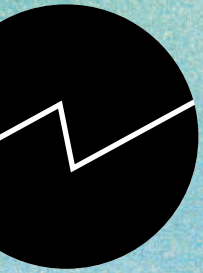


Statistics Norway



Statistisk sentralbyrå

# Statistics Norway

## Annual Report 2004

## **This is Statistics Norway**

Statistics Norway has the main responsibility for the collection, processing and dissemination of official statistics in Norway. Official statistics and analyses based on statistics shall provide the general public, businesses and the authorities with information about the structure and development of society. Such information strengthens democracy and forms the basis for a sustainable economic, social and environmental development. To fulfil its task, official statistics must be produced on an impartial basis, be of a high quality and made available for the common good of society.

Statistics Norway was established in 1876. It is a professionally autonomous institution placed under the Ministry of Finance and has an Executive Committee appointed by the Government.

Statistics Norway's tasks are outlined in the Statistics Act of 1989. The Act states that Statistics Norway is responsible for identifying the need for official statistics and coordinating official statistics in Norway. In addition, Statistics Norway is responsible for Norway's involvement in international statistical cooperation.

Statistics Norway is one of very few national offices of statistics with its own research activity, which makes Statistics Norway one of the largest centres for social science research in the country.

The Internet is the main distribution channel for official statistics. New statistics are published on [ssb.no](http://ssb.no) every day at 10 am. Statistics Norway also produces a number of printed publications, such as Minifacts about Norway and the Statistical Yearbook of Norway among others.

Statistics Norway's revenues amounted to NOK 501.5 million in 2004. Government funding made up around NOK 370 million, whereas NOK 131.5 million was made up of user-financed assignments. Ministries and the Research Council of Norway are the main customers.

At the start of 2005, Statistics Norway had a staff of 942. Employees based in Oslo total 557, while 385 are based in Kongsvinger. In addition, Statistics Norway employs 129 interviewers around the country and 28 interviewers in Oslo. The total number of man-years in 2004 was 889.

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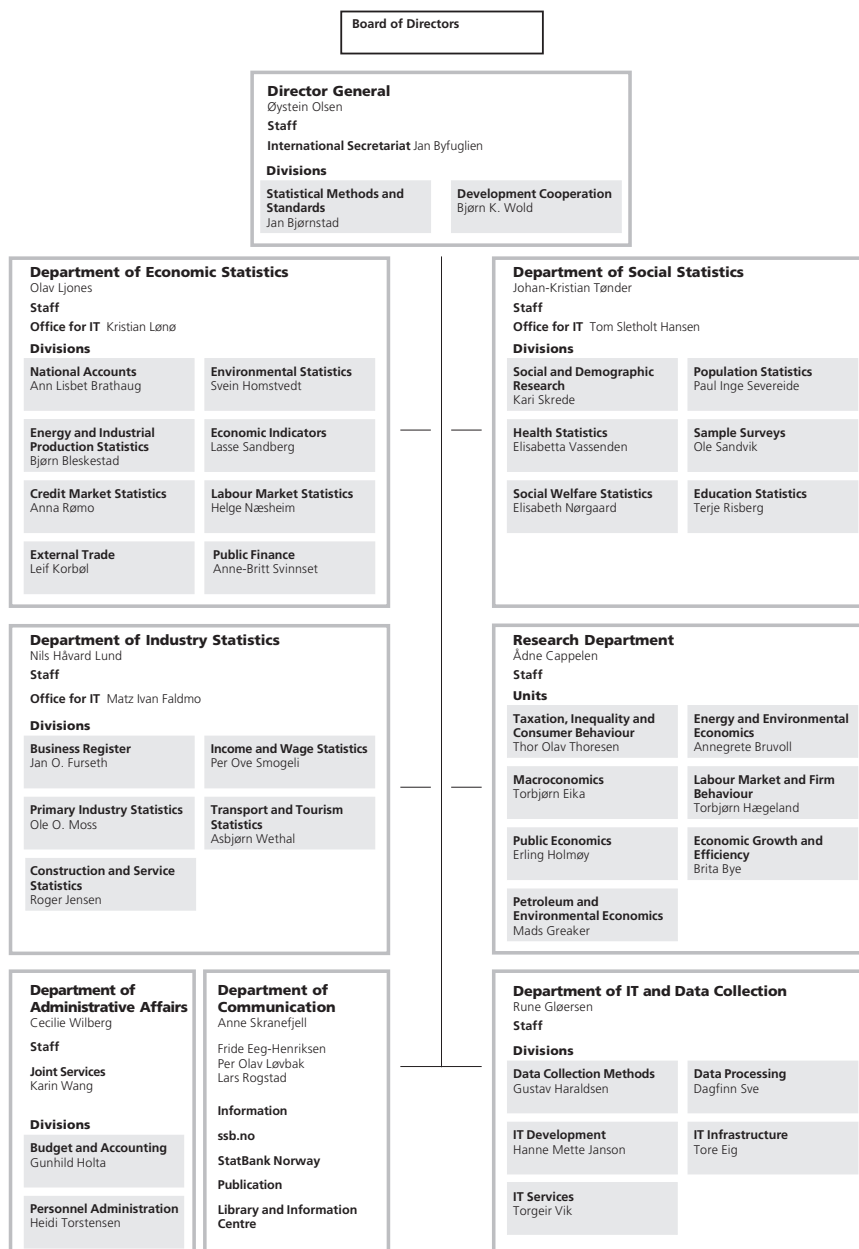
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# 1. Statistics Norway's organisation

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 majority of the departments are organised in divisions and also have some positions at director level. The Department of Communication has a matrix organisation with three Heads of Divisions who have responsibility for ten teams. The Research Department is organised in teams managed by Heads of Research in fixed-term positions.

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 942 employees, 557 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.



## 2. Report of the Board of Directors

**2004 was a very active year in many areas for Statistics Norway. A statistics council was set up and had its first year of operations. On 1 July, Statistics Norway achieved its target of providing all trade and industry forms electronically via AltInn or IDUN. KOSTRA (Municipality-State-Reporting) has been a great contributor in the work aimed at more efficient reporting of data from municipalities and counties to the state. Svein Longva retired as Director General of Statistics Norway at the end of 2004, and was replaced by Øystein Olsen.**

*Statistics council* The statistics council was set up on 1 January 2004. The council is made up of 20 institutions that produce official statistics or are responsible for registers that are particularly important for the production of statistics. The council's objective is to contribute to a uniform statistics system, increase the quality of official statistics and improve the efficiency of the statistics through coordination and cooperation. An annual report for 2004 containing an overview of Norwegian official statistics, has been compiled.

Statistics Norway estimates that around 750 out of a total of 900 man-years are used in the production of statistics, whereas the figure for the other institutions in the council is between 100 and 150 man-years.

*Register cooperation* Norway is one of very few countries to utilise public registers in the production of statistics. These are administrative registers which primarily serve another function than the production of statistics. In 2004, the Norwegian Mapping Authority initiated a register forum aimed at strengthening the cooperation between institutions with responsibility for the most important administrative registers in Norway. Statistics Norway is involved in this work. The Board considers such cooperation as important for improving information management in the state sector and ensuring the reuse of data.

*Electronic reporting of data* On 1 July Statistics Norway achieved its target of making all trade and industry forms available electronically, either via AltInn or Statistics Norway's own web service IDUN. The Board places great emphasis on the work to develop electronic solutions for data collection. Among other things, the IDUN solution must be integrated with AltInn so that the users can access all of Statistics Norway's forms under the same login. In addition, solutions continue to be developed for direct data collection from company data systems.

*Response burden* Improvements with regard to the use of registers, electronic forms and direct data collection are important means of reducing the response burden for trade and industry. Statistics Norway's share of the total response burden is small (less than 2 per cent) and 78 per cent of Norwegian businesses did not have to fill in a form from Statistics Norway in 2004. The Board is, however, aware that a small number of respondents have a considerable workload in reporting data. The Board is satisfied that the response burden has been reduced for some important statistics. However, the overall response burden for trade and industry increased somewhat in 2004 as a result of the transfer of the statistics on foreign transactions from Norges Bank to Statistics Norway.

*Efficient reporting of data* KOSTRA has been a great success, and has resulted in increased efficiency in reporting municipal and county municipal data to the state. As a result, the production of statistics has also been simplified.

The public sector is currently undertaking major changes. It is important that public sector reforms take reporting routines into account, both with regard to efficiency and quality. This is vital in ensuring that we have up-to-date and high-quality statistics that can be used as the basis for decisions and descriptions of important areas of society.

- Population census statistics* With the final documentation in place, the 2001 Population and Housing Census was completed in 2004. Future population and housing censuses will be register-based. The main data source for register-based statistics on families and households is the unique residence addresses in the Population Register. It is now possible to produce statistics on households at municipality and borough level.
- Environmental indicators* Several factors have to be in place in order to measure the environmental situation in a country, and identifying which factors are most important for the environment is not necessarily straightforward. A committee appointed by the Government and headed by Statistics Norway researcher Knut Alfsen has been commissioned to identify indicators of sustainable development. The Board is very pleased with Statistics Norway's active role in this work and looks forward to seeing the report of the committee.
- Research* Statistics Norway's research is of great importance for the ongoing societal debate. In addition, the fact that our statistics are used in research can have positive consequences for the quality of the statistics. The Board is satisfied that the level of external research publications increased in 2004.
- Punctuality* In 2004, 89 per cent of Statistics Norway's statistics were published on the date stated in the Advance Release Calendar. The punctuality of the statistics is important. However, sometimes data delays or the need for quality improvements can result in delayed publication. In 2004, we were reminded of the importance of punctuality, when a delay in the statistics on labour input in agriculture resulted in uncertainty with regard to the figures that formed the basis for the agricultural settlement.
- Dissemination of statistics* Statistics Norway was one of the first statistics agencies to use the Internet as its main channel for disseminating statistics. It is a principle of Statistics Norway that the information published on [ssb.no](http://ssb.no) is free of charge and available to everyone. This principle is an essential tool in making the statistics a benefit to the general public. The EU has maintained that statistics from its statistics agency, Eurostat, should be a paid service. However, this was changed in 2004, and European statistics are now available without charge to a much greater extent.
- Users* In order to offer the opportunity for increased knowledge and training, Statistics Norway held its first courses for external users in 2004. Forty workshops and seminars were held in 2004, with a total of 1 000 participants. These ranged from introduction seminars to in-depth seminars on how to find and use statistics. In addition, several seminars on how to report foreign transactions, aimed at trade and industry, were held.
- In June, [ssb.no](http://ssb.no) received the award for best public sector website in a survey carried out by [tv2.no/nettavisen](http://tv2.no/nettavisen), which stated that "The public sector has taken giant steps forward in recent years, and Statistics Norway's very impressive web service is leading the way."
- International cooperation* The international statistics cooperation is becoming increasingly important. In particular, Statistics Norway's cooperation with the EU/EEA has increased in scope in the last few years. This work is challenging both with regard to the necessary and legally required revisions of the national statistics and the number of meetings. The Board is satisfied that the comparability of Norwegian statistics has been improved, but is concerned with the costs related to the cooperation.
- Budget and accounts* Statistics Norway achieved an acceptable financial result in 2004, with a negative operating result of NOK 1.9 million and NOK 9.2 million carried forward to 2005. This is despite a mid-year cut in government funding of NOK 3 million. Operating expenditures were lower in 2004, particularly due to the reduced use of consultants.

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

*Svein Longva*

Having worked in Statistics Norway for 37 years, Svein Longva retired as Director General in December 2004. Mr Longva has been a central figure in the development of Statistics Norway since becoming Director General in 1991. He turned Statistics Norway into a modern central government institution, made it a vital player in the public debate and created an organisation which the employees and the Board are proud of. The Board would like to thank Svein Longva and wish him all the best in his new position as State Mediator.



*Making a difference*

The Board is satisfied that most of the goals for 2004 were achieved. The extensive use of Statistics Norway's statistics and analyses, as well as the high media coverage show that Statistics Norway is visible in society and that our statistics and research are useful and make a difference in the development of society. This could not have been accomplished without competent employees. The Board therefore wishes to thank all staff members for their contribution in 2004.

The Board would also like to welcome Øystein Olsen as Director General as of 1 January 2005.

At the end of 2004, Rune Sørensen left the Board and was replaced by Lars-Erik Borge.

Petter Jakob Bjerve, Statistics Norway's Director General from 1949 to 1980 and Minister of Finance from 1960 to 1963, died on 12 January 2004. A great builder of society and all-round outstanding man is gone.

*Clockwise from top left: Rune Sørensen, Eva Hildrum, Hege Torp and Hanne Marit Svensrud. Clockwise from bottom left: Thor Bjarne Bore, Lars-Erik Borge and Ida Helliesen. Einar Hope was not present.*

*Hege Torp*

Director of Research Hege Torp,  
Chairman of the Board

*Eva Hildrum*

Deputy Secretary Eva Hildrum,  
Vice Chair

*Thor Bjarne Bore*

Former editor Thor Bjarne Bore

*Hanne Marit Svensrud*

Senior Executive Officer Hanne Marit  
Svensrud

*Einar Hope*

Professor Einar Hope

*Ida Helliesen*

Finance Director Ida Helliesen

*Lars-Erik Borge*

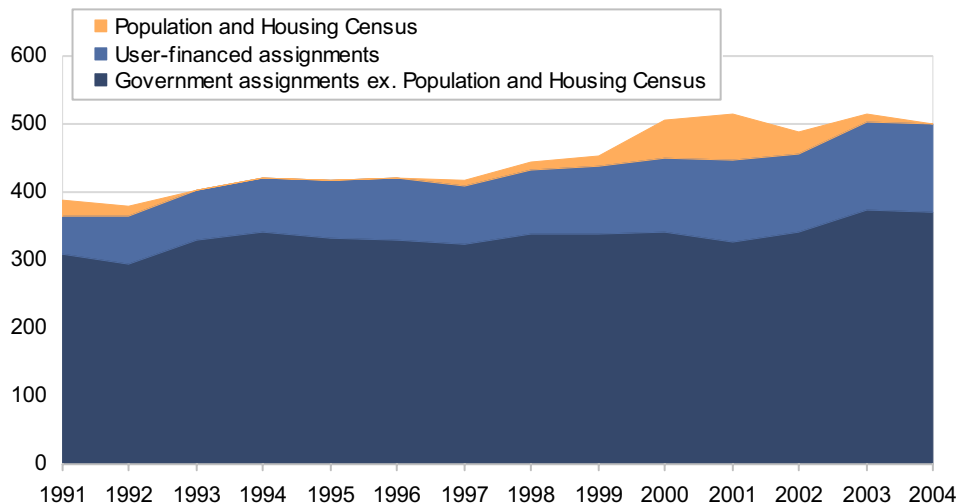
Professor Lars-Erik Borge



### 3. Budget and accounts

The revenues from user-financed assignments were higher in 2004 than in the previous year. Statistics Norway had a negative operating result of NOK 1.9 million. NOK 11.2 million was brought forward from 2003. Thus, NOK 9.2 million was carried forward to 2005.

**Historical accounts. Revenues 1991-2004, NOK million in 2004. NOK million<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>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, with only minor follow-up tasks in 2004.

Revenues from operations, including reimbursements, were NOK 501.5 million in 2004. This is NOK 6 million less than in 2003. Government appropriations were cut by NOK 3 million during the year. In addition, reimbursements have fallen by NOK 4 million compared with 2003. In addition to the revenues from operations, revenues from investments totalled NOK 7.9 million.

*Increased revenue from user-financed assignments*

Revenues from user-financed assignments totalled NOK 131.5 million in 2004, which is NOK 4 million more than in 2003. The increase is partly a result of an advance payment of NOK 5.4 million for a three-year development project in Albania.

Ministries and other state institutions are still our main customers and accounted for 54 per cent of the user-financed revenues in 2004. The proportion financed by the Research Council of Norway was 14 per cent, which is an increase of 3 percentage points from 2003.

Total receivables were NOK 9 million as at 31 December 2004.

*Increased operating expenditures*

Total operating expenditures totalled NOK 503.4 million in 2004, which was NOK 2.2 million more than the revised budget. However, this is NOK 7.1 million less than in 2003.

Total wage costs increased from NOK 344.8 million in 2003 to NOK 347.4 million in 2004. The increase is mainly a result of the wage settlement in 2004. Operating expenditures were reduced from NOK 165.7 million in 2003 to NOK 156 million in 2004. This decrease is mainly a result of reduced costs for consultancy services. The reduction represents more than NOK 8 million from 2003, and NOK 26 million over the past two years. The AltInn/IDUN project had the largest reduction in consultancy costs. In addition, there was a reduction in costs for equipment and computers and the maintenance and running of buildings.



<i>Operating result and transfers to 2004</i>	Statistics Norway had a negative operating result of NOK 1.9 million in 2004. This is mainly because the only funding for the Population and Housing Census was brought forward from 2003, resulting in a negative operating result of NOK 3 million for the census. In addition, there was a negative operating result of NOK 1.2 million for government assignments. The mid-year cut in government funding is part of the reason for this result. NOK 11.2 million was brought forward from 2003. Thus, NOK 9.2 million was carried forward to 2005 in total.
<i>Lower sales revenues, higher revenues from compulsory fines</i>	Revenues from the sale of publications are not included in Statistics Norway's accounts. Neither are revenues from compulsory fines. Such revenues are credited centrally to the state accounts. Sales revenues amounted to NOK 1.7 million in 2004, NOK 0.5 million less than in 2003. Revenues from compulsory fines increased by NOK 0.9 million in 2004 compared with 2003.
<i>Reduced investments</i>	NOK 4.8 million was spent on major acquisitions in 2004. This is NOK 4.7 million less than in 2003 and primarily a result of the decision to postpone major investments to 2005. IT investments make up the largest share of the acquisitions.

**Annual accounts 2004. Total overview (government assignments, the Population and Housing Census and user-financed assignments. Excluding major acquisitions). NOK 1 000**

	Notes	Accounts 2003	Budget 2004	Accounts 2004	Budget 2005
Government appropriations .....	2,8	363 700	352 149	349 699	363 100
Commission revenues .....	11	127 528	122 425	131 583	134 937
Wage reimbursements .....	3			7 956	
Refunds .....	4	16 343		12 303	
<b>Total revenues and refunds ....</b>		<b>507 571</b>	<b>474 574</b>	<b>501 541</b>	<b>498 037</b>
Wage costs .....	5,9,12	344 874	323 649	347 489	347 539
Operating expenditures .....	1,6,9,12	165 775	156 288	156 007	150 231
<b>Total expenditures .....</b>		<b>510 649</b>	<b>479 937</b>	<b>503 496</b>	<b>497 770</b>
<b>Operating result .....</b>	7,10,13	<b>-3 078</b>	<b>-5 363</b>	<b>-1 955</b>	267
Brought forward from 2003 .....		14 278	11 200	11 200	9 245
Carried forward to 2005 .....	7,10,13	11 200	5 837	9 245	<b>9 512</b>

**Accounting principles**

Statistics Norway keeps its accounts according to the cash-accounting principle, which is in line with state rules. 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 2003	Budget 2004	Accounts 2004	Budget 2005
Government appropriations .....	2	350 500	352 149	349 699	363 100
Wage reimbursements .....	3			7 956	
Refunds .....	4	16 343		12 303	
<b>Total revenues and refunds .....</b>		<b>366 843</b>	<b>352 149</b>	<b>369 958</b>	<b>363 100</b>
Wage costs .....	5	250 685	237 947	258 552	254 306
Operating expenditures .....	6	121 396	114 223	112 561	107 313
<b>Total expenditures .....</b>		<b>372 081</b>	<b>352 170</b>	<b>371 113</b>	<b>361 619</b>
<b>Operating result .....</b>	7	<b>-5 238</b>	<b>-21</b>	<b>-1 155</b>	<b>1 481</b>
Brought forward from 2003 .....		9 195	3 957	3 957	2 802
Carried forward to 2005 .....	7	3 957	3 936	2 802	4 283

**The Population and Housing Census. NOK 1 000**

	Notes	Accounts 2003	Budget 2004	Accounts 2004	Budget 2005
<b>Government appropriations .....</b>	8	<b>13 200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total revenues and refunds .....</b>		<b>13 200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Wage costs .....		5 690	1 229	1 946	
Operating expenditures .....		9 234	3 565	1 094	1 754
<b>Total expenditures .....</b>	9	<b>14 924</b>	<b>4 794</b>	<b>3 040</b>	<b>1 754</b>
<b>Operating result .....</b>	10	<b>-1 724</b>	<b>-4 794</b>	<b>-3 040</b>	<b>-1 754</b>
Brought forward from 2003 .....		6 518	4 794	4 794	1 754
Carried forward to 2005 .....	10	4 794	0	1 754	0

**User-financed assignments. NOK 1 000**

	Notes	Accounts 2003	Budget 2004	Accounts 2004	Budget 2005
Appropriations .....					113 700
Additional income .....					21 237
Commission revenues .....		127 528	122 425	131 583	134 937
<b>Total revenues and refunds .....</b>	11	<b>127 528</b>	<b>122 425</b>	<b>131 583</b>	<b>134 937</b>
Wage costs .....		88 499	84 473	88 499	93 233
Operating expenditures .....		35 145	38 500	35 145	41 164
<b>Total expenditures .....</b>	12	<b>123 644</b>	<b>122 973</b>	<b>123 644</b>	<b>134 397</b>
<b>Operating result .....</b>	13	<b>3 884</b>	<b>-548</b>	<b>2 240</b>	<b>540</b>
Brought forward from 2003 .....		-1 435	2 449	2 449	4 689
Carried forward to 2005 .....	13	2 449	1 901	4 689	5 229

**Major acquisitions. Item 45. NOK 1 000**

	Notes	Accounts 2003	Budget 2004	Accounts 2004	Budget 2005
<b>Government appropriations .....</b>	14	<b>7 780</b>	<b>7 936</b>	<b>7 936</b>	<b>7 936</b>
<b>Total expenditures .....</b>	15	<b>9 653</b>	<b>9 936</b>	<b>4 893</b>	<b>7 936</b>
<b>Operating result .....</b>	16	<b>-1 873</b>	<b>-2 000</b>	<b>3 043</b>	<b>0</b>
Brought forward from 2003 .....		3 518	1 645	1 645	4 688
Carried forward to 2005 .....	16	1 645	-355	4 688	4 688

## Notes to the tables

<sup>1</sup> Total operating expenditures (ex. acquisitions)	Accounts 2002, NOK 1 000	Accounts 2003, NOK 1 000	Accounts 2004, NOK 1 000
Specification, operating expenditures			
Machines, fixtures, equipment .....	12 014	15 807	13 395
Consumables .....	5 331	5 855	4 611
Travel expenses, training etc. ....	22 384	22 885	26 588
Office services etc. ....	54 027	54 960	53 936
Consultancy services .....	39 483	21 690	13 389
Library .....	1 062	1 184	1 235
Maintenance and running .....	3 369	173	158
Maintenance of buildings/plants .....	522	2 300	1 126
Management/rental of premises .....	38 845	40 920	41 568
<b>Total operating expenditures .....</b>	<b>177 037</b>	<b>165 774</b>	<b>156 006</b>

Total operating expenditures were NOK 156 million in 2004, which is NOK 9.7 million less than in 2003. In particular, the costs for consultancy services and machines have been reduced compared with 2003.

### <sup>2</sup> Government appropriations

The accounts show that government appropriations (except the Population and Housing Census) were NOK 3.9 million less than in 2003. The allocation to IDUN/AltInn was cut by NOK 5 million compared with 2003. In connection with the Revised National Budget, Statistics Norway received NOK 550 000 for the introduction of the electricity fee. The revised Government funding was therefore NOK 349.6 million. NOK 24.3 of this was allocated to three projects:

- IDUN NOK 5.3 million
- AltInn NOK 4.5 million
- Reorganisation of the currency statistics (the UT project) NOK 14.5 million

### <sup>3</sup> Wage reimbursements

During the budget year, Statistics Norway received NOK 7.9 million in compensation for the wage settlement.

### <sup>4</sup> Reimbursements for sickness absence and maternity leave

Wage reimbursements for sickness absence and maternity leave were reduced by NOK 16.3 million in 2003 to NOK 12.3 million in 2004, as a result of the fall in sickness absence from 6.2 per cent in 2003 to 4.5 per cent in 2004.

### <sup>5</sup> Wage costs, government appropriations

Wage costs were NOK 2 million higher than Statistics Norway's revised budget and NOK 7.8 million higher than in 2003. This is mainly a result of the wage settlement in 2004.

### <sup>6</sup> Operating expenditures, government appropriations

Operating expenditures were reduced by NOK 8.8 million compared with 2003. The main reason behind the cut is lower costs of consultancy services, which have been cut by around 80 per cent compared with 2003. The AltInn/IDUN project had the largest reduction in consultancy costs. In addition, there was a reduction in costs for equipment and computers and the maintenance and running of buildings.

### <sup>7</sup> Operating result excluding the Housing and Population Census

Statistics Norway had a negative operating result of NOK 1.1 million in 2004. This was mainly caused by the mid-year cut in government funding. However, this result is approximately NOK 1 million higher than Statistics Norway's revised budget and NOK 4 million higher than the operating result in 2003.

### <sup>8</sup> The Population and Housing Census

Government appropriations for the Population and Housing Census amounted to NOK 4.8 million in 2004.

### <sup>9</sup> Expenditure for the Population and Housing Census

Operating expenditures came to NOK 3 million in 2004. This is NOK 1.8 million less than budgeted for and due to delays in the follow-up work for the Residence Address Project.

### <sup>10</sup> Operating result, the Housing and Population Census

The Population and Housing Census had a negative operating result of NOK 3 million. NOK 1.7 million was carried forward from 2004 to 2005, and will go towards the quality control of residence addresses, among other things.

### <sup>11</sup> User-financed assignments

The accounts for 2004 show that revenues from user-financed assignments came to NOK 131.5 million, which is an increase of NOK 4 million compared with 2003. 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. 2003 and 2004**

	2003		2004	
	NOK million	Per cent	NOK million	Per cent
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>127.5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>131.5</b>	<b>100</b>
Ministries .....	65.4	51	41.8	32
Other state institutions .....	19.2	15	28.4	22
Private customers .....	12.4	10	13.0	10
Municipal customers .....	1.1	1	1.3	1
International customers .....	7.9	6	18.6	14
Research institutes and universities .....	7.9	6	9.5	7
The Research Council of Norway .....	13.6	11	18.8	14

The table shows that ministries and other state institutions are Statistics Norway's main customers, contributing 54 per cent of user-financed revenues. The table is based on the cash-accounting principle. The distribution of revenues, particularly nominal amounts, is therefore affected by the delay in payments.

<sup>12</sup> *Expenditure for user-financed assignments*

Expenditure for user-financed assignments came to NOK 129.3 million in 2004, which is an increase of NOK 5.6 million from 2003. Whereas operating expenditures increased by NOK 7.2 million, wage costs were reduced by NOK 1.5 million, mainly as a result of lower wage costs for Statistics Norway's interviewers. These costs were NOK 4.7 million less than in 2003.

<sup>13</sup> *Operating result for user-financed assignments*

The accounts show an operating result of NOK 2.2 million for user-financed assignments. This is NOK 1.6 million less than in 2003. Outstanding claims amounted to almost NOK 9 million as at 31 December, which is an increase of around NOK 2 million compared with 2003. NOK 2.4 million was brought forward from 2003 to 2004. Thus NOK 4.6 million was carried forward to 2005 in total.

<sup>14</sup> *Government appropriations for major acquisitions*

Government appropriations for major acquisitions amounted to NOK 7.9 million in 2004, the same figure as in 2003 after adjustment for inflation.

<sup>15</sup> *Expenditure for major acquisitions*

The expenditure for major acquisitions was NOK 4.7 million less than in 2003 and partly due to the postponement of certain IT-related acquisitions to 2005. In addition, the laying of cables for the new office building in Kongsvinger started in the latter part of 2004 so the cost will be recorded in 2005.

<sup>16</sup> *Operating result for major acquisitions*

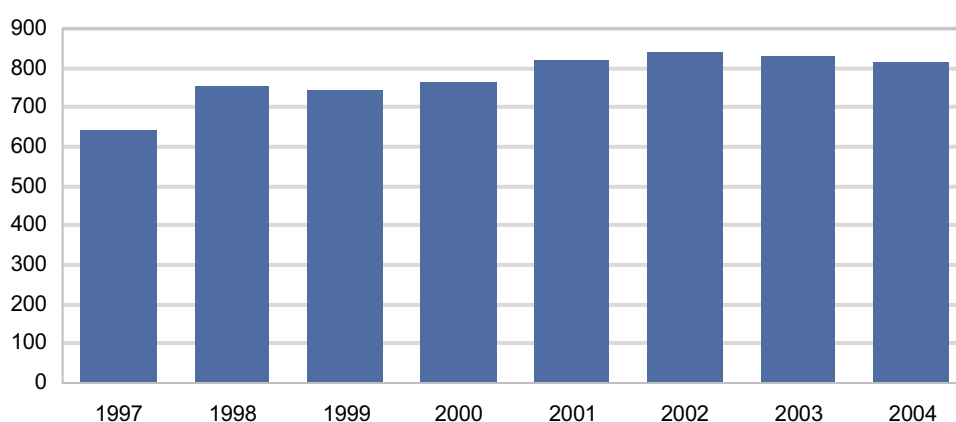
The operating result for major acquisitions was NOK 3 million in 2004. Taking the amount brought forward from 2003 into account, NOK 4.8 million was carried forward to 2005.

## 4. Statistics on statistics

### Statistics releases

In 2004, the number of statistics releases was 815, which is 16 fewer than in 2003. The decrease is partly due to the integration of several smaller statistics into one.

### Number of releases. 1997-2004



### New statistics in 2003

- Use of ICT in central government, annual
- Foreign direct investment, annual
- Land use planning in municipalities and counties, annual
- Throughput of students in tertiary education, annual
- Throughput of pupils in upper secondary education, annual
- Energy consumption per household, varying
- Railway transport, quarterly and annually
- Natural gas, domestic use, annual
- Survival and growth in new established enterprises, annual
- Trade and industry, ownership and roles, annual
- Price index for office and business properties, biannual
- Accounts statistics, key figures for listed enterprises, quarterly
- Students abroad, annual
- Wholesale and retail trade, breakdown of turnover by product, every five years

The following statistics are annual statistics related to KOSTRA

- Financial key figures, municipality
- Municipal residential charges
- Municipal purchases of services
- Municipal property management
- Municipal water supply

### Ad-hoc surveys

- Non-resident parents' rights and contact with children
- Primary physician service, municipal expenses
- Living conditions in prisons

### Revised statistics/data collection

All types of revisions of statistics and data collection methods are registered. This is important in order to avoid a higher response burden and the same data being collected more than once. In 2004, the following revisions were implemented:

- The waste treatment survey was extended to cover hazardous waste.
- The statistics on immigrants and immigration are no longer part of the internal migration statistics, but have become a separate set of statistics.

- The construction cost index uses a new weighting, and indices for three types of construction are now published in addition to the total index for road construction and indices for material and machinery used.
- The statistics for camping, cabins and hotels have become one set of statistics.
- The election statistics for municipal and county council elections now include statistics on elected representatives, based on individual data.
- The tax statistics for wage earners and pensioners have been revised.

*Discontinued statistics*

- The quarterly survey of the carriage of goods by lorry across the Norwegian border was discontinued because of insufficient data quality.
- The construction cost index for water power was also discontinued in 2004.

*The obligation to provide information and the right to impose compulsory fines*

The decision to make surveys mandatory and/or to introduce compulsory fines is taken separately for each survey. It is possible to make surveys mandatory without introducing compulsory fines. In 2004, the following surveys were made mandatory:

- Foreign assets and liabilities
- The price index for road goods transport, quarterly
- The price index for car rentals
- Wage statistics, health and social work activities

*Decisions to introduce compulsory fines in 2004*

- Price index for wholesale trade
- Construction cost index for residential buildings
- Statistics on turnover for petrol stations
- Statistics on foreign transactions

*Response burden for trade and industry*

The total response burden was reduced in 2004, although it increased for trade and industry. This is due to the new statistics on foreign transactions, which Statistics Norway has taken over from Norges Bank. The respondents spent about 12 man-years on this survey. The response burden was lower for several surveys in 2004. As a result of fewer questions, the response burden was reduced by around four man-years for the structural statistics for the manufacturing industry. In addition, the response burden was cut by two man-years each for the wage statistics and for surveys on construction and service statistics due to a reduction in the number of respondents. For respondents outside trade and industry, the reduced response burden was primarily a result of the completion of the adult literacy survey in 2003, which accounted for 12 man-years.

**Response burden. 1997-2004. Man-years<sup>1</sup>**

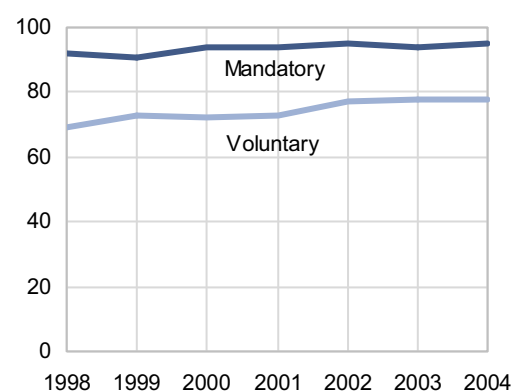
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 <sup>2</sup>	2002	2003	2004
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>167</b>
Trade and industry .....	110	113	113	97	93	92	91	96
Other.....	90	83	83	92	75	85	88	71

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 businesses do not take part in Statistics Norway's surveys. In 2004, this applied to 78 per cent, an increase of 2 per cent compared with 2003. Only 18 per cent of the smallest businesses (0-9 employees) take part in mandatory surveys. In comparison, 87 per cent of the largest businesses take part in one or several surveys.

**Response rate. 1998-2004**

#### **Businesses that do not participate in surveys, by number of employees. 2004.** Per cent

Number of surveys	Total	Number of employees		
		0-9	10-19	20 or more
2003 .....	76.3	80.6	35.5	8.6
2004 .....	78.3	82.4	38.4	13.1

#### **Number of businesses distributed by number of surveys and employees. 2004**

Number of surveys	Number of businesses	Number of employees		
		0-9	10-19	20 or more
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>311 846</b>	<b>288 646</b>	<b>13 135</b>	<b>10 065</b>
0 .....	244 151	237 796	5 039	1 316
1 .....	50 984	44 753	4 267	1 964
2-4 .....	14 138	6 033	3 640	4 465
5-9 .....	2 140	59	186	1 895
10 + .....	433	5	3	425

*Compulsory fines* The Statistics Act's provision for the obligation to provide information also allows for the use of compulsory fines if the information is not submitted. In recent years, Statistics Norway has sent out between 350 000 and 400 000 mandatory forms to trade and industry. Compulsory fines were imposed in 5 887 cases, an increase of 400 from 2003. This figure varies somewhat depending on the number of surveys conducted per year. Compulsory fines are collected by the State Agency for the Recovery of Fines and credited centrally to the state accounts. In 2004, 1 275 businesses lodged a complaint concerning the imposition of such fines or applied to have the fine written off. The sickness absence statistics used to be a voluntary survey, with a response rate of less than 70 per cent. However, the response rate increased to over 90 per cent when the survey was made mandatory. This has had a great effect on the quality of the statistics and enabled more detailed statistics.

*Publications* The number of standard publications fell from 170 in 2003 to 153 in 2004. This is mainly due to the fact that electronic publishing on [ssb.no](http://ssb.no) and in StatBank Norway has taken over much of the traditional paper publications. The Official Statistics of Norway series is now mainly used for documentation purposes and will thus be published at greater intervals than previously. With regard to the Analyses series, the increase is a result of more Discussion Papers and Reprints.

Economic Survey and Samfunnsspeilet were both published six times in 2004.

**Various publications. 1996-2004**

Publications	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>258</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>153</b>
Official Statistics of Norway ..	83	76	61	64	48	66	46	47	28
Analyses <sup>2</sup> .....	66	77	84	97	95	107	74	82	104
Other .....	109	115	141	155	141	101	41	41	21
Economic Survey .....	9	9	9	9	9	6	6	6	6
- Samfunnsspeilet .....	4	4	6	6	6	6	5	6	6

<sup>1</sup> In addition, 501 reports from the 2001 Population and Housing Census were published in 2003.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Reports, Reprints, Discussion Papers, Statistical Analyses and Social and Economic Studies.

*Five publications in the Statistical Analyses series*

- Inntekt, skatt og overføringer 2003 (Income, taxes and transfers 2003)
- Norsk mediebarometer 2003 (Norwegian media barometer 2003)
- På vei mot det gode samfunn? Concerning the differences between the desired and actual development of society
- Natural Resources and the Environment 2004
- Immigration and immigrants 2004

In 2004, Erling Røed Larsen's book "Alt du vil vite om samfunnsøkonomi, men aldri har våget å spørre om" (Everything you wanted to know about economics but never dared ask) was published by Gyldendal Norsk Forlag. The book covers various topics such as the interest rate, unemployment and inflation.

*Research activities – external publishing*

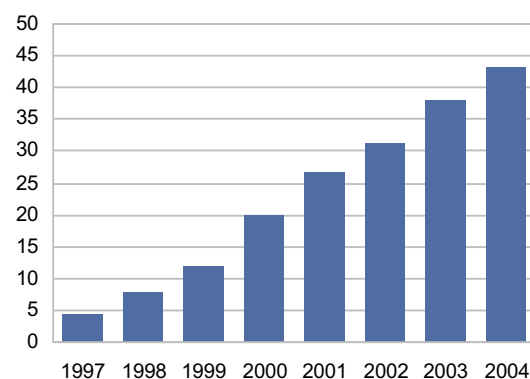
Increased publishing in international periodicals is an important goal for Statistics Norway's research activities. The number of publications in international journals was substantially higher in 2004 compared with recent years.

**External publishing. 1996-2004**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Journals</b> .....	28	20	39	24	41	35	34	38	50
- International .....	21	13	17	15	28	22	17	22	30
- Norwegian .....	7	7	22	9	13	13	17	16	20
<b>Books and articles in books</b> .....	8	7	4	13	18	17	8	10	10
- International .....	5	-	2	12	13	12	5	8	4
- Norwegian .....	3	7	2	1	5	5	3	2	6

*Hits on ssb.no*

The number of hits on ssb.no was 43.4 million in 2004, which is an increase from 38 million in 2003. 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. Search robots such as Google made up approximately 30 per cent of all hits in 2004.

**Number of hits on ssb.no. 1997-2004. Million**

*StatBank Norway*

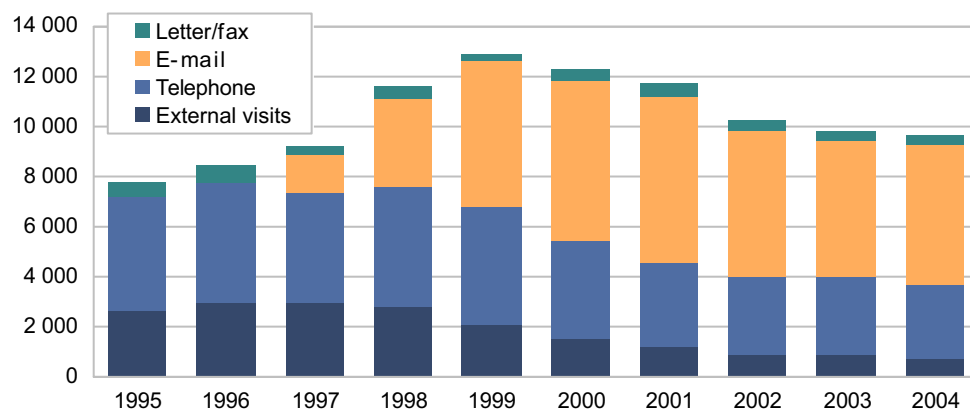
StatBank Norway contained 1 338 table matrices at the end of 2004, which is almost twice as many as in 2003. 34 per cent of the statistics released in 2004 were fully presented in StatBank Norway, and 30 per cent were partly presented. The use of StatBank Norway increased by 45 per cent from 2003 to 2004, based on table extracts.

*Use of the library*

The number of enquiries to the Library and Information Centre continued to fall in 2003, although there was a slight increase in e-mail enquiries. The increased use of ssb.no seems to be the main reason for the decline.



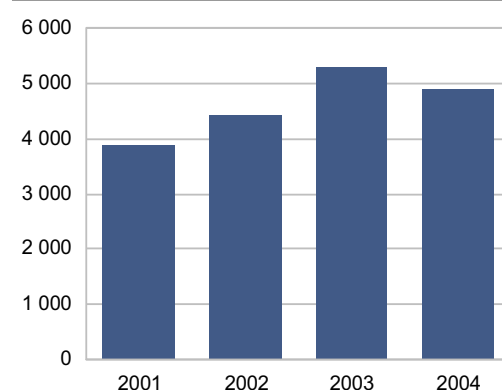
### Number of enquiries to the Library and Information Centre. 1995-2004



*Hearings* Statistics Norway is often engaged in the consultative process when new laws and regulations are drafted and in connection with public reports. In 2004, submissions were prepared for 62 such proposals. See [www.ssb.no/omssb/horing/](http://www.ssb.no/omssb/horing/) for more information in Norwegian.

*Media coverage* Figures or other information from Statistics Norway appear daily in the Norwegian media. The frequent use of Statistics Norway's statistics and analyses in the media emphasises our role as an information source in society. 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 4 904 quotes in 2004, compared with 5 304 in 2003.

### Statistics Norway in the media. 2001-2004



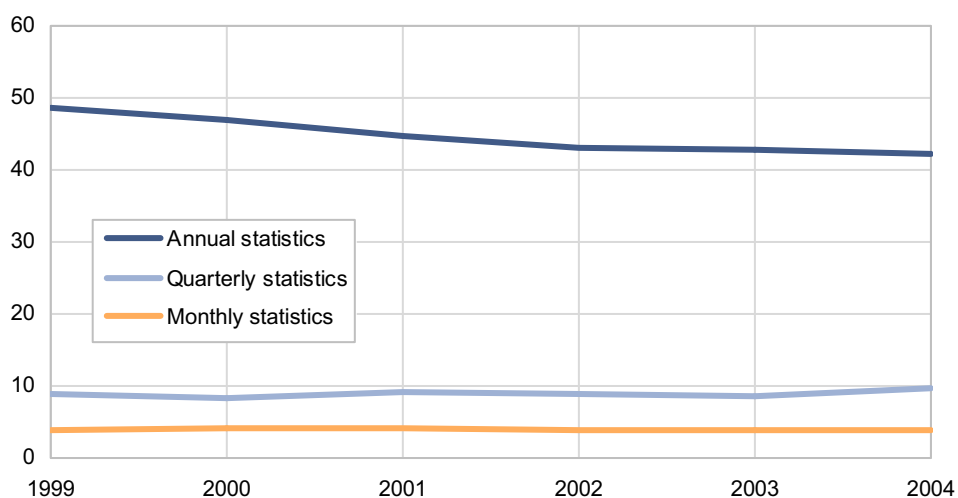
*The use of Nynorsk* Statistics Norway fulfilled the requirement of the Language Act in most areas in 2004, with 30 per cent of 'Today's statistics' and 28 per cent of the printed and electronic publication Official Statistics of Norway in Nynorsk. In total, 10 per cent of the printed publications were in Nynorsk. All of Statistics Norway's forms and questionnaires are available in both Bokmål and 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 outside interests are unable to influence release dates. That is why it is important that the statistics are not released either too early or too late. In 2004, only 11 per cent of the statistics in the Advance Release Calendar were not published on time.

**Punctuality. Deviations from announced time of release. 1997-2004. Per cent**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>
Too early .....	6	2	4	2	3	2	2	2
Too late .....	8	8	9	13	10	8	6	9

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. The reduced timeliness in the quarterly statistics of 2004 is, among other things, due to the restructuring of the Road Goods Transport Survey and the Construction Cost Index for Road Construction.

**Timeliness. Time from reference period to publishing. 1999-2004***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. 22 per cent goes towards development projects, research and analyses. Compared with 2003, the distribution of resources has remained more or less stable. The overview is exclusive of absences.

**Distribution of man-hours, by type of activity. 1999-2004. Per cent**

Type of activity	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Production of statistics .....	60	61	63	62	61	60
- Ongoing production of statistics .....	53	54	54	52	51	50
- Development projects .....	7	8	9	10	11	10
Research and analysis .....	10	10	9	10	11	12
Administration and planning .....	10	9	9	10	10	10
Internal support functions .....	20	20	19	18	17	18

*Continued confidence in Statistics Norway*

According to a survey on confidence in 27 Norwegian institutions conducted by the opinion poll company MMI, 70 per cent of the Norwegian population have great confidence in Statistics Norway. This is on a par with previous results, and places Statistics Norway seventh, after the Police, the Consumer Ombudsman, the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, banks, the education system and TV2.

Another survey conducted by MMI in 2004 (a profile survey of Norwegian government agencies and organisations) ranks Statistics Norway as number 12 (of 83), and 59 per cent of the respondents said that they "have a very good or quite good impression of Statistics Norway". Only 4 per cent said that they had a bad impression of us.

## 5. Working in Statistics Norway

Included in the budget for 2004 were 889 man-years, the same as in 2003. There was a reduction in the number of temporary positions financed by government appropriations due to the discontinuation of positions related to the 2001 Population and Housing Census. There was an equivalent increase in user-financed positions.

### Budget man-years. 1993-2004

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Total man-years</b> .....	<b>785</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>889</b>
Government assignments ..	645	619	612	619	624	652	652	664	659	650	658	677	669
- Temporary .....	43	35	24	32	38	42	42	55	43	59	67	87	59
User-financed assignments	140	179	186	194	199	169 <sup>1</sup>	169	174	180	202	209	212	220

<sup>1</sup> 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 2005, Statistics Norway had a staff of 942, including 22 employees on maternity leave. This compares with 930 employees at the start of 2004. The staff increase is primarily a result of an increase in user-financed international development projects. Employees based in Oslo total 557, while 385 are based in Kongsvinger. In addition, Statistics Norway employs 129 interviewers around the country and 28 interviewers in Oslo.

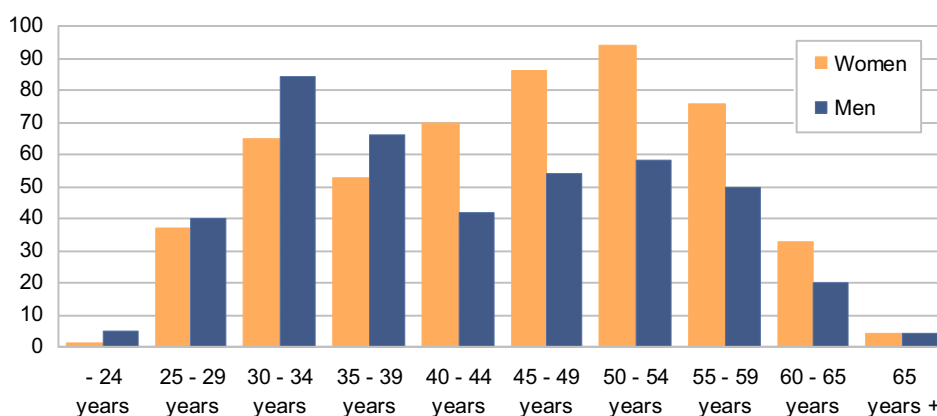
*Men and women*

A total of 39 per cent of the employees have worked in Statistics Norway for 20 years or more. The proportion of employees who have worked in Statistics Norway for less than five years has fallen from 33 per cent to 30 per cent, whereas the proportion that has worked here for five to nine years has increased from 12 to 16 per cent. 6 per cent have worked in Statistics Norway for 10 to 14 years and 9 per cent for 15 to 19 years. The number of employees who have worked in Statistics Norway for 30 years or more increased by 24 to 150 in 2004.

In autumn 2004, Statistics Norway set up a committee to propose measures on how Statistics Norway can work actively and strategically to increase gender equality in the organisation. In addition, a new life phase policy has been developed, which takes employees' different needs in different stages of life into account.

There are more women than men in Statistics Norway. The distribution at the beginning of 2005 was 55 per cent women and 45 per cent men, which is more or less stable from 2004. Among those over 40 women are in the clear majority. Among those under 40 men are in the majority. In Oslo, half the employees are women, while in Kongsvinger 63 per cent are women.

### Employees at 31 December 2004



Women held 90 per cent of lower positions, and men are in the majority in academic and managerial positions. There is an almost even distribution of men and women in middle management.

#### Women at the beginning of the year. 1999-2005. Per cent

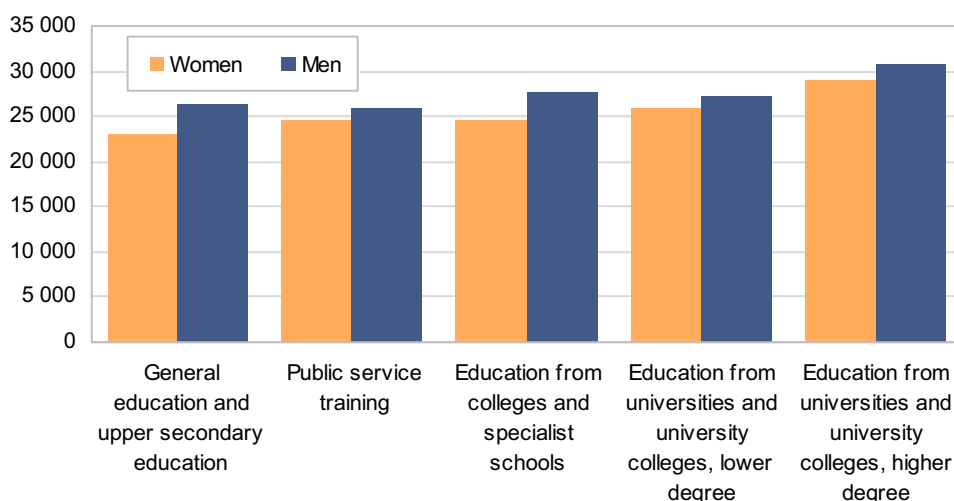
	1999	2002	2003	2004	2005
Office positions .....	93	90	94	93	90
Executive officers, lower level .....	79	84	85	84	84
Executive officers, higher level .....	40	43	48	50	48
Academic/research positions .....	34	32	33	35	37
Managerial positions .....	24	30	33	29	29

There were 52 managerial positions in Statistics Norway at the beginning of 2005. With 15 women and 37 men in these positions, the percentage of female managers is 29, the same as in 2003. The average age of managers is 49, and 21 of them were in managerial positions in Statistics Norway five years ago. 15 were in charge of the same division or department as today, while six were in charge of a different unit. Nine of the 31 new managers are women. Six of the 31 were not employed by Statistics Norway prior to becoming managers in the institution, five of which were women.

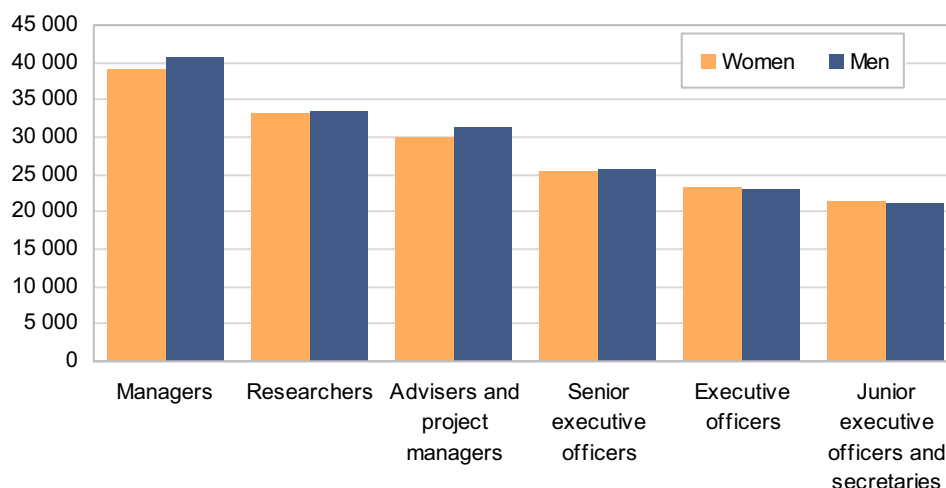
#### Salary, position, education

The average monthly salary was NOK 27 730 at 1 October 2004. Women in full-time positions earned an average monthly salary of NOK 26 000, approximately 12 per cent less than men in full-time positions, who had an average monthly salary of NOK 29 000. The differences in salary are primarily due to the high proportion of women in lower positions and in lower education groups. Compared with the previous year, women in full-time positions had a salary increase of 5.1 per cent, whereas men had an increase of 4.2 per cent.

#### Average monthly salary for men and women in full-time positions, by education. 1 October 2004. NOK



**Average monthly salary for men and women in full-time positions, by type of position. 1 October 2004. NOK**



Statistics Norway's managers had an average monthly salary of NOK 40 000 in 2004. Women in managerial positions earn 3.7 per cent less than their male colleagues. Among Statistics Norway's researchers and higher level executive officers, men and women have approximately the same salary. Women in lower positions have a slightly higher salary than men.

The greatest differences are found among full-time advisers and project managers, with men being paid an average of NOK 31 399 per month, or 4.8 per cent more than their female colleagues.

Among women in full-time positions, those aged 35-39 and over 60 have the highest salaries. Among men, those aged over 60 have the highest salaries.

Women educated at universities or university colleges and who have worked in Statistics Norway for more than 15 years earn 2-3 per cent less than men with similar education and length of service. Women who have worked here for 16-23 years earn 7.5 per cent more than men, and among those with 24 years of service women earn 4.9 per cent less than men.

At the start of 2005, 45 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 32 per cent of the women hold higher degrees from universities, the figure is 61 per cent for men. 44 per cent of the employees with a higher education have worked in Statistics Norway for less than five years.

There are 184 part-time employees in Statistics Norway, with 70 per cent of these working less than 80 per cent. The majority of part-time employees are women.

*Environmental management*

An action plan for the introduction of environmental management in Statistics Norway was adopted in 2004. The plan describes the effects of Statistics Norway's purchases, waste, energy and transport on the external environment. The plan contains a range of measures in each area. Environmental management will also become an integrated part of the HSE work in Statistics Norway.

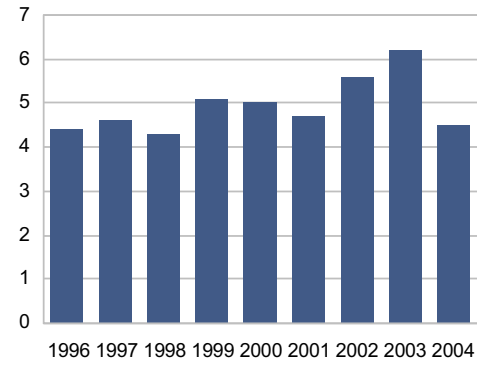
*A more inclusive workplace*

Statistics Norway entered into an inclusive workplace agreement in 2002. The objectives of this agreement are 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 2004, absence due to illness was 4.5 per cent, compared with 6.2 per cent in 2003. This is the lowest rate of sickness absence since 1988.

Long-term sickness absence among women has been the main component in the absence, and this is where we have seen the largest reduction.

**Sickness absence. 1996-2004. Per cent**



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. Reports describing the measures that have been taken in this area are produced every second year. 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 *Exercise for health* initiative is practiced both in Oslo and Kongsvinger. Around 230 people take part in this project, of which 174 are women.

Representatives for the five trade unions in Statistics Norway are members of 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 2004, Statistics Norway spent NOK 6.4 million on employee training in-house and externally. Half of these funds were channelled via internal course programmes. During the year, 110 in-house courses were arranged with a total of 815 participants.

Three members of staff were awarded a PhD in 2004. A total of 28 members of staff now hold a PhD. Statistics Norway employs 64 researchers, including 21 senior researchers and ten managers.

At the end of 2004, 25 members of staff have qualified as 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. In 2004, a pilot project for the testing of a new method for career development was carried out. The project was financed by funds from the Main Tariff Agreement.

The management training was continued in each department. There has been a desire to improve the relationship between management training projects and daily management tasks, and to find out how the focus on management training in recent years has affected current management practices.

Statistics Norway recruited 51 new members of staff in 2004, compared with 57 in 2003. 76 per cent of the new employees have higher degrees from universities. The number of employees who resigned was 44, which equates to 5 per cent of total employees. 52 employees resigned in 2003. 66 per cent of those who resigned had higher education, and 45 per cent had up to four years of service.

## 6. Report of the Director General

**The coordination and streamlining of the statistics production were central in Statistics Norway in 2004. The Statistics Council was established on 1 January. The coordination of the work internally is important in order for Statistics Norway to be perceived as a uniform institution by its users and customers. We have made good progress in the dissemination of statistics and analyses on *ssb.no*, its Norwegian theme pages and in StatBank Norway. A considerable breakthrough was made with regard to data collection in 2004 when electronic reporting was made available to all our respondents. The broad international statistics cooperation was continued in 2004.**

- Administrative registers* Administrative registers are essential in the production of statistics. Based on the structure of the Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises, Statistics Norway is developing a system for the administration of the populations of ground properties, addresses, buildings and dwellings, which will become an important tool in the production of statistics. A main argument for the new system is the capability to link information from the various registers. In order to strengthen the cooperation with other register owners and contribute to increased efficiency in the administration of registers in Norway, the Registerforum was established in August 2004.
- Quality and data on data* Statistics Norway has focused on systematic quality work for several years. Documentation is very central in this work. Relevant documentation is necessary in order for our users to find, understand and use the statistics. Documentation is also a prerequisite for efficient work processes. Meta data is structured documentation of data and statistics. In 2004, a strategy to coordinate the meta data systems in Statistics Norway was developed.
- Price project* The price project began in earnest in 2004. This work will contribute to improving price and volume measurements in the official statistics. A potential area of development is price statistics on services for which it is difficult to distinguish between changes in price, volume and quality. Improving price indices is also an important area internationally.
- Statistics on foreign transactions* Statistics on foreign transactions - the UT project - which is a joint project between Statistics Norway and Norges Bank, is now entering its final stage, and the main development tasks will be completed during 2005. From 2005, the work will also be focused around the production of the new statistics on foreign transactions. As a consequence of the UT project, the monthly balance of payments will become quarterly as of 2005.
- Response burden* Statistics Norway's right to collect data for statistical purposes is conferred by the Statistics Act. However, it is our aim that trade and industry as well as private individuals should spend as little time and resources as possible filling in our forms or providing information in other ways. We therefore see it as important to implement new collection methods where available. In order to keep the response burden to a minimum, Statistics Norway focuses on the reuse of administrative data, data collection from the respondents' own computer systems and from third parties. In addition, the response burden is limited by the use of electronic forms.
- In 2004, there was a decline in the response burden in several conventional surveys due to an increased reuse of data.
- The EEA cooperation* The EU expanded to include another ten member states in 2004, which means new challenges for the EEA/EFTA countries with regard to participation and visibility.
- Since starting in 1994, the EEA cooperation has entailed a considerable reorganisation and further development of Norwegian statistics, particularly due to binding legislative acts. One result of this development is that the statistics have become

more comparable across countries. At the end of 2004, the statistics cooperation covered 145 legislative acts.

*Nordic cooperation* There is a high level of cooperation between the Nordic statistics agencies. This was clearly demonstrated at the Nordic statistics conference in Finland in 2004. Some of the collaborative projects that were introduced at the executive meeting in Svartå were joint data collections from inter-Nordic companies and joint statistics on employment and border trade, among others. In this way, Nordic events function as a workshop for development tasks before other partners are involved. At the statistics conference in Åbo the many participants from Statistics Norway also made their mark on the various sessions.

*Building extension* In 2004, the first soil was dug up for the new building extension in Kongsvinger. This means the end of almost ten years of temporary barracks in the autumn of 2005. The new building will be joined to the existing building and provide around one hundred work spaces.

Statistics Norway participates in an agreement with the authorities to lower sick leave and to safeguard human resources based on individual needs. In 2004, the sick leave was reduced to 4.5 per cent. This is the lowest rate since 1998.

Statistics Norway's employees are imperative assets in making the wheels go round and the organisation moving forward. As Statistics Norway's new Director General I would like to thank our staff for their efforts throughout the past year. I look forward to working with you, and to further improving the quality of our statistics.



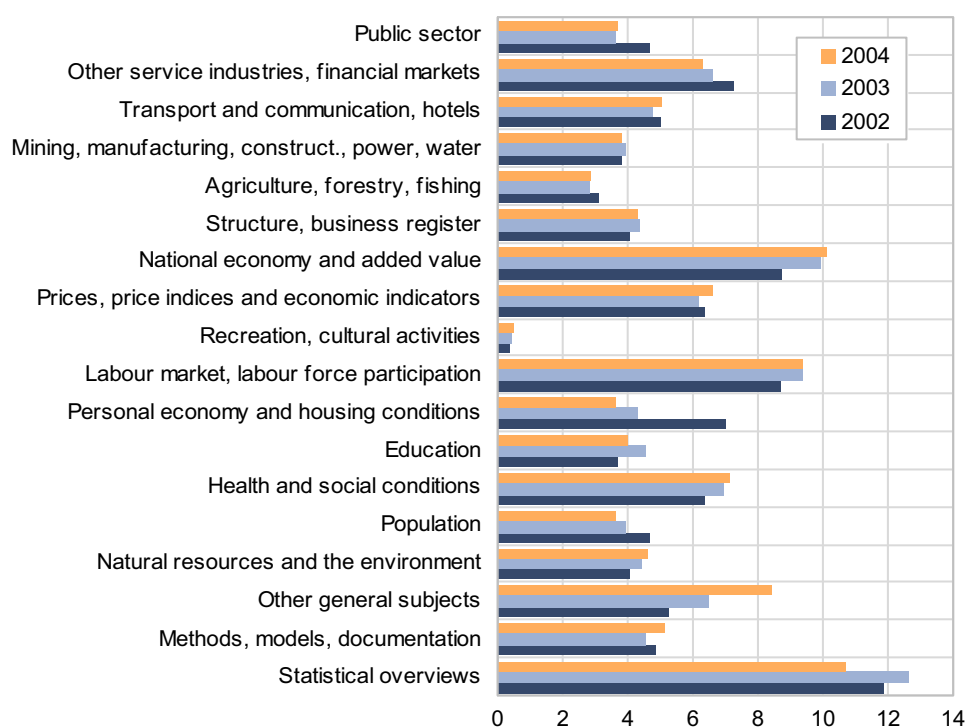
*Øystein Olsen*  
Øystein Olsen



## 7. Activity report

Activities carried out were divided into the following areas:

### Man-hours by subject. 2002-2004. Per cent



### 7.1 Electronic data collection

Electronic reporting from trade and industry is provided via Statistics Norway's web solution IDUN, via AltInn and through data collection from the respondents' computer systems, for instance payroll systems. In addition, large amounts of data are collected directly from retail chains instead of individual stores.

The proportion of respondents who use IDUN is steadily increasing. For the statistics on the manufacturing industry, which has offered electronic reporting via IDUN since 2000/2001, around two thirds of all forms are submitted electronically. For other surveys, the proportion has increased from 10-15 per cent in 2003 to more than 30 per cent in 2004.

For statistics on wages, files can be extracted from the companies' own payroll systems and sent to Statistics Norway. For the quarterly statistics on wages, around 65 per cent of the 1 700 respondents submit their data electronically. For the annual statistics on wages this applies to 30 per cent of the 14 000 respondents. It is generally the large companies with many employees that submit file extracts, a fact which means that the proportion of observations reported electronically is much higher than the proportion of respondents.

In order to make IDUN more accessible, it will be more closely integrated with AltInn in 2005.

### 7.2 Population management

Population management concerns the administration of all the units included in the production of statistics. Based on the structure of the Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises, Statistics Norway's aim is to develop a coordinated and practical system for the administration of the populations of ground properties,

addresses, buildings and households in the production of statistics. This project also includes the management of the interaction between the National Population Register and the Besys database in Statistics Norway, in addition to the work with the public sector, large units/groups of companies and the implementation of a new division of labour between the Brønnøysund Register Centre and Statistics Norway with regard to the Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises.

It is important to consider addresses as the key that link the base registers. Linking data in the base registers will contribute to improved quality assurance. The first stage of the new division of labour between the Brønnøysund Register Centre and Statistics Norway was implemented in 2004. Statistics Norway is responsible for certain large enterprises/groups of companies of particular importance for the statistics, including the statistics on foreign transactions.

### 7.3 Economic statistics and industry statistics

#### *The National Accounts*

For the first time in 2004, final national accounts figures, including real accounts, labour accounts and institutional sector accounts, were published 23 months after the end of the year. This is an improvement of three months.

The follow-up of the report on “*quality work related to QNA*” has been central in 2004. The first part of the revision analysis was published in December.

Work on the new *labour accounts* has also been central in 2004 and will be implemented in the national accounts on an ongoing basis in connection with the revision of figures in 2006.

#### *Price project*

The aim of the project is to develop and further develop new and existing statistics on prices and volumes, particularly in areas of the service industry that are still not covered by such statistics. In 2004, the price statistics for road goods transport, car rentals, legal services, cleaning services and telecommunications, in addition to water and air transport, were further developed. Work on a new system for insurance services in the consumer price index was started in April.

In addition, a range of projects on methodology in the measurement of prices of private cars in the consumer price index and imports of cars in the producer price index have been undertaken. New methods for collective services in the public sector in the national accounts have also been developed.

#### *Foreign transactions*

In 2004, Statistics Norway introduced quarterly data collection for the non-financial sector and from all large and a selection of small enterprises.

Statistics Norway is establishing a separate system for the collection of data to satisfy international requirements on statistics on direct investments. In the longer term, the Directorate of Taxes' foreign statement will be used, but this requires a reorganisation in the Directorate which will not be implemented in 2008.

Routines for the exploitation of other register data from the Directorate of Taxes, the National Insurance Administration and the Directorate of Customs and Excise were drawn up in 2004.

For the household sector, the activity in 2004 was centred around a system for submitting data from payment card companies, in addition to travel and border trade surveys. These interview surveys are now well underway. As of the first quarter of 2004, a new reporting system for life and non-life insurance companies, pension funds, financial holding companies, capital transactions, financial income and expenses has been established.

*Labour and income statistics* For the first time in 2004, statistics on sickness absence and employment distributed by occupation were published. The coding of occupations for the municipal sector and health enterprises still remains to be done.

In 2004, statistics from the tax assessment of wage earners and pensioners were published six months after the end of the tax year. This is a considerable improvement on previous years.

*Construction cost index* In 2004, Statistics Norway started producing indices for three types of construction in addition to the total index for road construction. These are indices for the factor inputs material and machinery, and for road constructions. Furthermore, the index for water power was discontinued in 2004. This was decided in agreement with the main users. The new weighting for the construction cost index for construction was implemented in 2004.

*ICT statistics for the public sector* Based on data collection via KOSTRA, statistics on the use of ICT in Norwegian municipalities were published in spring 2004. In 2005, Statistics Norway will also collect data on the use of ICT in county municipalities. Combined with a new survey on the use of ICT in the state sector published in November 2004, the statistics on the use of ICT in the public sector are more or less complete. In addition, statistics on the use of ICT in primary and lower secondary education were made available with data collected via the information system used in primary and lower secondary education (known as Grunnskolens informasjonssystem).

*System for agricultural statistics* The work on further developing an agricultural statistics system based on the integration of data from administrative registers was central in 2004. One of the advantages of such a system is the ability to reduce the scope of a complete agricultural census in 2009. The reuse of data has become easier, and there are more opportunities for tailored extracts for analysis purposes. The revision of subpopulations such as horticulturalists and specialised livestock keeping is improving gradually.

## 7.4 Statistics for the public sector

*KOSTRA* The KOSTRA publishing in 2004 included three new areas: fees and user payments, purchases of services in the municipal sector and municipal property management. In addition, financial key figures in which the municipalities are regarded as group companies and where municipal enterprises and inter-municipal cooperation are included were published. All KOSTRA figures are also available in StatBank Norway. In March, estimated national figures based on a new method for the calculating missing data were published.

The use of KOSTRA's system for electronic reporting is steadily increasing. The quarterly reporting of municipal accounts now takes place via KOSTRA, which will also be extended to include reporting for the church sector. In addition, a pilot project for the reporting of individual payroll data from the municipalities was conducted in 2004.

*Statistics on hospitals* Statistics Norway has published statistics for the number of hospital places, activity and accounts, but some problems related to the transfer of ownership and reorganisation still need to be solved. Final figures for 2003 were published later than planned in September 2004, due to delayed reporting of the accounts of health enterprises. The health enterprises were also required to report the 2003 accounts at institutional level. Statistics Norway cooperates with Sintef Helse on the quality assurance of the figures.

Work is now being done to secure some common principles for health enterprise accounts. Furthermore, register based reporting of personnel data rather than questionnaires will be introduced in the longer term. The reporting to registers

must, among other things, distinguish between personnel in somatic services, psychiatry and substance abuse.

## 7.5 Social statistics

### *Elections*

The election statistics for 2003 were published somewhat later than for previous local elections and considerably later than planned. The transition to electronic reporting of the final election result did not work as planned, and this experience has been assessed in order to develop an efficient and rational reporting at later elections. The statistics from the local elections have now been extended to include statistics on municipal councils and county council representatives, based on information about individuals. This gives Statistics Norway the opportunity to produce figures on age and gender distribution, education and income of the elected representatives.

### *Residence addresses*

Almost 95 per cent of all residents in Norway are registered at a unique address in the National Population Register. However, this figure varies between geographical areas and is lowest in Oslo. The residence address project has been completed, but some work on quality and documentation of updating continues. Based on a detailed description of the quality and existing updating routines, Statistics Norway, the Directorate of Taxes and the Mapping Authority have developed a joint action plan.

### *Population census statistics*

The 2001 Population and Housing Census was completed with all the documentation in place in 2004. Future population and housing censuses will be register-based. The main work in 2004 involved providing the required data foundation by comparing data from various sectors and producing variables which require information from several statistics areas.

The main data source for the register-based statistics on families and households is the information on dwelling addresses in the Population Register. Despite the fact that some data are missing it is possible to provide household figures at municipal/urban district level. Methods for identifying households and cohabiting couples have been developed and tested. Both register data and data from relevant sample surveys have been used in the development work. A system for a household register which is updated continually is underway. The model includes the revision of register data and computations for missing data. The register will be used in the production of household statistics and an improved family and children statistics. In addition, it will form the data foundation for other statistics in which household is the variable. Data sources for correct addresses for students living away from home have also been considered.

## 7.6 Research activities

### *Tax, distribution and consumer behaviour*

The LOTTE tax model has never been used as much as in 2004; partly as a result of the Storting's consideration of the proposed tax reform. In addition, the KONSUM-G model, which describes the effects of changing the duties on alcohol and tobacco, was developed and updated. Research on tax, distribution and consumer behaviour is of great interest to politicians and the general public alike.

### *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 the households adjusted their electricity consumption when the prices increased. Analyses of so-called green certificates in the environmental policy and the relationship between economic development and the environment were also carried out. Finally, a study on the effect of environmental regulations on productivity was conducted. The results showed that such regulations do not necessarily have a negative impact on productivity.

<i>Analyses of economic cycles and macromodels</i>	There has been a great interest in the cyclical development and how the Norwegian economy works in recent years. The introduction of the inflation target in the monetary policy has probably contributed to this interest, as the development in interest rates is more related to the development of central macroeconomic variables. As usual, four cyclical reports containing prognoses and alternative estimates to convey the functioning of the economy were produced in 2004. The importance of interest rates and exchange rates for the cyclical development and price development in Norway were studied. To improve our models in this area, an analysis of the financial markets was also carried out.
<i>Labour market and firm behaviour</i>	A comprehensive project on the measurement of schools' contribution to learning and the correlation between resources and results was conducted in 2004. A project on quality adjusted price indices for cars was also carried out. This project shows that the method used in the production of indices can have great effects on the results. A project on the evaluation of the SkatteFUNN-scheme has been started and will run over several years. A capital database for manufacturing enterprises for the period 1993-2002, based on the combination of accounts statistics and manufacturing statistics has been developed.
<i>Public finance</i>	The analysis of the effects of the proposed pension reform has been a central task in 2004. Statistics Norway carried out several extensive projects on behalf of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in connection with the white paper on reforms of the pension system. The analyses of household saving have been further developed with the main focus on the effects of the tax system for level and portfolio combinations.
<i>Analyses of municipal and regional economy</i>	Register panel data with household characteristics for the period 1993-2001 have been developed. These data will be used in analyses of income mobility and long-term poverty. A microeconomic model for labour supply was developed and estimated, and subsequently used in analyses of tax and pension reforms. Studies of regional labour mobility show that the income growth has been higher among mobile than non-mobile persons.
<i>Economic growth and efficiency</i>	Analyses of distribution effects of different reforms of the VAT system show that the 2001 VAT reform contributes to increased equality, and that the main contribution comes from the 50 per cent cut in VAT on food. The analyses also show that this reform results in lower socio-economic efficiency compared with a uniform VAT reform, which results in an efficiency gain and contributes to increased equality. Furthermore, analyses of the effects on the efficiency of energy subsidies to the power intensive industries show that other types of compensation, for instance general transfers, give increased socio-economic efficiency compared with maintaining the current exemption from electricity fees. A project to analyse the driving forces behind technological development and knowledge accumulation in a small, open country such as Norway was also initiated in 2004. This project has a particular focus on the relationship between innovation policies and environmental policies in reaching environmental policy targets.
<i>Petroleum and environmental-economic analyses</i>	A global oil market model was developed in 2004. An analysis based on this model indicates that it will be profitable for OPEC to raise the oil price even in the longer term. In 2004, a study of the cost development of liquid natural gas concluded that the cost cuts that have been observed must be attributed to increased competition in the market. Another analysis indicates that a rigid environmental policy may have a positive effect on competitiveness if the producers of cleaning technology can make a profit on stricter cleaning rules. A higher level of controls from the environmental authorities reduces the chances of infringements, but does not result in lower emissions, according to a new statistical analysis.
<i>Analyses of population development</i>	The migration model used for population projections was evaluated in 2004, and resulted in an improvement of the results, particularly for the northernmost

counties. Analyses of national projections show that the population will become older irrespective of the provisions taken with regard to fertility, life expectancy and immigration. The proportion of people with income-earning work in relation to the number of pensioners will become smaller.

Analyses of relationship patterns show that people with higher education are less likely to get divorced than others, but that parents' educational background has the opposite effect. Parents' educational background also seems to influence at what age their children marry or start cohabiting. People who have parents with low education marry or start cohabiting earlier than others, irrespective of their own education. The Norwegian fertility development is also being analysed from a Nordic comparative perspective, and the development of a broader system of indicators for fertility is well underway.

#### *Analyses of living conditions*

In 2004, analyses of contact and child maintenance were conducted as part of the evaluation of the child maintenance reform of 2003. An analysis of parents' working time and working time arrangements, and an analysis of possible reasons for part-time work were also conducted. The part-time work analysis revealed great differences between men and women with regard to the reasons for and extent of part-time work. In addition, age, education and family phase have very different effects on part-time work for men and women. Analyses of living conditions among the farming population, living conditions in the inner east of Oslo and an analysis of the correlation between living conditions and crime were also carried out in 2004. An analysis of people's view on the development of society in light of the actual development of living conditions was also carried out. Despite a positive development in central living condition factors such as income, education and housing, more people think that Norway has become a worse place to live than think it has become a better place to live.

## **7.7 Availability for users**

#### *Theme pages*

To be able to offer the general public information about one topic in one place, Statistics Norway has launched theme pages on [ssb.no](http://ssb.no). At the end of 2004, 19 theme pages in Norwegian had been launched on topics such as the labour market, energy, the information society, culture and the media, gender equality and the national accounts. The pages have been welcomed by the users, and are often used by the media in various news stories. For more information, visit [www.ssb.no/tema](http://www.ssb.no/tema).

#### *StatBank Norway*

The amount of data in StatBank Norway doubled in 2004, and it now contains 1 338 matrices. The project stage of the bank was completed in 2004. As of 1 January 2005, StatBank Norway is an integral part of any release of new statistics from Statistics Norway.

#### *Statistics as a public benefit*

Since the launch of [ssb.no](http://ssb.no), Statistics Norway has maintained that statistics is a public benefit which should be free of charge and made available to everyone. The principle that the statistics should be free of charge is now being adopted by other countries as well. Eurostat is the most recent statistics office to adopt this principle, and its databases were made available without charge on the Eurostat website in 2004.

#### *User courses*

To offer the opportunity for increased knowledge and training, Statistics Norway has established a course programme for external users. 2004 was the first year of operations in this area with a total of 40 courses and seminars and 1 000 participants. The pilot project was a course in KOSTRA for municipal council politicians in Østfold County. The course was a success, and will be arranged for the whole country starting in 2005.

## 7.8 International cooperation

### *The EEA cooperation*

In 2004, fifteen new legislative acts were adopted within the area of statistics. These include legislative acts on financial accounts for the agricultural sector, quarterly financial accounts for the public sector, statistics on the information society and statistics on public sector debt. A total of 32 legislative acts were formally included in the EEA Agreement. The most important acts concern railway statistics, statistics on income and living conditions, waste statistics and changes to the labour force surveys.

In 2004, work was done to improve efficiency in the dissemination of data to international organisations. New technical transfer methods were also introduced. A total of 464 data sets, including annual, quarterly and monthly information were sent via an electronic data channel.

The international work on structural indicators is regularly followed up by Statistics Norway. There is a broad range of statistics from Norway on structural indicators in Eurostat's databases. We are also working systematically to establish short-term indicators, which are required in line with the action plan for short-term statistics. These are becoming available in Eurostat's databases to a growing extent.

In autumn 2004, Statistics Norway hosted the International Marketing and Statistical Output Database Conference, with participants from around twenty countries from all over the world.

### *Nordic cooperation*

The cooperation on the Nordic statistical yearbook and professional development work in various areas continues. Among other things, the Nordic offices cooperate on the use of administrative registers and are currently looking at opportunities to establish a register of Nordic companies which are active in more than one Nordic country.

### *Development work*

2004 was an active year for Statistics Norway's statistical development work. During the year, long-term consultants on new projects in Malawi, Eritrea and Albania were recruited. A new collaboration project with Moldova was initiated and new staff were recruited to projects in Mozambique and to peace corps work. Two new peace corps volunteers went to Malawi and Nicaragua, and Statistics Norway received two representatives from these countries in return.

In Norway, a report on the experience with Statistics Norway's work methods in various collaboration projects was completed. An updated and extended report on statistics for resource allocation, services offered, the use of services, status and contributions to the fight against poverty in Norway's main partner countries was published.

## 7.9 Data security and quality assurance

### *Systematic quality work*

Statistics Norway has worked systematically to improve quality in recent years. Our employees should be aware that our aim is to produce statistics and analyses that meet the users' requirements as closely and effectively as possible. Documenting the quality of the statistics is an important aspect of quality work, and is also required by the EU.

Quality work has become increasingly more integrated in all aspects of our activities, and most projects now have a "pilot" who quality assures the work process. We currently have around 30 such pilots. Useful measures include the documentation of best practices and recommended methods for quality work. In 2004, two guide books about work in projects and on the development and design of web forms were published.

*Documentation and  
meta data*

Relevant documentation is necessary in order for our users to find, understand and use the statistics, and also to achieve efficient work processes. Structured documentation of data and statistics is often referred to as meta data.

In 2004, a new meta data strategy was developed. The objective of the strategy is to improve quality and contribute to increased efficiency in the production of statistics by combining meta data into a uniform system so that they only need to be entered and updated in one place.

In recent years, the documentation has been developed systematically in the form of "About the statistics" on [ssb.no](http://ssb.no). Almost all new statistics are now accompanied by this documentation of concepts, production methods and quality.

In 2004, a database on standard classifications used in the statistics was made available on [ssb.no](http://ssb.no). Work is also underway to develop a documentation system of variables that are used in the statistics. These systems will form part of a new and integrated meta data system in Statistics Norway.

*Statistical standards*

A report on the work on statistical standards is published every year. In 2004, a revision of the Standard Industrial Classification (NACE 2007) was started. A new test model for a standard for socio-economic grouping at national level was adopted in 2004.