research at the Stavanger College is in charge of the professional coordination. Through personal interviews the survey intends to map adults' education, work experience and ICT skills. The survey is part of an international research programme, and is being conducted in more than 12 countries. In 2001 a test survey was conducted with more than 1000 participants, and in January 2003 the real survey started, and more than 5 000 Norwegians were interviewed.
<i>Key data for general practitioners' services</i>	In 2001 Statistics Norway was commissioned by the Ministry of Social Affairs to be in charge of a project for the collection of data from general practitioners. The intention of the project was to develop methods for collecting data from electronic patient records and to conduct a pilot collection of data to provide the basis for considering a possible national system for collection of activity data. This project may be continued and result in regular statistics.
<i>Management survey</i>	Data from the management survey were released in December 2002. The survey was conducted on commission for the Power and Democracy Project, and the interview survey was a great success, involving personal interviews with more than 87 per cent of a sample of Norwegian top managers. This is a response rate that is remarkably high for a voluntary survey, even considered internationally. The main results from the survey were published in the book <i>Norwegian Power Elites</i> (Gulbrandsen et al 2002).

7.5 Statistics for the public sector – KOSTRA

KOSTRA was completed as a project on 1 July 2002, and is now fully operating. From the accounting year 2001 all municipalities and county authorities participate in KOSTRA. Electronic reporting is functioning well, and the new publishing means considerably improved timeliness and extended content. KOSTRA has been well received both in the municipalities and in the press. KOSTRA was evaluated in the autumn of 2002; all in all the report is good but also indicated areas to be further developed.

In 2002 KOSTRA has participated in Statistics Norway's general quality work. Throughout the year, work has been done on improving and increasing the efficiency of the data reception and the internal production systems. In addition,

the new revision systems are being developed in order to establish more efficient routines and more accurate figure checks. This work will continue in the years to come.

The change to XML technology for reporting continues, and all county authorities and 173 municipalities are using XML for 2002.

Hospital statistics The State assumed the responsibility for the special health services from the county authorities on 1 January 2002, and the activities were at the same time converted to enterprises. This will have consequences for the development of statistics on this area. The largest change is that the new health enterprises/regional health enterprises keep accounts according to the Norwegian Accounting Act and the result-oriented principle.

The special health services used to be part of the KOSTRA system. Efforts have been made to continue the statistics development achieved through KOSTRA after the reorganisation. In the new statistics system for the health enterprises, Statistics Norway is planning to continue with KOSTRA's solutions and intentions. All reporting will be done electronically, and as far as possible electronic file extractions will be made from existing data systems.

In addition to the annual accounts from the health enterprises, Statistics Norway also needs quarterly accounting data. This information is important for the National Accounts, and because the information is to be compiled for the EU as part of the EU's action plan for statistics. To avoid double reporting from the health enterprises, we have asked the Ministry of Health to grant us access to the monthly accounting data the Ministry has collected. This has not been agreed, so Statistics Norway must collect accounting data directly from the health enterprises, even though this will involve a certain degree of double reporting.

7.6 Research activities

Statistics Norway's analysis tools were also updated and further developed in 2002. The tools are made available for use in the ministries or in commissions for others, including the Storting. The work on the preparation of economic and social reports for the public continues as in previous years. All research and analysis reports are available free of charge on Statistics Norway's web site.

Analyses of tax, distribution and consumer behaviour The use of the tax model LOTTE has been very extensive in 2002. The model has been used by the Skauge Committee (a committee studying Norwegian taxation), and three annexes have been delivered to the report. The model KONSUM, a micro-based model for household consumption, has been expanded to include about 50 consumer goods. A doctorate on the demand for tobacco goods was completed in the autumn of 2002.

Energy and environmental economic analyses A proposal has been put forward in the energy market for introducing a green certificate scheme to aid the introduction of renewable energy sources. Green certificates imply a purchase obligation for certificates that producers of green energy are given by public authorities. A theoretical study shows that up to a certain proportion of earlier producers in the market will pay for the entire scheme, while the consumer will get a lower price for energy including the certificate. The households' substitution possibilities between various energy carriers have been analysed, and a study of various welfare and distribution effects of increased consumer taxes on electricity has been carried out. Macro-model studies of the relation between growth and environment show that continued economic growth may reduce some local emissions, whereas emissions of greenhouse gases and some fossil-related local emissions will increase in the next decades. Decomposition of greenhouse gas emissions in the 1990s showed that considered in isolation the climate taxes have had little effect on the reduction of emission per produced unit compared to the general changes in energy intensity and energy composition.

Analyses of economic cycles and macro models

The work on regular monitoring of economic cycles continued. Efforts have been made to reveal the possible importance of future expectations in price formation. Extensive documentation of the macro-econometric model MODAG was completed. Work was started on an analysis of conditions related to the degree of centralisation of wage formation and on modelling financial variables based on a portfolio perspective. Studies have also been conducted on long-term connections between exchange rates and the price and interest differences in foreign countries. In addition, a method project in econometrics was carried out.

Analyses of the labour market and establishment behaviour

Studies of profits from education and work experience continued in 2002, with particular focus on how this contributes to differences in income. Work associated with modelling job offers was maintained, with both methodological and empirical studies. Economic analyses of establishment behaviour were completed, with especial focus on establishment heterogeneity.

7.7 Work on quality and security

Systematic quality work

Statistics Norway has worked systematically to improve quality in recent years. These efforts have first and foremost been focused on spreading an active attitude towards quality in all products and all areas, followed by work on methods. Systematic quality work is to be pursued continuously, and includes all employees. The long-term goal is to integrate quality principles in all activities and projects.

Quality training has represented an important part of Statistics Norway's training in project and teamwork, and in the autumn of 2002 courses were held for internal quality pilots. Statistics Norway currently has 30 quality pilots who are to participate in projects.

The key to quality improvements lies in the study of and the changes in processes. KOSTRA may be mentioned as one area where systematic work is a priority. Existing processes must be quality assured while at the same time new ones are developed. Another important component of quality work is documenting the quality of the statistics, for example as prescribed by EU regulations.

Statistical standards

During 2002 a relatively extensive encoding of the units has been carried out in the Establishment and Enterprise Register and in the Central Coordinating Register of Legal Entities in cooperation with Operation 2002. This constitutes a revision of Standard Industrial Classification. An estimated 160 000 units have changed/adjusted the industry code, and most of the encoding work has been done without collecting additional information from the units.

A new standard classification of distribution by socio-economic status is being prepared. Testing of the model in the data from the Labour Force Survey and the Living Condition Survey has followed the plan, and the work will be completed along with recommendations in 2003. The project is being followed by an external group of researchers. In 2002 the Standard Industrial Classification went through a general updating, and a new version was prepared.

Statistics Norway's work on standards in 2002 is presented in a special report: "Status of work on standards in Statistics Norway per 31 December 2002".

Metadata systems

There is a need for an overall view of and a system for metadata/documentation. Work is being done on several metadata systems that must gradually be linked. Documentation in the form of "About the Statistics" (text file) is available for most of the statistics. Some of this information can also be found in the product register. In addition, development work continues on Datadok (database for technical documentation of Statistics Norway's archive files), Vardok (database that documents variables) and Stabas (database for updating and making standard classifications available). StatBank will gradually collect metadata from several of these systems.

Cooperation with Statistics Denmark on Stabas continued in 2002. In July production started on the pilot system for both the alteration application – used to edit the standards – and the Intranet edition that is used for inquiries. Stabas has been presented internationally, and we have received several inquiries about the database.

A pilot system of Vardok started production in July 2002, and during the autumn the variables that were delivered to the Population and Housing Census were documented in the system. In 2003 the functionality in Vardok will be further developed in cooperation with users, and work will be done on establishing connections to Stabas and StatBank. Vardok has already established connections to Datadok and About the Statistics.

Important work is also being done with metadata related to the generation of forms in the auspices of the AltInn project.

Adjustment to the Norwegian Personal Data Act

The internal data documentation tool has been updated, and systematic work on data documentation has been carried out to satisfy the requirements for internal control laid down in section 14 of the Personal Data Act. The information letter sent before the survey has been revised in line with the new rules. Statistics Norway has also appointed a delegate for the protection of privacy who is to ensure that personal information is handled in compliance with the prevailing regulations. The arrangement is effective from 1 January 2003.

Security and emergency preparedness

Continuous work is being done on safety and security, and new routines in connection with the Personal Data Act and the discontinuation of frame concession were put into use in 2002. The new law and the appointment of a personal protection delegate entail changed and faster routines in connection with reports on the handling of personal information as the Data Inspectorate is no longer involved in processing such cases.

The different safety and security elements – physical safety, personal safety and security and information security – are to a greater degree put in a total context. Statistics Norway has drawn up a "superior" emergency preparedness plan in cooperation with system of the Directorate for Civil Defence and Emergency Planning. This is based on the Ministry of Finance's plan, and mainly concentrates on action in connection with war or war-like situations.

Compliance with the economy regulations

Statistics Norway has completed the first part of an extensive project on finance management and a GAP analysis. During this work, routines were updated and prepared for most of the tasks/processes within the economic area. The routines were revised and updated at certain intervals to ensure that they were in accordance with existing provisions in the economy regulations at all times.

In addition to having good and updated routines, a prerequisite for complying with the economy regulations is to have employees with adequate competence. Statistics Norway has worked on this systematically for the last two years.

An electronic archive

Statistics Norway has purchased a system for administrative procedures and archives. A test project was carried out the first half-year, and the choice was taken in the autumn of 2002. The system will be introduced during 2003 -2004.

The Public Record Office has inspected our paper archives. The inspection has resulted in some clearance work and better organisation of materials that are to be retained. A new system for electronic registration of older material has also been purchased.

IT infrastructure

Work on the IT infrastructure has focused on two areas in 2002. One is establishing a safe zone to enable us to be abreast of the requirements in the Personal Data Act

regarding the handling of sensitive information. The second is to improve the possibility for distance work and mobile connections by providing safe connections from thin client terminals via the Internet to Statistics Norway.

Administrative systems Preparations have been made to enable Statistics Norway to choose another salary payment system during 2004 than that of the government services. The latter will only provide services to the ministries. Various alternatives have been examined, and possible solutions may result in a change in the salary and personnel system.

In the autumn of 2002 Statistics Norway started to use a competence module for its salary and personnel system. In December 2002 the time registration system was changed to WinTid.

Buildings Office premises in Oslo are at Kongens gate 6 and 7. The premises are adequate, but do not offer much leeway.

In Kongsvinger Statistics Norway rents Oterveien 23. This building was built for the Bureau, but has for a long time been too small to cover its needs. Temporary work places have been established in pre-fabricated constructions. However, there are plans for putting up an annex to the building.

7.8 Electronic reporting from industry – relationship with the respondents

In 2002 efforts have been made to enable data to be collected electronically from industry. The work has been coordinated through the IDUN project (Information and data exchange with industry). Work has also been done on preparing to receive reports on the Internet and via administrative systems.

The AltInn (all-in) project The AltInn project came as far as signing a contract in 2002. Statistics Norway has devoted great efforts to a study of the use of electronic forms. IDUN's own web portal was significantly improved, and several surveys were included in the solution in the past year. A database with metadata has also been established which should make form generation more efficient.

Statistics Norway's goal is to reduce the response burden for industry. Electronic data collection is an attempt to reach this goal. The burden should lessen if the Bureau can utilise previously collected data instead of repeating the collection. Another way of attaining the goal is to collect data from industry's own systems, for instance the accounting, wage/salary and personnel systems. In 2002 contact was made with software companies in order to establish file extractions from their systems. This also constitutes an important element in the AltInn solution.

SLN solution The SLN solution (system for taxation of business) was established by the Directorate of Taxes as early as in 1997. Statistics Norway, the Central Register and the Directorate of Taxes are cooperating on the establishment of a new receiving system, and this has been well received by industry. This has reduced the response burden from Statistics Norway vis-à-vis industry through the re-use of the data the Directorate of Taxes receives electronically.

The new complete statistics on absence due to illness have been compiled to enable specific figures for member establishments in the employer's organisation to be provided. The organisations thus avoid collecting data from their members. In addition, data from these statistics can replace the establishments' reporting of absence due to illness to the social security administration for establishments that enter into a contract on an inclusive working life. This is the case for all doctor-certified absences. For self-certified absences it will apply to the establishments that are included in Statistics Norway's sample and that give permission for data to be transferred to the social security administration.

Simplified forms Even though electronic data collection will be more and more important in the future, forms will still be used. Work is being done on simplifying the forms, making the questions clear, filling in information before dispatch, and trying to adapt the forms to the various respondents. Much of the same kind of work is being carried out in the electronic world, where the possibilities for adapting the forms are significantly greater.

Statistics Norway is sending forms to 125 000 industry units which represent about one-third of all the units in the country. Statistics Norway's response burden constitutes barely 2 per cent of the state's total response burden. The burden is somewhat unevenly distributed, since large units are burdened more than small ones. To distribute the burden among various enterprises and establishments, the samples are rotated at regular intervals.

7.9 Availability for users

Implementing electronic services in cooperation with users is a key aspect of Statistics Norway's activity and plans. This will be achieved through the development of both data collection and electronic exchange (IDUN and KOSTRA projects), through the further development of Internet communication, and through the development of databases on Statistics Norway's web site.

ssb.no The Internet is the main channel for disseminating official statistics and research results. In recent years Statistics Norway has put much effort into the further development of the web service in order to satisfy the users' needs. When it comes to inquiries to the library and other employees, we see that the user groups collect information from *ssb.no*, and only contact us when they have need for additional information or assessments. StatBank was established on 1 July 2002 and enables users themselves to choose statistics and how they want them to be set out. Users can choose from various statistical areas from the same database. This will mean a lot to expert users, and will make *ssb.no* a more comprehensive offer. Like other information found on *ssb.no*, the service is provided in both Norwegian and English.

In addition to the presentation of statistics and analyses, we see that there is a need for courses on statistics and their use among our users. Courses of current interest include courses related to the use of our statistics, courses on statistical methods, and courses on the National Accounts and other different statistics. Statistics Norway has therefore started to develop courses and seminars for external users. The first test course on the use of StatBank was held in December 2002.

7.10 International cooperation

Statistical cooperation International statistical cooperation is a fundamental element in most statistical areas, through the development of common standards and definitions and through demands for data deliveries. The EEA cooperation has been of increasing importance with regard to formal requirements for data deliveries and the development of Norwegian statistics.

In 2002 considerable emphasis was put on being up-to-date in relation to EU's legislative acts, which are incorporated in the EEA agreement. Furthermore, high priority was given to delivering data to EU's structure indicators. Finally, work on improving the short-term statistics through a special action plan has been carefully monitored. Extra resources for international cooperation made it possible to start more projects with the intention of complying with existing and new demands.

International cooperation requires active participation in international fora. In 2002 Statistics Norway participated in a total of 337 meetings against 355 in 2001, and was represented at 131 meetings in connection with European statistics work compared with 119 in 2001.

Work has been carried out on routines to monitor and make more efficient deliveries of data to international organisations. This work will be intensified in 2003, especially by the use of StatBank. Efforts in 2002 also included making international statistics more visible on the web site. This work will continue in 2003.

Since its start in 1994, the EEA cooperation has resulted in a considerable change and development in Norwegian statistics, especially with the introduction of binding legislative acts. When the EEA agreement was entered into, there were only 26 such acts that affected statistical cooperation. At the end of 2002 this cooperation comprised more than one hundred after 22 new ones were formally adopted during the year. In addition, a number of somewhat demanding legislative acts are about to be included in the EEA agreement.

Norway is represented by 63 of a total of 75 structure indicators, which have been presented as an annex to the EU commission's report to the summit meeting in the spring of 2003. Five of the remaining indicators are not considered relevant to Norway, four are dependent on other Norwegian data deliverers, while Statistics Norway has problems with delivering and approving figures for only three indicators. All in all this represents good coverage, also in relation to other countries. A follow-up of this work, including a constant development in new indicators, will be given high priority in 2003.

Statistics Norway has also been involved in several EU-financed projects in 2002, both through the fifth frame programme for research and development and in cooperation with Eurostat. This work offers valuable competence and important contacts, and continued participation in such projects is also planned for the sixth frame programme.

The ECE cooperation, which comprises all countries in Europe and countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia and Japan, has in recent years put great emphasis on coordinating the statistical cooperation that takes place in different organisations. In 2002 importance was attached to reaching better solutions for sending data to different organisations in order to reduce the burden and prevent duplication of work.

On a Nordic level cooperation takes place in contact networks for both administrative and statistical areas, and there are 43 such networks. The composition of contact networks is constantly evaluated, and in 2002 the contact network for manufacturing statistics was discontinued and replaced by two new ones – one for short-term statistics and one for structure statistics. Contact networks for the balance of payments, for science and research, and for access to micro-data were also established.

Development work

A two-year project for NORAD on policy data for social sectors has now been documented in "Basic Social Policy Data". The project is to be followed up with statistics on poor, small farmers and on the informal sector of cities – with two pilot projects in Malawi and Uganda respectively.

Statistics Norway sent long-term consultants to new projects in 2002, a Norwegian project in Uganda and a Scandinavian project in Mozambique. The Bureau has cooperated with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBoS) in order to improve agriculture statistics in the country. A project on the exchange of Peace Corps participants has also started, initially by recruiting a candidate who will go to the UBoS in 2003 to begin planning the cooperation with the statistical institutions in Malawi and Nicaragua.