

Activity Plan for 2009
– Initiatives and priorities
Statistics Norway

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Preface

The *Activity Plan for 2009* provides an overview of Statistics Norway's plans for activities in 2009. The publication includes a brief overview of risk assessments, which are published separately. A publication dedicated to internal budget allocation is also in preparation.

The Activity Plan is based on guidelines in Report no. 1 to the Storting (2008-2009), and is informed by *Strategy 2007*. EU legislative acts on statistics are also pertinent to for the plan.

More detailed activity plans for each of Statistics Norway's departments are also available.

Oslo, 17 February 2009

Frøydis Langmark
Chair of the Board

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1. Activities in 2009 – preconditions and goals

1.1. Strategy and budget ceilings

Strategy Statistics Norway's strategy is based on five main strategies:

- Statistics reflect society
- Research of high quality
- Satisfied users and motivated respondents
- Cooperation to improve statistics
- Quality at every stage

The review of prioritised areas below roughly follows the division into main strategies.

International cooperation International cooperation in statistics provides for increased comparability between statistics. Such cooperation imposes requirements on the contents, scope and quality of statistics. New statistics must be developed continuously in order to meet the international requirements, influencing the direction of our activities and requiring follow-up and action over the year.

Budgetary framework Statistics Norway's budget proposal for 2009 was submitted to the Ministry of Finance in November 2007. The strategy and budget proposal for the next four years constitute Statistics Norway's long-term programme. A section of the text of Report no. 1 to the Storting is reproduced in Annex B.

The national budget for 2009 allocates NOK 467.1 million to Statistics Norway. This is NOK 26.3 million more than the appropriation for 2008. Special focus areas in financing in 2009 are IT infrastructure/development (NOK 7.5 million), agricultural census work (NOK 3.0 million), the time use survey (NOK 1.6 million), NACE (NOK 4.0 million) and Svalbard statistics (NOK 2.5 million). EEA collaboration has also been allocated an extra NOK 3 million.

Great demand for statistics Overall, Statistics Norway's financial situation for 2009 is considered to be good. In addition to the allocations from the national budget, user-financed projects have also experienced strong growth in recent years. Demand for new and better statistics is increasing steadily, while Statistics Norway wishes to maintain the size of its workforce, excluding interviewers, at the present level of some 1,000 employees. This means that there is an on-going need to modernise and streamline statistics production, notably through the FOSS (Enhancement and standardisation of statistical production) programme, that was initiated in 2008. This also means that a considerable proportion of new initiatives and projects in different areas must be undertaken within existing financial frameworks, based on continued productivity improvements. There is also a need to tighten the control of activities performed under assignment. Not least, projects with a framework of at least one man-year of labour or which exceed NOK 500,000 must be submitted to management for a decision.

1.2. Reorganisation with effect from 1 January 2009

The IT resources have been consolidated in a department for IT and statistical methods. A separate data capture department has been established, as well as a department for planning and finance, and one which covers staff and competence, dissemination, and property management and operations.

1.3. Goals for activities in 2009

On-going activities The goals for on-going activities are set out in the annual Letter of Instruction from the Ministry of Finance. The sub-goals are presented in chapter 2.5 *Quality at every stage*.

Goals have been set out for the following areas:

- production volume
- the topicality of statistics
- timeliness
- response rates
- proportion of electronic reporting
- response burden

Development tasks

There are major development tasks in all parts of the organisation and many of the initiatives are multi-year ones. Key goals in 2009 are:

- for the new IT function to be in place
- for portfolio management to be established
- for the election data project on the parliamentary and Sami elections to be completed within the deadline.
- *for a new industry standard to be used in the publication of all short-term statistics in 2009*
- for the focus on electronic data capture to be intensified, and the use of printed forms to be reduced
- to advance the development of the new ssb.no website to the point that launch will be possible in the first half of 2010
- to intensify work on developing an infrastructure for micro-data in 2009 and to make a decision in respect of future solutions
- to prepare the 2011 population and housing census to continue the work of increasing the level of coverage of dwelling numbering in close cooperation with register owners, with a view to achieving the target set out in the ministerial Letter of Instruction.
- in terms of research activities, to increase the number of researchers who are published in international scientific journals

1.4. Planning process and the planning system

Planning work is realised by preparing departmental budgets including revenues, costs of budgeted man-years, drawing up project instructions, entering data in the planning system and updating the product register.

The planning system is being reorganised. A new version of the product register will probably be available for the work on the 2010 Activity Plan due to commence in the autumn of 2009. The new product register will have interfaces to a number of other systems in Statistics Norway. During 2009, a decision will also be taken concerning the future of the man-hours recording system.

1.5. Recruiting and retaining skilled employees

Skilled staff with an ability to adapt to change are a prerequisite for realising the plans that have been adopted. Targeted and systematic efforts are therefore being made to develop the right skill-set among employees to meet the requirements from a changing environment with new user requirements. Statistics Norway meets the competition for labour by promoting the organisation as an attractive place to work in relevant specialist domains at universities and colleges.

1.6. Risk assessments 2009

Risk assessments at an overarching level are presented in a separate publication. Risk assessment areas with critical success factors have been prepared for the areas listed below. For statistics production as a whole, the picture is generally similar to last year. The risk in relation to levels of competency is assessed to be lower than for 2008. There is a risk linked to individual IT systems which Statistics Norway took over as part of the statistics from Norges Bank.

Risk assessment areas with critical success factors

- 1 **Statistics production**
 - 1.1 **Statistics production in general**
Risk of insufficient competence, deficiencies in financing/user-financed assignments, problems with IT systems, organisation/cooperation and data access
Sub-areas
 - 1.2 **Securities statistics**
Risk of operational stoppages on old systems, data-entry omissions, lack of back-ups.
 - 1.3. **Input data system for banks and financial institutions**
Risk associated with the fact that the system uses software that Statistics Norway is not qualified in.
 - 1.4 **Population and Housing Census 2011**
Risk that the quality of data on dwelling addresses, housing and employment will be sub-standard
- 2 **ICT**
Risk of loss of critical IT services, failures following maintenance and changes, dependency on individuals, loss of external expertise
- 3 **Financial management**
Risk of insufficient competence and staffing, accounting errors, inadequate routines, missing information and failure to meet deadlines to
- 4 **Procurements - purchasing**
Risk of breach of regulations, malpractice, bad contracts and a lack of purchasing expertise
- 5 **Security**
Risk of deficient information security, data security, crises, fire, burglary and lack of security expertise

2. Initiatives and priorities

2.1. Statistics reflect society

Social and Population Statistics

The Population and Housing Census - primarily register-based

The Population and Housing Census in 2011 will, for the first time, be based primarily on administrative and statistical registers as data sources. In 2008, an EU directive on population and housing censuses was adopted that will also apply to the EEA countries. This involves stricter requirements regarding the data and metadata that are to be supplied to Eurostat, regarding the way the data are disseminated and regarding standardised quality reports. Statistics Norway will also, within the framework of a register-based census, accommodate, to the greatest extent possible, other wishes which users of the 2011 Census may have.

Improve the quality of administrative data

In order to fully satisfy all of the features comprised by the EU directive, quality-improvement measures will need to be implemented. Key amongst these are measures to improve the quality of administrative data through collaboration with the register owners. Statistics Norway's cooperation with the Directorate of Taxes and the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority to improve the coverage of dwelling numbers in the National Population Register must be continued in 2009. Statistics Norway is also collaborating with the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority to improve the quality of housing data in GAB, the Ground Property, Address and Building Register. Other measures consist of utilising supplementary sources or developing methods for combining existing data in new ways. Measures are planned for a number of statistical areas, but, in 2009, measures relating to the characteristics of households and dwellings will be prioritised.

<p><i>Development of register-based dwelling household and housing statistics continues</i></p> <p><i>Common register basis</i></p>	<p>One project for coordinating housing and household statistics is continuing in 2009. This involves linking dwellings in the housing statistics and households in the population statistics to dwelling households at micro-level. Where work at micro-level does not produce results, methods for imputation/estimation are to be developed. For the 2011 Census, this will provide information about residents in households with associated building and housing characteristics. The concept of residency will be linked to actual place of residence where possible. The object is to arrive at a set of common population data for all statistics in Statistics Norway which have the household as a unit.</p> <p>Further work will be done on improving the coverage of housing characteristics that have already been published and in extending the housing statistics with new characteristics as required pursuant to the EU directive. An assessment must be made as to how data from housing valuation and estate agencies' systems, as well as information from the municipalities tax base for properties, can best be utilised. The same applies to housing information held by the Norwegian State Housing Bank. In addition, comparisons – <i>overlay analyses</i> – are to be performed between property maps and building registers in order to assess the mass of buildings/houses which have been demolished or are not registered.</p>
<p><i>Detailed plan for Population and Housing Census in 2009</i></p>	<p>During 2009, a detailed plan is to be produced for the 2011 Census for the entirety of the remaining project period. The plan is to include all quality-improvement measures, data comparison, quality surveys and quality reporting, as well as the publication programme.</p>
<p><i>Follow up new EU directives on health statistics</i></p>	<p>Statistics on health, nursing and care services include overviews of resource inputs, organisation, activity, use of health services and users/patients. One important challenge is to secure Statistics Norway's access to central health registers with a view to improving the official health statistics in line with new EU directives in this area.</p>
<p><i>Reorganisation of personnel data in the specialist health service is to start</i></p>	<p>The source of personnel data in the specialist health service is to be changed from questionnaire-based surveys to the acquisition of data from registers. This will contribute to a lower resource burden in the health authorities and regional health authorities, produce better data quality and help streamline data capture and the standardisation of work processes in Statistics Norway. A comprehensive reorganisation of the data capture, processing and publication routines for the specialist health service has been initiated.</p> <p>Statistics Norway will perform an evaluation of existing and partially overlapping user-financed assignments within health statistics in relation to already established statistical systems (KOSTRA etc.). The aim is to reorganise assignments that can free up resources for Statistics Norway's core activities, contribute to better utilisation of existing statistical systems, and in time yield efficiency gains for Statistics Norway as well as its partners.</p>
<p><i>Successful election data project in 2009</i></p>	<p>The election data project is to collect, process, forecast and disseminate the results of the 2009 parliamentary and Sami elections. The work of amending and documenting large parts of the programming code for the election database will be completed in the first quarter of 2009. The Internet-based reporting method, which was used for the election in 2007, will be extended. New forms for reporting background information and election results will also be developed.</p>
<p><i>Statistics Norway takes over responsibility for www.valgresultater.no</i></p>	<p>Statistics Norway will take over responsibility for www.valgresultater.no, which is the main channel for the publication of election results from the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. There will be no major changes in the construction of these pages at this time. Statistics Norway will publish <i>Valgaktuelt</i> with factual articles on topics from the election campaign in the last month before the election.</p>

- Better income statistics* Statistics Norway has now established fully comprehensive register-based income statistics covering all of Norway's private households. This has led to a number of publications from the statistics, including income statistics for smaller groups and restricted geographical areas. Over time, Statistics Norway will also acquire a better numerical basis for performing trend analyses based on panels for the entire population. One particular challenge for income statistics is to preserve comparability over time using data that are greatly affected by changes in laws and regulations.
- System for living conditions surveys to be evaluated* It is 12 years since the present system for rotating living conditions surveys was established. There have been significant changes since the start in 1996, both as regards panels and cross-sections, and changes in resources and costs associated with interview surveys and in the dissemination of statistics from the living conditions surveys. In 2009, the system will be evaluated in order to acquire a basis for proposing improvements and changes in the system for collecting survey-based living conditions data in Statistics Norway, to cover both internal and external users requirements. It is an aim for the system to be efficient and predictable in terms of resource consumption. The project aims at improving and standardising work processes in the production of survey-based living conditions statistics, in order to streamline the production processes, reduce risk and improve the documentation.
- Evaluation of the consumption survey continues* A falling response rate and factors relating to quality and user requirements form the basis for an evaluation of the consumption survey which began in 2008. A user survey has been performed and the questionnaire has been reworked for 2009. The result so far is a positive trend in the response rate, and feedback from users is that there is a wish and need for consumption data that can be broken down by different types of household. The evaluation is continuing in 2009. Among the measures is an analysis of the results from the experiments, the report of the organisation of the data capture, a review of the deflection weights and creation of the sample and winding down of the panel. The results from the consumption survey for 2006-2008 are due to be published by the end of June 2009. This is nearly three months earlier than previously.
- Time use survey to be prepared in 2010* Statistics Norway will perform a time use survey in 2010. The planning and development work will be done in 2009, including a pilot survey to help quality-assure the data capture routine in the main survey. Focus groups are also planned to identify issues concerning motivation and response burden.
- New statistics with results from national tests* Education statistics cover kindergartens, primary and secondary schooling, higher education and further education. From the end of basic schooling, the statistics are based on individual data. These provide a basis for statistics which show pupils'/students' paths through the education system. In 2009, the individual-based statistical basis will be extended with results from national tests from compulsory schooling. Education statistics have high priority in the EU and the OECD, and in 2009 work will be undertaken to implement an EU directive on statistics concerning lifelong learning. Work to implement potential register sources for immigrants' education completed abroad will also be prioritised.

Statistics on work and wages

The user requirements in this area are increasing both nationally and internationally. There is a demand for more detailed statistics and improved topicality. In addition, in a number of areas, the statistics will continue to be extended, including on the basis of register data. Factors which the statistics must take into account are changes in the labour market, increasing labour immigration and the pension reform.

- Extended and coordinated data capture* In partnership with the Directorate of Taxes, NAV and the Brønnøysund registers, Statistics Norway is initiating a report concerning routines for coordinated data collection from employers on wages, pension premiums and employment (EDAG). This is aimed at simplifying matters for employers and producing significantly better data for the agencies. For Statistics Norway, this should mean more rapid and accurate statistics on employment and wages as well as the discontinuation of separate wage data capture. This requires comprehensive reporting and development work and will probably only be in operation in 2013. This initiative was previously known by the abbreviations EDA and LSA.
- A routine will be developed in order to allow publication of quarterly employee statistics to begin in 2010. This is also aimed at covering employees on short stays in Norway. A more comprehensive data set for labour commuting and movement between the Nordic countries will be taken forward within the framework of government assignments and in cooperation with the other Nordic statistics offices.
- The routine for linking register data on the labour market with data on educational activity and linking to different welfare schemes will be revised.
- Statistics on job vacancies* An EU directive on producing quarterly statistics on job vacancies has been adopted. Statistics Norway will submit data from the first quarter of 2010. A collaboration with NAV on data capture is in preparation since they have a six-monthly survey which partially covers the same topic.
- Revised standard for classification of occupations* In 2008, a revision of the international standard classification of occupations (ISCO 2008) was adopted. This will be used in the next population census and for reporting to Eurostat as of 2011. The work on preparing the revision will begin in 2009.
- Wage and labour costs* Wage statistics are to be presented with the same high degree of topicality as previously. The annual wage statistics will now have figures for executive salaries, wages by working hours and full-time equivalents by sector. Quarterly wage indices are to be extended to cover more sectors and include figures for the health authorities. Labour cost indices are to be extended to cover more sectors in line with directives for this area and in accordance with a new industry standard. The index series are to be extended with seasonally adjusted figures and indices without bonuses.
- A new labour cost survey for the financial year 2008 is to be performed with full results towards the end of 2009. The survey is to be extended somewhat and will also provide a basis for revising the labour cost indices. Mapping of changes in the pension costs by sector since the previous survey for the financial year 2004 will be key. Linking information from the payment record for employers contributions in the tax accounts and wage totals in the wage and tax deducted register will establish data for projecting employers' contributions in line with new rules for labour and industry.

National accounts, prices and financial statistics

A key task for the national accounts for the coming years is to introduce a new industry standard (NACE rev. 2). Publication of the national accounts in accordance with the new industry standard will take place in November 2011 and cover both annual and quarterly figures, including historical series. One main challenge will be to establish consistent historical time series, and in partnership with the users a decision needs to be made as to how far back in time to revise the figures.

<i>Continue the work on the main revision of the national accounts</i>	<p>In 2009, the quarterly national accounts will meet the challenges by having the short-term statistics transition to the new industry standard, while the national accounts will continue under the old standard until the second quarter of 2011. There are quality issues linked with the conversion of new units which are not registered in the old standard, inasmuch as around 40,000-50,000 new units are established each year, i.e. around 100,000 up to mid-2011. (For further details, see “new industry standard”).</p> <p>Another priority area is the quality of the national accounts figures. Revisions from provisional to final figures will be studied with a view to improving the quality both of the figures that are used as input to the national accounts and the processing of the figures which appear in the national accounts.</p> <p>The work of introducing Eurostat’s recommended methods for deflating continues. The new service price indices are applied as they are completed (see the section on prices below).</p>
<i>Work on coherent national accounts to be prioritised</i>	<p>One weakness of the Norwegian national accounts is that the financial accounts have never been fully developed or integrated with the cyclical national accounts. The financial accounts are that part of the <i>institutional sector accounts</i> that show the sector’s financial balances, financial transactions and revaluations. Following its takeover of the financial market statistics from Norges Bank in 2007, Statistics Norway publishes quarterly financial accounts with balances, transactions and revaluations, but these do not follow the publishing cycle of the national accounts.</p> <p>The situation is now conducive to developing the Norwegian national accounts into a coherent system. The aim is for fully integrated and consistent financial accounts for Norway to be complete by the end of 2011, i.e. coinciding with the publication of the next main audit of the national accounts.</p>
<i>Update accounting and financial market statistics in the light of market developments</i>	<p>A number of trends have led to an increased focus on financial market statistics at Statistics Norway. This is based in part on innovation in the financial markets and globalisation with increased capital transfers across national borders, at the same time as the traditional role of the financial institutions as financial intermediaries has lost some of its significance in relation to, for example direct borrowing in the market. The international financial crisis has been instrumental in increasing the requirements of financial market statistics, in respect of both topicality and international comparability. At the same time, the crisis shows the complexity of the markets which these statistics are intended to elucidate.</p> <p>The needs for expansion must, moreover, be seen in the context of the increased emphasis which the national accounts system (SNA/ESA) places on the institutional sector accounts, not least the quarterly institutional sector accounts. On this basis, it might be appropriate to extend the quarterly account statistics for listed companies to also comprise a sample of unlisted enterprises. This needs to be weighed more carefully against the response burden etc. and whether it is possible to extend the statistics through further utilisation of sources which do not add to the response burden.</p>
<i>Adapt statistical reporting to changes in legislation</i>	<p>The challenges in the coming years consist primarily of adapting statistical reporting to changes in financial market and accounting legislation. Notably, the establishment of an international reporting standard for small and medium-sized enterprises (IFRS-SME) may have consequences. In 2009, it is therefore necessary to continue monitoring the spread of IFRS in Norwegian companies. At the same time, it is essential to follow the developments in accounting regulations both nationally and internationally.</p> <p>The consequences of IFRS for financial institutions must also be monitored. In addition, from the autumn of 2008, preparations have begun for a new technical</p>

solution for official reporting of accounting information for banks and financial undertakings (ORBOF), which was transferred from Norges Bank in 2007.

<i>Present coherent security statistics</i>	Information from the securities market is important for analysing what is happening in the economy. It is important to acquire detailed information from the Norwegian Central Securities Depository, depository banks and other actors about securities trading in order to ensure sufficient insight into these complex markets. Statistics Norway aims to develop and present coherent securities market statistics and ensure a high standard in its deliveries to other statisticians who use these as sources. In this context, work has begun to develop an IT solution for supporting this activity.
<i>Harmonise statistics on internationalisation and globalisation</i>	<p>Increased internationalisation and globalisation present statistics systems with new challenges. The international statistics agencies are working to extend and harmonise statistics which go further in elucidating globalisation in a way that pushes standards up. There are EU directives on, for example, foreign accounts, international trade in services, direct investments and activities in multinational enterprises. An EU directive on a new European business register is in place in which one of the particular challenges relates to identifying corporate relationships over national borders.</p> <p>There is a clear need for a complementary statistical description which shows the entire activity of multinational groups. There is a need for data both on how production, revenues, etc. are generated in multinational groups and how these items are distributed between companies belonging to the same group, and hence distributed between countries. There is a similar problem regarding receivables and payables between international groups and between countries.</p>
<i>Establish an IT solution for joint use of ownership information from the Register of Shareholders</i>	While the Directorate of Taxes' Register of Shareholders has become a key source for mapping corporate structures in Norway, the exchange of information about multinational companies between countries is necessary in order to acquire data on subsidiaries and associated companies abroad. Statistics Norway is involved in the project to develop Eurostat's EuroGroup Register (ERG) by providing information about Norwegian entities of relevance for the register. In order to strengthen the work of picking up on the increasingly more rapid changes, in 2009 there will be stronger focus on joint solutions for population management through the Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises and work will be initiated to establish an IT solution for the joint use of ownership data from the Directorate of Taxes' Register of Shareholders.
<i>More new price indices in 2009</i>	<p>Work in 2009 will follow the plans set out for upgrading existing, and developing new, price statistics in order to meet the international requirements in the EU's regulation concerning short-term statistics (1165/98) and the <i>Handbook on price and volume measurement in national accounts</i> (Eurostat 2001). The work is also motivated by the national accounts' need for better price indices.</p> <p>In total, 12 of the 21 planned new service price indices are now in ordinary operation. The work on the last 9 is well under way and in some instances data capture has begun. The plan is for data capture to be underway for all of them within 2009. During 2010, all the indices will be in ordinary operation.</p>
<i>Transition to a new industry standard for the price indices</i>	One important task in the work on all the price indices in 2009 is to accomplish the transition to a new industry standard for publication. Figures must also be calculated for the service price indices going back to the first quarter of 2006 as is required in the regulation concerning short-term statistics.
<i>The weighting basis for the CPI to be obtained from the national accounts from 2011</i>	The Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Harmonised Consumer Price Index (HCPI) are to go from using the survey of expenditure to using the national accounts as their primary source for weighting calculations. A new routine for the

weighting calculations is to be used as of 2011. The focus on the utilisation of barcode data in the CPI is to be continued in 2009. This will result in both an improved CPI and a reduced response burden on industry. To date, good solutions have been reached within foodstuffs and alcoholic drinks. Obvious new areas are medicines, furniture and electronics.

In recent years, external trade, price and volume indices have improved. At the same time, the sample of import prices in the producer price index for industry has increased. In 2009, an evaluation of both the export and import price indices based on external trade data will be carried out and these will be compared with the export and import price indices from the producer price index for industry with a view to better coordination and consistency. In this work, the needs of the national accounts will also be taken care of.

*Reducing vulnerability in
Kostra's IT system*

Kostra is a coordinated system for the reporting and dissemination of municipal statistics. Kostra contains a comprehensive set of tables with indicators based on accounts, services, personnel, etc. Both national agencies and the municipalities are active users of KOSTRA, including in budgeting and in analysing operations. Some of the technological solutions in KOSTRA are old and require updating, and in 2009 all technical routines will be reviewed with a view to coordinating them as much as possible with the general IT routines for form production, reporting, data reception and auditing.

*New statistics on resource
input in central government
administration*

StatRes is a system for the development and dissemination of statistics and indicators on resource utilisation, activities, services, production and performance for governmental activities. The project is being carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Government Administration and Reform, which is also financing sections of the work.

StatRes provisionally includes the following areas: all of central government administration, universities and colleges, child welfare, the specialist health service, the Norwegian National Rail Administration, customs and excise, the police, courts and correctional services. In 2009, work will be undertaken on extending statistics and indicators for existing areas, and commenced on phasing in the following new areas: NAV, the Norwegian Public Roads Administration and the armed forces. In addition, the work of widening the coverage of *StatRes* with indicators for resource input (accounts and personnel data) will be continued.

Industry statistics

Industry statistics aim to show developments in production, producer prices, employment and value creation in the individual industries. The focus of development work within industry statistics is largely affected by the needs of the national accounts, but other user requirements are also catered for. In addition to traditional industry statistics, statistics are also prepared for new business start-ups/closures, research and development, innovation and ICT use. Statistics Norway is subject to extensive international requirements through the EU's directives regarding structural statistics and short-term statistics. In order to cater for new user requirements and economic developments, the scope of these directives has been extended over a number of revisions, and directives on new topics have been adopted in recent years. In 2009, the work of introducing a new industry standard in all statistics needs to be continued.

*New industry standard for
publication of short-term
statistics in 2009*

The first results of the work invested in the transition to a new and improved industry standard will become visible in 2009. The short-term statistics and labour cost index are to be published under the new standard from the start of 2009. Structural statistics and other annual statistics are to be published under the new and the old standard for the statistics year 2008. The structural statistics are also being prepared and published under the new standard for 2007, but not made available until the 2008 statistics are ready. The national accounts publish their

final annual accounts for 2009 together with earlier time series under the new standard in 2011. Quarterly national accounts are to be published under the new standard as of the third quarter of 2011. The Population and Housing Census of 2011 is to be published under the new standard in 2012.

Expansion of industrial statistics continues

The expansion of industrial statistics continues in 2009 with the acquisition of individually classified raw materials inputs, primarily in the engineering industry. New coordinated routines for the acquisition of goods statistics for industry are also to be established. In 2009, work will continue on ensuring better correspondence between the short-term and annual statistics for industry through changes in the audit and analysis routines. Work will also be initiated to assess the standardisation of the basket of goods in the manufacturing index for industry, linked to the classifications in the production statistics. Publication to the new industry standard and associated quality assurance work will be important tasks in 2009, both for short-term statistics and for annual statistics for industry.

Agricultural census for 2010 to be prepared

The pre-project was concluded in 2008 with a final report presenting detailed plans for activities up to 2012.

The majority of the data can be obtained from administrative registers, both for agricultural enterprises and for the agricultural properties. However, there is no avoiding form-based data capture from around 45,000 agricultural enterprises in order to satisfy the EEA requirements. Examples of information that has to be collected by form are labour inputs, subsidiary industries and a range of environmental issues.

In 2009, one key task will be to conclude and document the work of mapping and quality-assuring relevant administrative data sources.

A second task will be to test the routines for the form-based census through a trial survey. The results of the survey will be reviewed and proposals for any changes will be made during the year.

Statistics for the service industry

The service industries constitute an increasingly large sector of the Norwegian economy. Structural changes in trade and services in recent years have spurred an increased demand for statistics showing the scope of trade over the Internet, the use of foreign/leased labour and franchising. In many cases, statistics are requested across the established standards, including for chain stores, shopping malls and custom-defined sectors.

Structural statistics are gradually covering the majority of industries. In connection with the transition to the new industry standard, an assessment will be made of including areas of business which the structural statistics still do not cover. Statistics Norway will be trying to improve the topicality of service industry statistics through its work on more coordinated production and publication routines for the structural statistics.

An assessment will be made in 2009 as to whether to undertake new income surveys for wholesale and retail trade. A pre-project will be carried out in early 2009, as a basis for making the decision.

Expansion of transport statistics continues

A number of public reports in recent years have pointed to major omissions in the statistical basis for road and maritime transport. In 2007 and 2008, a number of development projects were initiated to improve the statistical basis considerably, especially on the freight side. In 2009, the results of a new survey of light goods vehicles will be published as an addition to the heavy goods vehicles survey. In 2009, a development project is to be concluded in connection with establishing a database of annual trip lengths based on register data from periodic vehicle inspections. Among other things, this will improve the basis for estimating the environmental impact of road traffic. In 2009, work started on the major project to

map domestic goods flows from manufacturers to consumers within the industrial and wholesale sectors. The results will be published in 2010, and will be particularly useful for the goods transport models on which many of the forecasts in the national transport plan are based. A similar survey for maritime transport, freight flows along the coast, is to be performed in the first quarter of 2009.

The public transport survey is now in operation on both an annual and quarterly basis and covers public transport by bus, ferry, metro, tram and rail. In 2009, data from the survey will be supplemented by a new regular quarterly survey of the taxi service sector based on third-party data collection from the taxi offices.

For private cars, which are the most widespread means of transport, statistical coverage is weak. The *domestic transport services* statistics system, which is produced in collaboration with the Institute of Transport Economics, provides a coherent presentation of passenger and goods transport for all modes of transport. The accounts provide a good overview of missing data and any deficiencies in the quality of the statistics. As part of the work on the accounts in 2009, the most important omissions within passenger and goods transport statistics will be considered.

In connection with the Oslo Group's work of revising the UN's manuals for energy statistics, needs have been identified relating to the energy statistics, which impose requirements on the data on transport statistics. Identification of omissions in the data has begun. In 2009, the first results of this initiative will be published. The work of improving the data for the transport sector in order to increase the quality in the statistics system concerning supply and consumption of energy will continue in 2009.

Coordination of structural statistics

The FOSS (Enhancement and Standardisation of Statistical Production) initiative (see also 2.5) on the coordination of structural statistics for industry, building and construction activities and service industries is to continue in 2009. New auditing routines are to be employed. More selective auditing will be performed on data for 2008, including automatic error correction where appropriate. With new auditing routines and new prediction routines in the ISEE solution, the work on structural statistics will focus more strongly on correcting errors in data which are particularly significant for the published figures. There is also an aim to achieve coordinated sampling for the 2008 statistics through the use of the new applications being developed in the FOSS project for the coordination of samples. The publishing and reporting routines are to be better consolidated. The work of coordinating the routines for the production, reporting and publication of structural statistics will help increase their quality in 2009 and give users a clearer picture of structural statistics for Norwegian business.

Structural statistics for foreign-controlled enterprises (inward FATS)

From August 2009, for the first time, it will be mandatory to report inward FATS to Eurostat, i.e. for the year 2007. In 2009, work will therefore be undertaken to integrate the production of inward FATS into the FOSS project on the harmonisation of structural statistics. Sound routines for the publication and reporting of inward FATS are to be established as part of the ordinary production of structural statistics, and efforts will be made to make direct use of the Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises to identify which enterprises are foreign-controlled and which countries ultimately control the enterprises. Work will also be done in 2009 to improve the data basis for the energy industries when producing inward FATS.

Improved micro data basis and harmonisation between ICT and R&D and innovation statistics

In 2009, a new joint R&D and innovation survey for business will be performed. In the transition to the new industry standard, an assessment will be made as to whether to incorporate individual service industries which are presently not covered.

Researchers and international organisations, including the OECD, are increasingly occupied with analysing the impacts of R&D and innovation on productivity and economic growth and also the impacts of ICT. In line with user requirements, in 2009 Statistics Norway will work to harmonise samples in order to enhance the microdata basis for analysis and research within ICT, R&D and innovation statistics and to improve the presentation of statistics in this area. This coordination will reduce the response burden.

Environmental and energy statistics

Environmental statistics: a new strategy to be elaborated

A new strategy is to be elaborated for work on environmental statistics. The regularly produced statistics will continue in 2009.

Indicators of sustainable development are a priority area for Statistics Norway. In 2009, a new edition of the report will be prepared, along the same lines as before. The publication *Natural resources and the environment* is due to be re-organised. In 2009, only the *Guide to environmental facts* brochure will be issued.

Work on atmospheric emissions has a high priority. Statistics Norway will extend its work on harmonising the energy accounts and the national accounts by also including emissions accounts.

A planned survey of industrial waste will be coordinated with the industry's own reporting to the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority. New developments in the use of customer register access for waste will be able to replace significant parts of the form-based data collection in the waste management survey.

Land use statistics for Norway to be established

It is aimed to establish land use statistics for Norway based on an agreed national land use classification to be established early in 2009. A municipal database of measures may lead to a significant improvement in the quality of Kostra reporting from the municipalities, a lower response burden and more precise statistics, that can be better integrated with the land use statistics and the coastal area statistics.

NAMEA (National Account Matrix including Environmental Accounts) is to be extended with environmental taxes. In addition, statistics are being established of environmental costs in the oil industry. An assessment will be made as to whether and how new statistics for trade in emissions allowances can be established.

Energy statistics: a number of new surveys to be performed in 2009

Within the field of energy statistics, in 2009 new surveys will be undertaken to increase information about energy use. This includes a survey of energy use in households, performed as a supplementary survey to the Survey of Expenditure. Based on a pilot survey in 2008, a main survey on energy use in buildings for the service industry will be performed. The primary results will be published in the autumn of 2009. This survey will also provide a basis for calculations of energy consumption by industrial classification for the service industry and thereby also contribute to quality-assuring the energy accounts and balance. For electricity, information about consumption by sector will also be strengthened through the energy producers reporting under a more detailed industrial classification.

A report carried out for improved coordination of the energy accounts and national accounts will provide a basis for action in 2009, initially linked to better coordination of the use of sources and improved calculation. The IT solution for the production of the energy balance and accounts is to be redesigned in order to streamline production and international reporting. In 2009, the work of the Oslo Group on energy statistics will help the proposals for a revised UN manual to reach their conclusion.

Svalbard statistics

The work of describing Svalbard society through separate surveys in order to shed light on both economic and social conditions, including the environmental situation, continues. Statistics Norway sees it as a priority to develop comparable statistics to provide central and local authorities with enhanced decision support. The strengthening of statistics on Svalbard must also be seen in relation to the Office of the Auditor General's survey of the administration of Svalbard (document no. 3:8 (2006-2007)) which points out the lack of statistics on social trends on Svalbard. In 2008, an advisory committee for Svalbard statistics was set up to take care of users' needs for statistics. The committee will hold annual meetings to which central and local authorities will be invited. In order to ensure an adequate data basis, Statistics Norway is working with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Trade and Industry on the introduction of laws for registers of legal entities and enterprises on Svalbard.

In 2009, new population statistics for Svalbard will be published for which the data basis employs the upgraded population register for the archipelago. New industry statistics for Svalbard will also be established, and the book *This is Svalbard* will also be published.

2.2. Research of high quality

Tax analyses and public finances

The tax models are to be updated and made available to central administration. Services to the parliamentary parties are to be maintained. Analyses of redistributional effects are to continue. In addition, priority will be given to analyses of company responses to tax changes and surveys of outcomes in the public sector.

Resource and environmental economics

Studies of households' adaptation of energy consumption in response to price variations and analyses of how the spot price affects consumption, end user prices and supplies in general in both the short and slightly longer terms will continue to be prioritised. Analyses of climate policy and its different instruments are to be maintained. In the main, in 2009, these will be user-financed. Routines for linking energy and environmental factors with the macro models are to be updated and quality assured. Emphasis will be given to analyses of the significance of technological changes in energy consumption and the environment.

Macro economic models and analyses

The macro models are to be updated and cooperation with users maintained. Work on cyclical reports and forecasts is to be enhanced and evaluated, notably against the background of the financial crisis. The development of models will partly focus on analyses of households' adaptation and partly on how changes in R&D and the composition of the labour force affect the economy. Coherent macroeconomic analyses of how the real economy and national finances are affected by long-term changes in demography, the pensions system and tax rules are to continue.

Microeconomic analyses

Behavioural analyses based on Statistics Norway's microdata for individuals and companies is to continue. The analyses include studies of employment schemes, the transition between unemployment benefit and work, and evaluations of policy measures. Focus will be on analyses in connection with StatRes, price indices (including housing prices), and the economic effects of ICT and education. Analyses of finance-related education problems will continue.

Analyses of population trends

Analyses capable of providing more insight into population trends are to be enhanced and strengthened. A stronger focus on mortality research is important for population projections. Together with analyses of migration and especially immigration, this is important for Statistics Norway's role as a supplier of population forecasts and analyses in connection with the pensions reform. A new population projection will be published in June 2009.

<i>Living conditions research</i>	Analyses of the family and household structure, family relations and the relationship between family and working life will continue. Both survey and register data will be used. Research based on data from the Life Cycle, Generation and Gender survey (LOGG) will be prioritised.
<i>Statistical methods</i>	A new research project for register-based statistics will commence in 2009. The long-term goal is to develop a theoretical statistical framework. In 2009, research will revolve around four topics: unit errors, microdata for analysis, imputation in the registers and model-based detailed statistics. The research activity on statistical methods will further concentrate in 2009 on studies of imputation methods, prediction-based estimations and variance estimates.

2.3. Satisfied users and motivated respondents

Dissemination

<i>New ssb.no is a priority area</i>	The project was set up in the spring of 2007 and will be in a project phase until the first half of 2010. The new ssb.no site has three main ambitions:
<i>New user interface</i>	Establish a new design and new graphical user interface for ssb.no, including revised structure and new page types for content.
<i>New publishing systems</i>	Develop new user-friendly publishing systems with publishing routines through which the specialist sections can more readily organise their own content.
<i>New services for wide dissemination</i>	Develop services and functionality for distributed information objects, to make the content accessible where the user is.

Statistics Norway has initiated efforts to digitise its publications into an electronically retrievable format. There are approximately 21,000 publications in all to digitise. The project extends over a number of years and will be concluded for the bi-centenary of the Norwegian Constitution in 2014. The bulk of the digitisation will take place from 2009 to 2012. It will be performed using Statistics Norway's internal resources and from 2009, there is a requirement for approximately 10 man-years of labour to be recruited from across the organisation.

<i>The goals of the digitisation project in 2009</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recruit in-house the right personnel for completing 10 man-years of labour on the production process in 2009 • To arrange and commence the work of large-scale scanning • To digitise ¼ of the collection <p>The demand for microdata for use in research is increasing, and this involves both linked microdata from administrative registers and individual data from Statistics Norway's interview surveys. Anonymised survey data are mainly distributed to students and research workers via the Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD). In recent years, there has also been an increase in requests for access to de-identified microdata from registers for research purposes.</p>
<i>The work on developing microdata infrastructure to be intensified in 2009</i>	Further work will be done on developing a suitable infrastructure for microdata services in Statistics Norway. In 2009, this will be based on the reports from three sub-projects carried out under the FOSS project and concluded in 2008. Further strategic initiatives in this field and the specific prioritisation of efforts will be decided on early in 2009.

Data capture

<i>Key objectives of data collection activities</i>	<p>Data capture has been strengthened through the establishment of a dedicated department. Data capture activities have the following key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to reduce the response burden • to organise the collection methods according to the respondents' needs
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- to motivate the respondents by highlighting the purpose of the statistics and the benefits of contributing to the data collection
- to strengthen the efforts aimed at optimum use of information that is already available
- to further develop an effective response and guidance service

Coordination of samples Further efforts are to be made to establish coordinated sampling which will yield a better distribution of the response burden over time. One important measure is to use Altinn as a communication channel with the respondents for this data collection.

Further focus on Altinn Statistics Norway contributes actively to efforts to facilitate electronic document handling in the public sector, including through the design of a common overall ICT architecture. These document handling measures are important to Statistics Norway and are a prerequisite for reducing the burden of statistical reporting through simpler and more efficient re-use of information or sharing of information between agencies through joint reporting. Statistics Norway is evaluating the upgrade to Altinn, as described in the Altinn II project, which is a significant step towards better document handling, and hence a more user-oriented public sector.

Reduce use of paper forms Work is under way to reduce the use of paper forms and to contribute to more electronic processing of collected information in the data preparation processes. A high proportion of electronic reporting is anticipated from business in 2009.

2.4. Cooperation to improve statistics

National cooperation

Statistics Norway will take an active role in the Register Forum in 2009 The Register Forum in Norway was established in 2004. Participants are the senior executives in the major register services. The forum discusses issues of fundamental and strategic significance. Statistics Norway regards the forum as crucial for ensuring register interaction and optimising the conditions for reuse of data.

Statistics Norway works actively with several other government agencies to streamline and coordinate reporting to the public authorities. Especially worthy of note is the work on EDAG (Electronic dialogue with employers), which involves the coordinated collection of data from employers on wages, pension premiums and employment.

New sharing of work between Brønnøysund, NAV, the employer/employee register and Statistics Norway to be implemented There is active collaboration between the related registers in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities. In 2009, a new work-sharing arrangement between the Brønnøysund registers, NAV, the employer/employee register and Statistics Norway will be implemented. This change is connected with control responsibility for occupations, entity management for small enterprises in the private sector and the quality assurance of the structure and distribution of employees in small multi-establishment enterprises. The re-organisation entails Statistics Norway being able to place more emphasis on macro-oriented quality work and less on dealing with individual entities. The plans for involving the Directorate of Taxes in the work on the quality assurance of industry codes are also to be implemented in 2009.

Cooperation on official statistics to continue The Statistics Council is an instrument for coordinating the production of Norwegian official statistics in order to safeguard and improve their quality. The council encompasses 24 statistics producers. New EU directives also impose requirements on statistics producers other than Statistics Norway. In 2008, a review was undertaken of the production routines in seven of the council's members of which four supply statistics direct to Eurostat. Work in the Statistics Council on

quality-improvement measures as a requirement for official statistics and joint competence development is continuing.

*Electronic integration:
Statistics Norway to
increase its Altinn-related
activities*

As mentioned in chapter 2.3, Statistics Norway will participate actively in the development of Altinn II. Internal organisation of roles and responsibilities in the work on Altinn and Idun is to be clarified. Both Statistics Norway's IT and statistics activities will play a more active role in Altinn's specialist system collections and in direct contact with key suppliers.

Statistics Norway's participation in the e-administration collaboration is to be strengthened. More extensive and clear-cut requirements for integration internally in central administration are expected, and Statistics Norway needs to continue its efforts to adapt its own data processing and IT architecture to the common requirements for the public sector. Statistics Norway contributes in particular to the work on content standardisation and architecture design.

The Semicolon Project

Statistics Norway participates in the Semicolon Project which is part-financed by the Research Council of Norway, and whose participants from central administration include the Brønnøysund registers, the Directorate of Taxes and the Directorate of Health. The purpose of the project is to design and test measures to help increase integration in the public sector and, out of this, between the public and private sectors. The project seeks to establish compatible concepts, to design models to facilitate the task of exchanging and understanding data, and to simplify interactions in the use of agency-specific methods and tools.

*Cooperation on information
for financial institutions*

The cooperation between the Financial Supervisory Authority of Norway, Norges Bank and Statistics Norway on obtaining reports from financial enterprises dates back many years. Following the transfer of Norges Bank's statistics department to Statistics Norway in 2007, Statistics Norway is responsible for obtaining supervisory and accounting information for all types of financial enterprises, while the Financial Supervisory Authority obtains information relating to capital requirement regulations. Within the cooperation, Statistics Norway is responsible for common database solutions and it publishes official accounting statistics for banks and financing companies, insurance companies and municipal and private pension funds on the basis of this information. In 2009, new cooperation agreements between the Financial Supervisory Authority and Statistics Norway are to be signed concerning supervisory and statistical reporting from the insurance companies and pension funds.

The EEA cooperation

*Statistics to be adapted to
new legislative acts*

For users in both Norway and other countries, it is necessary that statistics are internationally comparable. Statistics Norway complies with more than 210 legislative acts on statistics within the framework of the EEA Agreement, and this lays claim to an ever increasing share of Statistics Norway's resources.

A number of new legislative acts which have already been adopted or are pending will pose new challenges to Statistics Norway in the coming years. This applies notably to:

- A new directive on cyclical statistics which sets out a new level of detail and reference periods in respect of NACE, the new industrial classification standard.
- The new industry standard (NACE Rev. 2) requires considerable adaptation of a number of statistical areas.
- Statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC).
- ESSPROS, the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics, involves more detailed reporting in a number of areas.

- FATS, Foreign Affiliates Trade Statistics.
- A new and common framework for business registers for statistical purposes requires resources for mapping and updating corporate relationships and multinational enterprises.
- Statistics on education and lifelong learning.
- New statistics on migration.
- A new directive on health and safety in the workplace.
- A new directive on job vacancy statistics.
- A new directive on agricultural censuses.
- A new directive on statistics of company structures requires an increased level of detail in statistics on production in the service industries and on new statistics for enterprise demography.

For Statistics Norway, it is important to balance concerns for the need for new statistics with ensuring statistics of high quality. At the same time, consideration for the respondents is paramount, and national and international efforts to limit the response burden will be continued.

Statistics Norway will continue to play an active role in competence building at European level. The revised protocol 30 to the EEA agreement will, from 2009, assume that Statistics Norway continues to have four national experts on secondment to Eurostat. Statistics Norway will, in addition, continue to both conduct and participate in courses within the framework of European statistical cooperation.

On 20 June 2008, the Ministry of Finance adopted a provision on the implementation of EEA legislative acts on European statistics. In 2009, Statistics Norway will contribute to the necessary implementation of new regulations in the provision.

Other international cooperation

Efforts aimed at other international bodies such as the UN, OECD, IMF, ILO and at the Nordic level are being followed up with regard to data deliveries and meeting participation.

The Oslo Group for energy statistics

The group was set up by the UN's statistics commission and its main task is to review the UN's energy statistics manuals. The review will be completed in 2010.

International Comparison Program (ICP) - Friends of the Chair (FOC)

This project is to be continued in 2009. Statistics Norway as represented by Øystein Olsen sits on the interim board appointed by the UN. Key tasks for the board in the short term concern the strategy for user contact, financing and recruitment of a new head of Global Office. The organisation of ICP work, including cooperation with other international organisations (Eurostat/OECD), is an important item on the agenda. The ICP project's next reference year is 2011. For 2009, the board has initiated reporting activities concerning key issues of methodology. Statistics Norway will be directly involved in this activity.

Institution building and cooperation

International development cooperation

Efforts linked to institution building and cooperation with sister organisations within statistics production and social planning will be continued. This applies to Norway's present development cooperation with countries in Africa, and to an increasing extent in countries with transitional economies. Activities in international cooperation are planned to occupy 20 man-years of labour in the years ahead. The primary aim is to give technical assistance to countries in the

South/developing countries and countries in Eastern Europe and to Norwegian aid administration. Activities are financed as market-based assignments.

2.5. Quality at every stage

Regular production

<i>Production volume</i>	The production volume, measured by the number of statistical releases, is to at least match the 2007 level of 977 releases.
<i>Topicality target for 2009</i>	Topicality is measured by the number of weeks after the end of the period. <i>Monthly statistics</i> – 3.2 weeks or better <i>Quarterly statistics</i> – better than 9.7 weeks <i>Annual statistics</i> – better than 38.3 weeks
<i>Punctuality target for 2009</i>	Punctuality measures deviation from pre-announced data publication. <i>The deviation should be lower than 10 percent</i>
<i>Response rate target for 2009</i>	Mandatory surveys: at least 95 percent Voluntary surveys: better than 73 percent
<i>Response burden target for 2009</i>	The response burden is measured as the number of man-years of labour. For surveys aimed at business, the response burden should be lower than 108 man-years of labour.
<i>Electronic reporting target for 2009</i>	Measured in percent. The proportion should be higher than 48 percent.

Development tasks

<i>The FOSS projects to be performed to plan</i>	FOSS (Enhancement and Standardisation of Statistical Production) is to be continued in accordance with the template developed in 2008. Projects in progress are to be completed. These include a new system for interview activities, the coordination of samples, checklists for data collections (including registers), projects linked to microdata and metadata, introduction of a digital property map, quality indicators and development of systems for user management. High priority new projects in 2009 are the development of an IT and information architecture, coordination of Kostra, Idun and Altinn, a common reception database, the ISEE register, projects to follow up the overall plan for work on microdata and further development of metadata solutions. The issue of whether to introduce the EFQM quality management system will be assessed in 2009.
<i>Portfolio management to be introduced</i>	In 2009, work on FOSS will be coordinated with the work to establish portfolio management. All (major) projects will be included and prioritised, including in relation to administrative tasks. Elements of portfolio management are already present based on the coordination of FOSS, quality work in general and work on management information, planning and planning systems.
<i>The quality review is to be followed up</i>	The quality review in 2008, based on Eurostat's self-evaluation form, resulted in proposals for changes that have already been implemented or are about to be implemented, and projects that will be set in motion in 2009.

Projects implemented in FOSS based on the quality review:

- The checklist which was prepared in the "Process information for data collection project" was completed in 2008 and will be employed in 2009.
- The system for user follow-up was initiated in 2008 and will be completed in 2009.

Systematisation of user contact, mapping of which checks register maintainers perform on data, improvement of the documentation, introduction of mechanical input controls of raw data are areas which will be followed up.
The work on statistical methods plays a central role in all quality work. Statistical method support and advice will continue to the same extent as before.

Metadata to be integrated into the production routines

Metadata work will become a more integrated part of statistical production by incorporating documentation into the approval routines for new forms and new statistics.

Administration of statistical populations

Correlation studies of the statistical basic populations will continue in 2009 in order to ensure the best possible basis for preparing official statistics. Coherence at micro level is to be given particular emphasis in order to ensure the quality of register-based statistics. One primary objective is for future population censuses to be performed without separate data acquisition. Accordingly, in 2009, work is continuing to make information on dwelling households fully register-based.

Efforts to establish a register on employment/employees as a fourth basic register are to continue.

The task of implementing a foreign dimension in the central register of establishments and enterprises is to be maintained, as is work on the exchange of information between countries on multinational companies in order to achieve an overview of subsidiaries and associated companies abroad.

The work of quality assuring industry codes in the central register of establishments and enterprises following the introduction of the new industry standard is to be continued.

The work of receiving and preparing digital property maps as part of the cadastral delivery is to be concluded in 2009.

The report from the pre-project in 2008 shows that there is a substantial need to combine data and mapping by employing geographical information systems (GIS) in Statistics Norway. It is therefore both appropriate and necessary for GIS to be a focus area in respect of needs for statistics, quality assurance, analyses and presentation. It is important to have digital property maps in place to use in the Agricultural Census in 2010 and the Population and Housing Census in 2011. In addition, GIS allows for new statistics without imposing a further burden on Statistics Norway's respondents, and this applies to housing statistics, transport, business statistics, commuting and business travel.

In 2009, a geodatabase containing digital property maps will be established as a pilot scheme and a plan will be prepared for the further expansion and use of geodata in statistics Norway. This covers cooperation and coordination, requirements relating to updating, quality assurance, documentation, zoning, and to establishing Statistics Norway versions in accordance with the population model templates.

IT infrastructure targets

The IT infrastructure in Statistics Norway is to be both operated daily and developed further.

The following deliveries of infrastructure solutions and services are planned for 2009:

- Design and implementation of the infrastructure for "Election 2009"
- Contribution to the FOSS projects: System for interview activities and geodatabase.
- Contribution to the new ssb.no website

- Development of new systems for the security system and common data reception system
- Bring together all IT infrastructure at Statistics Norway Kongsvinger: *a single data centre*
- Implement the *Secure Infrastructure* project. The aim is to establish a user-friendly solution in which employees can work on sensitive data while still having access to email.
- Complete the migration of solutions from Alpha servers to Linux.
- Complete the roll-out of Windows XP/Citrix thin client solutions to all sections
- Establish Oracle management tools across all zones
- Produce an overarching strategy for network design

Competence development targets

Increased quality, both in statistics production and research, calls for employees with the right competence. In 2009, Statistics Norway will achieve results in particular in respect of the following targets.

- Strengthen management by implementing a manager training programme
- More targeted and appropriate recruitment that both makes Statistics Norway an attractive place to work and ensures that Statistics Norway recruits people with the expertise to meet future requirements and contribute to reducing staff turnover.
- Increase internal mobility in order to stimulate learning and development and lay the foundation for new forms of work.
- Improve the system for mapping competence requirements and planning of training options.

2.6. Administration and financial management

To prioritise continuation of systems and solutions in collaboration with the Government Agency for Financial Management

The Government Agency for Financial Management supplies Agresso as Statistics Norway's finance system, and a partial service agreement has been signed for the services. In 2009, Statistics Norway will prioritise development of the systems and solutions in partnership with the Government Agency for Financial Management. Emphasis will be placed on developing reports to assist in financial management and analysis. In addition, Agresso's planner will be used in connection with budgeting as soon as the Agency is able to offer this service. This will produce efficiencies in both reporting and budgeting and reduce the risk of errors.

Statistics Norway is also working towards better management and streamlining of acquisitions and a tool is to be implemented for public procurements. As soon as the Agency is able to offer a purchasing module in Agresso, Statistics Norway will use it. This will yield efficiencies and reduce the risk of errors.

Statistics Norway enjoyed good cooperation with the Office of the Auditor General in 2008, and it is intended for this to continue in 2009.

3. Resources

3.1. Budget

In section 1620 of the national budget, the total for Statistics Norway equates to NOK 655.7 million for 2009. This amount is split as follows between the different items:

- Item 01 NOK 467.1 million
- Item 21 NOK 177.5 million
- Item 45 NOK 11.1 million

<i>Total operating budget for 2009</i>	<p>Statistics Norway's total operating revenues for 2009 are budgeted at NOK 648.4 million (government appropriations and user-financed revenues). In addition to this is the investment budget of NOK 11.1 million.</p> <p>For items 01 and 21 in total, a negative operating result of NOK 11.6 million is budgeted for 2009.</p>
<i>Government assignments – item 01</i>	<p>Budgeted expenses for this item total NOK 475.2 million. A negative operating result of NOK 8.1 million is budgeted. An application has also been made for a transfer of funds from 2008 to 2009 in the sum of NOK 13.7 million.</p>
<i>User-financed assignments</i>	<p>Statistics Norway's budget for 2009 for user-financed income is NOK 181 3 million. This is a reduction of around NOK 1.5 million compared to budgeted revenues for 2008.</p> <p>The item is budgeted with a deficit of NOK 3.5 million. Transferred funds from 2008 to 2009 equate to NOK 23 million, which Statistics Norway is seeking to transfer. The large amount for transfer is related to the accrual of payments received and expenditure. In line with the cash principle, the accounts will show expenses and revenues that are paid in the financial year. The accounts do not take account of the obligations linked to payments received.</p> <p>The user-financed assignments represent approximately 28 percent of Statistics Norway's total budget.</p>
<i>Investments</i>	<p>Budgeted expenses for investments total NOK 11.1 million. In addition, there are transferred funds from 2008 to 2009 of NOK 8.2 million, which Statistics Norway is seeking to transfer.</p>

Operating budget 2009 - total for items 01 and 21. (NOK 1 000)

	Accounts	Rev. Budget	Accounts	Budget
	2007	2008	2008	2009
Government appropriations	396 600	440 100	440 100	467 100
Assignment revenues	220 566	186 028	182 238	181 296
Wage reimbursements	5 900	14 300	14 300	0
Refunds	15 739	0	18 062	0
Total revenues and refunds	638 805	640 428	654 700	648 396
Wagecosts				
Wage costs	437 518	461 910	473 768	464 520
Goods and services	186 761	199 779	198 509	195 480
Total expenditures	624 278	661 689	672 276	659 999
Operation result	14 527	-21 261	-17 576	-11 603
Brought forward from previous year	39 676	54 202	54 202	36 626
Carried forward to next year	54 203	32 941	36 626	25 023

Government assignments, item 01. (NOK 1 000)**Total revenues and refunds**

	Accounts	Rev. Budget	Accounts	Budget
	2007	2008	2008	2009
Government appropriations	396 600	440 100	440 100	467 100
Wage reimbursements	5 900	14 300	14 300	0
Refunds	15 739	0	18 062	0
Total revenues and refunds	418 239	454 400	472 462	467 100
Wage costs	298 488	332 563	343 357	341 265
Goods and services	116 358	129 554	135 095	133 933
Total expenditures	414 846	462 117	478 451	475 198
Operation result	3 394	-7 717	-5 989	-8 098
Brought forward from previous year	16 272	19 665	19 665	13 676
Carried forward to next year	19 665	11 948	13 676	5 578

User-financed assignments, item 21. (NOK 1 000)

	Accounts	Rev. Budget	Accounts	Budget
	2007	2008	2008	2009
Appropriations	206 000	187 000	187 000	177 500
Additional income	14 566	-972	-4 762	3 796
Assignment revenues	220 566	186 028	182 238	181 296
Total revenues	220 566	186 028	182 238	181 296
Wage costs	139 030	129 347	130 411	123 255
Goods and services	70 402	70 225	63 414	61 547
Total expenditures	209 433	199 572	193 825	184 801
Operation result	11 134	-13 544	-11 587	-3 505
Brought forward from previous year	23 404	34 537	34 537	22 950
Carried forward to next year	34 537	20 993	22 950	19 445

Major acquisitions, item 45. (NOK 1 000)

	Accounts	Rev. Budget	Accounts	Budget
	2007	2008	2008	2009
Government appropriations	8 500	10 200	10 200	11 100
Total expenditures	6 390	10 200	4 545	11 100
Operation result	2 110	0	5 655	0
Brought forward from previous year	378	2 488	2 488	8 143
Carried forward to next year	2 488	2 488	8 143	8 143

The internal budget distribution is presented in an annual budget publication, which is released in the *Plans and reports* series.

3.2. Personnel

Work on recruiting and retaining competent employees is a priority task which is discussed in chapter 1.5. The objective of competence work is discussed as a development task in chapter 2.6. *Quality at every stage*.

Working environment-HSE

Statistics Norway has inclusive working life agreements with the following objectives:

- Statistics Norway will work actively to maintain sickness absence at a low level
- Statistics Norway will take care of the resources that employees of all ages represent through an active life phase policy

Job vacancy advertisements make clear that facilities are available for persons with reduced functional capacity and qualified applicants with reduced functional capacity will always be invited to job interviews. In 2008, Statistics Norway joined a trainee programme set up by the Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Affairs, with two trainees.

HSE work in 2009 will be performed in accordance with the HSE manual. Emphasis will be given to the local HSE reviews and action plans for HSE work in the individual departments.

Number of employees

At 31 December 2008, Statistics Norway had 1,014 employees, including 24 on parental leave. Statistics Norway also had 227 interviewers who deal with questionnaire surveys, 130 local interviewers around the country and 97 centrally-located interviewers.

Number of man-years of labour

For 2009, 967 man-years of labour. In 2008, 965 were planned. Budgeted man-years of labour for government assignments are 728 and for user-financed assignments 241.

Budgeted man-years of labour by financing and department 2009. Main categories

<i>Unit</i>	Man-years total	Government assignments	User-financed assignments ¹
Total	966.5	727.9	240.6
Section for International Statistical Cooperation ²	18.2	0.5	17.7
Department of Planning and Finance	27.7	19.7	8.0
Department of Economics, Energy and the Environment	128.7	101.7	27.0
Department of National Accounts and Financial Statistics	117.4	107.3	10.1
Department of Social Statistics	121.9	81.7	42.2
Department of Industry Statistics	119.3	101.3	18.0
Research Department	94.6	53.9	40.7
Department of Human Resources and Communication	101.0	85.0	16.0
Department of IT and Statistical Methods	115.5	94.2	21.3
Department of Data Collection	122.2	82.6	39.6

¹ User-financed assignments also include man-years financed by overheads.

² For user-financed assignments in the *Section for international development work (140)*, short term assignments are posted to the individual sections and departments.