

Statistics Norway

Annual Report 2006

This is Statistics Norway

Statistics Norway is the central body responsible for covering the need for statistics on Norwegian society. Official statistics are the nation's common factual basis and are essential for a living democracy. Statistics make it easier for people to stay informed and for politicians and businesses to make decisions.

Statistics Norway is responsible for the content of statistics and analyses, and has the power to decide what should be published, how and at what time. Our role as a producer of statistics independent of authorities and interest groups is essential for the trust and authority official statistics must have to fill their role in 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 has its own Act - the Statistics Act of 16 June 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 statistics agencies 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 every day, and in 2006 Statistics Norway had 855 statistics releases, made up of around 330 different statistics. Statistics Norway also produces a number of printed publications, such as the Statistical Yearbook of Norway, various types of reports and journals.

Statistics Norway's revenues amounted to NOK 567 million in 2006. Government funding made up around NOK 394 million, and NOK 173 million was made up of user-financed assignments. Ministries and the Research Council of Norway are the main customers.

At the start of 2007, Statistics Norway had a staff of 967. Employees based in Oslo total 578, while 389 are based in Kongsvinger. The total number of man-years in 2006 was 902. In addition, Statistics Norway employs 187 interviewers around the country.

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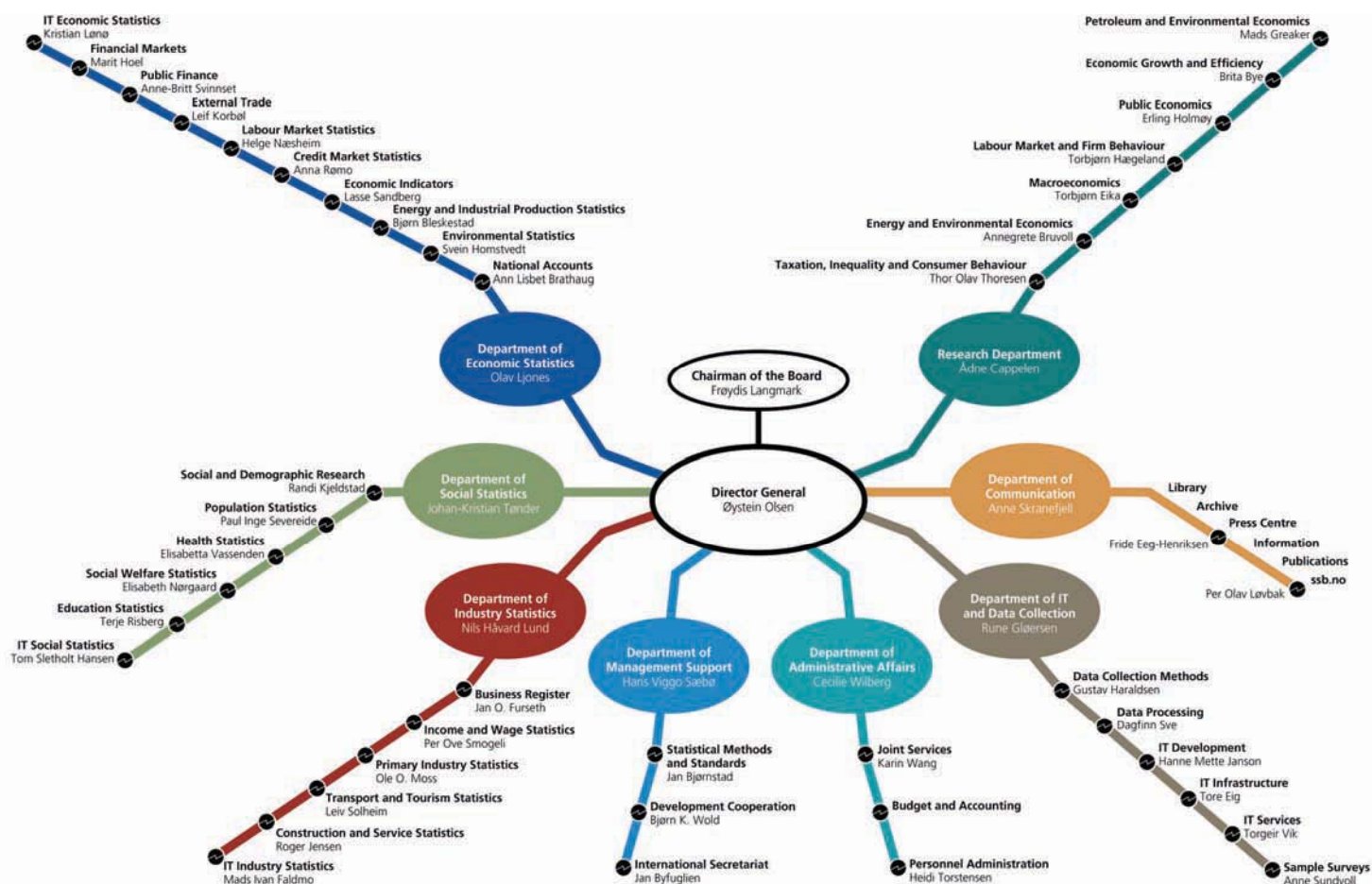
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1. Statistics Norway's organisation

Statistics Norway's senior management consists of the Director General and the directors of the eight departments. The organisation comprises three statistics departments (economic statistics, social statistics and industry statistics), the Research Department, the Department of Administrative Affairs, the Department of Communication, the Department of IT and Data Collection and the Department of Management Support, which in addition to the Director General's staff, covers the Division for Statistical Methods and Standards, the Division for Development Cooperation and the International Secretariat.

The majority of the departments are organised in divisions, but have a number of tasks that are organised across divisions, both within and outside the departments. The Research Department is organised in teams managed by Heads of Research in fixed-term positions. The Department of Communication has a matrix organisation with two Heads of Division who have responsibility for eight teams.

Statistics Norway has had an office in Kongsvinger since 1961. Since the mid 1970s, this office has expanded considerably and Statistics Norway is now an institution that is physically, but not organisationally, divided between Oslo and Kongsvinger. With the exception of the Research Department and the Department of Industry Statistics, all departments have staff in both cities. Shared data and telephone networks, video conferences, the Norwegian State Railway and the bus service ensure daily contact between the employees.



2. Report of the Board of Directors: Statistics Norway – an institution that counts

Although Statistics Norway provides statistics on society the way it is today, it is important to pause and think ahead. In 2006, Statistics Norway developed a new strategy for the years ahead based on various scenarios for the future. Last year was otherwise a good year for Statistics Norway, with several new statistics and a sound economy.

Official statistics provide an important factual basis for society. The users trust the daily statistics we produce as an independent institution. Statistics Norway continued its role as a neutral producer of knowledge in 2006. Because the public have great confidence in us and our products, errors in the statistics do not go unnoticed. In September, errors were discovered in our unemployment statistics. These errors were a result of a reorganisation of the Labour Force Survey. Correcting these errors entailed unemployment for June being revised up from 3.0 per cent to 3.4 per cent. This episode illustrates the importance of quality checks in statistics production. The Board is confident that Statistics Norway intends to build on this experience in its future work.

In 2006, the Board and Statistics Norway's administration developed a new strategy. Strategy 2007 focuses on six main strategies: *An institution that counts, Statistics portray society, Research of high quality, Satisfied users and motivated respondents, Cooperation to improve statistics and Quality in every process.* Statistics Norway also developed a set of scenarios in 2006 – visions for the future that outline various development paths for Statistics Norway in the next ten years. Using the scenarios as a backdrop, Strategy 2007 was developed as a guide for the daily work in Statistics Norway in the coming years.

Statistics Norway had an operating profit of NOK 18.5 million in 2006. The profit is a result of an increase in user-financed assignments. Annual productivity growth is estimated to 1-2 per cent. At the same time, a smaller share of resources was allocated to operations, and more man-hours were spent on developing the statistics. The proportion of resources spent on research and analysis remained stable from 2005.

In 2006, Statistics Norway received comments from the Office of the Auditor General on the accounts for 2005 regarding value added tax and balancing of salaries. Comments on the lack of risk management for the ICT area were also made. The Board is content with the administration's follow-up of these comments.

In 2006, Statistics Norway produced good results in most areas. The number of statistics releases increased considerably as a result of a large number of new statistics. Punctuality increased, and the statistics were published at the announced time in most cases. The timeliness of the statistics was also good, and a further improvement was recorded for the annual statistics. Increased timeliness is related to measures taken to limit the response burden, including simplified forms, improved response times and electronic reporting. The response burden was lower than in 2005. The response rates for Statistics Norway's surveys were satisfactory, both for mandatory and voluntary surveys.

In 2006, Statistics Norway prepared the transfer of the financial markets statistics from Norges Bank to Statistics Norway with effect from 1 January 2007. Twenty-six staff and 13 brand new statistics were transferred, in addition to statistics that have been merged with Statistics Norway's existing statistics. The new statistics constitute around 120 releases a year. The financial markets statistics from Norges Bank complement Statistics Norway's existing statistics production well. The Board is content with the processes involved in the transfer, and pleased with the inclusion of new areas of expertise and competent staff in Statistics Norway.

The research activity was characterised by a high level of publishing activity in 2006 and contributed to several joint activities with the statistics production. The Board has a positive view of the cooperation to develop new and improved price indices, for instance in the service sector. There is also ongoing cooperation between research and statistics in education, income distribution and wage statistics. There has been large and growing interest in the cyclical development and how the Norwegian economy works in recent years. The Board views Statistics Norway's cyclical reports and other macroeconomic analyses as important contributions to the political debate.

Regular revisions of the national accounts are necessary to maintain a high quality. In 2006, Statistics Norway completed a main revision of the national accounts. The background was, among other things, new guidelines from the EU on the measurement of banking and financial services and the calculation of value added tax. National accounts figures for wages and employment also underwent a thorough revision. To ease comparison with the GDP and other figures over time, it was necessary to revise annual figures back to 1970 and quarterly figures back to 1978.

International statistics cooperation, particularly within the European statistics system, continued at a high level in 2006. Twenty-three EEA legislative acts relating to statistics passed the EEA committee, including changes in short-term statistics, the compilation of quarterly non-financial accounts and statistics on vocational training. Staff from Statistics Norway attended 125 meetings related to the EU statistics cooperation in 2006. In addition, Statistics Norway arranged two courses with financial support from EFTA and participants from a number of European countries. The courses were on dissemination and the use of administrative data.

It is important that data from Statistics Norway are used by Statistics Norway's researchers and other researchers. The Board is therefore very pleased to see that the access to micro data for research purposes has been improved considerably. Statistics Norway is working to improve access and quality further so that researchers can make better use of the data. In 2006, a website was set up with information on research-related register data. This project was implemented with support from the Research Council of Norway and in cooperation with the Norwegian Social Science Data Services.

The Board supports Statistics Norway's comprehensive cooperation with customers, respondents, users and other producers of statistics. The Statistics Council is very important in this respect. The cooperation with register owners in the Register Forum also continued in 2006.

In connection with the Electronic integration project, several sub-projects have been started. A solution for secure log on to Idun via AltInn was finalised in 2006, and will be launched in the first quarter of 2007. It will be possible to log on directly to Idun via AltInn by means of digital certificates. Kostra achieved the target of changing over to online data reporting in 2006. The solution is now being produced and will be tested and further developed in 2007. The Board stresses the importance of an active contribution to joint solutions for user-friendly reporting, reuse and exchange of information between public bodies and increased coordination of dissemination of official statistics in Norway.

The Board would like to thank Øystein Olsen and his staff for a good year in 2006.

The responsibilities and duties of Statistics Norway's Board of Directors are specified in the Statistics Act (*the Act of 16 June 1989 no. 54 concerning official statistics and Statistics Norway*). The Act states that the Board shall handle and determine a long-term programme, budget proposals and an annual programme of work in accordance with proposals from the Director General, and submit these issues, together with the annual report for Statistics Norway, to the Ministry of Finance. The Board shall otherwise oversee the development of official statistics and the activity in Statistics Norway.

Frøydis Langmark

Director Frøydis Langmark,
Chair of the Board

Einar Hope

Professor Einar Hope, acting Vice Chair

Thor Bjarne Bore

Moderator of the Church of Norway
National Council Thor Bjarne Bore

Solveig Nygårdseter

Adviser Solveig Nygårdseter

Ida Helliesen

Finance Director Ida Helliesen

Eilef A. Meland

Associate Professor Eilef A. Meland

Berit Kvæven

Head of Division Berit Kvæven



From top left: Berit Kvæven, Ida Helliesen, Solveig Nygårdseter
From bottom left: Eilef A. Meland, Frøydis Langmark, Einar Hope
Thor Bjarne Bore was not present.

3. Report of the Director General: Statistics portray society

A range of new statistics, increased efficiency, improved statistics production and new strategies for the years ahead are important keywords for 2006. The international cooperation was also developed further, specifically with the first meeting of the Oslo group for energy statistics appointed by the UN.

2006 was an eventful year for Statistics Norway. The statistics product was further developed, among other things with the inclusion of more than twenty new statistics. In February 2006, Statistics Norway published statistics for Sami areas for the first time. Throughout the year, the foundations were laid for the inclusion of Svalbard in the Statistics Act. An important and comprehensive task was completed when the financial markets statistics were transferred from Norges Bank on 1 January 2007.

Statistics Norway continued its proactive efforts to increase efficiency and modernise the production of statistics, among other things through population management, electronic data collection and the development of transverse systems for data revision. Statistics Norway continued its participation in the public debate through interviews, quotes and source references.

A large part of the development work last year reflects central parts of our new strategy, which we worked thoroughly with during the year. The strategy shall act as a guide for the years to come and prepare the organisation for strategic decisions and adjustments. The goal is to make Statistics Norway more future oriented, innovative and dynamic. The scenario process was a central part of the work with the new strategy, and the presentation of the scenarios on the Statistics Day at Hamar on 8 September was a fantastic event.

2006 started with the opening of the extension to the Kongsvinger office, which means that 400 members of staff are now in the same building. In addition to new offices, the extension includes a new canteen, which has proved to be well suited for parties too. At the end of the year, a lease was signed for Kongens gate 11 in Oslo. The premises will be altered to Statistics Norway's needs and will be ready for occupation before summer 2007. The premises will have room for around 130 work places, including a new room for Statistics Norway's telephone interviewers.

Statistics Norway has entered into an inclusive workplace agreement (IA). 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. In 2006, absence due to illness was 4.3 per cent, compared with 4.9 per cent in 2005. This development and the relatively low sickness absence are very positive.

International statistics cooperation and standardisation constitute important frameworks for Statistics Norway's work. The EU *Code of Practice* was adopted by the EU Commission in 2006, and provides a framework for systematic quality work in the European statistics system, which Statistics Norway must adhere to. These guidelines for European statistics include requirements for institutional issues, professional independence and quality requirements related to methods, efficiency and the statistics products. In June 2007, Statistics Norway will be reviewed to ensure compliance with the requirements.

The EU statistics cooperation also entails us adapting to a number of new legislative acts every year. One of the most important legislative acts in 2006 was the implementation of the new industry standard NACE. In the next few years, this standard will be incorporated in all parts of the economic statistics.

The increasing attention on environmental issues and global warming has resulted in greater focus on energy and environmental statistics, both in Norway and abroad. The Oslo group for energy statistics was set up by the UN statistics commission, and the group's main task is to revise the UN's manuals for energy statistics. The first meeting was arranged in Statistics Norway in February 2006, with representatives from 19 countries and five international organisations. At home, Statistics Norway has been given the task of maintaining and updating the indicator set for sustainable development, which has been adopted by the government.

The Kostra project has resulted in the development of an effective system for collecting and processing information on municipal activities. With StatRes, the time has come to carry out a similar description of state activities. StatRes will be based on existing data and statistics, and will develop statistics and indicators on resource utilisation, activities and results for state activities. The first phase of the project was completed in spring 2006. The next phase will be implemented in 2007, and will present accounting and service data and statistics from the state accounts and national accounts, as well as service data and statistics from certain pilot areas. The project is carried out in close collaboration with the Ministry of Government Administration and Reform, which finances part of the project.

Statistics shall portray society, and the growing service sector places greater demands on the development of new statistics. A new price index for car rental was published for the first time in January 2006, and a new price index for road goods transport was published in December. The collection of data has started in the following areas: legal services, telecommunications, cleaning, ocean transport, scheduled flights, data processing and storage.

Statistics Norway still faces many challenges. Continuity and continuous improvements are essential in statistics production. We must be able to present new and useful analyses and research results. We shall strengthen cooperation internally and with external partners, both in Norway and abroad. We shall ensure that our staff have interesting and challenging tasks so that they enjoy working in Statistics Norway and help to develop the organisation. Efforts have been made in these areas in 2006, and it is my impression that we have succeeded and made good progress in developing Statistics Norway further. Thank you to all members of staff.



Øystein Olsen

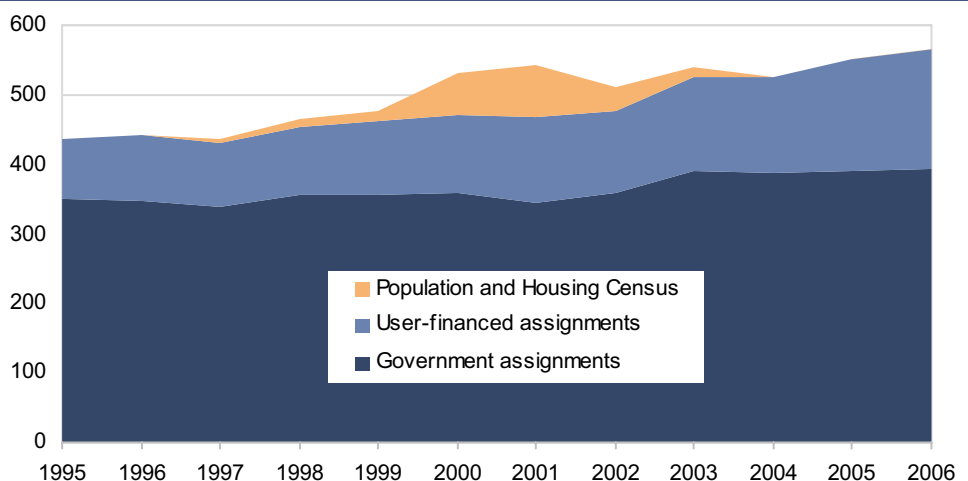


4. Budget and accounts

A good year for Statistics Norway

Statistics Norway's operating profit for 2006 was NOK 18.5 million, which is NOK 6.3 million more than in 2005. The activity level and revenues from user-financed assignments continued to increase in 2006, and now represent 31 per cent of Statistics Norway's total revenues. This is an increase of around 2 percentage points from 2005.

Historical accounts. Revenues 1995-2006, in fixed 2006 prices. NOK million



¹The figure shows a slight increase in inflation-adjusted revenues from government assignments, and a larger increase for user-financed assignments.

Higher revenues from user-financed assignments

Statistics Norway's total operating revenues totalled NOK 566.5 million in 2006. This is NOK 30.2 million higher than in 2005. The main reason for the increase is an increase in revenues from user-financed assignments.

NOK 11.8 million in advance payments relate to assignments to be carried out in 2007.

Ministries and other state institutions are still our main customers and accounted for 55 per cent of the user-financed revenues in 2006.

Increase in activity

Total operating expenditures totalled NOK 547.9 million in 2006, which was NOK 23.9 million more than in 2005. Total wage costs increased by NOK 21.1 million from 2005 to 2006.

Operating expenditures for goods and services increased by NOK 3.2 million from 2005.

Operating profit and sums to be carried forward

Statistics Norway's operating profit for 2006 was NOK 18.5 million, which was NOK 6.3 million more than in 2005. NOK 20.8 million was brought forward from 2005 to 2006. Thus NOK 39.3 million was carried forward to 2007 in total.

Sales revenues, higher revenues from compulsory fines

Revenues from the sale of publications are not included in Statistics Norway's accounts. Neither are revenues from compulsory fines. These revenues are entered in the state accounts.

Sales revenues totalled NOK 813 000 in 2006, an increase of NOK 500 000 from 2005. Revenues from compulsory fines amounted to NOK 8.7 million, an increase of NOK 1.7 million.

Investment level has increased

Appropriations for major acquisitions totalled NOK 9.3 million in 2006. Expenses were NOK 15.9 million, which is an increase of NOK 8.2 million from 2005. IT investments make up the majority of the acquisitions.

Annual accounts 2006. Total overview (government assignments and user-financed assignments, excluding major acquisitions). NOK 1 000

	<i>Notes</i>	Accounts 2005	Budget 2006	Accounts 2006	Budget 2007
Government appropriations	2	362 700	368 700	371 700	393 300
Commission revenues	8	157 177	158 922	173 327	193 824
Wage reimbursements	3	3 500	-	8 200	-
Refunds	4	12 862	-	13 288	-
Total revenues and refunds		536 239	527 622	566 515	587 124
Wage costs	5,9	363 425	363 899	384 069	415 265
Operating expenses	1,6,10	160 626	164 487	163 903	174 793
Total operating expenditures		524 051	528 386	547 972	590 058
Operating result	7,11	12 188	-764	18 543	-2 934
Brought forward from 2005		9 245	20 820	20 820	-
Carried forward to 2007	7,10,13	21 433	20 056	39 363	-2 934

Accounting principles

Statistics Norway keeps its accounts according to the cash-accounting principle, which means that the accounts show the expenses, and revenues that are paid in the financial year. For user-financed assignments, only the revenues actually received are included in the accounts, and outstanding claims are not shown.

Government assignments. NOK 1 000

	<i>Notes</i>	Accounts 2005	Budget 2006	Accounts 2006	Budget 2007
Government appropriations	2	362 700	368 700	371 700	393 300
Wage reimbursements	3	3 500	-	8 200	-
Refunds	4	12 862	-	13 288	-
Total revenues and refunds		379 062	368 700	393 188	393 300
Wage costs	5	267 477	257 442	277 125	278 695
Operating expenses	6	99 572	110 844	114 919	114 545
Total operating expenditures		367 049	368 286	392 044	393 240
Operating result	7	12 013	414	1 144	60
Brought forward from 2005		2 802	14 816	14 816	15 960
Carried forward to 2007	7	14 815	15 230	15 960	16 020

User-financed assignments. NOK 1 000

	<i>Notes</i>	Accounts 2005	Budget 2006	Accounts 2006	Budget 2007
Appropriations		125 000	127 300	150 000	185 000
Additional income		32 177	31 622	23 327	8 824
Commission revenues		157 177	158 922	173 327	193 824
Total revenues	8	157 177	158 922	173 327	193 824
Wage costs	9	95 375	106 457	106 943	136 570
Operating expenses	10	60 440	53 076	48 984	60 248
Total operating expenditures		155 814	159 533	155 927	196 818
Operating result	11	1 363	-611	17 400	-2 994
Brought forward from 2005		4 689	6 004	6 004	23 404
Carried forward to 2007	11	6 052	5 393	23 404	20 410

Major acquisitions, item 45. NOK 1 000

	Notes	Accounts 2005	Budget 2006	Accounts 2006	Budget 2007
Government appropriations	12	10 100	9 300	9 300	8 500
Total expenditures	13	7 753	11 950	15 957	8 500
Operating result	14	2 347	-2 650	-6 657	0
Brought forward from 2005		4 688	7 035	7 035	-
Carried forward to 2007	14	7 035	4 385	378	-

Notes to the tables**1 Total expenses for goods and services**

Specification of operating expenses	Accounts 2004, NOK 1 000	Accounts 2005, NOK 1 000	Accounts 2006, NOK 1 000
Machines, equipment and PCs	13 395	8 831	8 043
Consumables	4 611	5 058	5 155
Travel expenses, training etc.	26 588	26 727	27 167
Office services etc.	53 936	49 021	51 799
Consultancy services	13 389	15 240	16 069
Library	1 235	1 274	1 473
Maintenance and running	158	5 331	4 978
Maintenance of buildings/plants	1 126	1 779	4 529
Management/rental of premises	41 568	47 365	44 690
Total operating expenditures	156 006	160 626	163 903

Total operating expenses were NOK 163.9 million in 2006. This is NOK 3.2 million more than in 2005. The increase is partly due to expenditure on software, management of buildings and rent.

2 Government assignments

Government appropriations in 2006 were NOK 368.7 million. In the revised national budget, Statistics Norway received NOK 3 million for the development of the extended rent index. In addition, compensation for the wage settlement was NOK 8.2 million in 2006. The revised government appropriation was thus NOK 379.9 million. Of this, a total of NOK 22.5 million was earmarked for two projects: NOK 8.5 million for the electronic integration project and NOK 14 million for the re-organisation of the currency statistics.

3 Wage reimbursements

Statistics Norway received NOK 8.2 million in compensation for the wage settlement in 2006.

4 Reimbursements for sickness absence and maternity leave

Reimbursements for sickness absence and maternity leave totalled NOK 13.2 million in 2006, an increase of NOK 0.4 million from 2005. However, the average sickness absence fell from 4.9 to 4.3 per cent from 2005 to 2006.

5 Wage costs for government assignments

Wage costs were approximately NOK 9.6 million higher than in 2005.

6 Operating expenses for government assignments

Operating expenditures for goods and services increased by NOK 24.9 million from 2005. The increase relates to office services, consultancy services, maintenance of buildings/plants and management of buildings.

7 Operating result for government assignments

The operating profit was NOK 1.1 million.

8 User-financed assignments

The accounts for 2006 show that revenues from user-financed assignments came to NOK 173.3 million, which is an increase of NOK 16.1 million compared with 2005. 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

	2005		2006	
	NOK million	Per cent	NOK million	Per cent
Total	157,1	100	173,3	100
Ministries	42,4	27	64,9	37
Other state institutions	41,9	27	31,1	18
Private customers	13,6	9	14	8
Municipal customers	1,8	1	0,7	1
International customers	27,9	18	28,5	16
Research institutes and universities	9,3	6	8,5	5
The Research Council of Norway	20,1	13	25,6	15

The table shows that ministries and other state institutions are Statistics Norway's main customers, contributing approximately 55 per cent of user-financed revenues. As with the accounts, the table is based on the cash-accounting principle. The distribution of revenues between several years is therefore affected by the delay in payments.

Wage costs for user-financed assignments

Wage costs increased by NOK 11.5 million, mainly due to a higher level of activity.

10 Operating expenses for user-financed assignments

Operating expenses were NOK 7.7 million lower than in 2005.

11 Operating result for user-financed assignments

Statistics Norway's operating profit for 2006 was NOK 17.4 million. This is an increase of NOK 16 million. The result is affected by accruals. Outstanding claims amounted to NOK 8.6 million at the end of 2006, which is a decrease of NOK 3.6 million from 2005.

12 Government appropriations for major acquisitions

Government appropriations for major acquisitions amounted to NOK 9.3 million, which is NOK 0.8 million less than in 2005.

13 Major acquisition expenses

Major acquisition expenses were NOK 15.9 million. This is NOK 8.2 million more than in 2005, and mainly due to several major acquisitions in 2006, including an upgrade of storage systems, new firewall systems and server investments.

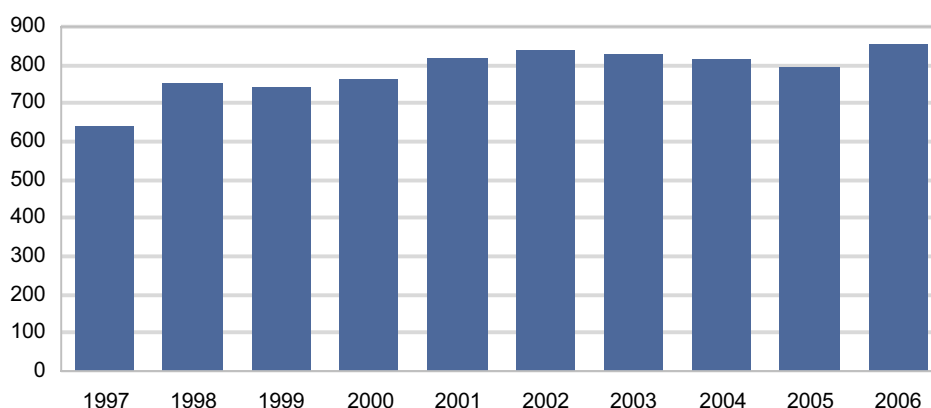
14 Operating result for major acquisitions

The operating loss for major acquisitions was NOK 6.6 million. Taking the amount brought forward from 2005 into account, NOK 0.3 million was carried forward to 2007.

5. Statistics on statistics

Statistics releases The number of statistics releases in 2006 was 855, which is 64 more than in 2005.

Number of statistics releases. 1997-2006



New regular statistics

- General practitioners, every two years
- Dwelling statistics, annually
- Gross external debt position, quarterly
- Business services, breakdown of turnover by product, annually
- Immigration population by reason of immigration, annually
- Introduction programme for new immigrants, annually
- Public transport, quarterly, adopted 2006, published 2007
- Public transport, annually
- Rental market survey, dwellings, annually with quarterly projections
- Wage index, employees in health enterprises, quarterly
- Religious and philosophical communities outside the Church of Norway, annually
- Portfolio investments abroad, annually
- Victims of offences, annually
- Statistics on turnover for petrol stations, monthly
- Political parties, finances, annually
- Price index for car rentals, quarterly
- The public's external loan debt, monthly
- Accounting statistics. Tax questionnaire on accounting for other financial enterprises and activities auxiliary to financial enterprises, annually
- Accounting statistics, independent schools, adopted 2006, published 2007
- Accounting statistics, non-financial enterprises' foreign financing, quarterly
- Sami statistics, every two years
- Publicly owned enterprises, structural business statistics, quarterly
- Foreign direct investments in Norway, annually

Revised statistics/ data collection

All revisions of statistics and data collections are recorded. This is important in order to avoid a higher response burden and the same data being collected more than once. Examples of major revisions in 2006:

- New statistical basis for membership in religious and philosophical communities outside the Church of Norway
- The questionnaire and definition of age in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) were adjusted to EU requirements
- New production routines for continuous linking of the LFS and NAV's Arena register
- The statistics on employment and unemployment among short-term immigrants were improved

Decisions in 2006 on obligation to provide information/compulsory fines

The decision to make surveys mandatory and/or to introduce compulsory fines is taken separately for each survey.

In 2006, the following surveys were made mandatory:

- Taxi industry
- Storage, quarterly price index
- Financial markets statistics (took effect with the transfer of these statistics from Norges Bank on 1 January 2007):
 - Accounting statistics for banks and other financing companies (Norges Bank, the Government Pension Fund – Global and other lending institutes)
 - Accounting statistics for securities broking enterprises (brokers, managers, corporate finance)
 - International reserves (Norges Bank)
 - Credit indicators (Government Pension Fund)
 - Securities, issues of bonds and short-term securities (Norwegian Central Securities Depository and Norges Bank)
 - Securities statistics (Norwegian Central Securities Depository and securities broking enterprises)
 - Mutual funds statistics (management companies)
 - Wage index, employees in health enterprises

Response burden for business and industry

The total response burden was reduced by seven man-years from 2005 to 2006. This was partly due to easier reporting, for instance with electronic reporting via AltInn and Idun.

Response burden. 2002-2006. Man-years¹

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total	179	180	171	183	176
Business and industry, total	92	92	98	103	95
Business and industry, excl. UT .	92	92	87	85	78
Other	87	88	73	81	81

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

Electronic reporting

Since 2004, everyone reporting from business and industry has been able to do so electronically.

Statistics Norway's own IDUN solution is most common, but for some surveys electronic reporting via AltInn is used. Wage statistics data are reported from wage systems on CDs/discs and e-mail, in addition to printed questionnaires and AltInn. Ten per cent of respondents reported their wage data via AltInn in 2006.

Proportion of respondents reporting electronically. Per cent

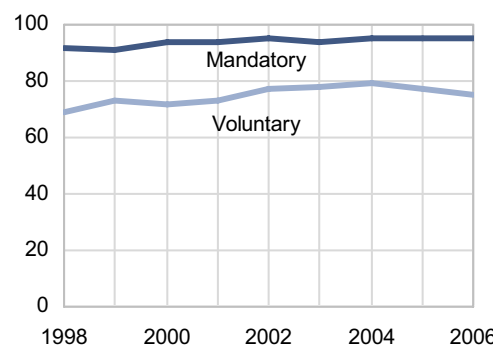
	2005	2006
Electronic reporting	33	36

For some surveys, the response rate in IDUN is almost 80, while others have a response rate below 20. Most surveys have a response rate in IDUN between 25 and 50.

In addition to direct reporting, information on prices and turnover is reported from more than 100 chains. Reporting from chains helps to reduce the response burden, as the alternative would be to receive information from individual shops.

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 and satisfactory.

Response burden for business and industry In 2006, 84 per cent of enterprises were not asked to report to Statistics Norway, which is a small increase from 82 per cent in 2005. The largest establishments have the greatest response burden, with almost 90 per cent of establishments with more than 20 employees taking part in surveys in 2006. There are a large number of small establishments in Norway and it is vital to have data from a selection of these in order to gain an accurate picture of developments in society. The agricultural, fishery and public sector are not included in these figures.

Response rate. 1998-2006**Establishments that participate in surveys, by number of employees. 2005 and 2006. Per cent**

	2005	2006
Total	18.3	16.0
Number of employees		
0-9	14.1	11.7
10-19	59.4	64.1
20 or more	87.4	90.9

Publications The number of standard publications was 243 in 2006. The increase from 2005 is due to the fact that the Documents series, with 77 publications in 2006, is now counted as an external series. The series includes statistical documentation, reports and methodological studies. Other series had an increase of 39 publications. The number of publications in the Reports and Discussion Papers series also increased in 2006 and Sami statistics 2006 (NOS) was published for the first time. This is Norway and Women and Men in Norway were updated. All printed publications are also published on ssb.no.

Various publications. 1997-2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total	268	286	316	284	274	161	170	153	127	243
Official Statistics of Norway ¹ ..	76	61	64	48	66	46	47	28	27	26
Analyses ²	77	84	97	95	107	74	82	104	74	111
Other publications ³	115	141	155	141	101	41	41	21	26	106
- Economic Survey	9	9	9	9	6	6	6	6	6	6
- Samfunnsspeilet	4	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	5

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

² Includes Reports, Reprints, Discussion Papers, Statistical Analyses and Social and Economic Studies.

³ Includes Notater, Documents and "This is ..." publications.

In 2006, one hundred older publications were published on ssb.no, including population census publications from 1876 to 1950 and every tenth annual publication of "Beretning om sundhetstilstanden og medisinalforholdene (1860-1960)" (publication on health conditions). The aim is for all Statistics Norway's publications from pre-Internet days to be made available on ssb.no within a few years.

Minifacts about Norway in ten languages and Facts about education in Norwegian and English, are published in cooperation with various ministries.

Nine publications in the Statistical Analyses series

- Inntekt, skatt og overføringer 2005 (Norwegian only – Income, taxes and transfers 2005)
- Norsk mediebarometer 2005 (Norwegian only - Norwegian media barometer 2005)

- Natural Resources and the Environment 2005
- Nøkkeltall om Informasjonssamfunnet 2005 (Norwegian only - Key figures on the information society 2005)
- Aleneboendes levekår (Norwegian only – Living conditions of single people)
- Kulturstatistikk 2004 (Norwegian only – Culture statistics 2004)
- Kulturstatistikk 2005 (Norwegian only – Culture statistics 2005)
- Immigration and immigrants 2006
- The Economy of the North

Research activities – external publishing

2006 was a very active year for Statistics Norway's Research Department. The number of international and Norwegian journal articles increased. Statistics Norway's researchers held 93 lectures on conferences in Norway and abroad.

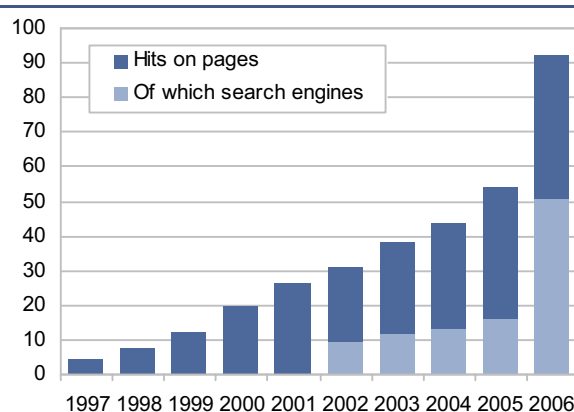
External publishing. 1997-2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Journals	20	39	24	41	35	34	38	50	41	49
- International journals	13	17	15	28	22	17	22	30	27	31
- Norwegian journals	7	22	9	13	13	17	16	20	14	18
Books and articles in book ...	7	4	13	18	17	8	10	10	17	15
- International	-	2	12	13	12	5	8	4	13	10
- Norwegian	7	2	1	5	5	3	2	6	4	5

Hits on ssb.no

The number of hits on pages on ssb.no was 92.5 million in 2006, compared with 54.2 million hits in 2005. The name statistics and English pages account for 13 per cent each. The majority of our users access ssb.no from search engines. Search engines accounted for around 55 per cent of hits in 2006 and 30 per cent in 2005.

Number of hits on pages on ssb.no. 1997-2006¹. Million



¹ Search engines was not a separate category before 2002.

StatBank Norway

StatBank Norway contained 2 147 table matrices at the end of 2006, which is an increase of 16 per cent from the end of 2005. The use of StatBank Norway, in terms of table extracts, increased by 22 per cent from 2005 to 2006, and 55 570 table matrices were extracted every month.

Use of the library

The number of enquiries to the Library and Information Centre continued to fall in 2006. The decline is due to the increased use of ssb.no.

Loans distributed by user group. 2003-2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Statistics Norway employees	2 086	2 276	2 221	2 504
Other libraries	1 242	1 272	1 182	929
Private/institutions	637	649	702	513
Total	3 965	4 197	4 105	3 946

External enquiries. 2003-2006

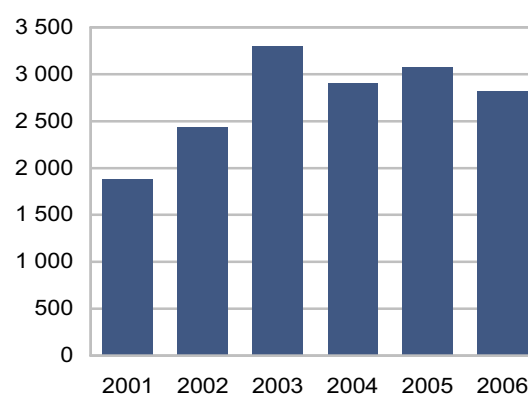
	2003	2004	2005	2006
E-mail	5 472	5 610	5 359	4 936
Telephone	3 132	2 942	2 645	2 488
External visitors	848	735	713	484
Total	9 452	9 287	8 717	7 908

External courses In 2006, around 1 450 persons attended various courses and seminars arranged by Statistics Norway. The courses range from research seminars to how to navigate on *ssb.no*. For the first time in 2006, Statistics Norway employees held courses in various languages for immigrants attending adult education in Oslo. In August, the American statistician and demographer William Seltzer visited Statistics Norway. Seltzer has developed international overviews of examples on how statistics and population registers may have been misused by authorities throughout the years. Statistics Norway also arranged an EFTA course on Internet publishing and the use of administrative data in 2006.

Hearings Statistics Norway is often engaged in the consultative process when new laws and regulations are drafted and in connection with public reports (the NOU series). In 2006, submissions including a comprehensive review were prepared for 48 such proposals.

Media coverage Statistics from Statistics Norway appear daily in the Norwegian media, which shows that we are an important source of information in society. A selection of the largest electronic media (Dagsavisen, Dagens Næringsliv, Aftenposten, Nationen, Drammens Tidende, Stavanger Aftenblad, Adresseavisen, Bergens Tidende, Sunnmørsposten, Fædrelandsvennen and Nordlys) showed a total of around 2 815 references to Statistics Norway in 2006, which is slightly less than the previous year.

Statistics Norway in the media. 2001-2006



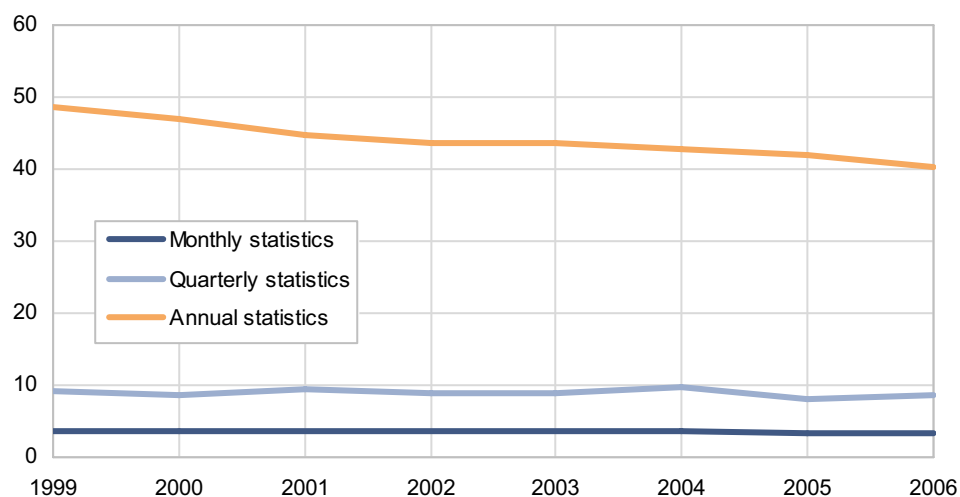
The use of Nynorsk Statistics Norway fulfilled the requirement of the Language Act with regard to the use of Bokmål and Nynorsk in external texts. Thirty-one per cent of Today's statistics were in Nynorsk. For the printed publications, 28 per cent of Official Statistics of Norway publications were in Nynorsk, but for printed publications as a whole the figure was only 8 per cent. Twenty-one per cent of Statistics Norway's job advertisements were in Nynorsk. Three of the nine brochures Statistics Norway produced in 2006 were in Nynorsk (33 per cent). All 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 are announced in advance and published on time. This predictability shows that various outside interests cannot influence release dates. Statistics Norway's punctuality increased in 2006, and only 6 per cent of the statistics in the Advance Release Calendar were not published on time.

Punctuality. Deviations from announced time of release. 1998-2006. Per cent

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total	10	13	15	13	10	8	11	10	6
Too early	2	4	2	3	2	2	2	3	1
Too late	8	9	13	10	8	6	9	7	5

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 timeliness of Statistics Norway's statistics is good, and was improved further for some annual statistics in 2006. The negative development in the quarterly statistics in 2006 is due to a considerable delay of the road goods transport survey.

Timeliness. 1999-2006. Number of weeks from reference period to publishing*Use of resources*

An overview of the distribution of resources among different areas shows that slightly less than 50 per cent of the working time goes into the production of statistics. Twenty per cent goes towards development projects on statistics, research and analyses. The overview shows the distribution of resources excluding absence (holidays, sick leave and other leave).

Distribution of man-hours, by type of activity. Excluding absence. 2001-2006. Per cent

Type of activity	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Man-years (excl. absence)	702	709	715	732	741	738
Ongoing production of statistics	53	52	51	49	47	46
Development projects, statistics	10	10	10	11	11	13
Research and analysis projects	10	11	12	12	14	13
Administration and planning	10	10	11	11	10	11
Internal support functions	18	17	17	17	17	17

6. Working in Statistics Norway

Included in the budget for 2006 were 902 man-years, compared with 895 in the previous year.

Budget man-years. 1995-2006

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total man-years	798	813	823	821	838	839	852	867	889	889	895	902
Government assignments	612	619	624	652	664	659	650	658	677	669	663	657
User-financed assignments .	186	194	199	169 ¹	174	180	202	209	212	220	232	245

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.

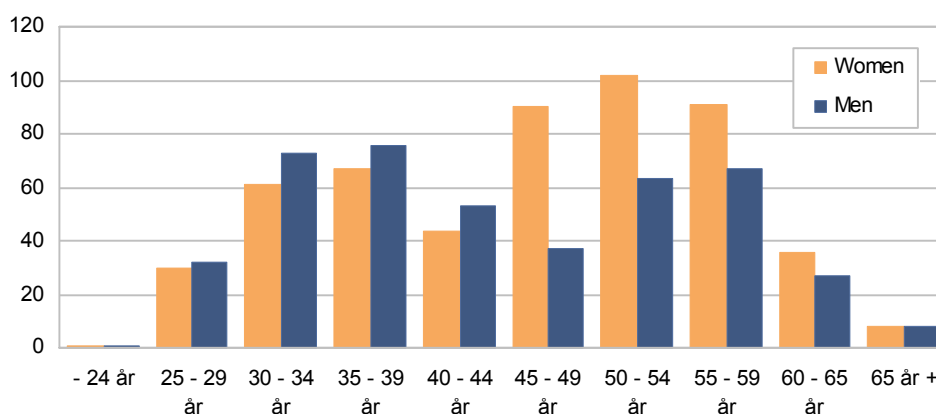
At the start of 2007, Statistics Norway had a staff of 967, including 23 employees on maternity leave. This compares with 948 employees at the start of 2006. The increase is mainly a result of growth in user-financed assignments. Employees based in Oslo total 578, while 389 are based in Kongsvinger. In addition, Statistics Norway employs 187 interviewers who work with questionnaire surveys.

A total of 40 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 fell from 25 per cent to 22 per cent in 2006, whereas the proportion who have worked here for five to nine years increased from 21 to 23 per cent. Eight per cent have worked in Statistics Norway for 10 to 14 years and 8 per cent for 15 to 19 years. The number of employees who have worked in Statistics Norway for 30 years or more increased by 12 in 2006.

Men and women

The distribution at the beginning of 2007 was 55 per cent women and 45 per cent men, unchanged from 2005. Among those over 40, women are in the majority (59 per cent). Among those under 40, men are in the majority (53 per cent). In Oslo, half the employees are women, while in Kongsvinger 64 per cent are women.

Employees at 31.12.06



Women held the majority of lower positions, and men were in the majority in academic and managerial positions.

Proportion of women at the beginning of the year. 1999-2007. Per cent

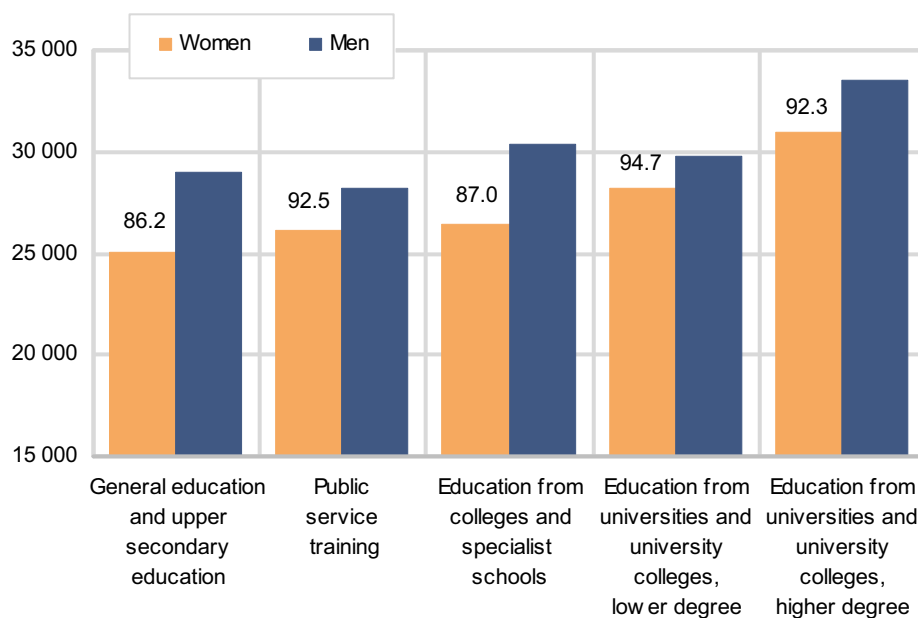
	1999	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Office positions	93	90	94	93	90	89	88
Executive officers, lower level	79	84	85	84	84	83	86
Executive officers, higher level	40	43	48	50	48	53	58
Academic/research positions	34	32	33	35	37	37	37
Managerial positions	24	30	33	29	29	31	33

There were 52 managerial positions in Statistics Norway at the beginning of 2007. With 17 women and 35 men in these positions, the percentage of female managers is 33, compared with 31 in the previous year. Nine of the 23 new managers are women. The average age of managers is 51.

Salary, position, education

The average monthly salary for Statistics Norway employees was NOK 30 098 at 1 October 2006. Women in full-time positions earned an average monthly salary of NOK 28 129, approximately 12.2 per cent less than men in full-time positions who had an average monthly salary of NOK 32 053. The differences in salary are partly 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 4.4 per cent, whereas men had an increase of 4.8 per cent.

Women educated at universities or university colleges and who have worked in Statistics Norway for up to 15 years earn 2-4 per cent less than men with similar education and length of service. Women educated at universities or university colleges and who have worked here for 16-23 years earn 1.7 per cent more than men in the same group, and among those with 24 years of service and more, women earn 5.7 per cent less than men.

Average monthly salary for men and women in full-time positions, by education. 1 October 2006. NOK

Average monthly salary for men and women in full-time positions, by type of position. 1 October 2006. NOK



At the start of 2007, 47 per cent of all employees had higher degrees from universities, while 18 per cent had degrees from university colleges or lower degrees from universities. Whereas 34 per cent of women have university education at Master level, this is the case for 63 per cent of men. Thirty-one per cent of the employees with a higher education have worked in Statistics Norway for less than five years.

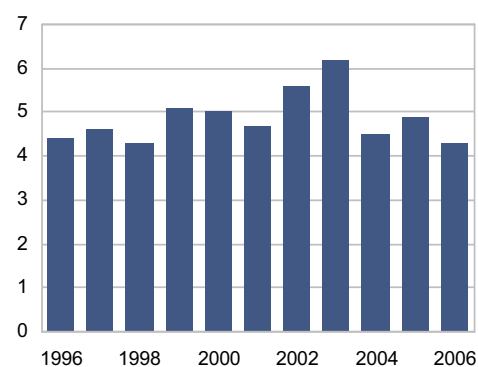
There are 163 part-time employees in Statistics Norway, with 69 of these working less than 80 per cent. The majority of part-time employees are women.

A more inclusive workplace

Statistics Norway entered into an inclusive workplace agreement in 2002. The objectives of this agreement are to be proactive in keeping sickness absence at a low level and to safeguard human resources by means of an active life phase policy based on individual needs.

In 2006, the average absence due to illness was 4.3 per cent, compared with 4.9 per cent in 2005. Statistics Norway is committed to improving the health, safety and environment of its employees. In order to prevent ill health, focus is given to physical conditions in the workplace. The follow-up of employees who are absent due to sickness or are at risk of becoming sick is given priority. The *Exercise for health* initiative is practiced during working hours both in Oslo and Kongsvinger.

Sickness absence. 1996-2006. Per cent



Representatives for the six 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.

*Expertise development
and recruitment*

In connection with Statistics Norway's new strategy, a sub-strategy for human resource was developed in 2006. This strategy focuses on management training, sharing of best practices, further education in statistics and goal-oriented recruitment.

Statistics Norway spent around NOK 7.5 million on external and internal development projects in 2006. A third of these funds were channelled via Statistics Norway's internal course programme. During the year, 86 in-house courses were arranged with a total of 855 participants.

Four members of staff were awarded a PhD in 2006. A total of 34 members of staff now hold a PhD. Statistics Norway employs 70 researchers, including 35 senior researchers and ten managers. At the end of 2006, 33 members of staff had qualified as statistics advisers. Fifteen are women.

The focus on project work and systematic quality work as a work method was continued in 2006. The Project and Team Work education programme had 28 participants, and will be completed in spring 2007. Nine employees received training as "quality pilots". Statistics Norway now has 43 quality pilots, of which 22 are women.

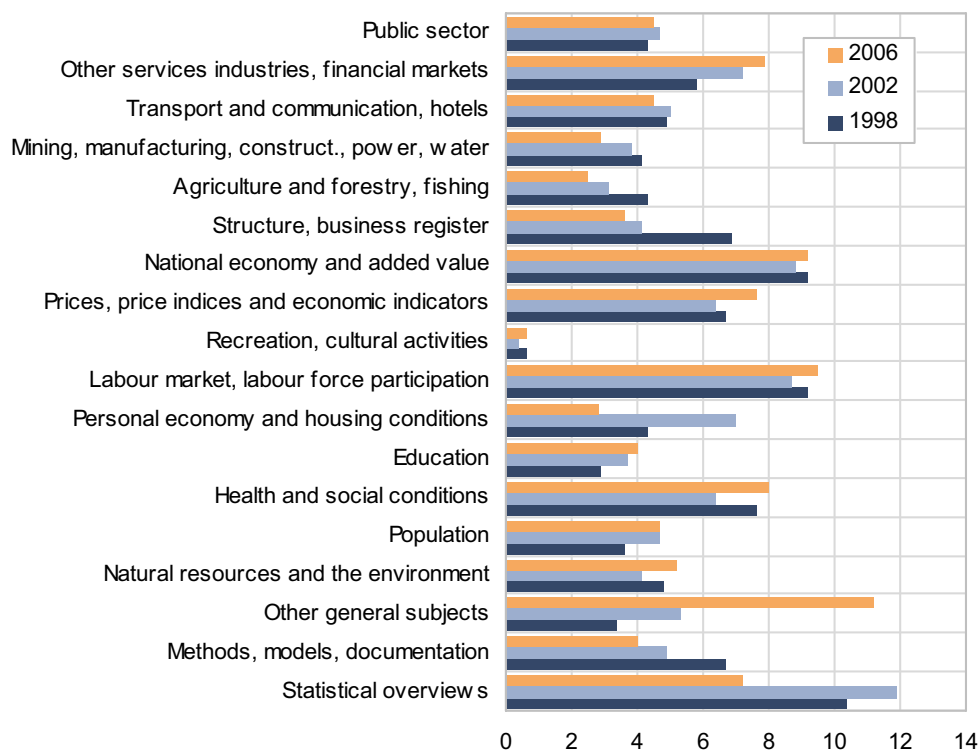
Statistics Norway recruited 75 new members of staff in 2006, an increase of 25 compared with the previous year. Seventy-six per cent of these had higher degrees from universities.

The number of employees who resigned was 48, compared with 40 in 2005. This equates to 5 per cent of the total employees. Fifty-two per cent of those who resigned had higher degrees from universities, and 44 per cent had up to four years of service.

7. Activity in 2006

Activities carried out were divided into the following areas:

Man-hours by subject. 1998, 2002 and 2006. Per cent



7.1. Electronic integration

The focus areas for electronic integration are:

- Further cooperation on the development and common solutions for user-friendly reporting to the public sector, through web solutions and direct reporting from the respondents' computer systems.
- Reuse and exchange of information between public bodies.
- Coordinated dissemination of all official statistics in Norway.

Statistics Norway started 13 sub-projects within this programme in 2006, related to the coordination and new development of Statistics Norway's data collection, metadata and dissemination solutions.

A solution for secure log on to Idun via AltInn will be available in the first quarter of 2007. A delay was caused by the closing of the public security portal in May 2006, which meant that Statistics Norway had to come up with other integration solutions. It will be possible to log on to Idun via AltInn by means of digital certificates.

The development of a common data model for questionnaire-related metadata in Kostra and Idun (questionnaire data, from file extracts or from other external sources) is the building block with regard to coordinating and simplifying data receipt in Kostra, Idun and AltInn. The project reached its goal of specifying the data model during 2006. The data model and related data exchange services will be implemented in 2007.

Kostra achieved its target of changing over to online data reporting in 2006. The solution is now being produced, and will be tested and further developed in 2007.

Coordination of sample plans Based on the target to reduce the response burden for business and industry, a project to improve the coordination of sample plans was started in 2006.

7.2. International statistics cooperation

The EEA cooperation International statistics cooperation, particularly in the EU statistical system, continued at a high level in 2006. In total, 23 new legislative acts in the statistics area were included in the EEA agreement, the majority of which were of a technical nature for the implementation of existing council and parliamentary directives. Changes to the directives on short-term statistics, the composition of quarterly non-financial accounts and statistics on vocational studies all represent rather complex directives. Statistics Norway's follow-up of the NACE directive will affect almost all areas of the statistics activity and a large number of users.

The new EU Code of Practice for statistics was adopted by the EU commission in 2006. The Code of Practice shall be used in connection with internal systematic considerations and external reviews. Statistics Norway contributed to the development of the Code of Practice.

Oslo group for energy statistics The first meeting of the Oslo group for energy statistics, which has been set up by the UN statistics commission with the main task of revising the UN's manuals for energy statistics, was held in Statistics Norway in 2006. Representatives from 19 countries and five international organisations attended the meeting. The group's work in 2006 involved the launch of an electronic debate forum, the development of plans for a questionnaire for the countries on scope, and revision of the statutory authority for energy statistics.

Development cooperation In 2006, the statistics cooperation with developing countries was mainly focussed around Uganda, Mozambique, Malawi, Angola and Eritrea. In addition, several projects have been started in countries with transition economies. These countries are Albania, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Total man-years for the international cooperation activity were approximately 20 in 2006.

At the same time, the work to develop methods and documentation for a system for household surveys adapted to developing countries was continued. In addition, work was carried out to develop national accounts systems in developing countries and transition countries. These projects are included in the millennium targets to reduce poverty and secure economic growth.

7.3. Statistical standards

Statistics Norway attaches great importance to the use of common standards and classifications. The standards are available in a database, and a report describing the work with statistical classifications is produced every year.

New industry standard As of 1 January 2008, Statistics Norway will start using a new industry standard based on the EU's NACE Rev. 2. The Norwegian edition of the standard was completed in 2006, and includes a fifth digit in the industry code to accommodate special conditions in Norwegian business and industry. This was done through a comprehensive cooperation with industries and users of statistics by inviting around 200 members of various councils and committees related to Statistics Norway to give their opinion. The final, new industry standard was adopted by Statistics Norway at the end of 2006. The standard and background documents are available on ssb.no.

Documentation and metadata The documentation work is pivotal in the systematic quality work. Metadata is structured documentation of data and statistics. Statistics Norway's metadata strategy, which was outlined in 2006, is a guide for the metadata work. The content of the individual metadata system is being developed further, and a system for standard classifications and variables has been implemented. Links have been created be-

tween the individual systems so that information from one system is available in other systems where this is relevant. In 2006, a documentation system of variables that are used in the statistics was completed. The variable documentation from this system is available on ssb.no via several other systems, and the implementation of a common entry to Statistics Norway's metadata systems has been started.

Systematic quality work

Statistics Norway works systematically to improve quality. Documenting the quality of the statistics is an important aspect of quality work, and is also required by the EU. The EU Code of Practice provides a framework for systematic quality work for the European Statistical System (ESS).

The work to develop common IT applications (template solutions) for control, revision and index estimates made good progress in 2006. These applications are used in all new price statistics in the service industries. They may also be used in other statistics areas.

7.4. Population management

The population management work is based on Statistics Norway's three basis registers and the interaction with related administrative data systems. These are:

- The Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises, combined with the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities.
- Statistics Norway's GAB, combined with the GAB register in the Norwegian Mapping Authority.
- The population register, combined with the National Population Register in the Directorate of Taxes.

Basis registers can be linked, with the address as the link key.

In 2006, Statistics Norway's GAB was upgraded further and used in more areas, including as a basis for dwelling statistics and the sample for the house rental survey. Statistics Norway's GAB is now more or less complete in that characteristics on dwellings collected in the 2001 population and housing census have been revised, quality checked and entered in the database. A message system has been developed and provides feedback to the Norwegian Mapping Authority if errors are discovered.

The work to establish complete company group relations based on data supplied to the Register of Shareholders continued in 2006.

The first version of the population register was completed and put into use. Efforts to establish household as a statistical unit based on register-based populations, both formal and actual, made good progress in 2006.

7.5. Population census and follow-up of the address project

In the third quarter of 2006, 83 per cent of the population living in multi-dwelling houses, were registered with a complete address in the population register. The main challenges are related to Oslo, where this figure is 67 per cent.

In 2006, a senior management meeting between the Directorate of Taxes, the Norwegian Mapping Authority and Statistics Norway was held to agree on plans for the follow-up work. The parties agreed to prioritise measures in Oslo. One central measure is to follow-up major owners of houses with a view to implementing a dwelling number for the houses and the administrative systems that are used. To do this, a project has been started in collaboration with OBOS. The cooperation with OBOS will be used as a template for similar projects with other major dwelling

owners. In addition, the Directorate of Taxes has started a project to follow-up the work in the Oslo population register.

Future population and housing censuses in Norway will be fully register based. The next population and housing census is scheduled for 2011. The European recommendations for the next census round were adopted in 2006. The EU is working with a directive on population and housing censuses that is expected to be passed in 2007. This means that international requirements will be more important than in previous censuses.

7.6. Labour market and wage statistics

Income and wage statistics

The work linked to establishing wage statistics for households based on a common register population was started in 2006, and the first statistics will be presented in mid 2007.

The wage statistics have a relatively high degree of punctuality, but the users have high demands with regard to completing as many areas as possible before the wage settlement. Efforts will be made to fulfil these demands in the present round of wage statistics. However in order to achieve this, respondents must submit their data earlier than before and more respondents must use AltInn to do so.

Statistics on labour costs for 2004 were presented in 2006. The statistics, which are comparable with international statistics, are produced every four years in accordance with the EU directive.

Reorganisation of the Labour Force Survey (LFS)

A major reorganisation of the LFS began in January 2006 in order to make the statistics more comparable with figures from EU countries. The change of the age limit from 16 to 15 years and the fact that age is now based on age in the reference week, not at the end of the year, had the largest effect on the figures. In addition, persons who are laid off are now counted as employed, not unemployed. Work has also been carried out to make more data on overtime and absence available. In statistics releases, there is a strong focus on giving users estimates of the breaks in the series that the reorganisation has caused.

A programming error in the estimation of the unemployment figure was discovered shortly after the release of monthly, seasonally adjusted LFS figures for July 2006. The error occurred in connection with the reorganisation of the LFS from January 2006 and the introduction of a new questionnaire. As a result of this error, the unemployment figure for the first half of 2006 was too low. The error was corrected and the users informed.

Short-term immigration of labour

The statistics on employees who are not resident in Norway were improved and new figures published in 2006. In addition, the possibility of publishing quarterly figures and including the self-employed was looked into. A description of organisation form and country background for employers of short-term immigrants and an analysis of the career path of short-term immigrants have also been made.

7.7. Election data project

In spring 2006, Statistics Norway and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development entered into an agreement for the collection, processing and dissemination of election results for the municipal and county election in 2007. As a consequence, Statistics Norway will develop a new reporting channel on the Internet where municipalities and counties will report their election data. The election database will become an important source for election statistics.

This project will result in a gradual transfer of responsibility and tasks from the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development to Statistics Norway. When the project is complete, the cooperation will be evaluated and the parties will

discuss whether Statistics Norway shall take over the responsibility and tasks for the election in 2009.

7.8. Health statistics

Statistics Norway's right to access health data is limited pursuant to the confidentiality regulations of the Health Personnel Act. By basing the production of statistics on existing health registers, the burden for respondents is reduced considerably. It will therefore be practical to enable delivery of data in health registers to Statistics Norway, in the same way as in other areas. The greatest benefit of a transfer to register-based statistics is the possibility to expand and improve the current statistics production with variables from several registers. With several registers based on individuals, it is possible to expand the statistics production much more than with the use of individual registers. Such possibilities will give society increased knowledge and improved information in the health area. In 2006, efforts were made to gain access to this register.

7.9. Living conditions

The working environment was the subject of the Survey of Living Conditions 2006. The sample was expanded to 19 000 respondents compared with 5 000 in previous surveys. The expansion is financed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion, and Statistics Norway carried out the survey in cooperation with the National Institute of Occupational Health.

In 2006, Statistics Norway published the results of a survey on living conditions among students and collected data for a survey on living conditions among immigrants.

7.10. Environmental statistics

The indicator set for sustainable development was updated and published, and plans for further work on indicator sets have been made.

Statistics on air pollution, noise, waste, wastewater and water pollution, and chemicals that are harmful to health and the environment were published in 2006. The relationship between the environment and the economy is described using figures for environmental costs and so-called NAMEA accounts, where figures for emissions to air are distributed by industry.

7.11. Statistics for the public sector

Kostra The reporting and release of Kostra figures in spring 2006 went according to plan. The response rate was 80 in March and 97 in June, which is on a par with previous years. The release included two new fact sheets; one for agriculture and one for group figures for the dental health service. The release of limited national figures was expanded with more indicators.

Kostra implemented electronic reporting at an early stage, using a solution that requires municipalities to download forms and send completed forms via e-mail to Statistics Norway. This has now been adapted for online reporting.

StatRes StatRes is a system for the development and dissemination of statistics and indicators on resource utilisation, activity and results for state activities. StatRes will be based on existing data and statistics, and aims to improve and further develop official statistics for central government within a uniform framework.

A model and system that ensure that statistics and indicators are comparable nationally and internationally were developed in 2006. Work is also in progress to exploit existing data and statistics from the state accounts, national accounts and service data, and statistics from selected pilot areas, in the best way possible. In

cooperation with the relevant ministries, work is in progress in the areas national child welfare service, higher education and the environment. A pre-project in the specialist health service was carried out in 2006. The first publication of statistics is scheduled for autumn 2007.

The project was carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Government Administration and Reform, which is financing part of the work.

7.12. Transfer of Norges Bank's statistics activity

In spring 2006, Statistics Norway and Norges Bank discussed plans for Statistics Norway to take over responsibility for Norges Bank's financial markets statistics. In August, the parties in the three-party cooperation (including the Financial Supervisory Authority of Norway) agreed to this transfer. The transfer, which took place on 1 January 2007, involved 26 man-years and was included in Report no. 1 to the Storting (2006-2007).

7.13. Reorganisation of statistics on transactions and balance of goods and services

The collection, processing and publishing of data on external trade for non-financial enterprises became more operational in 2006. In June 2006, statistics on non-financial enterprises' foreign investments were published for the first time, including quarterly figures for Q1 2005-Q1 2006.

There is still room for improvement in several areas of the foreign trade statistics, with the method for population upgrades being the most important. The Register of Shareholders and the Currency Register are both in operation and expected to become of great value when they are more complete and the quality is improved.

The transfer from monthly to quarterly foreign accounts in 2005 has been considered successful. The figures from the new statistics shall be incorporated into the development form (focus on figures of change) from the first publication of the foreign accounts, and will gradually be developed in the level form. New sources must be considered and incorporated, including reports from payment card companies.

An EU directive that requires Norway to report statistics on Norwegian enterprises owned by foreign interests is expected to be passed in spring 2007. In connection with a pilot survey and the coming directive, work was started in 2006 to establish a data collection and revision system.

7.14. National accounts – main revision

In 2006, Statistics Norway completed a main revision of the national accounts. The background for the revision was, among other things, an EU/EEA directive requiring that bank and financial services measured internationally are distributed by all uses in the national accounts. The calculation of value added tax in the national accounts has also been changed as a result of new guidelines from the EU: the figures are now calculated based on paid-in value added tax. To ease comparison with the GDP and other figures over time, it was necessary to revise annual figures back to 1970 and quarterly figures back to 1978.

The national accounts figures for wages and employment have also undergone a thorough revision. In this area, changes to the use of sources as well as calculation methods have been carried out. New information on foreign labour is also taken into account, something that entails a downward adjustment of Norwegian households' total wages and an upward adjustment of wages transferred abroad. New continuous time series from the labour force accounts dating back to 1970 have been published.

Revisions of figures in the real and labour force accounts have consequences for institutional accounts. The institutional accounts have only been revised with comparable time series dating back to 1999, but figures back to 1978 will be published in 2007.

7.15. Other economic statistics

Price project

The aim of the project is to develop new and upgrade existing statistics on prices and volumes. Price indices for car rentals and goods transport were published for the first time in 2006. The collection of data has started in the following areas: legal services, telecommunications, cleaning, ocean transport, scheduled flights, data processing and storing. The development of price statistics on business advice and accounts, auditing and tax counselling started in 2006.

As of July 2006, the method for the calculation of the monthly development in paid (tenants) and estimated (free-holders and unit holders) rent in the consumer price index was changed and based on actual, observed rents from the rental market. The weight units for rent in the consumer price index have also been based on information from the Rental Market Survey 2005 since July 2006.

Work continued in 2006 to improve the quality of volume indicators for health and education in the national accounts. This work is coordinated with developments internationally. New theoretical results on the measurement of capital, which take differences in lifetime and survival profiles into account, among other things, into account, are now used in the revision of figures in the national accounts.

New statistics on public transport

New statistics routines for statistics on quarterly and annual statistics on public transport were made operational in 2006. The annual figures for 2004 have been published, while the quarterly figures for 2005 and the first quarter of 2006 will be published for the first time in the first quarter of 2007.

Enterprise demography

In 2006, the statistics on enterprise demography were expanded to include founders of private and public limited companies, and include owner characteristics such as sex, age, educational level and type, country background and immigration category. Furthermore, statistics on gender representation on boards in PLCs and the proportion of enterprises that fulfil the requirements on gender representation have been published.

Statistics on roles in business and industry (owner, board positions etc.) were first published in 2006. The statistics describe who holds board positions and general manager positions, and combinations of such roles. The statistics also include ownership structures, including owner concentration and the number and type of owners in private and public limited companies. Statistics describing enterprises based on employee characteristics such as sex, age and educational level were also published in 2006.

7.16. Research activities

The research activity was characterised by a high level of publishing activity in 2006 and contributed to several joint activities with the statistics production. The latter was particularly the case in the work to improve and develop new price indices and in the work with the national accounts, and also within education, income and wage statistics.

Tax, distribution and consumer behaviour

The development of new, more complex tax models continued in 2006, and a new simulation model with endogenous labour supply adapted to Lotte is now in use. Analyses of business taxation have not made as much progress as planned. Extensive calculations for the Storting and ministries have also been carried out. Statistics Norway's tax models have been used extensively in the government's tax regime. The Ministry of Finance can now use Lotte from an external machine, and

relevant model documentation is available on the Internet. An international micro simulation conference was held in 2006.

<i>Energy and environmental analyses</i>	Analyses of central issues in the power market were carried out in 2006, resulting in a lot of attention on electricity prices and the importance of low reservoir levels. Statistics Norway has analysed the impact of abolishing power contracts for power-intensive industries. In the aftermath of the "power crisis" in 2003, the effects of various types of inflow shortages have been analysed. The micro simulation model has been used in analyses of household demand for electricity.
<i>Analyses of economic cycles and macro models</i>	There has been large and growing interest in the cyclical development and how the Norwegian economy works in recent years. As usual, four cyclical reports were published in 2006. In addition comes various articles and reports on the functioning of the Norwegian economy. The factors that determine the currency rate were studied. The importance of expectations in price formation was also analysed.
<i>Analyses of the labour market and firm behaviour</i>	The project on the evaluation of the SkatteFUNN scheme was continued in 2006, and the results have been presented continuously and made available on the project's website. The project that looks at the effect of the "discouraged worker effect" in the 1990s was continued. A study of the relationship between literacy and success in the labour market has also been carried out. The differences in performance between pupils in upper secondary education have also been analysed.
<i>Public finance</i>	In connection with the government's work with the pension reform, Statistics Norway has carried out a number of analyses and calculations using the MOSART model. A type household version of MOSART has been developed to be able to combine effects of labour supply with pension analyses. The model has also been reprogrammed on a new platform. In a user-financed assignment, Statistics Norway also estimated income elasticities for municipal services using a dynamic model.
<i>Economic growth and efficiency</i>	Revisions of the income model and the MSG model have been carried out. The equilibrium model was used in several applied analyses, including the Low emissions commission. Two aggregated growth models with endogenous growth mechanisms were established and documented. This is part of a project that analyses driving forces behind technological development, the environment and knowledge accumulation in a small, open economy such as Norway.
<i>Petroleum and environmental-economic analyses</i>	The tool used to study regional gas markets in the global energy market model has been improved. Coal and electricity have been included as energy carriers. Statistics Norway has been in charge of an international project to describe the economy and resources of the Arctic region. Among other things the analysis documents the importance of natural resources for the economy in this region.
<i>Demographic analyses</i>	The organisation of Norway's participation in the international research programme <i>Generations and Gender Programme (GGP)</i> is going as planned. This is a major project that is financed by the Research Council of Norway, several ministries, Norwegian Social Research and Statistics Norway. The planning of the Norwegian interview survey LOGG is completed, and the interviews will start in January 2007.
	In later years, a large part of the demographic research has been focused around the ongoing structural changes in fertility, relationship and family formation and dissolution. It includes projects that analyse fertility, relationship and family changes in light of family policies and gender equality in Norway and the Nordic countries.
<i>Analyses of living conditions</i>	Efforts in recent years to carry out a quality control of the panel of living conditions and raise skills with regard to the analysis of panel data were continued in 2006. Analyses of contact with children and the economy of single parents and married or cohabiting parents as part of the evaluation of the maintenance reform

of 2003 have been carried out. Analyses of working hours and working time arrangements among parents, analyses of living conditions of the agricultural population and students, and analyses of attitudes towards immigrants have also been carried out. Additionally, analyses of the correlation between living conditions and crime were carried out in 2005, as well as of the living conditions in inner east Oslo and changes in the settlement pattern of immigrants in Oslo.

7.17. Micro data to research

The purpose of this project is to improve researchers' access to Statistics Norway's data, particularly register data. The project has cooperated with the Norwegian Social Science Data Services and is partly financed by the Research Council of Norway. The project started in 2005. In 2006, the focus has been on establishing a website with information on research-related register data. Information about quality, consistency of the data material and variable definitions has been published. The conditions for data delivery and how to be accepted as research institution are described and integrated in the service. There has been close contact with the users – via a reference group and user seminars.