

Contents

1. Statistics Norway's organisation	2
2. Report of the Board of Directors.....	4
3. Budget and accounts	7
4. Statistics on statistics.....	12
5. Working in Statistics Norway	18
6. Report of the Director General	22
7. Activity report	24
7.1 Electronic reporting from trade and industry	24
7.2 Economic statistics and industry statistics.....	25
7.3 Environmental statistics	27
7.4 Statistics for the public sector.....	27
7.5 Social statistics	28
7.6 Population and housing census.....	29
7.7 Research activities	29
7.8 Availability for users.....	31
7.9 International cooperation	31
7.10 Data security and quality assurance.....	31

1. Statistics Norway's organisation

Statistics Norway's senior management consists of the Director General and the directors of the seven departments.

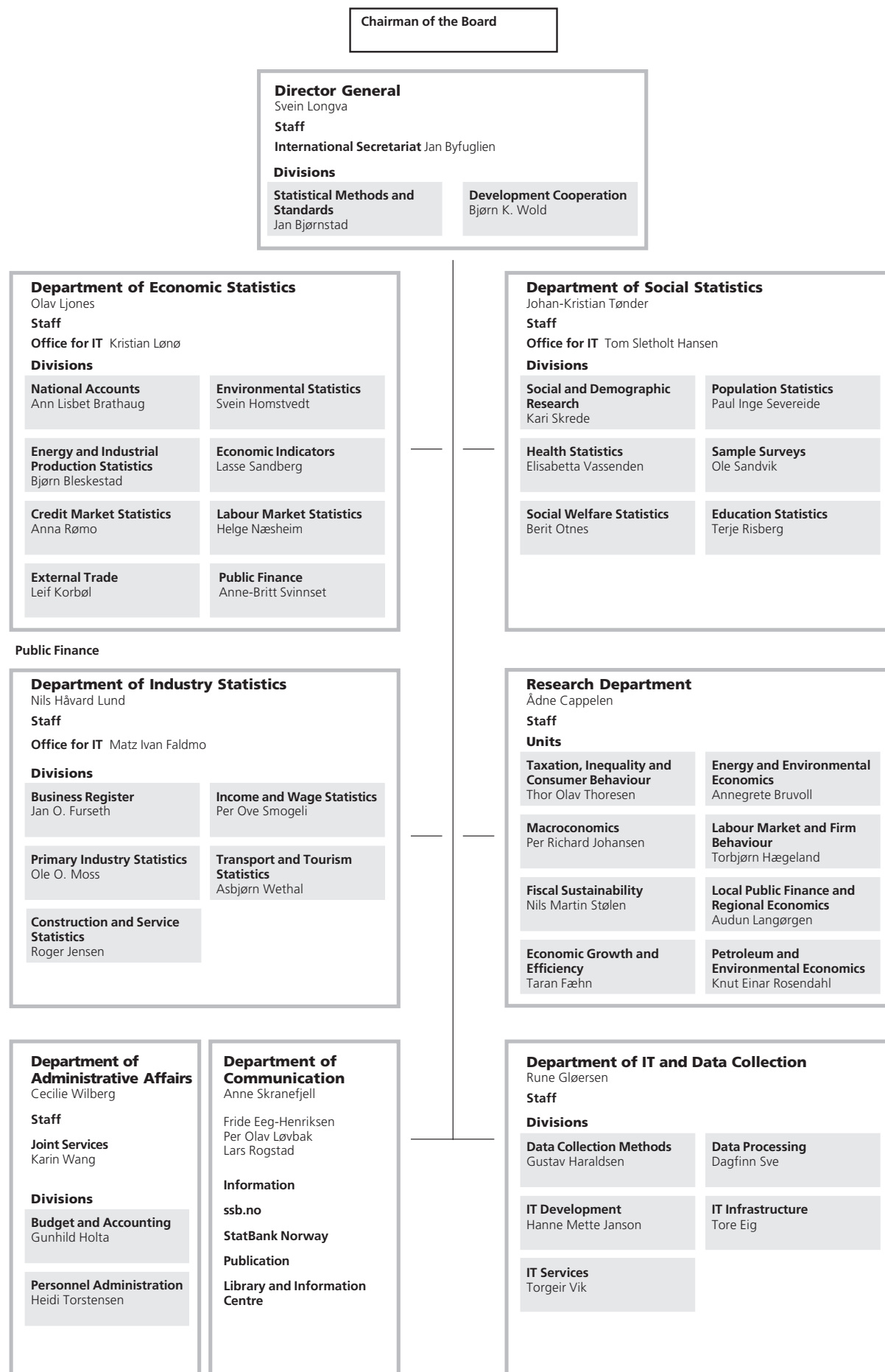
The organisation comprises three statistics departments (economic statistics, social statistics and industry statistics), the research department, the department of communication, the department of administrative affairs and the department of IT and data collection.

The Division for Public Finance and Credit Market Statistics was split into two divisions in 2003; the Division for Credit Market Statistics and the Division for Public Finance, which houses the KOSTRA (Municipality-State-Reporting) administration. From now on, the production of population census statistics based on public registers will be a permanent task of the Division for Population Statistics. A new division for education statistics has been established – the Division for Education Statistics.

The two new departments that were established at the beginning of 2003 have now found their place. The Department of IT and Data Collection has been split into five divisions, and the Department of Communication has a matrix organisation with three managers at division level with responsibility for ten production teams.

Since 1975, Statistics Norway has been physically divided between Oslo and Kongsvinger as a result of the Storting's policy to decentralise government institutions. Statistics Norway has 930 employees, 545 in Oslo and 385 in Kongsvinger. 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 conferences, a Bureau car, the Norwegian State Railway and the bus service ensure daily contact between the employees.

Per 1 January 2004



2. Report of the Board of Directors

The comprehensive use of Statistics Norway's statistics and analyses, extensive media coverage and the high level of public confidence in Statistics Norway, are all proof that Statistics Norway is not only visible in society but also has an effect on developments in society. This was also the case in 2003, which was a good year for Statistics Norway.

Statistics Norway in society

Statistics Norway is visible in society. The phrases " ... according to figures from Statistics Norway" and "Source: Statistics Norway" are common in newspapers, television and radio. In 2003, statistics from Statistics Norway were quoted more than 5 300 times in Norwegian newspapers on the Internet, compared with 4 400 in 2002. In addition, there were 38 million hits on our website, an increase from 30 million in the previous year.

In an international perspective, Statistics Norway's website ssb.no is in the forefront when it comes to size, technical solutions, layout and presentation. The Board is proud that the website won two awards in 2003. In an evaluation of public sector websites carried out by norge.no/Vestlandsforskning/Statskonsult, ssb.no was the only website to achieve six stars out of six. In addition, ssb.no was voted best public sector website by Statskonsult and Kommunal rapport.

With such a comprehensive website and multi-faceted statistics system, there is an ongoing need for development to ensure that Statistics Norway's statistics are available to as many users as possible. Statistics Norway's theme pages (in Norwegian only) on ssb.no present in-depth information on a range of subjects in a simple but comprehensive way. Examples of such theme pages are gender equality, energy, hospitals, culture and the media.

StatBank Norway is also important in the dissemination of statistics to our users, and 2003 was the first full year of operation for the data bank. StatBank Norway lets you define your own tables and combine statistics according to your needs. It received a warm welcome from the users, and in the longer run all the statistics from Statistics Norway will be published here.

The public has great confidence in Statistics Norway. Among those who have heard about Statistics Norway, 79 per cent have confidence in us, according to a survey carried out by the opinion poll company MMI in November 2003. This result is almost the same as previous surveys and places Statistics Norway in the lead with regard to confidence in public institutions.

It is not every day that Statistics Norway conquers new land in the production of statistics. However in 2003 Statistics Norway was represented in a work group that has proposed that the Statistics Act should also apply to Svalbard. The aim is to achieve an identical statistical description of Svalbard and the mainland both with regard to size and coverage. 2003 also saw Statistics Norway entering into agreements with the Sámediggi (the Sámi parliament) on the production of statistics on Sámi areas and Sámi activities.

Statistics council

In line with the strategy plan Strategy 2002, work has been carried out to set up a statistics council with the objective of being a cooperative forum for Norwegian state institutions who produce official statistics. Around 20 state institutions held preparatory meetings in 2003 and agreed to establish the council from 1 January 2004. The statistics council will act as an advisory body for Statistics Norway and other producers of official statistics. The Board will be following the council's work closely and hopes that it will make a positive contribution to coordinating the production and dissemination of official statistics and devise guidelines with regard to the autonomy, quality, confidentiality and response burden of official statistics.

Response burden Statistics Norway received positive feedback on its strategy plan from the Government. The Government placed particular focus on the response burden for trade and industry and is particularly interested in measures to reduce the time spent on surveys from state institutions. Statistics Norway made considerable efforts in this area in 2003, the most important of which was to speed up the transfer to electronic data collection. The electronic reporting system AltInn and the collaboration with the Brønnøysund Register Centre and the Directorate of Taxes is a very important step in the right direction. The first stage of the implementation of AltInn was completed at the end of the year and will be in full operation by spring 2004. The pilot project included the wage statistics and the sickness absence statistics. The conversion of surveys to electronic format is well underway and will be completed by 1 July 2004. The Board places great emphasis on Statistics Norway's work to develop holistic electronic solutions rather than 'paper questionnaires on screen'. We are also developing solutions for direct data collection from company data systems, a process that will render electronic and printed forms redundant. There is a strong focus on the collection of data linked to the companies' own salary and personnel systems.

The Board sees the response burden as a complete whole. For instance, Statistics Norway is currently responsible for the sickness absence statistics, statistics with an extensive response burden. Previously, however, a far more comprehensive form was submitted to the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry, the Ministry of Labour and Government Administration, and others. The overall response burden has therefore been reduced.

Adequate information reduces the response burden. At the beginning of 2003 Statistics Norway sent out a letter to Norwegian businesses with information on which surveys they would be asked to take part in during the year. This initiative was well received and the Board is content that this will become a permanent annual routine.

Sound financial management Statistics Norway achieved an acceptable financial result in 2003, with a negative operating result of NOK 3 million and NOK 11.2 million brought forward to 2004. This is despite a mid-year cut in government funding of NOK 5 million. Wage costs were lower than budget, while operating expenditures were lower due to delays in payments and cost reductions.

The Board is satisfied with the administration's focus on financial management and the continuous efforts to improve control and reporting routines.

Punctuality and timeliness Ensuring that statistics are released on time is paramount to Statistics Norway. In order to meet users' needs for planning and to avoid any doubt about our independent role, our statistics must be released on time. There were 831 statistics releases in 2003. The punctuality was good, with 92 per cent of the statistics being released at the previously announced time. This is the highest punctuality rate Statistics Norway has had since the advance release calendar, which gives 4 months notice of releases, was set up in 1997.

If our statistics are to be of any use to people they must be as relevant and up-to-date as possible. The Board is pleased with the timeliness of the statistics, especially the monthly and quarterly statistics, issued 3.9 and 8.6 weeks after the reference period respectively.

Statistics Norway's research Pensions, poverty, economic trends, monetary policy, the fiscal rule and energy resources are keywords for the ongoing societal debate. Statistics Norway is an important contributor in these debates and many more, both when it comes to describing facts and presenting research and analyses that form a basis for knowledge and policy decisions. Statistics Norway's research shall be leading in selected areas in Norway. In 2003 our researchers presented analyses on the demographic uncertainty linked to a new pension scheme and the macroeconomic effects of changes

in the current scheme, in addition to a regional analysis of poverty and the development of the Nordic energy market.

Closeness to the statistics ensures a channel of feedback from the researchers to the statisticians. This combination of research and statistics is important if Statistics Norway is to fulfil its role as the central office for the collection, production and dissemination of official statistics.

Statistics on foreign transactions

The launch of a new statistics on foreign transactions (UT) was one of the biggest and most important events in 2003. The new statistics, which will be in operation from 2005, offers an overview of financial transactions between Norway and other countries. The statistics will be produced on an annual, quarterly and monthly basis and will primarily serve as base data for the Balance of Payments.

The new system will be in place by the end of 2004, when Norges Bank's currency statistics will cease to exist. Norges Bank will continue to be responsible for the statistics on financial institutions (including banks).

Making a difference

The Board is content that most of the goals for 2003 were achieved. The extensive use of Statistics Norway's statistics and analyses, media coverage and the high level of confidence among the public, are all proof that Statistics Norway is not only visible in society but that we make a difference. This could not have been accomplished without Statistics Norway's competent employees. The Board therefore wishes to thank all staff members for their contribution in 2003.

On 1 July 2003, Hege Torp was appointed Chairman of the Board, replacing Steinar Stokke. Eva Hildrum was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Board and Einar Hope was appointed member of the Board. At the end of 2003, Ingrid Willoch left the Board after 10 years and was replaced by Ida Helliesen.

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 of Research Hege Torp, Chairman of the Board



Deputy Secretary Eva Hildrum, Vice Chair



Professor Rune Sørensen



Former editor Thor Bjarne Bore



Senior Executive Officer Hanne Marit Svensrud



Professor Einar Hope



Finance Director Ida Helliesen

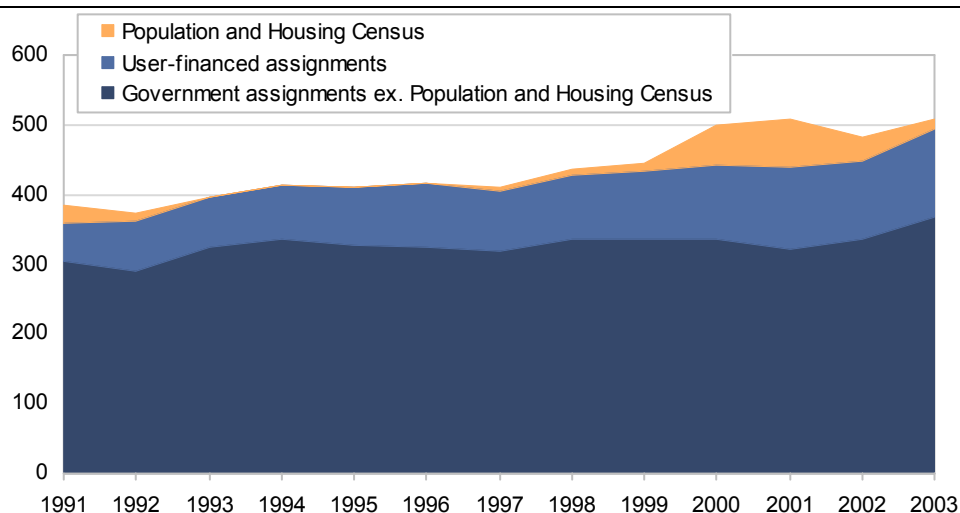
Clockwise from top left: Bjørn Henrichsen, Rune Sørensen, Hege Torp, Einar Hope and Ida Helliesen. Clockwise from bottom left: Hanne Marit Svensrud, Eva Hildrum and Ingrid Willoch.



3. Budget and accounts

The activity level and income from user-financed assignments were higher in 2003 than in the previous year. Statistics Norway had a negative operating result of NOK 3 million, about NOK 4 million lower than budget. NOK 11.2 million was brought forward to 2004.

Historical accounts. Revenues 1991-2003, NOK million in 2003.



The figure shows a slight increase in inflation-adjusted revenues from government assignments and a larger increase for user-financed assignments. The Population and Housing Census was completed in 2003, and there will only be minor follow-up tasks in 2004.

A good year for Statistics Norway

Government appropriations increased from NOK 349.5 million in 2002 to NOK 369.3 million due to earmarked appropriations to large projects and compensation for price and wage growth. Funding to the Population and Housing Census was reduced considerably. Government appropriations were cut by NOK 5.6 million in 2003 due to Statistics Norway's share of general cuts in operations (NOK 0.6 million) and the Storting's decision to cut NOK 5 million in connection with the Revised National Budget. The revised Government funding was therefore NOK 363.7 million.

The accounts for 2003 show a considerable increase in revenues from user-financed assignments, from NOK 108.4 million in 2002 to NOK 127.5 million in 2003. Among other things, this increase is a result of an assignment from the Ministry of Education and Research regarding an adult literacy survey, which alone amounted to NOK 14.5 million in 2003.

Ministries and other state institutions are the main customers, and contributed almost 66 per cent of user-financed revenues. The proportion financed by the Research Council of Norway was 11 per cent.

Increased activity

The expenditure side of the accounts shows that total wage costs increased by NOK 25.2 million from 2002, due to an increase in staff and activities, particularly user-financed assignments.

Reduced operating expenditures

Total operating expenditures were reduced compared with 2002, from NOK 177 million to NOK 165.8 million. This decrease is a result of reduced costs for consultancy services in connection with the Population and Housing Census (costs related to the Residence Address Project) and purchases of machines/fixtures and equipment.

Operating result and transfers to 2004

Statistics Norway had a negative operating result of NOK 3 million in 2003, mainly due to the mid-year cut in government funding. Taking NOK 14.2 million

brought forward from 2002 into account, the amount brought forward to 2004 is estimated at NOK 11.2 million.

Lower sales revenues and compulsory fines

Revenues from the sale of publications and income from compulsory fines are not included in Statistics Norway's accounts, as these revenues are credited centrally to the state accounts. Sales revenues amounted to a total of NOK 2.2 million for 2003, a decline of NOK 0.9 million from 2002. Revenues from compulsory fines fell from NOK 6.8 million in 2002 to 6.4 million in 2003.

Increased investments

In 2003, the amount spent on major acquisitions was NOK 9.6 million, a decline of NOK 2.8 million from 2002. IT investments make up the largest share of the acquisitions, but as such investments vary from period to period they do not correspond with the calendar year.

**Annual accounts 2003. Total overview (government assignments, the Population and Housing Census and user-financed assignments). Excluding major acquisitions.
NOK 1 000**

	Notes	Accounts 2002	Budget 2003	Accounts 2003	Budget 2004
Government appropriations	2,7	349 530	369 300	363 700	352 149
Commission revenues	10	108 482	126 151	127 528	122 425
Refunds	3	11 753		16 343	
Total revenues and refunds		469 765	495 451	507 571	474 574
Wage costs	4, 8, 11	319 595	327 803	344 874	323 349
Operating expenditures	1, 5, 8, 11	177 037	174 803	165 775	156 588
Total expenditures		496 632	502 606	510 649	479 938
Operating result	6, 9, 12	-26 867	-7 155	-3 078	-5 364
Brought forward from 2002		41 205	14 278	14 278	11 200
Brought forward to 2004	6, 9, 12	14 338	7 123	11 200	5 836

Accounting principles

Statistics Norway keeps its accounts according to the cash-accounting principle. 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 and advance payments are not shown.

Government assignments excluding the Population and Housing Census. NOK 1 000

	Notes	Accounts 2002	Budget 2003	Accounts 2003	Budget 2004
Government appropriations	2	317 530	356 100	350 500	352 149
Refunds	3	11 753		16 343	
Total revenues and refunds		329 283	356 100	366 843	352 149
Wage costs	4	227 194	236 052	250 685	237 705
Operating expenditures	5	100 070	122 414	121 396	114 466
Total expenditures		327 264	358 466	372 081	352 171
Operating result	6	2 019	-2 366	-5 238	-22
Brought forward from 2002		7 205	9 195	9 195	3 957
Brought forward to 2004	6	9 224	6 829	3 957	3 935

The Population and Housing Census. NOK 1 000

	Notes	Accounts 2002	Budget 2003	Accounts 2003	Budget 2004
Total revenues					
(government appropriations) ...	7	32 000	13 200	13 200	
Wage costs		11 579	4 753	5 690	
Operating expenditures		42 757	14 965	9 234	4 794
Total expenditures	8	54 336	19 718	14 924	4 794
Operating result	9	-22 336	-6 518	-1 724	-4 794
Brought forward from 2002		28 854	6 518	6 518	4 794
Brought forward to 2004	9	6 518	0	4 794	0

User-financed assignments. NOK 1 000

	Notes	Accounts 2002	Budget 2003	Accounts 2003	Budget 2004
Appropriations		106 000	110 100	110 100	110 000
Additional income		2 482	16 051	17 428	12 425
Commission revenues		108 482	126 151	127 528	122 425
Total revenues and refunds	10	108 482	126 151	127 528	122 425
Wage costs		80 822	86 998	88 499	85 645
Operating expenditures		34 210	37 424	35 145	37 328
Total expenditures	11	115 032	124 422	123 644	122 973
Operating result	12	-6 550	1 729	3 884	-548
Brought forward from 2002		5 146	-1 435	-1 435	2 449
Brought forward to 2004	12	-1 404	294	2 449	1 901

Major acquisitions. NOK 1 000

	Notes	Accounts 2002	Budget 2003	Accounts 2003	Budget 2004
Government appropriations ..	13	7 650	7 780	7 780	7 936
Total expenditures	14	12 521	7 780	9 653	7 936
Operating result	15	-4 871	0	-1 873	0
Brought forward from 2002		8 389	3 518	3 518	1 645
Brought forward to 2004	15	3 518	3 518	1 645	1 645

Notes to the tables

¹ Total operating expenditures (ex. acquisitions)	Specification, operating expenditure	Accounts 2002	Accounts 2003
	Machines, fixtures, equipment	12 014	15 807
	Consumables	5 331	5 855
	Travel expenses, training etc.	22 384	22 885
	Office services etc.	54 027	54 960
	Consultancy services	39 483	21 690
	Library	1 062	1 184
	Maintenance and running	3 369	173
	Maintenance of buildings/plants	522	2 300
	Management/Rental of premises	38 845	40 920
	Total operating expenditures	177 037	165 775

Total operating expenditures were NOK 11.2 million lower than in 2002 and NOK 9 million lower than budget, mainly due to cost reductions in office services and consultancy services, the latter of which is due to the de-escalation of the Population and Housing Census.

- ² Government appropriations excluding the Population and Housing Census
Government appropriations (excluding the Census) came to NOK 356.1 million. A cut in government funding of NOK 5.6 million resulted in revised government appropriations of NOK 350.5 million. NOK 28.8 was allocated to three projects: IDUN (electronic data transfer with trade and industry) NOK 3.6 million, AltInn (collaboration with the Directorate of Taxes and the Brønnøysund Register Centre) NOK 11.2 million and the reorganisation of the currency statistics (UT) NOK 14 million. These allocations, together with compensation for price and wage growth, are the main reasons for increased allocations of NOK 32.9 million from 2002 to 2003.
- ³ Reimbursements for sickness absence and maternity leave
Reimbursements for sickness absence and maternity leave increased by NOK 4.5 million, mainly due to an increase in long-term sickness absence from 5.6 per cent in 2002 to 6.2 per cent in 2003.
- ⁴ Wage costs excluding the Population and Housing Census
Wage costs increased by NOK 23.4 million from 2002. The transfer of the KOSTRA project from user-financed assignments to government assignments, as well as projects with earmarked appropriations represent the main reasons for the increase.
- ⁵ Operating expenditures excluding the Population and Housing Census
Operating expenditures increased by NOK 21.3 million from 2002 to 2003, primarily due to expenses for projects with earmarked appropriations.
- ⁶ Operating result excluding the Housing and Population Census
Statistics Norway had a negative operating result of NOK 5.2 million, almost three million lower than budget, and mainly caused by the cut in government funding.
- ⁷ The Housing and Population Census
Government appropriations to the Population and Housing Census in 2003 amounted to NOK 13.2 million. This represents a reduction of NOK 18.8 million compared to 2002. The project was completed in 2003.
- ⁸ Expenditure for the Population and Housing Census
Wage costs and operating expenditures came to NOK 14.9 million. This is NOK 4.7 million lower than budget and due to a postponement of the quality control for the Residence Address Project.
- ⁹ Operating result, the Housing and Population Census
The Population and Housing Census had a negative operating result of NOK 1.7 million in 2003. NOK 6.5 million was brought forward from 2002. Consequently, NOK 4.7 million has been brought forward from 2003 to 2004 and will primarily go towards the quality control of residence addresses.
- ¹⁰ User-financed assignments
Revenues from user-financed assignments increased by NOK 19 million from 2002, of which interviews for the adult literacy survey represent NOK 14.5 million. As Statistics Norway keeps its accounts according to the cash-accounting principle, revenues fluctuate more from year to year than is the case when applying a profit-oriented policy.

User-financed assignments, by customer group. 2002 and 2003

	2002		2003	
	Mill. NOK	Per cent	Mill. NOK	Per cent
Total	108.5	100	127.5	100
Ministries	50.0	46	65.4	51
Other state institutions	22.1	20	19.2	15
Private customers	13.2	12	12.4	10
Municipal customers	1.0	1	1.1	1
International customers	4.0	4	7.9	6
Research institutes and universities	5.0	5	7.9	6
The Research Council of Norway	13.2	12	13.6	11

The table shows that ministries and other state institutions are Statistics Norway's main customers, contributing 66 per cent of user-financed revenues. As the figures are based on the cash-accounting principle, the distribution of revenues, particularly nominal amounts, is affected by the delay in payments.

¹¹ *Expenditure for user-financed assignments*

Expenditure for user-financed assignments increased by NOK 8.5 million from 2002 to 2003. Wage costs increased by NOK 7.6 million, mainly due to increased activities.

¹² *Operating result for user-financed assignments*

The accounts show an operating surplus of NOK 3.8 million in 2003, up NOK 10.4 million compared with 2002. Outstanding claims amounted to NOK 7 million as at 31 December 2003 against NOK 4 million as at 31 December 2002.

¹³ *Government appropriations for major acquisitions*

Government appropriations for major acquisitions amounted to NOK 7.7 million in 2003, the same amount as in 2002 after adjustment for inflation.

¹⁴ *Expenditure for major acquisitions*

The accounts for 2003 show that expenditure for major acquisitions amounted to NOK 9.6 million, which is NOK 2.8 million less than in 2002.

¹⁵ *Operating result for major acquisitions*

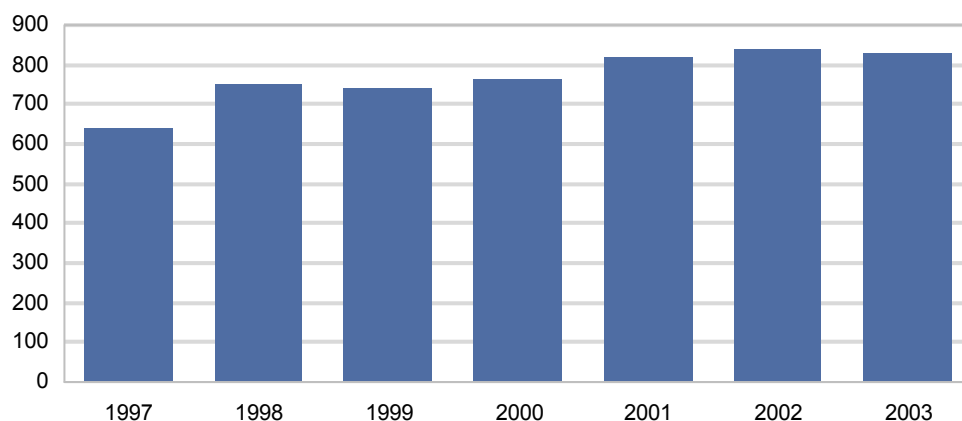
The operating result for major acquisitions was NOK -1.8 million in 2003. Taking the NOK 3.5 million brought forward from 2002 into account, NOK 1.6 million is brought forward to 2004.

4. Statistics on statistics

Statistics releases

In 2003, the number of statistics releases was 831, a decrease of eight releases compared with 2002. This decrease was primarily due to the fact that most of the new statistics from the 2001 Population and Housing Census were published in 2002. The number of statistics releases is not the same as the number of statistics, since many statistics are released several times a year.

Number of releases



New statistics in 2003

- Delimitation in centre zones in urban settlements, annual
- Use of ICT in municipalities, annual
- Use of ICT in households, annual
- Turnover index for transport and tourism, quarterly
- Living conditions in agriculture, annual
- House price index, quarterly
- Development in the coastal zone, annual
- Computing and related services, structural business statistics, annual
- Cultural services, annual
- Contractual early retirement scheme and joint pension scheme under the collective pay agreement, annual
- Wage statistics
 - Employees in fish-farming, annual
 - Employees in the ICT sector, annual
 - Employees in public hospitals, annual
 - All employees, annual

In addition, the statistics for household income was released in 2003, representing the last statistics from the 2001 Population and Housing Census.

Publications from interview surveys (only in Norwegian)

- Equality between marriage and cohabitation – from the survey "Future plans, family and relationships"
- Relationships: – Me instead of we? – from Statistics Norway's Omnibus Survey, third and fourth quarter 2001
- Living conditions in big cities: Some boroughs are particularly vulnerable – from the Living Conditions Survey 2001
- The disabled in the labour market – report from an additional survey to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), second quarter 2003
- Cohabitants – not single – from several Omnibus Surveys in 2002
- Cohabitation at the turn of the millennium: Common but unexplored – from the Omnibus Survey, third and fourth quarter 2001
- Elections: Attitudes to participation in local elections. All talk and no action – from Statistics Norway's Omnibus Survey, second quarter 2002

Revised statistics/data collection

- Wage index for employees in hotels and restaurants was extended
- Population statistics by grandparents' country of birth was extended
- New production method and base data for the statistics on turnover of second-hand housing
- New forms introduced for annual statistics on construction, retail trade and service industries

Surveys made mandatory and/or compulsory fines

- Membership and congregations in religious and philosophical communities – mandatory
- Library statistics – mandatory
- Film and cinema statistics – mandatory
- Account statistics for private kindergartens – mandatory
- Maritime transport statistics – compulsory fines
- Sample survey on self-certified sickness absence – compulsory fines
- Grades in primary and lower secondary school – mandatory
- New surveys on industry statistics – mandatory and compulsory fines
- Energy statistics – mandatory and compulsory fines

Discontinued statistics

The rent and area statistics for office space was discontinued in 2003, due to inadequate quality. The index moved too slowly to measure the temperature in the market. The statistics will be replaced by other information.

The quarterly Norwegian Coastal Voyage statistics was discontinued as a separate statistics in 2003, but will still be included in the national accounts. The ferry transport statistics was discontinued, and the majority of data are now collected electronically in the maritime transport statistics.

The quarterly survey on telecommunication was discontinued as the main figures are published as part of the new turnover index for transport and tourism.

The annual register-based statistics on registered goods vehicles was discontinued due to lack of public interest.

Response burden for trade and industry

Quality information reduces the response burden for the Norwegian trade and industry. In the beginning of 2003, Statistics Norway sent a letter to all businesses informing them of which surveys they would be asked to take part in during the year. We received positive feedback on this initiative, which has been made permanent.

There was no significant change in the response burden for trade and industry from 2002 to 2003. However, the response burden for other respondents increased slightly, mainly as a result of the international adult literacy survey. A total of 5 400 persons were interviewed and tested on their reading ability. Each interview lasted 125 minutes, thus the total response burden amounted to 12 man-years in 2003. Small game hunting made up the largest survey under 'Other' in the table below, with approximately 20 man-years in 2003. The hunters submit their hunting results themselves.

Response burden. Man-years¹

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ²	2002	2003
Total	200	196	196	189	180	191	193
Trade and industry	110	113	113	97	93	92	92
Other	90	83	83	92	87	99	101

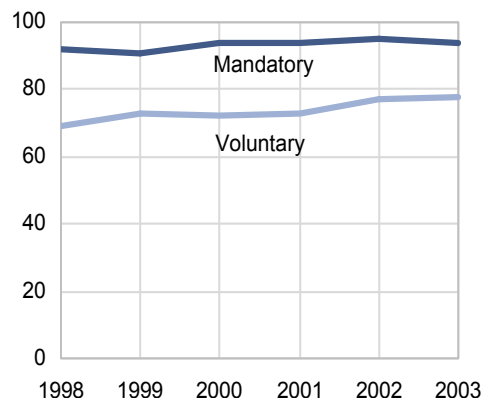
¹ Revisions and checks of Statistics Norway's product register may result in the adjustment of figures from previous years.

² The response burden for the 2001 Population and Housing Census is not included in the figures for 2001, but makes up about 368 man-years.

Response rates Statistics Norway's right to use mandatory surveys naturally increases the response rate. For voluntary surveys the response rate is considerably lower, but stable. Even though the response rate for voluntary surveys is satisfactory, an increasing effort is required to keep it that way.

The majority of small companies and businesses with up to nine employees are exempt from Statistics Norway's questionnaire surveys. Only 2 per cent receive forms that have to be returned and only one out of ten take part in more than one survey. The picture is different for businesses with 10 to 19 employees. Here, as many as 98 per cent take part in one or more surveys; about 85 per cent take part in one or two surveys while about 2.5 per cent (198 businesses) take part in five or more surveys. Only three businesses take part in ten surveys. Almost all businesses with 20 employees or more take part in one or more surveys from Statistics Norway.

Response rate



Businesses who do not participate in surveys, by number of employees. Per cent

	Total	Number of employees		
		0-9	10-19	20 or more
Businesses	76.3	97.6	2.0	0.4

Number of businesses distributed by number of surveys and employees

Number of surveys	Number of businesses	Number of employees		
		0-9	10-19	20 or more
Total	303 811	280 859	12 972	9 980
0	231 782	226 315	4 604	863
1	55 548	48 742	4 760	2 046
2-4	13 997	5 721	3 410	4 866
5-9	2 124	80	195	1849
10 +	360	1	3	356

Publications Statistics Norway published 170 standard publications in 2003. This is a slight increase from 2002, due to an increase in the number of Discussion Papers. The number and distribution of printed publications are in line with Statistics Norway's aim to reduce the number of printed table publications, increase the number of analyses and focus on electronic publishing on ssb.no and in StatBank Norway.

In addition, 501 reports containing results from the Population and Housing Census were distributed, one report for each municipality and borough in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Stavanger.

Various publications

Publications	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total	258	268	286	316	284	274	161	170
Official Statistics of Norway ¹ .	83	76	61	64	48	66	46	47
Analyses	66	77	84	97	95	107	74	82
Other	109	115	141	155	141	101	41	41
- Economic Analyses	9	9	9	9	9	6	6	6
- Samfunnsspeilet	4	4	6	6	6	6	5	6

¹ 501 reports from the Population and Housing Census, published in 2003, are not included here.

One publication in the series Social and Economic Studies

- MODAG, a macroeconomic model for the Norwegian economy, by Pål Boug, Yngvar Dyvi, Per Richard Johansen and Bjørn N. Naug (in Norwegian)

Five publications in the series Statistical Analyses

- Natural Resources and the Environment 2002 (in English)
- Norwegian media barometer 2002 (in Norwegian)
- Natural Resources and the Environment 2003 (in English and Norwegian)
- Education 2003 – resources, recruitment and results (in Norwegian)

Research activities – external publishing

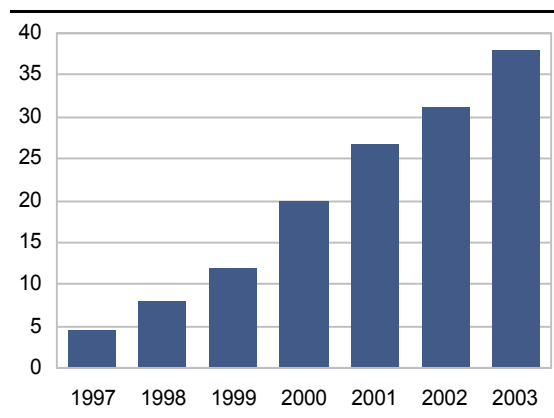
Increased publishing in international periodicals is an important goal for Statistics Norway's research activities. The number of publications in international periodicals and international books was slightly higher in 2003 compared with recent years.

External publishing	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Periodicals	28	20	39	24	41	35	34	38
- International	21	13	17	15	28	22	17	22
- Norwegian	7	7	22	9	13	13	17	16
Books and articles in books	8	7	4	13	18	17	8	10
- International	5	-	2	12	13	12	5	8
- Norwegian	3	7	2	1	5	5	3	2

Hits on ssb.no

In 2003, there was a record number of hits on ssb.no of 38 million; an increase from 31 million in 2002. The amount of downloaded data was 598 Gigabytes (Gb), compared with 365 Gb in 2002. Giga means one billion and byte means character. The majority of our users access ssb.no via Google. A lot of work has been put into making the website available via search engines. Robots such as Google made up approximately 30 per cent of all hits in 2003.

Number of hits on ssb.no. Million



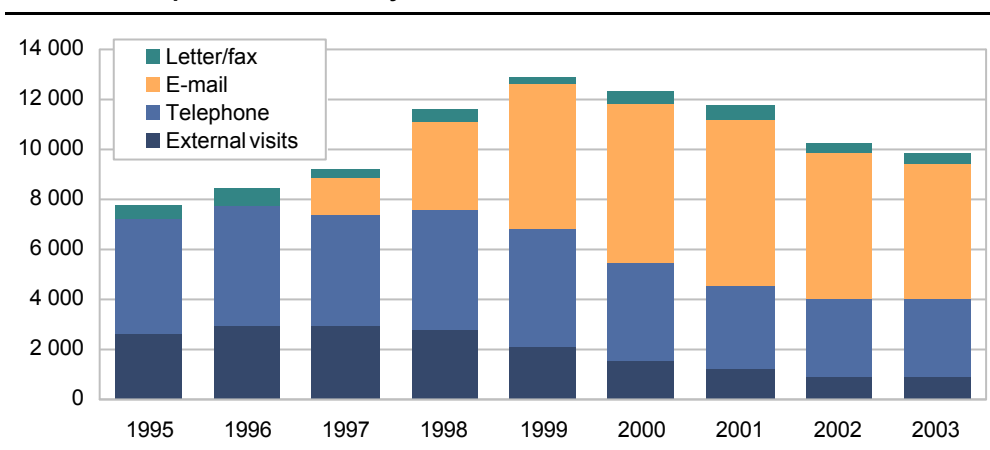
StatBank Norway

At year-end 2003, StatBank Norway contained some 740 table matrices. Most statistics subjects are represented with tables in StatBank Norway, and by the second half of 2003 60 per cent of the statistics were published in StatBank Norway and as a 'Today's statistics' simultaneously. Some 25 000 tables were produced every month, 1 200 every day and 290 000 in total. And the trend is rising.

Extract from StatBank Norway, number of tables

2002		2003			
Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
39 900	63 500	76 700	65 000	66 900	83 500

Use of the library The number of enquiries to the Library and Information Centre continued to fall in 2003. The increased use of ssb.no in general and StatBank Norway in particular seem to be the main reasons for the decline.

Number of enquiries to the Library and Information Centre

Hearings Statistics Norway is often engaged in the consultative process when new laws and regulations are drafted and in connection with public reports. In 2003, submissions were prepared for 64 such proposals.

Media coverage The frequent use of Statistics Norway's statistics and analyses in the media is an indication of our role in society and can be measured by the number of clippings from a selection of the largest newspapers, as well as radio and television exposure. Statistics Norway collects information on media coverage in the approximately 100 electronic media in Norway, including the largest newspapers and radio and TV stations. A selection of the largest newspapers and TV stations (Dagsavisen, Dagens Næringsliv, Aftenposten, Nationen, Drammens Tidende, Stavanger Aftenblad, Adresseavisen, Bergens Tidende, Sunnmørsposten, Fædrelandsvennen, Nordlys, NRK, TV2) shows a total of 5 304 quotes in 2003, compared with 4 437 in 2002.

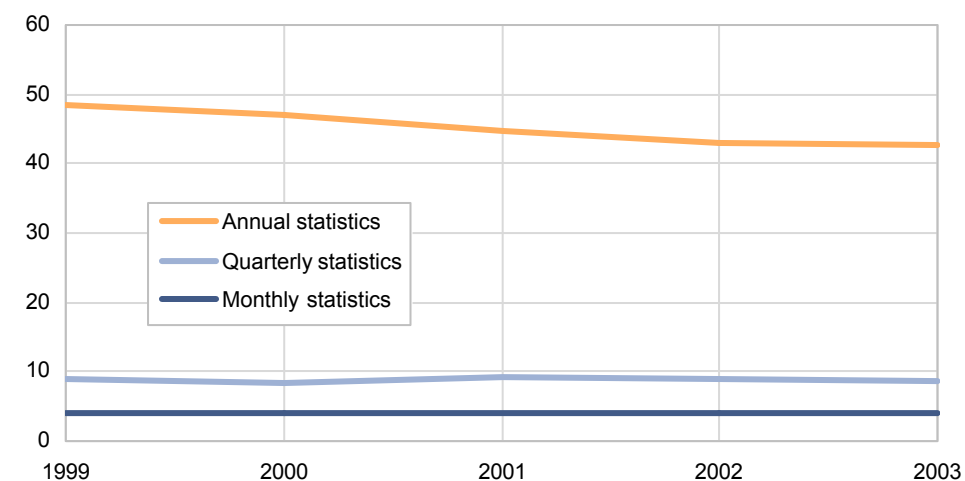
The use of Nynorsk Statistics Norway more than fulfils the requirement of the Language Act that 25 per cent of all published material should be in Nynorsk (one of Norway's two official languages). Twenty-seven per cent of the 'Today's statistics' were published in Nynorsk, more than 20 per cent of the printed publications were in Nynorsk, and 27 per cent of the 501 reports on the Population and Housing Census 2001 were in Nynorsk. Statistics Norway's questionnaires are available in both Bokmål and Nynorsk and 34 per cent of all job advertisements were in Nynorsk. Statistics Norway produced 14 brochures in 2003, none of which were in Nynorsk.

Punctuality and timeliness Internationally as well as in Norway it is a requirement that official statistics should be announced in advance and published on time. Punctuality and timeliness in the production of statistics are evidence that interests outside Statistics Norway are unable to influence release dates. That is why it is important that the statistics are released neither too early nor too late. In 2003, only 8 per cent of the statistics in the Advance Release Calendar were not published on time.

Punctuality. Deviations from announced time of release. Per cent

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total	14	10	13	15	13	10	8
Too early	6	2	4	2	3	2	2
Too late	8	8	9	13	10	8	6

If the statistics are to be of any use to the public, they must be as recent as possible. The timeliness of the statistics is measured as the number of weeks from reference period to release. This is also the most common way to measure timeliness internationally.

Timeliness. Time from reference period to publishing*Use of resources*

An overview of the distribution of resources among different areas shows that 50 per cent of the working time goes into the production of statistics. Twenty per cent goes to development projects, research and analysis. Compared with 2002, the distribution of resources has remained more or less stable apart from a slight increase in research and analysis. The overview is exclusive of absences (such as holidays, sick leave and leave of absence).

Distribution of man-hours, by type of activity. 1999-2003. Per cent

Type of activity	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Production of statistics	60	62	63	62	62
- Ongoing production of statistics	53	54	54	52	51
- Development projects	7	8	9	10	11
Research and analysis	10	10	9	10	11
Administration and planning	10	9	9	10	10
Internal support functions	20	19	19	18	17

Continued confidence in Statistics Norway

According to a survey on confidence in different Norwegian institutions conducted by the opinion poll company MMI in October 2003, 79 per cent of those who have an opinion on Statistics Norway have confidence in us. The result is more or less the same as in previous years.

5. Working in Statistics Norway

Included in the budget for 2003 were 889 man-years compared with 867 in 2002.

Budget man-years. 1993-2003

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total man-years	785	798	798	813	823	821	821	838	839	852	867	889
Government assignments ..	645	619	612	619	624	652	652	664	659	650	658	677
- Temporary	43	35	24	32	38	42	42	55	43	59	67	87
User-financed assignments	140	179	186	194	199	169 ¹	169	174	180	202	209	212

¹ The decrease in user-financed assignments from 199 man-years in 1997 to 169 man-years in 1998 came as a result of the completion of a large assignment for the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund in 1997.

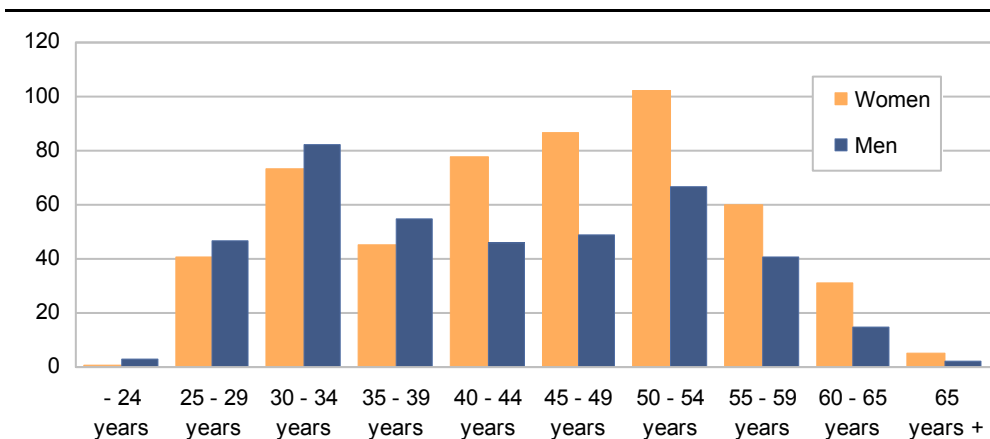
At the start of 2004, Statistics Norway had a staff of 930, including 15 employees on maternity leave, compared with 917 at the beginning of 2003. The staff increase is primarily a result of an increase in user-financed assignments. 545 employees are based in Oslo while 385 are based in Kongsvinger. In addition, Statistics Norway employs 138 interviewers around the country and 34 interviewers in Oslo.

A total of 40 per cent of the employees have worked in Statistics Norway for 20 years or more, whereas 33 per cent have worked in Statistics Norway for less than five years. Twelve per cent have worked in Statistics Norway from five to nine years, 6 per cent from 10 to 14 years and 9 per cent from 15 to 19 years. The number of employees who have worked in Statistics Norway for 30 years or more increased by 13 to 126 in 2003.

Men and women

There are more women than men in Statistics Norway. The distribution at the beginning of 2004 was 56 per cent women and 44 per cent men. The percentage of women increases with age; men are in the majority among those under 40, whereas among those over 40 there is a majority of women. In Oslo, half the employees are women, while in Kongsvinger 64 per cent are women.

Employees at 31.12.2003



In 2003, women held 90 per cent of lower positions, compared to 30 per cent of academic and managerial positions. There is an even distribution of men and women in middle management.

Women at the beginning of the year. Per cent

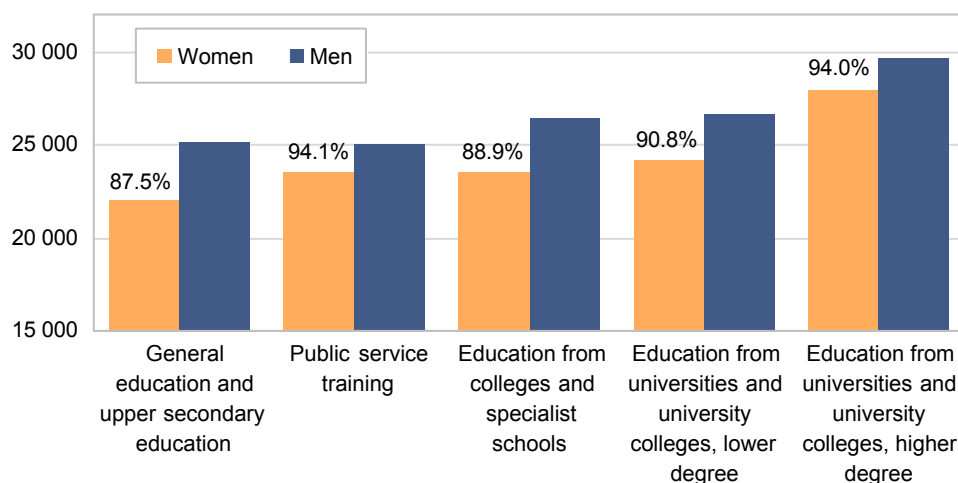
	1999	2002	2003	2004
Office positions	93	90	94	93
Executive officers, lower level	79	84	85	84
Executive officers, higher level	40	43	48	50
Academic/research positions	34	32	33	35
Managerial positions	24	30	33	29

There were 52 managerial positions in Statistics Norway at the beginning of 2004. With 15 women and 37 men in these positions, the percentage of female managers is 29 per cent, compared with 33 per cent in 2003. This decline is due to the fact that there is a majority of men in the two new departments, the Department of Communication and the Department of IT and Data Collection. The average age of managers is 49, and 23 of them were in managerial positions in Statistics Norway five years ago. Fifteen were in charge of the same division or department as today, while eight were in charge of a different unit. Nine of the 29 new managers are women, and six of the 29 were not employed by Statistics Norway prior to becoming managers in the institution, five of which were women.

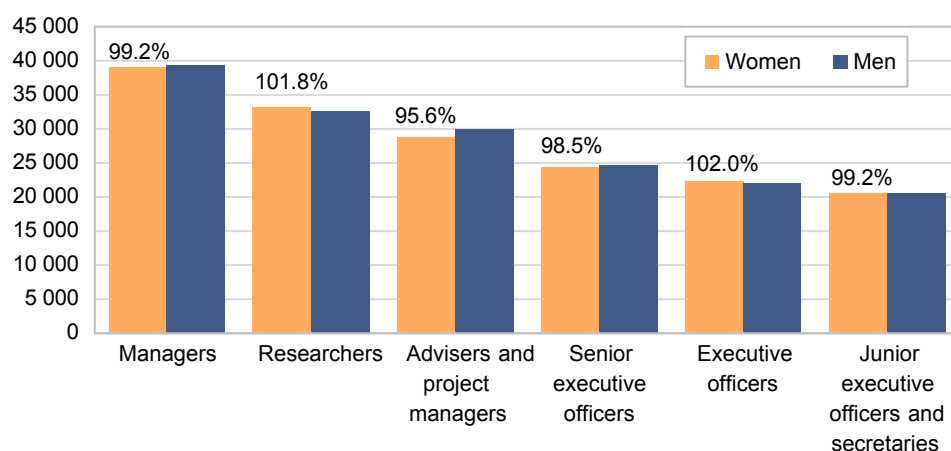
Salary, position, education

Men hold the majority of full-time positions in Statistics Norway – and they earn more than women. The average monthly salary was NOK 26 469 at 1 October 2003. Women in full-time positions earned an average monthly salary of NOK 24 719, approximately 12 per cent less than men in full-time positions who had an average monthly salary of NOK 28 179. Women in full-time positions had a salary increase of 3.9 per cent, compared with 3 per cent for men.

**Average monthly salary for men and women in full-time positions, by education.
1 October 2003**



**Average monthly salary for men and women in full-time positions, by type of position.
1 October 2003**



Statistics Norway's managers have an average monthly salary of NOK 39 000, and at this level there are only minor differences in salaries between men and women. Among Statistics Norway's researchers, women earn more than men with NOK 33 186 on average per month, which is almost NOK 600 more than their male colleagues. The greatest differences are found among full-time advisers and project managers, with men being paid an average of NOK 30 142 per month, or 4.6 per cent more than their female colleagues. Among women in full-time positions, those over 60 have the highest salaries. Among men, those in the age group 50-55 have the highest salaries.

Education pays off. Employees with higher degrees from universities and university colleges earn the most. However, women with these qualifications still earn 6 per cent less than their male colleagues.

At the start of 2004, 44 per cent of all employees had higher degrees from universities, while 18 per cent had degrees from university colleges or lower degrees from universities. The differences in education between men and women are considerable. Whereas 30 per cent of the women hold higher degrees from universities, the figure is 61 per cent for men. Half of the employees with a higher education have worked in Statistics Norway for less than five years.

There are 180 part-time employees in Statistics Norway, with 73 per cent of these working less than 80 per cent. The majority of part-time employees are women.

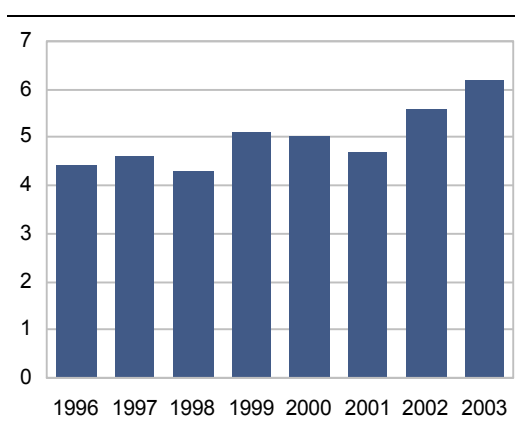
A more inclusive workplace

Statistics Norway entered into a more inclusive workplace agreement in 2002. The objective of this agreement is to keep sickness absence at a low level and to safeguard human resources by means of an active life phase policy based on individual needs.

In 2003, absence due to illness was 6.2 per cent, compared with 5.6 per cent in 2002. Seventy per cent of the absence lasted more than 14 days. People who are on active sick leave are registered as absent due to illness. In 2003, a total of 31 employees were on active sick leave for shorter or longer periods.

Statistics Norway is committed to improving the health, safety and environment of its employees through the mapping of individual needs in staff appraisals and HSE meetings. HSE produces annual reports describing the measures that have been taken in this area. In addition, efforts are made to adapt the work and work environment to the needs of each employee. Employees who are absent due to sickness or are at risk of becoming sick are given priority. The project *Exercise for health* is available both in Oslo and Kongsvinger.

Sickness absence. 1996-2003. Per cent



Statistics Norway's employees are represented by five trade unions in the Working Environment Committee and the Working Environment and Liaison Committee. The employees also have one representative on the Board. The trade unions are active contributors both in professional and human resource issues in Statistics Norway.

Competence development and recruitment

In 2003, Statistics Norway spent NOK 6 million on employee training in-house and externally. Half of these funds were channelled via internal course programmes. During the year, 70 in-house courses were arranged with a total of 904 participants.

In recent years Statistics Norway has been committed to training in project work, and this continued in 2003. The *Project and Teamwork* programme was completed by 23 employees. Three members of staff were awarded a PhD in 2003. A total of 26 members of staff now hold a PhD. Statistics Norway employs 60 researchers, including 20 senior researchers and ten managers.

In 2003, a pilot project aimed at evaluating candidates for positions as statistics advisers was carried out, and in 2004 the qualification scheme for statistics advisers was made permanent. At the beginning of 2004, there were 19 statistics advisers. The aim of the qualification scheme is to improve the statistics production, offer an alternative career path to management and reduce the turnover of staff with short terms of service.

The management training for employees in senior and middle management positions continued in 2003 with the main focus on teamwork and communication, culture and feedback training.

Statistics Norway recruited 57 new members of staff in 2003, compared with 73 in 2002. Three out of four of the new employees had higher degrees from universities. The number of employees who resigned increased from 49 in 2002 to 52 in 2003. Seventy-three per cent of those who resigned had higher education, and 44 per cent had up to four years of service.

6. Report of the Director General

The year 2003 can be characterised as a year of great activity. International cooperation was extensive, two important projects in the development of statistical systems were launched and Statistics Norway's focus on systematic quality work continued.

Statistical populations and price measurements

2003 saw the launch of two very important projects in the development of the statistical system. Three populations form the basis of the bulk of Statistics Norway's production: the population in the Central Population Register; trade and industry and the public sector in the Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises; and dwellings and properties in the Norwegian Mapping Authority's GAB register (the Ground Property, Address and Building Register). The majority of the statistics are based on the units in these registers, and the quality of the information is paramount to the quality of the statistics. In 2003, the last part of the Population and Housing Census was completed to give all dwellings a unique address. Most of the work was completed in 2002, but particularly Oslo, with the largest proportion of dwellings, took longer than estimated. Some quality assurance work is all that remains now. The aim of the population project that was developed in 2003 is to further develop the quality of the three registers and the relationship between them. Norway is at the leading edge of exploiting public registers in the production of statistics, and will remain there.

The second project concerns prices and quality. In addition to further developing existing price statistics, the aim of the project is to develop new price statistics for the service industry in particular. Quality price statistics are a prerequisite for enabling the breakdown in the change in value according to price, amount and quality and thus a prerequisite for analysing the economic development.

Job satisfaction in Statistics Norway

Statistics Norway's annual job satisfaction survey was carried out at the end of 2003. The survey shows a decline in overall job satisfaction. Part of the reason for this is probably that 2003 was a turbulent year of reorganisation, which saw the relocation of employees, both in Oslo and Kongsvinger. Another contributory factor is probably the pay freeze (zero settlement) for all members of staff for the first time in many years.

The decision to build an extension to the offices in Kongsvinger was taken in 2003. The Directorate of Public Construction and Property will be responsible for the construction and property management of the new extension and Statistics Norway will be the leaseholder. The new offices will fulfil a much-longed need for additional space and should be completed in 2005.

Competence and quality

Competence development is important in Statistics Norway, through the daily exchange of skills, international sharing of best practices and more direct competence development in the form of training courses and further education. In 2003, particular focus was given to competence development in the statistical methods area together with training in project and team work. As an alternative to management, the opportunity to qualify as a statistics adviser has become a permanent programme. Statistics Norway now has 19 statistics advisers.

An essential element in the competence development programme and the introduction of statistics advisers is Statistics Norway's focus on systematic quality work. Projects are the most common way of working in Statistics Norway. The majority of projects have a 'pilot' who quality assures the work process. The mapping, evaluation and improvement of the revision work in the production of statistics are key elements of systematic quality work. Quality assurance through revision has always been a central factor of statistics work, and has to a large extent been carried out by those producing the statistics. Centralised and electronic data collection from registers and forms means that a larger proportion of this work can be carried

out at an earlier stage of the statistics production, using automated routines among other things. One desired effect of this project is that every statistics producer will spend less time on detailed and time-consuming revision work and more time on the analysis and dissemination of the statistics.

A quality assurance of the quarterly national accounts was also carried out in 2003, and the results now form a basis for several initiatives to improve quality in 2004.

A more inclusive workplace

2003 was the first year of the agreement with the National Insurance Service for a more inclusive workplace. Statistics Norway undertakes to work actively to keep sickness absence at a low level and to safeguard the potential of employees of all ages through a personnel policy that takes employees' different stages of life into account (known as a life phase policy). Nevertheless, sickness absence increased slightly from 2002 to 2003. In 2003, Statistics Norway also introduced environmental management, which entails us identifying any negative effects of the organisation's activities on the external environment, developing an environmental programme, integrating environmental thinking in planning systems and evaluating environmental initiatives.

Publishing statistics

The dissemination of statistics and analyses went according to plan in 2003. StatBank Norway had its first full year of operation, and the majority of the statistics have now been entered in the database. However, there is still some way to go before previous statistics can be found in StatBank Norway. StatBank Norway is primarily aimed at people who are frequent users of statistics.

This is Norway presents statistics in a processed form and is available in English and Norwegian. The book contains a brief introduction to the most important areas of Norwegian society, using text, diagrams and tables. A similar brochure is available on Statistics Norway in English and Norwegian: *This is Statistics Norway*.

International work

Statistics Norway was involved in extensive international cooperation in 2003. Claims of breaches and major reorganisations in Eurostat – the official statistics office for the EU – marked the international cooperation in the EU/EEA area. Although most of the work in the various work groups went ahead as planned, larger development projects were affected by the problems in Eurostat. The work picked up again at the end of the year, and it now appears that fresh enthusiasm is being put into this important international work.

The international statistical cooperation is constantly being expanded. In 2003, several long-term projects were introduced in this field, and at the end of the year Statistics Norway was involved in projects in Angola, Eritrea, Malawi, Mozambique and Uganda.

Every employee is a valuable asset in making the wheels of the organisation go round. I would therefore like to thank our staff and their trade unions for their efforts throughout the past year.

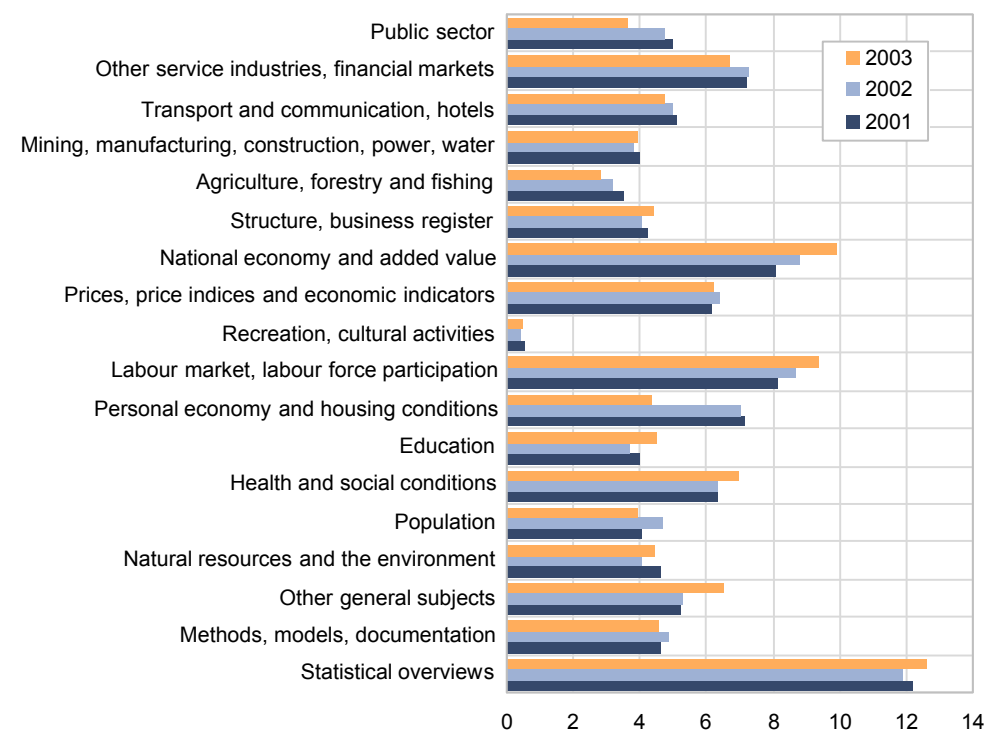


Svein Longva
Svein Longva

7. Activity report

Activities carried out were divided into the following areas:

Man-hours by subject. Per cent



7.1 Electronic reporting from trade and industry

At the end of 2003, Statistics Norway offered electronic reporting of data in 28 out of 55 surveys for trade and industry. In addition, electronic reporting was introduced for another four surveys at the beginning of 2004. The goal is to offer electronic reporting on all surveys from 1 July 2004.

Electronic reporting is provided in four different groups:

- IDUN web, Statistics Norway's web solution, offers the bulk of the reporting so far.
- AltInn, a joint project between the Norwegian Tax Administration and the Brønnøysund Register Centre, to be implemented early 2004. AltInn has been tested in a pilot project with two surveys.
- Collective data collection from chains, with electronic reporting. Introduced for several industries in three surveys.
- File extracts – simple transfer of data extracted from the respondent's data system. Introduced in seven surveys, including the salary statistics, which is also one of the pilots in AltInn.

Work is underway to consider to what extent AltInn can also be used as a security portal for the IDUN web solution. This would make it possible to keep the functionality of both systems without the user having to use two different log-in routines.

7.2 Economic statistics and industry statistics

Price project In addition to developing new statistics on prices and volumes, the aim of the project is to further develop existing statistics, particularly in areas of the service industry that are still not covered by such statistics. Quality price statistics are a prerequisite for enabling the breakdown in the change in value according to price, amount and quality and thus a prerequisite for analysing the economic development. A pilot project has been carried out in order to identify the need for new areas of expertise and to identify current price statistics as a basis for an evaluation of routines and methods. The pilot involved the Consumer Price Index, the Production Price Index and the price index for foreign trade in goods.

National accounts and labour force accounts The quality of the quarterly national accounts was revised in 2003. Two of the main conclusions from this review are that more calculations should be made for the uncertainty of short-term statistics, and that the integration of monthly, quarterly and annual statistics should be improved. Among other things, the results on annual development should be compared and any deviations analysed. This may help to improve the quality assurance of monthly, quarterly and annual statistics. It is also important to coordinate the definitions of various types of monthly and quarterly statistics in order to achieve consistency.

In the longer term there is a need to fill the gap in areas where there is a lack of statistics. The need for continuous information on investments in the service industry is one such area.

The final national accounts for 2001 were delayed, mainly because the integration of KOSTRA data required more resources than estimated. Quarterly institutional national accounts are now being developed and are expected to be ready for use in 2005.

The labour force accounts will be renewed, improved and reorganised into a new technological platform. In 2003, the wage and labour market statistics were prepared for the labour force accounts, preparations were made for technological changes and the new calculation methodology for the annual accounts was tested.

Labour market Two additional surveys for the Labour Force Survey were carried out in 2003. These surveys related to upgrading courses and disabled people in the labour market. Furthermore, a report on part-time work was completed, and a collaboration project with Statistics Sweden on cross-border commuting was initiated. A project is also underway which considers the effects of reorganising state activities on employment at municipal level.

It has taken longer than expected to include occupations in the Register of Employees. At year-end 2003, about 10 per cent of the employees did not have an occupation code.

Sickness absence statistics Since the first quarter of 2003, statistics on self-certified sickness absence and sickness absence certified by a doctor have been reported together. The introduction of an extended period of self-certified sickness absence requires the two parts to be shown collectively in order to obtain a true picture of the development.

In order to achieve a satisfactory production time and good quality statistics, the sample survey was made mandatory in 2003. As a result, the response rate increased from 62 to 88 per cent and the production time became shorter. We have received very few complaints from the respondents. Companies who participate in the survey receive statistics on self-certified sickness absence and absence certified by a doctor for their own company and their industry sector.

Statistics on foreign transactions (UT) UT is a collaboration project between Statistics Norway and Norges Bank. The new routine for collecting data for the Balance of Payments will be sufficiently

detailed and fulfil national as well as international requirements. As from 2005, the Balance of Payments will be quarterly instead of monthly. However, because of Norges Bank's monetary policy requirements, data will still be collected every month for a limited number of variables from a small selection of large companies.

When Norges Bank's currency statistics is discontinued, there will no longer be an overview of businesses with economic relations with other countries. An important task in 2003 was to establish a system that provides an adequate overview of this population. Various registers have been linked and analysed as part of this work. In 2003, Statistics Norway helped set up a new currency register to ensure that our needs are taken into account. There is reason to believe that the currency register will be approved in 2004, with production start in 2005. If that happens, the problems involved in identifying businesses with economic relations with other countries will be reduced considerably. The currency register will also result in a lower response burden for trade and industry than would otherwise be necessary.

Together with the Directorate of Taxes, Statistics Norway has developed a new statement of assets for foreign investments. If the new statement is implemented, it will satisfy the data requirements for statistics on foreign direct investments in Norway and direct investments by Norwegians abroad in the non-financial sector. The new share register was not implemented in 2003, but we envisage using data from the register during the course of 2004.

The UT project is, however, primarily based on direct reporting from the companies involved, where the goal is to use electronic reporting as much as possible. We are currently in the process of developing and testing solutions for the direct transfer of data from data providers' accounting systems.

For surveys aimed at individuals and households, the primary aim is to use data from public registers. During the development of the currency register it was decided that data from payment card companies shall not be channelled through the new register, but go directly to Statistics Norway and Norges Bank, not as individual data but as statistical tables. This represents an important basis for statistics on Norwegians' spending abroad. A pilot survey on border trade was carried out in 2003, and plans are being made to conduct such surveys on a quarterly basis.

Transport and tourism

In June 2003, Statistics Norway published their first quarterly turnover index for all industries within transport and tourism. This statistics measures changes in turnover for businesses in the transport and tourism industries on a quarterly basis. In addition, further efforts were put into presenting a new and extended maritime transport statistics and an extended structural business statistics on foreign shipping.

ICT statistics

In 2003, a delimitation of the ICT sector was devised. The introduction of the Film and video and News agencies statistics was an important contribution to the ICT statistics. Media coverage and the number of hits on ssb.no are evidence that our users welcome the two new surveys on the use of ICT in households and municipalities. The survey on ICT use in households was a collaboration between most European countries and coordinated by Eurostat.

Wage statistics

An important milestone was reached in June 2003 with the introduction of statistics on wages for full-time and part-time employees for all industries. These statistics have been long sought after, both by internal and external users, and are also a requirement of international reporting. 2003 also saw the introduction of a new wage statistics for employees in fish farming. As a result of the reorganisation of the health sector, a separate wage statistics for employees in the health enterprises was also published.

Price indices In order to offer a house price index with improved coverage and timeliness, the production routines for these statistics were changed in 2003. Previously, information on the buying and selling of second-hand properties was collected from the National Registry of the Information about Title, Mortgages and Rights and the buyers themselves. The information is now collected via FINN.no in cooperation with the Norwegian Association of Real Estate Agents (NEF) and the Association of Real Estate Undertakings (EFF). The Norwegian Federation of Cooperative Housing Associations (NBBL) provides data on housing cooperatives.

In 2003, work to develop car rental statistics was initiated. Statistics Norway held meetings with the Norwegian Car Rental Association and representatives for the biggest car rental chains to find out how such statistics should be produced.

Commodity consumption and retail sales In 2003, Statistics Norway began publishing the retail sales index on a monthly basis. The publication date was shifted by 4-5 days to about the 28th of the month, with the same degree of detailing as before, when final figures were published two weeks later. This now means that the retail sales index and the commodity consumption index are published simultaneously.

7.3 Environmental statistics

An extensive survey on the use of firewood was carried out in 2002. Questions on the use of firewood were also included in the Survey of Living Conditions. Information from these surveys and the Population and Housing Census was used to improve the estimations of energy consumption and emissions to air caused by firewood, broken down by municipality and for the country as a whole. Local estimates on emission patterns in Oslo have also been improved considerably.

Plans have been made for the analysis of energy consumption in households and a new household survey that identifies changes in energy consumption due to higher electricity prices.

The Ministry of Finance has asked Statistics Norway to take responsibility for a report on indicators for sustainable development. This work was initiated in December 2003 and will be completed in 2004.

7.4 Statistics for the public sector

KOSTRA 2003 was KOSTRA's (Municipality-State-Reporting) first year of operation.

KOSTRA figures were published on 15 March and 15 June without any major problems. However, some municipalities experienced problems in completing their accounts in time for the March publication, but despite this the response rate increased compared with 2002. In 2003, efforts have been made to further develop the IT solutions. The production and revision routines have been improved, and arrangements have been made so that XML technology will be used for all reporting of data from the spring of 2004. Last autumn, in collaboration with the regional commissioners in 15 counties, Statistics Norway held seminars on XML reporting and the data to be reported. Seminars were also held for KOSTRA users in the media prior to the municipality and county elections in 2003.

Statistics Norway initiated a project with the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities to establish a joint reporting of wage and personnel data via KOSTRA for municipal employees, including teachers. However the response was disappointing.

Statistics on hospitals A new accounts statistics for the institutional health service was introduced following the transfer of hospital ownership from the county municipalities to central government. Management accounts, balance sheets and cash flow statements are collected from hospitals annually, and quarterly figures are collected from the

health enterprises. Efforts to modify the statistics to make it comparable with statistics from previous years have been extensive, partly because the health enterprises now carry out their accounting in accordance with the Accounting Act of Norway and a result-oriented policy.

7.5 Social statistics

Skoleporten.no

In the spring of 2004, the Ministry of Education and Research will launch *skoleporten.no*, a website for quality indicators for primary education at a national, municipal and institutional level. Statistics Norway has been involved in the development of indicators and the procurement, organisation and production of statistical data. As several indicators have not previously been published at an institution level, there has been a particularly strong focus on data quality and the degree of detail in the publications.

Collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Research

In 2003, Statistics Norway entered into a framework agreement with the Ministry of Education and Research on the main features of joint collection, production and dissemination of education statistics. The collaboration will be of benefit to the suppliers of such data in that the Ministry, the Norwegian Board of Education and Statistics Norway will be coordinating their data requirements via joint data collection.

EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

Data for the EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions were collected for the first time in 2003. The aim of the survey is to provide comparable statistics on income, poverty and social exclusion. The Norwegian survey was carried out as a combined cross-sectional and panel survey. The sample consists of 8 500 persons aged 16 or over and contains the sample of the previous living conditions panel, which started in 1997. Participants in the sample will take part for a period of eight years. The income data are based on administrative data.

Statistics on social care

The current statistics on social care do not provide sufficient information on how developments in recent years have affected the service level or whether national targets are met or tasks imposed by law are carried out. The Ministry of Social Affairs has therefore decided to set up a system for the reporting of information on users and applicants of social care. Statistics Norway has been involved throughout this process, which has resulted in a system that will be implemented in all municipalities. The pilot project was completed in 2003 and the system is now being rolled out.

Publishing date for the population statistics brought forward

As a result of improved reporting time for the Central Population Register, the release date for final population data has been changed from 1 March to 1 February. Thus the annual population statistics was published earlier, without compromising the quality. Important statistics such as population by sex, age and civil status, the immigrant population, families and the statistics on births have been published earlier than before. As of 2004, the statistics on migration will be released in the first quarter as opposed to the third quarter in the past few years. These changes will bring Norway in line with the other Nordic countries with regard to publication dates for population statistics.

Statistics and analyses on poverty

As a follow-up to the white paper *Tiltaksplan mot fattigdom* (which deals with initiatives to combat poverty), Statistics Norway has entered into an annual agreement with the Ministry of Social Affairs on social reporting. A range of indicators for various vulnerable groups will be drawn up, focusing on sustained low incomes and economic living conditions. According to the contract, the indicators were scheduled for completion in September, while a final analysis report was to be published in February 2004.

Data entry of crime statistics

The reorganisation of police registers has led to problems in obtaining complete data for the crime statistics, especially for the statistics on reported offences and investigated offences, but also for the statistics on criminal sanctions and the statis-

tics on imprisonment. The changes have resulted in extra work for Statistics Norway and delays in the production of statistics.

Adult literacy survey On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Research, Statistics Norway carried out an interview survey on reading and comprehension. This survey is part of an international survey and is so extensive that it required a separate team of interviewers. The Centre for Reading Research in Stavanger is responsible for the survey. The data were collected throughout 2003. An additional survey on adult literacy among immigrants was carried out at the same time as the main survey. Interviewers with multi-cultural backgrounds were recruited for the additional survey, but the interview and survey material were the same for both surveys.

7.6 Population and housing census

The Population and Housing Census 2001 The main work in 2003 involved the publication of results from the census. Reports were published for each municipality and each borough in the largest cities (Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Stavanger). A summary of each county was also produced, thus making the total of reports produced in 2003 501. This information is also available on ssb.no and in StatBank Norway.

The Residence Address Project It was necessary to continue the Residence Address Project in some municipalities. Oslo Municipality corrected its incorrect addresses and new address labels were sent out. Two national registrations of residence numbers for occupants without a complete address (including residence number) in the Population Register were carried out. Although this work was successful, some shortcomings were uncovered. The Residence Address Project as such is completed, however the cooperation between Statistics Norway, the Directorate of Taxes and the Norwegian Mapping Authority to further improve the quality and ensure adequate updating continues.

7.7 Research activities

Analyses of tax, distribution and consumer behaviour Statistics Norway provided a large number of statistics to public committees in 2003, in relation to both direct taxation (the Skauge Committee) and indirect taxation (the Border Trade Committee). The evaluation of payment transfers to families with children was completed. New versions of existing models were developed and IT improvements were carried out. Statistics Norway's services to the Storting and the Ministry of Finance continued and the results of our research were presented in international publications as well as Norwegian forums.

Energy and environmental analyses The high electricity prices last winter concerned most Norwegians. A number of analyses on how the players in the energy market handled the special circumstances were published. It was particularly interesting to see how quickly households adjusted their electricity consumption when prices increased. Analyses of so-called green certificates in the environmental policy and the relationship between economic development and the environment were carried out in 2003. Finally, a study on the effect of environmental regulations on productivity showed that such regulations do not necessarily have a negative impact on productivity.

Analyses of economic cycles and macromodels Due to the expansionary monetary policy there has been a great interest in the cyclical development in recent years. Some analyses have focused on the importance of interest rates and currency exchange rates on the domestic economic development and price development. We looked at the hypothesis that the wage formation in Norway is changing, and particularly at what effects such a change may have on central macroeconomic variables. The macromodels have been re-estimated and documented. As usual these have formed part of analyses for external customers, including political parties.

Labour market and firm behaviour Several projects on estimation problems for capital instruments were carried out. The aim of one such project was to exploit accounting data in order to improve the

estimates of real capital in businesses. Another project focused on finding a way to measure prices of capital goods taking changing quality and model variations into account. Empirical studies of the price development of cars show that parts of the method deviate strongly from similar sub-indices in the consumer price index. In addition, work has been carried out on microeconomic projects on the effects of education and wages, and participation in the workforce and unemployment.

Public finance Analysing the effects of pension reforms was a key area in 2003. Statistics Norway contributed to the pension commission's report, and different combinations of tax and pension reforms were studied. Statistics Norway's models were used extensively and were also further developed through this work. The analyses of household saving and saving patterns among the elderly are almost complete.

Analyses of municipal and regional economy Studies of poverty at a municipality level were carried out in 2003. The studies took regional price variations, particularly housing costs, into account and looked at the effect of public services on the total distribution of resources. Research on the influence of persons and businesses' mobility on the municipalities' ability to adjust their expenditure and fees was also carried out in 2003. Studies of the regional labour mobility show that it varies with economic trends; with greater mobility during a period of recovery than in a recession. A microeconomic model for labour supply was developed and estimated, and subsequently used in analyses of tax and pension reforms.

Economic growth and efficiency The general equilibrium model that has been used in a range of analyses was updated/re-estimated and developed further. Distribution effects of indirect taxes combined with macroeconomic effects were studied. Furthermore, efficiency effects of energy subsidies to the power-intensive industries were analysed. The equilibrium model was also used in several environmental-economic analyses.

Petroleum and environmental-economic analyses An analysis of the socio-economic profitability of power transmissions between Norway and the United Kingdom/Germany via new cables was carried out in 2003. The protracted work of developing a global energy and emission model to be used in the study of international environmental measures is almost complete. Analyses of the European gas market, focusing on the possible effects of increased exports from Russia and the importance of more refrigerated, liquid gas from the international market, were also undertaken in 2003.

Analyses of population development A new regional population projection to 2050 was published in autumn 2002. In 2003, the results of the projection were presented in publications and presentations. Projections with a longer timeline, to 2100, were also carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Finance. Analyses were made of fertility, family structures and breadwinner models based on register data, and a large postal survey on future plans, family and relationships was conducted. A Nordic comparative project analysing the fertility development in the Nordic countries based on register data was continued.

Analyses of living conditions The analysis and quality control of the living conditions panel for the period 1997-2002 were initiated. An analysis of contact and child maintenance among single parents and parents with contact arrangements was also initiated as part of the evaluation of the new child maintenance system that was implemented in autumn 2003. Furthermore, an analysis of low incomes among children of single parents, based on register data, was carried out. The testing of a model for a new socio-economic standard was completed according to schedule. The model will have to be further developed in order to adapt it to the register-based occupational statistics.

7.8 Availability for users

Awards to ssb.no

In 2003, Statistics Norway was awarded six stars in an evaluation of all public sector websites that included almost 500 central government and municipal offices. The Internet portal norge.no and Statskonsult are responsible for the award. The evaluation was based on certain quality criteria for public sector websites, with particular emphasis on availability, user friendliness and content. Statistics Norway achieved high scores on all three criteria, but especially on availability, and was the only central government institution to achieve six stars. Statistics Norway was also voted best central government website by Statskonsult and Kommunal rapport.

Despite the awards, the size of the website can make it difficult for users to find what they are looking for. Several projects are therefore underway to improve the user friendliness of ssb.no.

Theme pages

Theme pages (in Norwegian only) have been introduced as a new service on ssb.no, covering hospitals, waste, the environment, gender equality, energy, culture and the media, and housing. The aim of the service is to provide a complete picture of an area of society, with main figures and trends. The introduction of these pages has been successful as they provide an overview that suits the web format, and inside the organisation they illustrate and clarify which statistics are best suited to describe a subject area.

7.9 International cooperation

In 2003, further efforts were made to keep up-to-date with international requirements, especially with regard to statistics on the environment, public finance, labour costs, turnover in the hotel and restaurant industry, agriculture, transport and communication, and statistics for the service industry.

At the end of 2003, the statistical cooperation in the EEA is covered by 115 legislative acts. In addition, several other new legislative acts will be included in the EEA agreement. The areas which are now being regulated by law include quarterly non-financial accounts for public administration, the labour cost index, and statistics on income and living conditions. Norway was represented in 122 meetings on European statistics cooperation in 2003, compared with 126 in 2002, in addition to 25 meetings organised by OECD and UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe). Statistics Norway also cooperates in several other international forums, especially in the Nordic countries.

Development work

2003 was an active year for the statistical development work in Statistics Norway, including institutional cooperation projects with the national offices of statistics in Angola, Mozambique and Uganda. A new cooperation project with Malawi was set up, and the first plans for a new project in Eritrea were made. The project in Mozambique is co-financed and run by the Scandinavian countries, while the other projects are funded by NORAD. A long-term cooperation on health statistics in Botswana was completed in 2003, resulting in a new system for health statistics. In 2003, Statistics Norway also sent its first Peace Corps volunteer to Uganda to participate in the development of statistical methods and the testing of a system for an agricultural census. Statistics Norway also played an active part in development projects administered by Eurostat and EFTA's office of statistics.

7.10 Data security and quality assurance

Data security

Statistics Norway's licence application was dealt with by the Data Inspectorate in 2003. Every three years Statistics Norway must submit a report to confirm that data are treated in accordance with the licence agreement and the Personal Data Act. In order to fulfil some of the requirements of the Personal Data Act, the internal documentation of administrative systems was updated in 2003.

- Preparedness in Statistics Norway* The Ministry of Justice and the Police has initiated a review of the civil preparedness system. The new system will be in operation by 1 March 2004. Statistics Norway's system of preparedness will be reviewed and further developed in accordance with the new national system.
- Statistics Norway's management and other members of staff who will have a central role in crisis and emergency situations underwent training in 2003. An action plan for IT security is being developed, and the plan will be based on Statistics Norway's security strategy and the Data Inspectorate's requirements and plan for the establishment of a secure zone in our data systems. Work is also being done to further develop existing preparedness plans.
- Systematic quality work* Statistics Norway has worked systematically to improve quality in recent years. These efforts have primarily focused on increasing awareness that the aim is to produce statistics and analyses that meet the users' requirements as closely as possible. The key to quality improvements lies in the study of and the changes in processes. Another important aspect of quality work is documenting the quality of the statistics.
- Statistics Norway has created a service declaration on the Internet, which is available in Bokmål, Nynorsk and English. A plan of action has also been devised.
- The Ministry of Finance has asked Statistics Norway to put forward a proposal for one or more indicators on Statistics Norway's productivity in selected statistical areas. To date, indicators for the productivity development in the consumer price index, the survey on consumer expenditure, wage statistics and the statistical yearbook have been compiled. Further work will be done to improve the data so that productivity indicators can be drawn up on a more permanent basis.
- Statistical revisions* Work is underway to look at the effects of revisions in the production of statistics. The aim of this work is to develop routines for statistical revision, including graphic check routines, and to revise the handbook for data revision.
- Statistical standards* The work on statistical standards has continued within the same framework as previously, and the work is presented in the annual status reports for work on standards. Two examples of work on statistical standards in 2003 include the international revision of the standard for industrial classification (NACE 2007) and the national update of the standard for socio-economic classification.