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Important events in 1999

January

Agreement with Eurostat on Datashop, a service for disseminating EU statistics in Norway.

February

National Accounts for 1998 and Economic Survey.

April

Ådne Cappelen appointed new Head of Research Department.

Minister of Finance Gudmund Restad visits Statistics Norway.

June

Monthly building statistics discontinued.

National accounts for 1. quarter and economic trends presented.

Bureau Network, Statistics Norway's new intranet, established.

Director General Svein Longva elected new head of international statistics collaboration: Conference on European Statisticians (CES).

Daily statistics releases commence at www.ssb.no 15 June. The web service emerges with new design.

July

Census of agriculture commences.

August

The first compiled statistics on Svalbard published.

September

National accounts for 2. quarter and economic trends presented.

New method of calculating consumer price index introduced 10 September.

October

Draft state budget means a general NOK 5 million slash in funding to Statistics Norway from 1999. The draft budget also means that the population and housing census must be postponed until 2001. Programme for electronic data collection from business and industry receives NOK 9 million in additional funds.

November

Statistics Norway's new central information service established 1 November.

December

State budget adopted. Statistics Norway receives appropriations as proposed in October.

Researcher Annegrete Bruvoll presented with Economist Award 1999 for her article «Meir miljø for pengane - frå avfallsutgift til utsløppsavgift» (More Environment for Your Money - from Waste Expenditure to Emission Tax).

National accounts for 3. quarter and economic trends presented.

Decision that standard rates for compulsory fines be increased as of 1 January 2000.

Statistics Norway's mainframe was shut down for good on 30 December 1999 after 40 years of service.

Statistics Norway's organization

Statistics Norway's top management consists of the director general and directors of the six departments. In consequence of the Storting's wish to decentralize state institutions, Statistics Norway has been physically divided between Oslo and Kongsvinger since 1975. There are 903 employees, 519 in Oslo and 384 in Kongsvinger. Oslo is, however, not the main office and Kongsvinger a regional office. With the exception of the Research Department and the Department of Industry Statistics, all departments have employees in both towns. A joint computer and phone network, video conferences, car transport and Norwegian State Railways ensure daily contact between employees.

Because of our geography and history, our current organization chart is not strictly logical. For this reason the organizational structure is not fully consistent with the operations described in the annual report. Statistics Norway's research activities take place in several departments, not just the Research Department, so for this reason descriptions of our research activities are consolidated under Research Activity. The same applies to Interdepartmental Activities that not only take place in the Department of Administrative Affairs and the Department of Coordination and Development, but also in cooperation with several departments. In other words, it is not always natural to sort the activity under a certain department.



Organization per 1.2.2000

*Department***Economic Statistics (200)**

Olav Ljones

Social Statistics

Johan-Kristian Tønder

Industry Statistics

Nils Håvard Lund

Chairman of the Board

Åge Danielsen

Director General (100)

Svein Longva

Research

Ådne Cappelen

Administrative Affairs

Unfilled

Coordination and Development

Hans Viggo Sæbø

Unit without department connection*Division***National Accounts**

Liv H. Simpson

Environmental Statistics

Svein Homstvedt

External Trade, Energy and Industrial Production Statistics

Bjørn Bleskestad

Economic Indicators

Tom L. Andersen

Public Finance and Credit Market Statistics

Anna Rømo

Labour Market Statistics

Helge N. Næsheim

Social and Demographic Research

Lars Østby

Population and Education Statistics

Elisabetta Vassenden

Health Statistics

Ann Lisbet Brathaug

Sample Surveys

Asle Rolland

Social Welfare Statistics

Berit Otnes

Population and Housing Census

Paul Inge Severeide

Business Register

Jan O. Furseth

Income and Wage Statistics

Per Ove Smogeli

Primary Industry Statistics

Ole O. Moss

Transport and Tourism Statistics

Jan Monsrud

Data Registration

Knut Kvisla

Construction and Service Statistics

Peder Næs

Public Economics

Nils Martin Stølen

Resource and Environmental Economics

Torstein Arne Bye

Macroeconomics

Knut Moum

Microeconometrics

Jørgen Aasness

Budget and Accounting

Pål Mathisen

Personnel Administration

Unfilled

IT

Rune Gløersen

Statistical Methods and Standards

Leiv Solheim

Information and Publishing

Anne Skranefjell

International Consulting

Bjørn K. Wold

*Office***Administration**

Stig Braathen

IT

Bjørn Pedersen

Administration

Johan H. Heir

IT

Kristian Lønø

Administration

Eva F. Otterdahl Møller

IT

Matz Ivan Faldmo

Joint Services, Oslo

Geten Engelstad

Joint Services, Kvgr.

Karin Wang

Director General's report

Every single year in the 20th century, Statistics Norway has prepared and published statistics on essential aspects of our society and its development. This information is available to everyone and constitutes an important part of what we know about the 1900s. Now, on the threshold of a new millennium, we need to look forward as well as back.



Photo: Torunn Nilsen

The results from 1999 must, of course, be measured against the specific goals that were set for 1999, but they should also be evaluated from a somewhat longer perspective. Alterations and developments of the statistics system is a long process. It can take years from deciding on new statistics until they are published.

Statistics Norway places great emphasis on maintaining and developing accounting systems (national accounts, resource and environmental accounts and co-ordinated social and demographic statistics), and prioritizing individual statistics included in such statistics systems. This priority is based on Strategy Plan 1997-, although it has also been a principal aspect of Norwegian statistics for a much longer period.

The reason is that it enables Statistics Norway to produce the statistics that can help provide an understanding of the interplay and totality of the structure and development of society.

Major progress has been made in many areas of Statistics Norway's working plan since the completion of Strategy Plan 1997-. The statistics product has been expanded by producing more statistics than before. In particular, the coverage of the service industry has been improved, though there remain important areas still not sufficiently covered statistically. Moreover, many statistics have been significantly reorganized as a result of the binding EEA co-operation. The main objective of 1999 was to maintain production on the same level as the year before. This was an ambitious goal in view of budget cuts and switch to new technology. The objective was nevertheless achieved. This is further discussed in the section Objectives and results.

Research

Statistics Norway has a comprehensive research programme, with research for social planning as its main objective. Such comprehensive research activity is not commonly found in the national statistics offices of other countries. Our research programme in-

cludes analysis of our statistics, which provides feedback that can help raise the quality of the statistics. Our research activity received mostly positive mention in an evaluation in 1998 by a panel appointed by the Research Council of Norway. The research activity gave the statistics product more added value also in 1999, through analyses of a number of social conditions and developmental features.

Data acquisition

Data acquisition is increasingly based on administrative registers and accounting data. This trend gained considerable momentum in the 1990s and has several advantages: it eases the burden on business and industrial enterprises in providing data, and it makes statistics production more efficient. Also, the quality of statistics is improved, since the registers cover everyone, not just a select few. The decision to establish a register of domicile addresses means that the last major area is now covered with administrative data. The work of compiling this register commenced at the end of 1999.

Electronic data acquisition has also become increasingly important, although the gathering of data on paper forms will continue for many years. The KOSTRA project, which covers data gathering from municipalities and counties (see separate section), is one of the biggest and most important examples of electronic data acquisition, together with computer assisted interviewing (CAI project).

Both projects continued with great force in 1999. In 2000, this work will be expanded when Statistics Norway starts acquiring electronic data also from trade and industry. This is a joint project with the Directorate of Taxes and the Register of Business Enterprises at Brønnøysund. Statistics Norway's aim is to streamline statistics production while simplifying the situation for those providing the data. Data acquisition in research on living conditions has been co-ordinated through panel surveys and the major surveys with revolving themes. With special funding for

2000, it will also be possible to conduct a new survey on time use. There is major interest in such a survey, which will be the fourth in a row since 1970.

Change of technology

In 1999 we switched technology (see separate section), which was our top priority this year. As a production enterprise, Statistics Norway was totally dependent on the ability of our IT systems to meet the Y2K challenge. This objective has been achieved. At the same time, the switch of technology which entailed phasing out our mainframe, entailed comprehensive modernization of production of numerous individual statistics and statistics areas.

Statistics quality

In 1999, effort was made to enhance the quality of our statistics production. Among other things, we significantly raised the quality of the Register of Business Enterprises. Generally, our revision work has been coordinated through a joint project based on a separate handbook. Quality improvement is a continuous process, hence the year 2000 will also see particular focus on documentation of statistics and quality consolidation of the production process.

Electronic dissemination

In 1999, Statistics Norway's web service was renewed and expanded (see separate section), and we probably have the most comprehensive Internet offering of freely available statistics of all the statistics agencies in the world. The statistics calendar introduced in 1997 gives users better predictability with its list of dates as to when particular statistics will be released.

International statistics collaboration

International statistics collaboration has long traditions (see separate section). The formal Nordic collaboration on statistics commenced as early as 1889 - and is still active. The aim of international cooperation on statistics is to develop the national statistics in such a manner that they can also be compared with those of other countries. We also benefit from joint development work on standards, statistics systems as well as data gathering and processing methods. In Norway, Statistics Norway is responsible for coordinating and participating in international statistics collaborations. In the 1990s, the scope of international statistics collaboration increased significantly, mostly as a result of



Director General Svein Longva.

EEA co-operation. This trend continued also in 1999 for Statistics Norway, when a number of statistics were altered in accordance with EEA requirements.

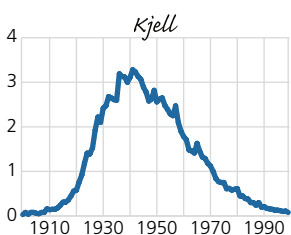
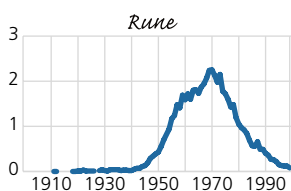
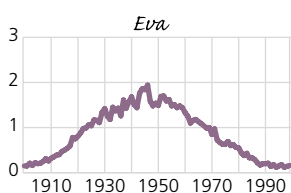
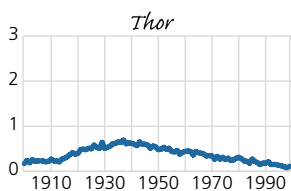
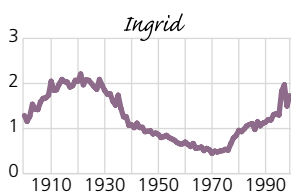
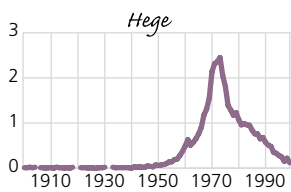
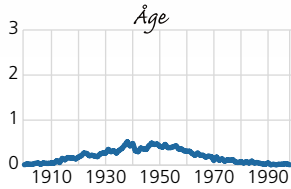
Fast changes in society create new demands

Fast changes in society make it very difficult to provide an adequate statistical picture of social structure and development. Both the society we are describing and the data acquisition sources are changing faster than before. At the same time, new demands are placed on the degree of coverage and quality of statistics. Decisions in both the private and the public sector are based more than ever on statistics, either directly or indirectly.

Consequently, it is crucial to have a staff of highly educated people with a great ability to adapt. Statistics Norway currently has such a staff. For us, as with other knowledge-based enterprises, the challenge in the years ahead is to develop and maintain this, our most vital resource. As elsewhere in public-sector activities, this is becoming increasingly more difficult, and may threaten our ability to carry out our socially important task adequately.

Svein Longva

Statistics of names
Historical development
1900-1999



Composition of the Board of Directors by the beginning of 2000

Assistant Director General **Åge Danielsen**, *Chairman of the Board*

Hege Torp, Director of Research, *Vice Chair*

Ingrid I. Willoch, Politician

Thor Bjarne Bore, Editor

Eva Hildrum, Director General

Rune Sørensen, Professor

Kjell Erik Kordal, Senior Executive Officer

Thor-Eirik Gulbrandsen resigned in December 1999 and was replaced by Thor Bjarne Bore.

Deputy members:

Ellen Fjeldstad, Statistical Adviser

Bjørn Henrichsen, Director General

Berit Kvæven, Head of Division

Torunn Bragstad, Research Fellow

Anne Gro Juelsen, Executive Officer

Report of the Board of Directors

Developments in business and industry and in society in general shall be reflected in Norwegian statistics. The production of statistics faces new challenges resulting from social changes, globalization and new organizational forms in working and business life and in the public sector. The Board therefore believes it is very important for Statistics Norway to be given framework conditions that enable the institution to fulfill its duties under continually changing circumstances.

To achieve this goal Statistics Norway's internal organization must also be developed and new working methods have to be adopted.

In 1999 the Board discussed management-related issues between Statistics Norway and the Ministry of Finance. A central question is whether, and how within the current organizational model, Statistics Norway can achieve sufficient economic and personnel policy flexibility, in order to be able to retain valuable employees and develop the competency of its employees. Just over 20 per cent of Statistics Norway's operations are financed directly by users. This concerns both statistics and analyses. The institution therefore needs other personnel and economic-related powers than institutions that are 100 per cent financed via the fiscal budget.

The Board is satisfied that most of the goals for 1999 were reached within the budget framework adopted at the start of the year. Through efficiency improvements Statistics Norway increased its production in 1999, inter alia in the form of the publication of several new statistics, without increasing the framework for government work correspondingly. The changeover to new technology was also accomplished as planned within the set financial margins. We are also happy to report that the user-financed commissions showed an operating surplus for the second year in a row.

In the opinion of the Board, statistical information is of such vital importance that official statistics should for the most part be financed by the public sector via the fiscal budget. At the same time it is positive that part of Statistics Norway's operations are financed directly by users. This ensures users the opportunity to influence the production

of statistics and analyses. It is nevertheless crucial, however, that Statistics Norway's main goal, producing a cohesive statistical product, is not compromised. Given the current scope of direct user financing, the Board does not see this as a problem and also welcomes further increases in user-financed activities. There will nevertheless be a limit on how much of the institution's activity can be financed in this way without affecting the overall statistical product and endangering statistics as a public benefit.

Statistical information is of little interest if it does not reach its users. In recent years Statistics Norway has been committed to reaching users via the Internet, a strategy which seems to be successful. The number of hits on Statistics Norway's website increased from 7.9 million in 1998 to 11.9 million in 1999. At the same time the number of analytical publications increased. The Board is pleased with this development. The Board would also like to point out that the new service for distributing microdata will improve matters for many users.

Statistics Norway is dependent on having a good relationship with its suppliers of data. It is therefore important to motivate data providers and to keep form-filling requirements at a low level. The Board takes a positive view of the fact that the use of data from administrative registers has increased. Together with new forms of electronic data collecting, this will make the situation simpler for data suppliers. The Board is also interested in seeing quality improvements in statistical production. It is therefore good news that the use of administrative data and new collection methods not only yields more relevant statistics with greater coverage but also better quality statistics.

The Board's responsibilities and duties

The Board's responsibilities and duties are set forth in the 1989 Statistics Act, which states that the Board shall consider and decide Statistics Norway's long-term programme, budget proposals and annual work programme according to the proposals of the director general and shall present these matters together with Statistics Norway's annual report to the Ministry of Finance. The Board shall otherwise supervise the development of official statistics and Statistics Norway's operations.

There are many players in the social debate. Arguments are often diametrically opposed and it can be difficult to separate fact from subjective opinion. In such a situation it is important that there are institutions regarded as objective. This is particularly noticeable in the economic debate and other areas. Statistics Norway has a special responsibility here, precisely because many have great confidence in Statistics Norway's professional independence. The Board is satisfied with the way Statistics Norway performed these duties in 1999.

Statistics about the structure of society, the natural environment, and economic and social development are an important part of our common knowledge basis. This is information the authorities need for making

decisions and for evaluating the results and consequences of political decisions. Business and industry also have a need for statistics and knowledge based on research and analysis when decisions are to be made and trends evaluated. Knowledge based on statistical information and research is also of great significance to most people. Such knowledge makes us better able to participate in public debate. In this way official statistics are an important platform for a vital democracy. And viewed from such a perspective Statistics Norway, in the Board's opinion, has performed its duties in an efficient and good way in 1999.

The Board would like to thank the administration and employees for their good work in 1999.



Assistant Director General, Åge Danielsen, Chairman of the Board



Hege Torp, Research Director, Vice Chair



Ingrid I. Willoch, Politician



Rune Sørensen, Professor



Thor Bjarne Bore, Editor



Kjell Erik Kordal, Senior Executive Officer



Eva Hildrum, Director General

Fairly good year for Statistics Norway

Statistics Norway had a high level of activity in 1999. Revenues from user-financed assignments grew more than 9 per cent from the year before, while expenditures rose only moderately. This is the main reason for Statistics Norway's showing an operating surplus that is clearly better than budgeted.

The rising level of activity is chiefly attributable to the user-financed assignments, while government-assignments activities were approximately the same as the year before, taking into account earmarked assignments such as the population and housing census and agricultural census. Wage expenses rose 3.4 per cent and other operating expenditures 14.3 per cent.

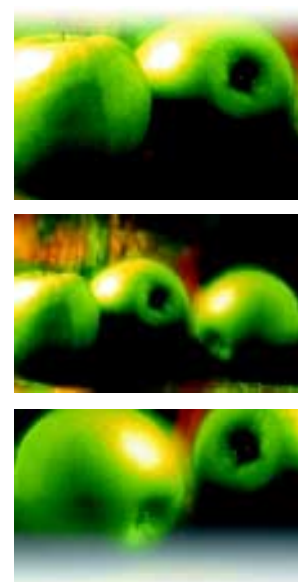
Statistics Norway had NOK 403 million in revenues in 1999. The activities were carried out within budget and were by and large in accordance with the goals set for 1999.

Better operating result than budgeted

The operating surplus for 1999 was slightly over NOK 1 million, while the budget assumed an operating deficit of nearly NOK 9 million. The operating result was better than planned regarding both government- and user-financed assignments.

Revenues not included in the annual accounts

Revenues from the sale of publications are not included in Statistics Norway's accounts. Nor are revenues from compulsory fines in accordance with the Statistics Act. Sales revenues are entered in the government accounts and amounted to NOK 4.5 million for 1999, down from NOK 5.7 million in 1998. The decline must be viewed in context with the strong growth in free publishing over the Internet. Revenues for compulsory fines are posted in the government accounts and corresponded to NOK 2.5 million in 1999.



Statistics Norway keeps appropriation accounts according the cash-accounting principle. This means that the accounts show only revenues and expenses entered in the accounts at any times.

Annual accounts 1999. NOK 1 000

	Accounts 1998	Budget 1999	Accounts 1999	Budget 2000
Revenues	381 917	389 775	400 500	445 084
Government ¹ appropriations	300 550	310 500	311 800	359 400
Commission revenues ²	81 367	79 275	88 700	85 684
Reimbursements	3 597	0	2 566	-
Total revenues	385 514	389 775	403 066	445 084
Expenses ³	375 742	398 482	402 025	446 940
Operating result ⁴	9 772	-8 707	1 041	-1 856
Brought forward from the year before ⁵	1 480	11 252	10 024	11 065
Brought forward to next year ⁶	11 252	2 545	11 065	9 209
Total expenditures ⁷	375 742	398 482	401 548	446 940
Wage expenditures ⁸	255 049	263 384	263 624	265 608
IDUN undistributed ⁹				8 000
PaH, undistributed ¹⁰				42 000
Wage settlement 1 Sept. 1999, undistributed ¹¹				1 168
Operating expenditures ¹²	120 693	135 098	137 924	130 164
Machinery, furniture, fixtures and equipment ¹³	11 162	9 293	14 761	9 244
Consumption articles	4 992	5 538	5 025	4 875
Travel expenses, etc.	14 663	15 427	14 580	14 101
Various IT expenses ¹⁴	13 253	19 720	21 326	16 964
Printing expenses	5 450	6 575	5 211	4 817
Postage	8 701	7 080	8 457	7 515
Telephone expenses	4 733	4 741	5 526	4 610
EEA membership fee	7 811	9 137	9 638	9 300
Expert assistance ¹⁵	4 169	6 157	7 411	8 086
Library	1 014	990	1 049	1 160
Building management and premises rental	34 492	35 270	34 619	35 931
Various operating exp. (cf. note 13)	10 253	15 170	10 319	13 561

¹ *Government appropriations:*

The nominal NOK 16-million increase in government appropriations from the budget for 1998 to that for 1999 is due to the compensation for the wage settlement in 1998 and changes in the extent of earmarked allocations. Accounting for growth in wages, prices and earmarked allocation to the population and housing census and agriculture census, the budget cut was around 2.5 per cent, or NOK 7 million from 1998 to 1999.

² *User-financed assignments:*

Revenues from user-financed assignments went up 9 per cent, or NOK 7.3 million from 1998 to 1999. Higher contract prices due to wage increases is the main reason for the surge in revenues. Rising demand from public institutions for services not covered within government assignments also resulted in some increase in user-financed assignments. These revenues comprised 22 per cent of total revenues for Statistics Norway in 1999, compared to 21 per cent in 1998.

³ *Expenses:*

The nominal growth in expenses from 1998 to 1999 is due primarily to wage increases. The higher level of user-financed assignments has also contributed toward increased expenses. Compared to the budget for 1999, the wage increase was far lower than the overall revenue increase. Expenses went up nearly NOK 3 million, while total revenues rose by about NOK 13 million.

⁴ *Operating surplus:*

The total operating surplus in 1999 was far better than budgeted, cf. note 3. The positive operating result came about as a result of lower-than-budgeted operating expenses on government assignments, and the fact that the rise in expenses was lower than the increase in revenues for user-financed assignments.

⁵ *Brought forward from the year before:*

In the 1999 accounts, the item "Brought forward from the year before" is the total amount thus allowed by the Ministry of Finance. "Brought forward to next year" in the 1998 accounts is NOK 1.2 million higher than "Brought forward from the year before" in the accounts for 1999. The difference is due to the fact that, in 1998, Statistics Norway was allowed to bring forward the part of the surplus from user-financed assignments that exceeded 5 per cent of the appropriation in Chap. 1620, item 21 Special assignments.

⁶ *Brought forward to next year:*

More than NOK 11 million was brought forward from the year before. Divided between the respective items in the government accounts, the surplus comprised less than 5 per cent of the total appropriation, indicating that the amount may be brought forward in its entirety to year 2000.

⁷ *Total expenditures:*

Total expenditures is the sum of expenses at sub-item level from Statistics Norway's shadow accounts. Total expenses was nearly NOK 0.5 million lower than the "Expenses" item brought from the government accounts.

⁸ *Wage expenditures:*

Deducting the compensation for the wage settlement in 1998 and 1999 (NOK 5 million and NOK 1.3 million, respectively) and reimbursements of more than NOK 2.5 million for 1999, wage expenses in 1999 are virtually the same as those in 1998. (The total wage compensation in 1999 for the wage settlement in 1998 was NOK 12 million. The compensation in 1998 was NOK 7.1 million. The net compensation in 1999 was approximately NOK 5 million.)

⁹ *Electronic data acquisition:*

Of the NOK 9 million in appropriations via the state budget to Electronic data acquisition from private sector (IDUN), NOK 1 million has been allocated to common tasks, while NOK 8 million remains undistributed for the time being. The distribution of total appropriations will be rendered in the accounts report for the first four months of 2000.

¹⁰ *Population and housing census:*

Of the total appropriation of NOK 53 million over the state budget to population and housing census, NOK 42 million is allocated to the residential-address project. The funds are included as undistributed in Statistics Norway's budget for 2000.

¹¹ *Wage settlement:*

The total wage settlement for 1999 will not be finalized until March 2000. NOK 1,168 million remains undistributed in the budget for 2000 for the local wage settlement for 1999. The overall impact of expenses will be stated in the accounts report for the first four months of 2000.

¹² *Operating expenditures:*

Total operating expenses for 1999 were NOK 2.9 million higher than budgeted and NOK 17 million higher than for 1998. Operating expenses for government assignments were lower than budgeted, while those for user-financed assignments were higher than budgeted.

Regarding government assignments, travel, printing and rent expenses were lower than budgeted. Correspondingly, expenses for the same items were higher than budgeted in user-financed assignments, which explains the small discrepancies between overall budget and accounts for Statistics Norway for these expense items.

¹³ *Machinery, furniture, fixtures and equipment:*

Expenses for machinery, furniture, fixtures and equipment were higher than budgeted in 1999. Budget overruns are offset by "sundry operating expenses," which were much lower than budgeted. The discrepancy between budget and accounts is due mainly to the uncertainty associated with the level of user-financed assignments at the time of budgeting.

¹⁴ *IT expenses:*

The item "Various IT expenses" had a strong increase from 1998 to 1999. This is due to the switch to new technology and Y2K compliance, which were major undertakings in 1999.

¹⁵ *Expert assistance:*

The item "Expert assistance" rose significantly from 1998 to 1999. The increase is linked to the switch to new technology and Y2K compliance. Major expert-assistance expenses are budgeted also for 2000, for following up the technology transition and for systematic quality assurance and management development.

Government assignments

Disregarding growth in prices, wages and earmarked appropriations, the 1999 budget included an overall cut of NOK 7 million. Because of the budget cut, activities in 1999 were concentrated to central areas, and a number of tasks were postponed until 2000 and 2001. The operating result was clearly better than budgeted, chiefly because operating expenses were lower than assumed as result of various measures such as redistribution between government and user-financed assignments.

User-financed assignments

Revenues from user-financed assignments were nearly NOK 9.5 million higher than initially budgeted. This is mainly a result of a prudent budgeting practice. Revenues were NOK 7 million higher than in 1998. Ministries and other government institutions are the principal user groups, contributing 63 per cent of the user-financed revenues. The Research Council of Norway's share of financing was 13 per cent in 1999, about the same as the year before. The accounts show that the share of revenues linked to foreign and private client groups dropped from 1998 to 1999, but the decline came about mostly because some of the payments were made after the end of the year and will thus be posted in the accounts for 2000.

Annual accounts 1999. Government assignments. NOK 1 000

	Accounts 1998	Budget 1999	Accounts 1999	Budget 2000
Revenues				
(government appropriations)	300 550	310 500	311 800	359 400
Reimbursements	3 597	0	2 566	
Total revenues	304 147	310 500	314 366	359 400
Expenses:	297 748	316 905	315 017	359 849
Operating result ¹⁶	6 399	-6 405	651	-449
Brought forward from the year before	838	7 237	7 177	6 526
Brought forward to next year	7 237	832	6 526	6 077
Total expenditures (cf. note 7)	297 748	316 905	314 654	359 849
Wage expenditures	203 610	207 873	208 875	209 024
IDUN, undistributed (Dept. 400)				8 000
PaH, undistributed				42 000
Wage settlement 1 Sept. 1999, undistributed			1 168	
Operating expenditures	94 138	109 032	105 780	99 657

¹⁶ *Operating result for government assignments:*

The total expenses for government assignments were NOK 0.7 million higher than the total revenues in 1999. The operating surplus was thus far better than budgeted. Wage expenses, less reimbursements, were around NOK 1.5 million lower than budgeted, and operating expenses were more than NOK 3.5 million below budget. The low wage expenses are due mainly to high turnover and thus temporary vacancies.

¹⁷ *Commission revenues:*

For user-financed assignments, revenues were NOK 9.4 million higher than budgeted. The difference is chiefly attributable to the major uncertainty as to the level of user-financed assignments at the time of budgeting. Budgeted revenues are based on contractual assignments at the time of budgeting as well as cautious estimates on additional assignments.

¹⁸ *Commission expenses:*

Expenses for user-financed assignments were NOK 5.4 million higher than budgeted in 1999 and more than NOK 9 million higher than for 1998. The difference from the accounts for 1998 is due to increased contract prices and a higher level of assignment activity (cf. notes 2 and 3). The increase over the budget is primarily due to uncertainty as to the total contract volume (cf. note 17).

¹⁹ *Operating surplus from user-financed assignments:*

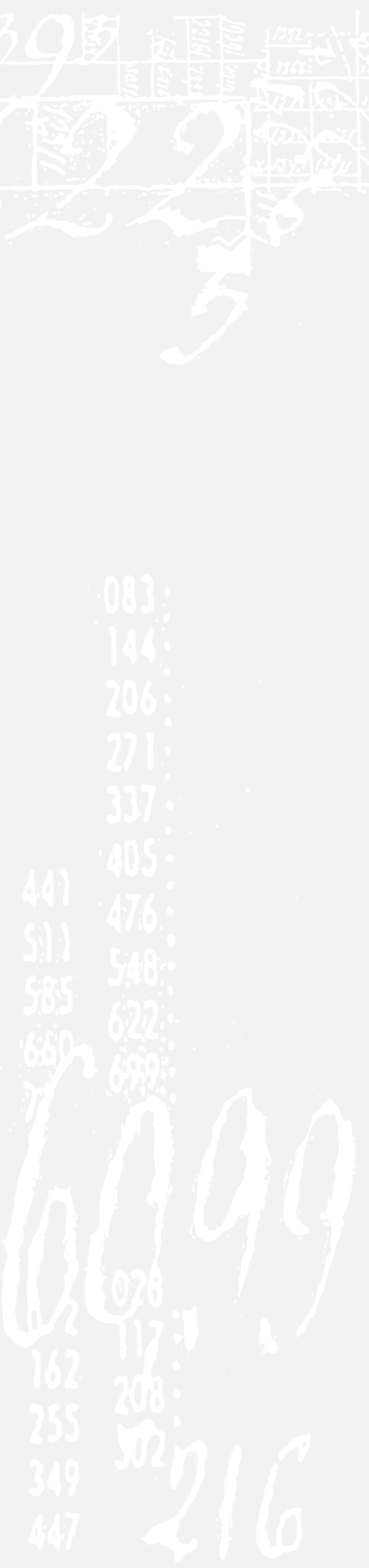
The operating surplus from user-financed assignments was NOK 1.7 million in 1999. This is far better than budgeted, though somewhat lower than the surplus for 1998. The better-than budgeted operating result is attributed to the uncertainty as to the size of revenues and expenses at the time of budgeting (cf. notes 17 and 18). The operating surplus was weaker in 1999 compared to 1998 because a greater part of jointly financed assignments, including IT investments, were charged to user-financed assignments in 1999 than in 1998.

Annual accounts 1999. User-financed assignments. NOK 1 000

	Regnskap 1998	Budsjett 1999	Regnskap 1999	Budsjett 2000
Total revenues	81 367	79 275	88 700	85 684
Commission revenues	81 367	79 275	88 700	85 684
Total revenues¹⁷	81 367	79 275	88 700	85 684
Expenses ¹⁸	77 994	81 577	87 008	87 091
Operating result ¹⁹	3 373	-2 302	1 692	-1 407
Brought forward from the year before	642	4 015	2 847	4 539
Brought forward to next year	4 015	1 713	4 539	3 132
Total expenses (internal)	77 994	81 577	86 894	87 091
Wage expenses	51 439	55 511	54 749	56 584
Operating expenses (cf. note 7)	26 555	26 066	32 145	30 507

User-financed assignments, by client group. 1998 and 1999

	1998		1999	
	NOK million	Per cent	NOK million	Per cent
Total	81.4	100.0	88.6	100.0
Government ministries	34.2	42.0	41.6	47.0
Other government agencies	9.0	11.0	14.4	16.2
Private clients	9.0	11.0	9.3	10.5
Municipal clients	1.6	2.0	1.0	1.1
Foreign clients	9.8	12.0	6.3	7.1
Research institutes and universities	6.5	8.0	4.4	5.0
Research Council of Norway	11.4	14.0	11.6	13.1



Falling level of investment

The level of expenditure for major investments was lower in 1999 than the year before. This is largely because investments in infrastructure in connection with the change of technology were made

in 1998. In 1999, it was first and foremost extraordinary expenses for external consultants that were necessary for completing the change of technology as planned by the end of 1999.

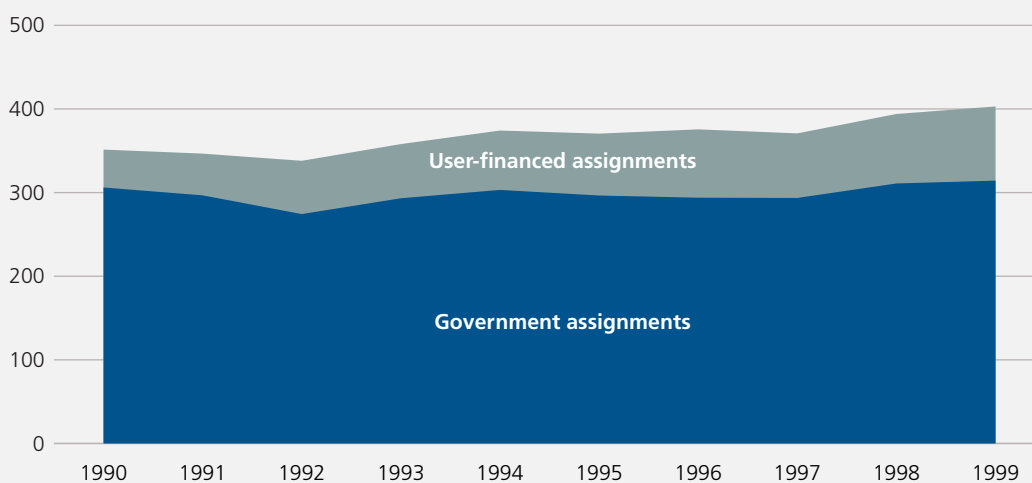
Major purchases ²⁰. NOK 1 000

	Accounts 1998	Budget 1999	Accounts 1999	Budget 2000
Revenues (government appropriations)	8 050	7 400	7 400	7 500
Expenses	12 923	7 560	6 056	7 500
Unused funds	-4 873	-160	1 344	-
Brought forward from the year before	4 786	-87	1 344	
Brought forward to next year	-87	-247	1 344	1 344

²⁰ More spent on new purchases:

The 1999 accounts show a lower level of investment than in 1998, which was characterized by investments in infrastructure prior to the technology changeover. Major new purchases were made in 1999, totalling more than NOK 6 million. This provided more than NOK 1.3 million in savings in 1999, which can be brought forward to 2000.

Historical account. Revenues 1990-1999. At constant 1999-prices. NOK million.



Which expense items are included in the accounts will vary over time. For example, expenses for the EEA readjustment and EEA membership fee were posted from 1993/1994, and expenses for censuses are posted in particular years. The deflator is: Final domestic use of goods and services as calculated in national accounts.

Statistics on statistics

For over 40 years Statistics Norway has worked with systems for detailed registration of the resources expended on various tasks and statistics products. In recent years there has been an increased focus on measuring a broader range of indicators that can tell us more about efficiency and quality in the production of statistics.

This is related to management by objectives and results requirements in Norwegian public administration, Statistics Norway's operations evaluation and management needs and increasing international interest in comparisons between statistical offices.

Like the proverbial shoemaker who does not keep his wife well shod, Statistics Norway is not particularly good at compiling statistics about itself. We are now addressing the issue and are currently working on the following areas (outside the budget and accounts) which will be elucidated by performance objectives:

- **The scope of statistical production**, which is initially defined by the number of statistical releases in the course of a year and the number of titles of various publication series. We currently lack useful figures for the content of www.ssb.no and the number of statistics/units in the statistical databases.
- **The quality of the statistics**, in which we can say something about the punctuality and timeliness of the individual statistics and response rates to questionnaires. We lack, however, good ways to measure accuracy, comparability and degree of coverage.
- **The information and user service** is measured today by the number of visits to www.ssb.no, the number of media clippings of new statistics from Statistics Norway in Norwegian newspapers, the number of enquiries received by Statistics Norway's Library and Information Centre, and the distribution of our user-funded commis-

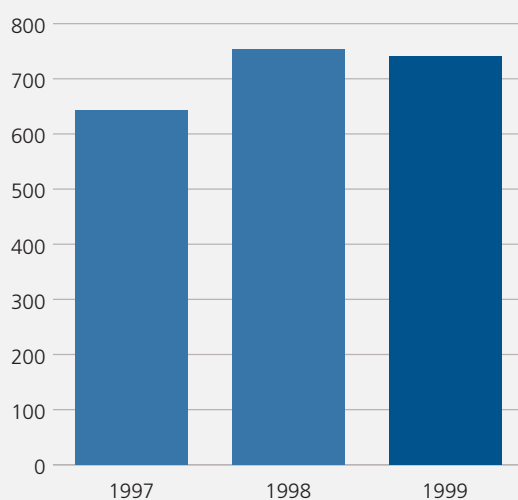
sions in various categories of customers. In 1999 we had 24 advisory committees providing Statistics Norway with feedback on operations within the various statistical areas. From 2000 we will conduct regular user surveys that will give us a more comprehensive picture of how satisfied users are with Statistics Norway's services.

- **The time and effort it takes suppliers of data** to fill out forms is an important measure which, despite considerable computational uncertainty, is of great interest in the public and private sectors. Our impression is that the form-filling workload in other countries is about the same as in Norway. Nearly 128 000 persons required to provide data received questionnaires from Statistics Norway in 1999. The primary industries are excluded. Around 350 000 forms (outside the primary industries) were sent out. In addition, 83 500 agriculture census forms were sent out.
- **The use of resources in Statistics Norway** is carefully followed through planning and recording of man-hours in the various product areas and activities. The distribution of man-hours in Statistics Norway's various operations is presented in the annual report. Only figures for 1999 are presented because the breakdown by area of operation is new and is not comparable with previous years.

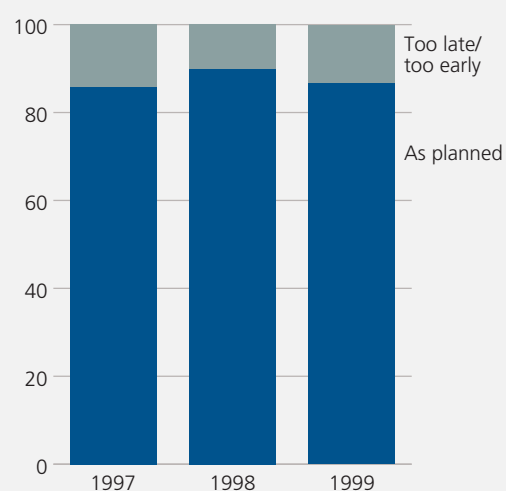
New statistics in 1999

- *Building cost index, plumbing work in office and commercial buildings, monthly*
- *Cabin referral agents, monthly*
- *Cash benefits scheme*
- *Diet of six-month-old infants*
- *Education statistics. Independent distance education institutions*
- *Evaluation of the costs of laws and regulations by business and industry*
- *Financial statistics – portfolio statistics*
- *Hotels and restaurants and road transport. Structural survey, annual*
- *Land use in densely populated areas*
- *Price statistics for multi-dwelling houses*
- *Professional and industrial bodies - structural statistics*
- *Sales statistics for personal services*
- *Svalbard statistics*
- *Tax statistics for power plants*
- *Wage statistics, various trades, quarterly*
- *Warehouse statistics*
- *Waste statistics – building and construction, annual*

Number of releases. 1997-1999



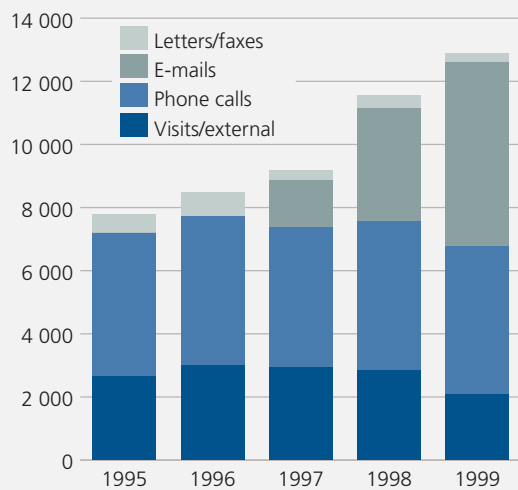
Deviation in relation to planning publication. 1997-1999. Per cent



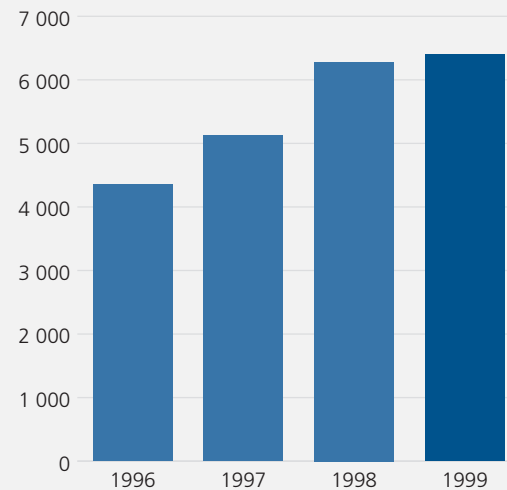
Number of titles in various publication series. 1996-1999

	1996	1997	1998	1999
Publications, total	258	268	286	316
Official Statistics of Norway	83	76	61	64
Analysis publications	66	77	84	97
Periodicals	109	115	141	155
- Økonomiske analyser	9	9	9	9
- Samfunnsspeilet	4	4	6	6

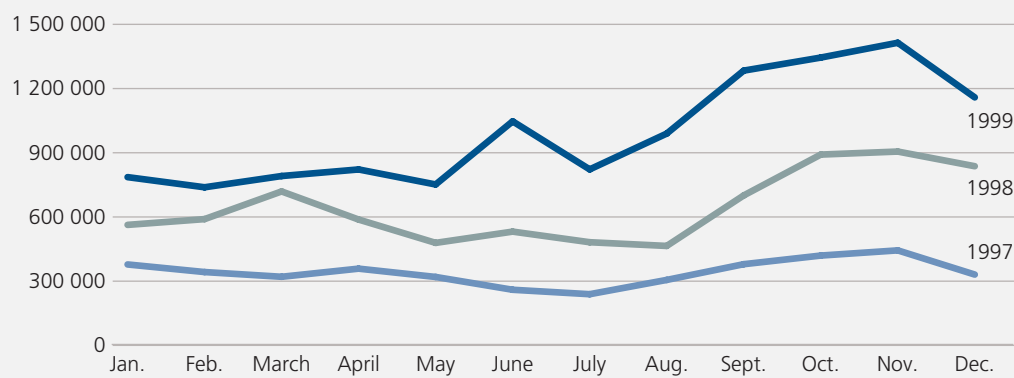
Number of enquiries handled by Statistics Norway's library. 1995-1999



Number of medioclippings. 1996-1999



Number of visitors to www.ssb.no. 1997-1999



Total 1999: 11 897 540
 Total 1998: 7 880 209
 Total 1997: 4 045 528

Quality of the statistics

Timeliness. Time elapsed from end of reference period to publication. Weeks

	1998		1999	
	Target	Result	Target	Result
Monthly statistics	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Quarterly statistics	10.1	9.1	9.3	8.8
Annual statistics	42.5	44.9	43.4	41.0

Response rates. 1998 and 1999

	1998		1999	
	Target	Result	Target	Result
Surveys				
With obligation to provide data				
- Wage statistics	100	84	100	95
- Other	93	92	90	91
Volunteer	74	69	71	73

Form-filling workload

Form-filling workload. Man-years. 1997-1999

	1997	1998	1999
Total	220	196	175
Business and industry	110	113	126
Others	110	83	49

Use of resources

Breakdown of man-hours into various types of operation. 1999. Per cent

Type of operation	1999
Total	100.0
Current production of statistics	46.2
Production of primary statistics	38.2
Comparison and dissemination	8.0
Development projects	4.7
Research and analysis projects	8.1
Administration and planning	8.8
Internal support functions	16.8
IT infrastructure, general	4.4
Other internal support functions	12.4
Absence	15.4

Department of Economic Statistics

Assistant Director General: Olav Ljones

The department has 174 employees, 84 women and 90 men, who worked a total of 191 man-years in 1999.

The accounts for 1999 show NOK 48.5 million in appropriations via the fiscal budget and NOK 20.9 million in commission income.

Director's staff: 3 man-years

Division for National Accounts

Liv Simpson
28 man-years/Oslo

Division for Environmental Statistics

Svein Homstvedt
24.3 man-years/Oslo/Kongsvinger

Division for External Trade, Energy and Industrial Production Statistics

Bjørn Bleskestad
40.3 man-years/Oslo

Division for Economic Indicators

Tom L. Andersen
24.7 man-years/Oslo

Division for Public Finance and Credit Market Statistics

Anna Rømo
29.5 man-years/Oslo

Division for Labour Market Statistics

Helge N. Næsheim
25.3 man-years/Oslo

Office for Administration

Stig Braathen
5 man-years/Oslo

Office for IT

Bjørn Pedersen
11 man-years/Oslo

The department prepares statistics and analyses inter alia with:

- Annual statistics on oil and gas activity
- Balance of payments
- Bankruptcy proceedings
- Church accounts statistics
- Construction waste
- Consumer price index
- District heating statistics
- Electrical power, prices
- Electricity statistics
- Emissions to air
- Employee statistics for immigrants
- Employees by municipality of workplace and selected industries
- Energy accounts
- Energy balance
- Energy use in industry
- Environmental protection costs in industry
- External trade in goods
- Financial holding companies
- Financial institutions
- Foreign assets and liabilities
- General business tendency survey
- General government assets and liabilities
- General government revenue and expenditure
- Goods consumption index
- Harmonized consumer price index for Norway
- Harmonized consumer price indices EU/EEA
- Index of production
- Industry statistics
- Investment statistics
- Labour force survey
- Land cover in densely populated areas
- Life and non-life insurance companies
- Local government. Revenue and expenditure
- Municipal accounts statistics
- Municipal discharges
- Municipal fees
- Municipal waste
- National accounts
- National accounts revenue and expenditure
- National insurance fund balance sheet
- Order statistics
- Packaging waste
- Parental payments, kindergartens
- Portfolio survey
- Price index of first-hand domestic transactions
- Private and municipal pension funds and reserves
- Producer price index
- Public expenditure on development aid
- Public purchasing
- Research and development in business and industry
- Reservoir levels
- Sale of petroleum products
- Sales statistics
- Salmon exports
- Satellite accounts for tourism
- Statistics of accounts
- Tax accounts statistics
- Taxes of OECD countries
- Treatment and discharges of waste water
- Unemployment among immigrants
- Warehouse statistics
- Waste accounts for paper and plastic

Important tool

The consumer price index shows the monthly price changes for goods and services and is one of the most important tools for planning and managing the Norwegian economy. Each month 2 200 stores submit price reports. On the basis of these Statistics Norway prepares price indices for retail trade by industry and price indices for goods and services by delivery sector.

Statistics Norway one of the first to launch modernized consumer price index

In September 1999, Statistics Norway began publishing the consumer price index with a new consumption classification based on a newly revised international standard. Other technical adjustments were made in addition.

- The restructuring of the consumer price index involves technical changes and more modern publishing. The actual contents of the consumer price index have not been changed, except for a methodical change in the treatment of homeowners' consumption of housing, underlines Lasse Sandberg, Statistical Adviser at the Division for Economic Indicators.

COICOP

The consumer price index has been published with nine main groups for over 20 years. The new classification means that several new groups will be added, i.e. post and telecom services, hotel and restaurant services, culture and leisure. These services have always been a part of the consumer price index, but not as separate groups. Other changes in the main classifications are that food products now include alcohol-free beverages and that transport and education have become separate main groups. The new system is called Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP), originally a UN standard adopted by Eurostat in 1999. Statistics Norway quickly adapted its index to the international classification and began publishing it on 10 September 1999. The new classification makes it easier to analyze price trends across national boundaries and will moreover be used in several other national statistics, paving the way for national as well as international coordination of statistics.

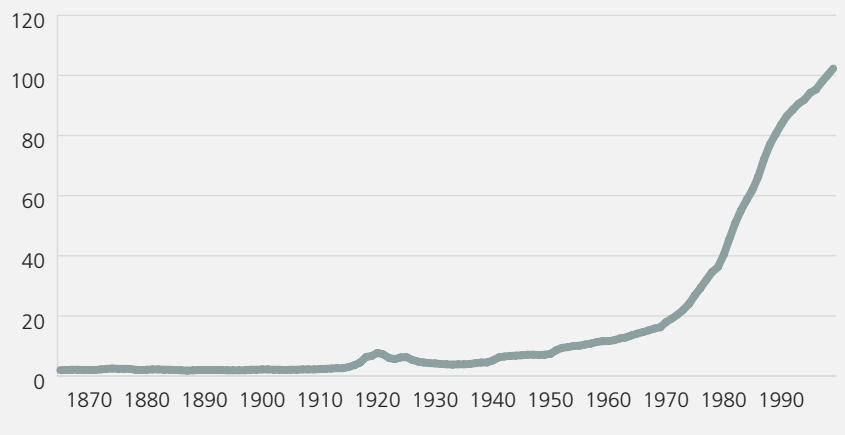
Changed calculation of living costs

Starting August 1999 an important change was undertaken relating to homeowners and their living expenses. Previously, the mortgage interest homeowners paid determined the weighting of the living expenses in the consumer price index, and living expenses were assumed to rise in step with rent. From August, however, the living expenses of homeowners was calculated by looking at the rent for comparative housing in the rental market. As a result, the weighting for housing, electricity and fuel increased significantly, and living expenses consequently now count more than before in the consumer price index. Rent trends are measured through a monthly rent survey, in which the actual rent paid in the rental market is used to calculate the monthly trend in the living expenses of homeowners.

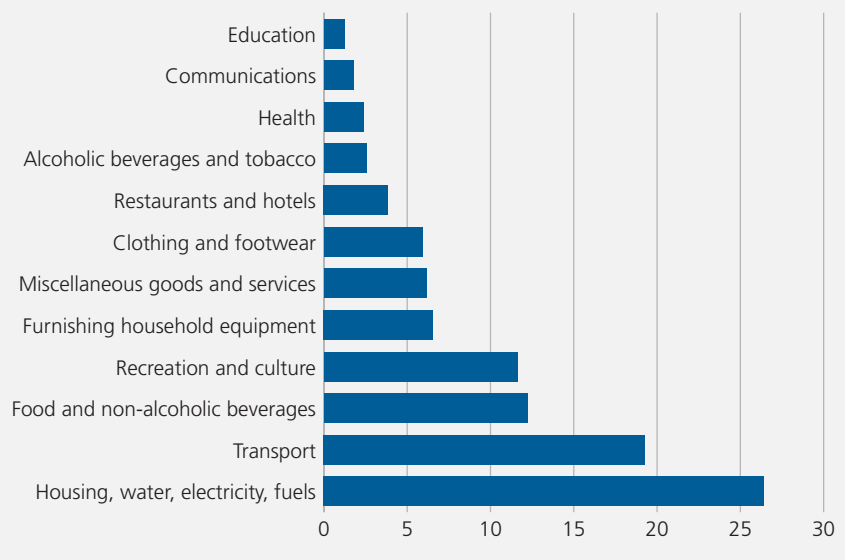
1998=100

A new detailed calculation method was also introduced in 1999. In brief, the new method of calculation will make it easier to capture the changes in consumption patterns resulting from price changes of products of virtually equal quality. The reference year for the consumer price index was changed from 1979 to 1998. The reference year is the year in which the average value of the index is 100.

Consumer price index. Annual average. 1865-1999. 1998=100



Weights in the consumer price index from August 1999. Per cent



- The restructuring of the consumer price index entailed additional work for some users, both because of the new reference year and new consumption classification – making it difficult to compare the index before and after the restructuring. We have, however, put historical tables on our website in which the consumer price index from 1865 has been recalculated according to the new reference year, and we have included time series dating back to 1979 based on the new consumption classification, says Mr. Sandberg.

A memorable year for national accounts

1999 ushered in a new era for national accounts in Western Europe. For the first time the national accounts figures of all EU member states and other EEA countries were reported using the new international standards. Statistics Norway has played a central role in drafting and implementing the new standards.

- The new national accounting standard in the EU and European Economic Area (EEA) is called the European System of Accounts (ESA) 1995. This means that new, extensive demands are being made with regard to documentation of calculation methods and use of terms. The purpose is to ensure the quality of the various statistical offices' national accounts figures so that the figures are comparable, says Erling Joar Fløttum, Senior Statistical Adviser at the Department of Economic Statistics, Statistics Norway.

Fløttum represents Norway on Eurostat's BNI committee, which is working on drafting the requirements for the national accounts of EU countries. The requirements also apply to Norway through the EEA Agreement. Statistics Norway was the first to implement ESA 1995 as early as 1995. At the end of the 1980s, Eurostat began to make extensive demands of the national accounts of member countries. Common national accounting standards were regarded as an important tool and basis for calculating the member countries' EU budget dues. The dues currently make up a source of finance accounting for about half of the EU budget.

- For Norway, which is part of the EEA and not the EU, the direct economic significance of ESA 1995 is limited to certain common systems of a more modest scope, says Mr. Fløttum.

Praise for Norwegian national accounts

Eurostat evaluated the Norwegian national accounts in 1998 and concluded that the quality of the accounts is high, that they are based on reliable and exhaustive sources and are integrated in a system with a detailed breakdown of products.

- Norway has a long tradition of being a leader in national accounts. Eurostat may make special reservations if it finds something wrong with a country's national accounts. This has not happened with the Norwegian national accounts, says Mr. Fløttum.

The international national accounting standard System of National Accounts (SNA) was introduced in 1993, and its definitions, accounting rules and classifications are in accordance with those found in ESA 1995. ESA 1995 has, however, stricter requirements with regard to the degree of precision for definitions, accounting rules and presentation form.

Portfolio survey completed

In 1999 Statistics Norway completed its survey of Norwegian portfolio investments in foreign countries in 1996 and 1997. The survey was Norway's contribution to a major international survey initiated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The survey was initiated due to imbalances in international balance of payments statistics. This applies particularly to international portfolio investments, in which the statistics have shown significant imbalances between overall outgoing and incoming payment flows between countries on a global basis. The survey will make it easier for various countries to exchange bilateral data on holdings, and review methods and error sources. The survey will make it simpler for international and government actors to follow developments in national and international financial markets.

The Norwegian survey covers holdings of portfolio investments in foreign shares and bonds, or other long-term securities broken down by debtor country. Portfolio investments are distinct from direct investments, in that the direct investor intends to establish a permanent economic connection and influence the enterprise in which the investment is made, while a portfolio investment is purely a financial investment. At the close of 1997 the market value of Norwegian portfolio investments in foreign countries totalled NOK 254 billion, or just over 23 per cent of the gross domestic product. At the end of 1996 portfolio investments abroad amounted to NOK 140 billion. In Norway the portfolio survey will be carried on within the framework of the IMF's international investment position project (IIP).

Extensive environmental statistics

Environmental statistics represent a relatively new area in Statistics Norway's almost 125-year history. Production of statistics on environmental influences and the state of the environment gathered pace particularly in the 1990s.

Statistics Norway is not alone in preparing and distributing information on the environment, but has a special responsibility coordination, and for producing environmental statistics consequent on or bordering other statistics. In some cases it is also about comparing statistics. This concerns statistics about exploiting and using natural resources and statistics about other activities that impact the environment - particularly the population, agriculture/fishing, industry and mining, energy production and transport. Statistics Norway began compiling separate statistics on the environment in the 1970s. Environmental Statistics 1976 was the first Statistics Norway publication to provide an overall presentation of environment-related statistics. The development of the statistics took off in connection with the construction of resource accounts in around 1980, and data about natural resources and the environment have been an important aspect of Statistics Norway's research activities ever since.

Emissions to air are to a large degree based on good and detailed energy statistics and advanced calculation routines. We are also far ahead internationally in this area, and the results are used in connection with the signing and follow-up of climate agreements.

Areas in which our environmental statistics are far ahead:

- Emissions to air
- Discharges from municipal sewers and agricultural run-off
- Waste
- Land use statistics for cities and densely populated areas
- Connection between economic activity and the environment, particularly the connection between economy and emissions to air (another important area of research)

Areas in which we want to do more:

- Industrial discharges to water
- Pollution from aquaculture
- Environmental poisons
- Environmental costs in industry and services

Areas that must be evaluated in the future:

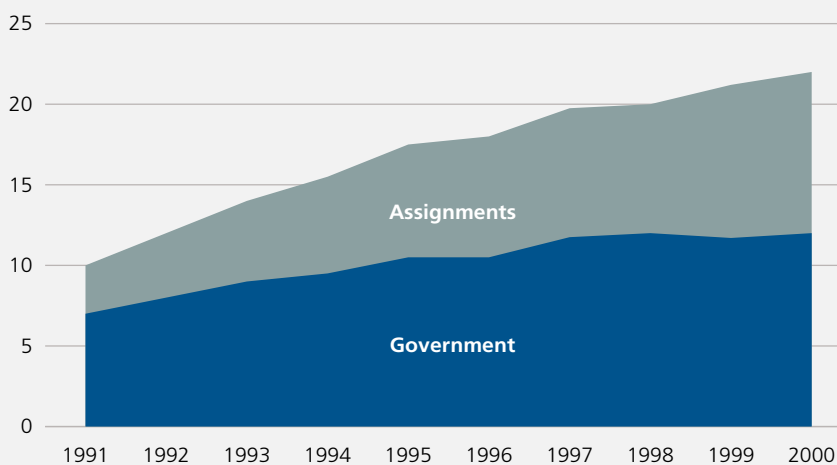
- Outdoor life
- Protection of cultural monuments
- Biological diversity

These statistics are also central in the preparation of a system for possible quota trading of emissions. Waste statistics have been built from scratch over the past seven or eight years. Data are obtained from municipal operations and enterprises, manufacturing statistics and external trade, and various methods are used which have also attracted international attention.

Land use statistics, which were important in the 1970s, but were later disbanded, have been resumed from 1995. The use of administrative registers and digital map data provides, together with the new tools and combination of statistics on population and economic conditions, completely new perspectives for future statistics.

Areas in which we have little activity are industrial discharges to water, pollution from aquaculture, environmental poisons, environmental protection costs in industry and services, biological diversity, outdoor life and cultural monuments. Some of these areas are covered to various degrees by others, but Statistics Norway's role in connection with the production of official statistics in this field has not been finalized. Statistics Norway has nevertheless made important contributions to work on environmental indicators covering all major environmental areas.

Resources of Division for Environmental Statistics. 1990s. Man-years



Department of Social Statistics

Assistant Director General: Johan-Kristian Tønder

The department has 178 employees, 92 women and 86 men, who worked a total of 168.6 man-years in 1999. In addition, 140 interviewers paid by the hour work out of their home communities.

The accounts for 1999 show NOK 44.5 million in appropriations via the fiscal budget and NOK 23.8 million in commission income, plus NOK 12.1 million for the Population and Housing Census 2001 via the fiscal budget.

Director's staff: 4.5 man-years

Division for Social and Demographic Research

Lars Østby
15.1 man-years/Oslo

Division for Population and Education Statistics

Elisabetta Vassenden
40.7 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Health Statistics

Ann Lisbet Brathaug
25.4 man-years/Oslo

Division for Sample Surveys

Asle Rolland
26.7 man-years/Oslo

Division for Social Welfare Statistics

Berit Otnes
24 man-years/Oslo

Division for Population and Housing Census

Paul Inge Severeide
13.5 man-years/Kongsvinger

Office for Administration

Johan H. Heir
7 man-years/Oslo

Office for IT

Kristian Lønø
11.7 man-years/Oslo

The department prepares statistics and analyses inter alia with:

- Adoptions
- Activities of educational associations
- Admissions to penal institutions
- Ambulance service
- Apprentices and completed qualifying examinations
- Attitudes towards immigrants and immigration policy
- Births
- Books, newspapers and periodicals
- Cash benefits scheme, care and labour participation
- Causes of death
- Child welfare
- Children
- Church of Norway
- Cohabitant statistics
- Deaths
- Disputes dealt with by conciliation boards
- Distance education institutions
- Divorces and separations
- Economic assistance
- Eligible voters in municipal and county elections
- Foreign citizens
- Immigrant population
- Immigration and emigration
- Infant nutrition
- Kindergartens
- Living conditions of students
- Marriages and registered partnerships
- Municipal health service
- Museums and collections
- Naturalizations
- Norwegian media barometer
- Nursing and care services
- Offences investigated by the police
- Offences reported to the police
- Patient statistics
- Personnel in social services
- Personnel in the child welfare service
- Population
- Population projections
- Primary schools
- Pupils and students
- Pupils under the upper secondary education act
- Refugees
- Religious and philosophical communities
- Senior citizens centres
- Smoking habits of Norwegians
- Social assistance
- Specialist and research libraries
- Specialist health service
- Statistics of accounts for private kindergartens
- Sterilizations
- Students at universities and scientific colleges
- Survey of consumer expenditure
- Survey of living conditions
- Teachers
- Terminations of pregnancy
- Working environment and adaptation

Population and Housing Census postponed

In 1999 it became clear that the population and housing census would be postponed from November 2000 to November 2001 because of the Norwegian national assembly's decision to upgrade the national Ground Property, Address and Building Register (GAB).

The 2001 census will be the last population and housing census in Norwegian history to be conducted in the traditional manner. The final component of the register system will be in place when the residence address project is completed and will enable Statistics Norway to produce register-based "census statistics" in the future. After 2001 it will no longer be necessary to send census forms to all households in the country.

The GAB-register contains information about most residences in the country, but lacks data on flats (in blocks) built before 1983. The Storting, Norway's national assembly, has approved an additional appropriation of NOK 75 million over three years for this purpose. The housing census and residence address project are connected and important activities relating to the GAB register

must be conducted before a housing form can be sent to people. Statistics Norway, the Norwegian Mapping Authority, municipalities, and the Directorate of Taxes will work together on the project. Most of the additional appropriation will go towards funding the work done by the Mapping Authority and the municipalities.

- The postponement means that the population census project at Statistics Norway will be prolonged by one year and that the resource framework will be expanded somewhat. It has consequently been necessary to revise the original project plan, says Paul Inge Severeide, head of the census project.

Much of the additional resources will go to the residence address project, which is under Statistics Norway's management. Among other things, it will be necessary to make a number of changes in the housing form that will be sent out. There will also be some resources for other development work. The objective of the de-

velopment project "Forms on the Web" is to enable people who prefer to answer the housing form via the Internet. It will also be possible to provide more information about issues of particular interest to users. This includes households, cohabitants, actual address of students and information about occupation and commuting.

- Although the implementation of the residence address project will first and foremost provide more and better statistics after 2001, the quality of the Population and Housing Census will also be improved, says Severeide.

New service for distributing micro data

In 1999 Statistics Norway established a new service for distributing microdata. This service will coordinate the delivery of such data to researchers and planners, and an important task is to ensure that the data material is handled appropriately.

In consultation with the Data Inspectorate, Statistics Norway has for several years delivered information about persons and companies to special research and planning projects. Users often want data that has to be assembled from several sources, requiring coordination of data in various areas. Users, however, have missed having one office to contact in Statistics Norway, and Statistics Norway has also missed having a service that could take on such projects when the quantity outstrips the capacity of individual divisions.

A special service designed to make the distribution of microdata safer and more efficient was consequently established in 1999. The service enters into an agreement with the individual user and maintains subsequent contact with the user in the research and planning project. When the project is finished, the data material is recalled. The service will also market what Statistics Norway has to offer of microdata.

In 1999, Statistics Norway's cooperation agreement with Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD) regarding the distribution of statistics to researchers was expanded to include anonymous personal data at the individual level. Researchers who desire may order anonymous individual data from Statistics Norway through NSD. The cooperation between NSD and Statistics Norway has existed for more than 20 years, and NSD has built up databases based on statistics from Statistics Norway.

Successful survey on education

In autumn 1999 Statistics Norway conducted a survey on training, schooling and education. Some 90 000 people received a questionnaire they were obligated to fill out and return. The reason for the survey is that Statistics Norway lacks information about people who have gone to school in other countries. In that regard, Statistics Norway established an answering service whereby callers could receive help to fill out the questionnaire from someone who speaks their native language. The service also provided answers to other questions about the survey and included a staff of nine persons who together master 24 languages. More than 6 000 people called in, and the survey had a reply rate of 83 per cent. Through the collected information, Statistics Norway can produce better education statistics and provide society with important information on what resources are available in Norway.

First collection of statistics on Svalbard

Statistics Norway published the book "Svalbardstatistikk" (Svalbard Statistics) for the first time in 1999. The publication contains information on everything from childcare centres and the population, to fjords, pollution, game birds and reindeer.

The Statistics Act is one of many laws, which, although it is a part of Norway, do not apply to Svalbard. Consequently, Statistics Norway has never previously compiled any statistics on the archipelago, which is located far north of the Arctic Circle. "Svalbardstatistikk 1999" was compiled for Svalbard Samfunnsdrift AS, a wholly owned public corporation under the Ministry of Trade and Industry. In addition to statistics from Statistics Norway, around 25 external institutions contributed statistical material.

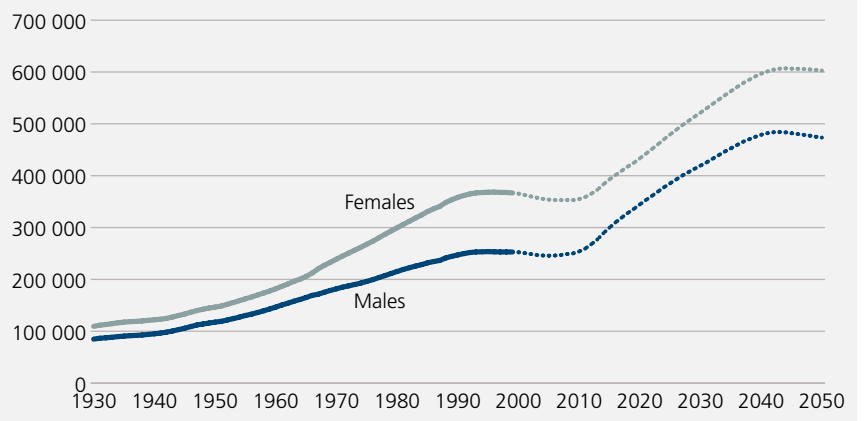
- Great changes have taken place in Svalbard over the last 10-15 years. Tourists have become more numerous, there is more activity in the international research community and there are more private businesses. There has been a need to document these developments, not only in relation to normal administrative needs but also relative to the stringent environmental management requirements and the special forms of government that exist in Svalbard, says Frants Gundersen, Executive Officer at the Division for Social Welfare Statistics, which compiled the statistics.

Living conditions of the elderly

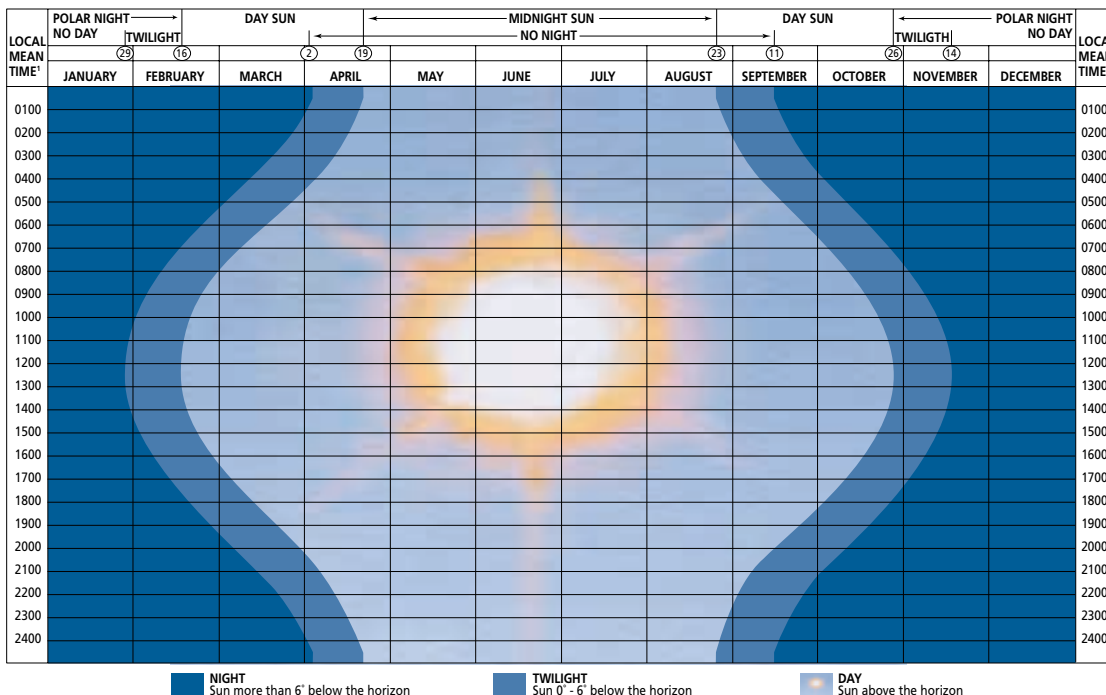
How is life for the elderly in Norway today, how has their situation developed and what is the outlook for the future? These questions provided the theme for the book "Eldre i Norge" (Elderly in Norway), published in 1999 by Statistics Norway in conjunction with the UN International Year of Older Persons. This is the first time Statistics Norway has published a complete overview of the living conditions of the elderly. The publication was published as part of the Statistical Analyses series and contains inter alia a chapter on labour force participation and use of national insurance. Work on the publication was funded in part by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Statistics Norway's population statistics, nursing and care statistics, income distribution surveys, labour force surveys, health surveys, time budget surveys, living condition surveys and consumer expenditure surveys were used as data sources.



Number of males and females 67 years and over. Registered 1930-1998, projected 1999-2050. Alternative MMMM



Sun diagram for Longyearbyen



¹ Not adjusted for summer time. Source: Svalbard Næringsutvikling Ltd.

Department of Industry Statistics

Assistant Director General: Nils Håvard Lund

The department has 238 employees, 162 women and 76 men, and worked altogether 206 sman-years in 1999.

The accounts for 1999 show NOK 57.3 million in fiscal budget appropriations and NOK 7.4 million in commission income.

Division for Business Register

Jan O. Furseth
26 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Income and Wage Statistics

Per Ove Smogeli
31.3 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Primary Industry Statistics

Ole O. Moss
25 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Transport and Tourism Statistics

Jan Monsrud
27 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Data Registration

Knut Kvisla
47.3 man-years/Kongsvinger

Division for Construction and Service Statistics

Peder Næs
32 man-years/Kongsvinger

Office for Administration

Eva F. Otterdahl Møller
4.5 man-years/Kongsvinger

Office for IT

Matz Ivan Faldmo
12 man-years/Kongsvinger

The department prepares statistics and analyses inter alia with:

- Accounts of non-financial joint-stock companies
- Agricultural area and livestock
- Agricultural production
- Alcohol
- Building cost index, construction
- Building cost index, houses
- Building cost index, plumbing work in office and commercial buildings
- Building statistics
- Building stock
- Buses and coaches
- Camping
- Controlled slaughtering
- Cost index for lorry transport
- Deer hunting
- Deer. Registered reduction outside ordinary hunting
- Domestic scheduled services
- Domestic transport performances
- Express Coastal Liner Bergen-Kirkenes
- Ferry transport between Norway and abroad
- Fish farming
- Forest regeneration
- Forest roads for motor vehicles
- Goods transport by lorry across the border
- Goods vehicles
- Grain and oil crops
- Gross freight and operating expenses of ocean-going ships
- Holders' substitute service
- Holiday dwelling referral agents
- Holiday dwellings
- Holiday survey
- Hotel statistics
- Hotels and restaurants
- Hourly earnings in manufacturing and private construction
- Hunter register
- Income and property distribution for women and men
- Income distribution survey for households
- Income of immigrants
- Income of joint-stock companies
- Income of national insurance pensioners
- Income of oil companies
- Income of self-employed persons
- Index of retail sales
- Inheritance tax
- Investments in agriculture
- Livestock

- Lorry survey
- Marine casualties
- Moose hunting
- Norwegian fisheries
- Norwegian-registered ship calls to foreign ports
- Norwegian-registered ships in coasting trade
- Ocean fishing for salmon and sea trout
- Orders, construction
- Pension schemes outside national insurance
- Personal services
- Port statistics
- Price index for wholesale trade
- Price index, existing houses
- Price index, new detached houses
- Price statistics for new multi-dwelling houses
- Production index, construction
- Professional and industrial bodies
- Property sales
- Registered reduction of large predators and eagles
- Research and development work
- River fishing for salmon and sea trout
- Road traffic accidents involving personal injury
- Road traffic accidents with combination vehicles
- Road transport
- Roundwood cut
- Sample surveys for agriculture
- Sewer and refuse disposal activities
- Shares
- Small game hunting
- Square metre prices for detached houses
- Tax return statistics
- Taxes
- Taxes, power plants
- Taxes, shipping companies
- Travel agencies
- Turnover index for real estate, renting and business activities
- Turnover, construction
- Turnover, food services
- Turnover, restaurants
- Turnover, wholesale and retail trade
- Vehicles discarded against refund
- Volume index for wholesale trade
- Wages
- Wild reindeer hunting
- Work stoppages

Problems with building statistics

Statistics Norway had to stop publishing the monthly and quarterly building statistics in early 1999 because of substantial delays in the reporting of building activities by local governments.

After publishing the February 1999 statistics, Statistics Norway decided to stop publishing the statistics because of the long lag in reporting figures. All local governments (municipalities) are obliged to report building work started to the Ground Property, Address and Building Register (GAB), which is used to produce the building statistics.

In 1999, however, the delay in reporting started dwelling units averaged 4.5 months and non-dwelling buildings 4.8 months. The lag also has consequences for Statistics Norway's quarterly production index for building and construction. The sub-index for new buildings can no longer be based on GAB data, but on information on employment in selected companies, which is the case for the rehabilitation and construction sub-indices.

The duty of reporting to the GAB register is statutory, but the law does not make any provisions for sanctioning non-complying municipalities. The Norwegian Mapping Authority is in charge of the register. In 1999

the Authority sent reminders to all municipalities, asking for written reports from the 200 municipalities with the longest delays in 1998. So far, this has not improved reporting. Statistics Norway has for its part analyzed the quality of the data in the register, and has given the Authority regular feedback. In February 2000 Statistics Norway and the Authority kicked off a "re-establish the building statistics" project with the goal of restarting the building statistics in 2000.

- Unless the reporting of building activities to the GAB register improves, Statistics Norway has no alternative but to obtain the information directly from the municipalities. We would rather avoid this as it will entail double reporting for the municipalities and increased use of resources in the municipalities and Statistics Norway, says Peder Næs, Head of Division for Construction and Service Statistics.

Important economic indicator

Building statistics contain vital information for public planners, political decision-makers and the construction industry. In addition, the statistics function as an economic indicator for gauging how well the Norwegian economy is performing. The lack of a full overview of building work started, their size, type and geographic placement has consequently been frustrating and problematic for number of users.



Census of Agriculture 1999 - fewer and simpler questionnaires

The preliminary results from the Census of Agriculture 1999 were ready as early as February 2000. Greater use of administrative data sources and selection methods made this possible. The 1999 census was also the first to be conducted without interviewers, hence the questionnaire was simplified.

The Census of Agriculture 1999 sets itself apart from the complete agricultural censuses in 1979 and 1989, which in addition to holdings with cultivated land, included pure forest and land holdings without own farmland in cultivation. There were 203 323 census respondents in 1979 and 190 860 in 1989. The 1999 agricultural census includes only holdings with at least five decares of cultivated farmland, according to which

there were just over 70 000 holdings. In addition to that, there are a number of livestock, vegetable, flower and fruit producers with filing requirements who do not have five decares of agricultural area in use.

Detailed information on use of agricultural area and number of farm animals was obtained from applications for production subsidies. That is why the census date or date of registration coincided this time with the Application for agricultural production subsidy as of 31 July 1999.

Greater interest in ICT statistics

In 1999 Statistics Norway embarked on a new survey on information and communications technology (ICT) in business and industry and established a special advisory committee for ICT statistics.

Facts about agricultural census

First agricultural census: 1907. Then in 1918 and every decade from 1929 to 1999.

Purpose: To obtain an overview of the resource and production basis as well as operational, environmental and economic factors in the agriculture industry, all the way down to municipal level. Norway is also bound by international agreements to provide statistics of a certain quality and nature. The census figures form an important basis for planning, reporting, decision-making support for public authorities, agricultural management, research and for the farm industry's own organizations.

Surveys: From the census forms, we can survey general data on property, area, rounding off, ditching and cultivation, farm buildings, machinery and implements, labour input and supplementary income. From administrative data we survey farm animals, use of farmland, economic conditions and education.

Results: Preliminary results, based mainly on administrative data, were released in February 2000.

ICT committee

External representatives from:

- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Transport and Communications
- Norwegian Industrial and Regional Development Fund
- Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority
- Research Council of Norway
- Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry
- Federation of Norwegian Engineering Industries – Association of IT Industries
- ICT-Norway
- Telenor

released as a quarterly index the first time on 2 July 1999 for the period 3. quarter 1997 to 1. quarter 1999. The quarterly index currently covers manufacturing, construction, gas and oil extraction, mining and quarrying and transport and communication. The goal is to supplement it with wholesale and retail trade, real estate activities, financial intermediation and renting over the course of 2000.

The quarterly index has been released as a preliminary figure for the entire period it covers, but the final index will be ready in early spring 2000.

The quarterly index will be published about three months after the end of the quarter. Statistics Norway's quarterly index is the only official short-term wage statistic now that the Confederation of Norwegian Industry and Business has discontinued its quarterly statistic for workers covered by the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions-Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry axis. There is a great need for such an index in monitoring economic cycles. Another application will be in business, with a view to adjusting contracts more frequently than every year. In addition, the index is an important component in the building and lorry cost indices.

The annual statistic will show wage levels and structures in the individual industries, while the quarterly index will provide the changes between the individual quarters. In general the quarterly index and the annual statistic are to be uniform and comprehensive. In contrast to earlier, the new statistics are furthermore completely independent of companies' affiliation to employer organizations and negotiation areas.

The new wage surveys provide better opportunities for comparing wage levels and the development between different industries and occupational groups. The use of national and international standards makes wage statistics more accessible, and makes them easier to compare with other national and international statistics.

Statistics Norway's survey on ICT in business and industry covers 5 000 private enterprises. The purpose of the survey, which is commissioned by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, is to gain an overview of Internet use and electronic commerce in business life. Similar surveys are being conducted in Denmark and Finland, and a joint Nordic report will be prepared over the course of 2000.

Statistics Norway also established an advisory committee for ICT statistics, with representatives from Statistics Norway and major user groups. Among other things, the committee will survey the user groups' need for statistics in various statistical areas, and give advice on the design and content of surveys. Delimitation of ICT statistics is based on the OECD's recommendation made in 1998.

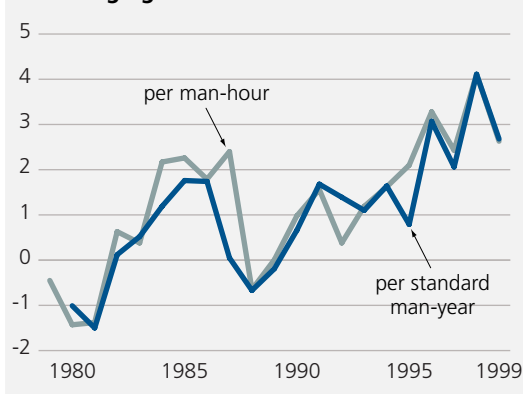
Statistics Norway has statistics on ICT spread within a number of statistical areas. Resources expended on this area of statistics were substantially increased in 1999, and in 2000 existing statistics will be used to increase the visibility and comparison of ICT statistics in a number of different areas.

Milestone for wage statistics

In 1999, Statistics Norway established a new quarterly wage index that represents a milestone for wage statistics in Norway. The wage index is now the only official short-term statistic for wages.

Parallel with the establishment of the annual wage statistic launched in 1998, Statistics Norway worked on the establishment of a quarterly wage statistic. This statistic was

Real wage growth. 1979-1999. Per cent



Research Department

Research Director: Ådne Cappelen

The department has 88 employees, 36 women and 52 men, who worked 78 man-years in 1999.

The 1999 accounts for the Research Department show NOK 22.7 million in appropriations via the fiscal budget and NOK 14.4 million in commission income.

Director's staff: 6 man-years

Division for Public Economics

Nils Martin Stølen
18.5 man-years/Oslo

Division for Resource and Environmental Economics

Torstein Arne Bye
21 man-years/Oslo

Division for Macroeconomics

Knut Moum
25 man-years/Oslo

Division for Microeconometrics

Jørgen Aasness
6.5 man-years/Oslo

Department of Social Statistics

Division for Social and Demographic Research

Lars Østby
15.1 man-years/Oslo

This division is included here, because this unit also has research activity. In addition, Statistics Norway has research on statistical methods, formally organized in Department of Coordination and Development.

Research Units work inter alia with:

- Agricultural taxes in developing countries
- Attitudes towards immigrants and immigration policy
- Cash benefits scheme
- Chronic poverty
- Cohabitation statistics and analyses
- Company taxation
- Comparisons of fertility intentions and behaviour
- Comprehensive analyses of living conditions
- Consumer behaviour
- Corporate behaviour and productivity
- Cost efficiency of endogenic technical development
- Direction-determined substitution elasticities
- Drafting of international environmental agreements
- Early retirement
- Econometric analysis of exports and imports
- Economic activity reports
- Education and growth
- Effective rates of industrial support
- Emission and discharge consequences of trade liberalization
- European energy and environment
- Evaluation of cash benefits scheme
- Fertility analyses
- Fertility and overlapping generation models
- Flexible energy use
- Greenhouse effect
- Growth and environment
- Historical statistics for industry
- History of statistics
- Housing and living conditions analyses
- Immigration and living conditions of immigrants
- Indirect taxes
- Inflation targets or fixed rate policy
- Investment behaviour
- Job offerings
- Labour market econometrics
- Living conditions of the agricultural population
- Market power in the power market
- Marriage and cohabitation trends

- Material consumption and leisure time
- Migration and mortality trends
- Municipal distribution analysis
- Municipal efficiency analyses
- National insurance analyses
- Petroleum market and emissions of greenhouse gases
- Population projections, national and regional
- Power trading and transmission capacity
- Price formation
- Price indices
- Projection of labour supply
- Projection of waste quantities
- Putty-clay models
- Regional economic overviews
- Regional labour market mobility
- Regional wage differences
- Renewable sources of energy/ effect of climate agreement
- Social capital and environment
- Statistics towards the year 2000
- Sustainable administration of national assets
- Tax computation for Norwegian national assembly's, the Storting, and the Financial Department
- Taxes and transfers
- The broadened concept of income
- Time use
- Tradable quotas versus taxes in climate policy
- Treatment of waste
- Voluntary environmental agreements in practice
- Wage structure and employment
- Welfare and distribution

Hit or miss?

Every year Statistics Norway prepares economic prognoses for the next couple of years. How close did our prognoses for 1999 come?

We will restrict ourselves here to looking at two important factors in the Norwegian economy: Inflation measured by the growth of the consumer price index and the activity level measured with the help of the gross domestic product (GDP) for Mainland Norway.

Inflation in 1999 was 2.3 per cent. When Statistics Norway presented its inflation prognosis in early January 1998 the estimate was 2.6 per cent in 1999. Throughout 1998 we believed that inflation could reach a much higher level. A major reason for this was the uncertainty connected with the effects of the weakening of the Norwegian krone throughout 1998 and higher interest rates in late summer. In 1999 the prognosis sank – particularly as information about the consumer price index for the first months of the year became known and the exchange rate for the krone stabilized. From late summer 1999 and beyond the prognosis was 2.3 per cent, which held true.

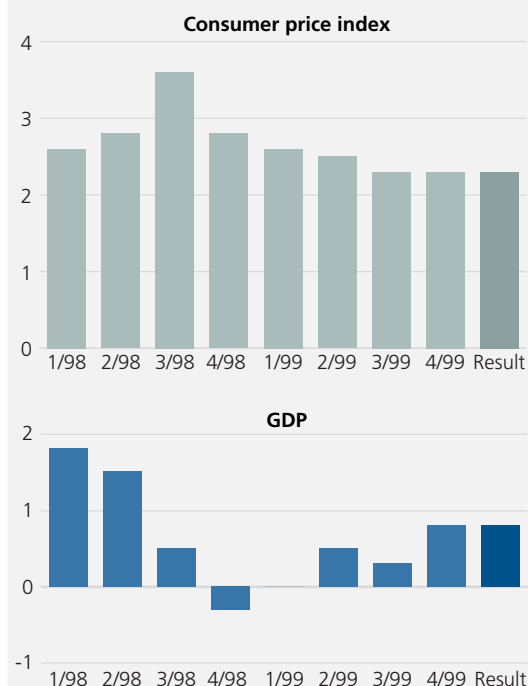
Measured by GDP for Mainland Norway, production growth was 0.8 per cent. Statistics Norway's first prognosis from January 1998 came to 1.8 per cent for 1999. This means that even at that early stage we believed growth would be far slower than in 1998, when it was 3.3 per cent. Quite early in 1998 it was, however, clear that growth in 1999 would be even lower than 1.8 per cent. Interest rates again played an important role, and the prognoses sank to near zero growth over the course of the summer of 1998. In the beginning of 1999 we believed growth would

be 0.5 per cent. One reason the GDP estimate for Mainland Norway edged upwards again in the autumn of 1999 was that some important assumptions were changed. Growth in government final consumption expenditure was higher than previously estimated and the drop in oil investments was smaller. Moreover, international economic trends improved more than we thought they would in 1999.

Statistics Norway's prognoses for 1999 were in other words quite successful, both for inflation and Mainland Norway GDP. We are particularly pleased that at a very early point in time we managed to estimate the transition from high to low economic growth. The world is easier for prognosis-makers to grasp when central economic aggregates grow more evenly and steadily. Predicting pronounced breaks in the trends is much more difficult.

Projections for 1999

Given in Economic Survey no. 1/98-4/99



Many municipalities will see a decline in population

For the 13th time since 1969, Statistics Norway presented new population projections in the autumn of 1999. This time the projections contain more alternatives than before: Eleven alternative projections were presented until 2050 for the country as whole, while the municipal figures were projected in six alternatives until 2020. The results show that Norway's population will continue to increase slowly over the next 25 years. More important than the national figures are perhaps the regional figures at the county and municipal level, which make up an important basis for local planning with respect to the range of services offered in health, education and social care. Knowledge about the size and composition of the population is also important with respect to the development of the housing market, labour market and business development. Despite continued growth on a national basis, between 30 and 50 per cent of the municipalities, depending on which alternative is used, will see a decline in population over the next ten years.

Statistics Norway's economic overviews

Statistics Norway's economic overviews consist of two parts: An analysis of the economic development mainly based on Statistics Norway statistics, compared with the quarterly national accounts, and a prognosis for the next couple of years based on Statistics Norway's macroeconomic models. Statistics Norway has analyzed economic trends for several decades, but has only been doing prognoses since the latter half of the 1980s. You can get an impression of the quality of these prognoses by studying the table presented in Economic Survey each year.

«- We have to be controversial»

- Sometimes it is necessary to use somewhat provocative assumptions that people view as controversial, says Ådne Cappelen.

Statistics Norway's research director wants the Research Department to present the facts, contexts and questions. But he leaves the final choices up to the politicians.



Caption - Hindsight is a virtue. We have to understand the past before we can talk about the future, says Ådne Cappelen, Director of the Research Department.

In 1999 Cappelen was appointed director of Statistics Norway's Research Department, after working his way up to the position from consultant to researcher and director of research. In addition, he also has supervisory responsibility for all research and analysis operations taking place several places in Statistics Norway. Over the years he has been the source of numerous news stories because of his commitment and willingness to take a professional stand. In 1999 he created a commotion by telling a newspaper that Norway could increase immigration to ensure the provision of social welfare services in the future – or send old and ill persons out of the country.

Although some believe he is exceeding his authority as a representative for a professionally independent organization, he stresses that it is not up to Statistics Norway to hand out advice on politics. Statistics Norway should, however, contribute relevant information when politicians are weighing various options. He admits that Statistics Norway's research work can have direct relevance for political party debate.

- The parties believe as a rule that their political proposals are so smart that everyone will benefit. Their view of the world tells them that they are right. According to our research, however, it could turn out that some will have it worse. In that way our research is not political, but is politically relevant, says Cappelen.

He says it happens that most people operate with other types of value yardsticks than those used by Statistics Norway in its economic calculations:

- Take for example prostitution. Few view this as particularly value adding based on humanistic or religious thinking. But prostitution would actually produce an increase in the gross domestic product if we could quantify it. Prostitution is part of the black economy and is difficult to measure. This is why prostitution is not included in the gross domestic product. The reason is not Statistics Norway's morals. If we had had state-run brothels in Norway they would have been included in our Business Register and in the gross domestic product calculations.

- We need to identify relationships. When we identify these relationships we must be explicit in presenting both the statistical and "moral" basis for these, believes Cappelen.

- What can Statistics Norway research be better at?

- There are two areas in particular where we would like better coverage: One is to understand economic growth processes, especially the impact of human capital on economic growth. Norway has the best-educated labour force in the world, but do we get an

Department Director

Age:
50 years, the same age as the Research Department


Employed:
In 1976 by Statistics Norway's Research Department

Discipline:
Macroeconomic models

Visiting scholar:
University of Cambridge 1981-1982

Offices:
Director of programs for the Research Council of Norway

International experience:
Economic model work in China, Saudi Arabia and Mozambique

A photograph of a man with light-colored hair, wearing a dark sweater with three horizontal white stripes. He is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

adequate enough return from educational capital? Are public education subsidies too large in relation to their social benefit? It is important to ask such questions. The other area is analyses of income distribution in Norway. Why, for example, do some population groups have a low income for a very long period? How is poverty defined? By processing data from inter alia tax statistics we will be able to measure income in different ways, and obtain a better basis for analyzing the economic consequences of the distribution of income.

Cappelen says much has and will be done within Statistics Norway's statistics-producing departments, but all areas are not sufficiently covered. A shift in the direction of the two areas requires close interdepartmental cooperation, which requires the identification of relationships.

- Statistics Norway is one of the few statistical offices in the world to have its own research and analysis operations. Can the Research Department be sufficiently critical of the quality of Statistics Norway's data?

- Yes, I believe so. One of the Research Department's most important responsibilities is to use the office's data to develop fruitful analysis tools, whose purpose inter alia is to improve the quality of data. Discussions about quality cut both ways between the Research Department and Statistics Norway's data-producing units. Occasionally we are told that we have to be careful because our studies are based on very uncertain data. Other times our use of data can uncover errors and deficiencies in the statistics that cannot be easily discovered without extensive checking, says Cappelen.

Interdisciplinary activities take place throughout Statistics Norway. We have two departments whose sole task is to facilitate such activities: The Department of Administrative Affairs (budget and accounting and personnel) and Department of Coordination and Development (statistical methods and standards). In addition, we have the Division for International Consulting, which is not connected to a department, and the staff of the Director General.

The accounts for 1999 for these units show a total of NOK 129.3 million in appropriations via the fiscal budget and NOK 22.2 million in commission income. The units have altogether 225 employees.

The three statistics departments and the Research Department also carry out interdisciplinary activities. The largest user-financed commission in 1999, KOSTRA (see page 38) is, e.g., headed by the Department of Economic Statistics.

Department of Administrative Affairs

Administration Director: Kari Metliaas (until 31.1.2000)
Staff: 6 man-years

The department has 76 employees, 48 women and 28 men, who worked a total of 70,7 man-years in 1999.

Division for Budget and Accounting

Pål Mathisen
10.5 man-years/Oslo

Division for Personnel Administration

Head of Division: Unfilled at close of 1999
9 man-years/Oslo/Kongsvinger

Office for Joint Services, Oslo

Geten Engelstad
24 man-years/Oslo

Office for Joint Services, Kongsvinger

Karin Wang
21.2 man-years/Kongsvinger

Director General's Staff

5 man-years/Oslo and Kongsvinger

Department of Coordination and Development

Assistant Director General: Hans Viggo Sæbø
Staff: 2.7 man-years

The department has 118 employees, 60 women and 58 men, who worked a total of 100 man-years in 1999.

Division for IT

Rune Gløersen
41 man-years/Oslo/Kongsvinger

Division for Statistical Methods and Standards

Leiv Solheim
13 man-years/Oslo

Division for Information and Publishing

Anne Skranefjell
43.3 man-years/Oslo/Kongsvinger

Unit without department connection:

Division for International Consulting

Bjørn K. Wold
4.8 man-years/Oslo

Technology changeover goes as planned

In 1999, Statistics Norway completed the transfer of the production of statistics to its new technological platform and experienced no problems with the rollover to 2000.

Statistics Norway's main strategy for tackling the changeover to 2000 was to move all remaining statistical systems from the IBM mainframe to a network of servers. All projects were basically carried out as planned, and Statistics Norway's mainframe was shut down for good on 30 December 1999 after 40 years of service.

In the course of 1999 statistics on external trade, labour market, population, income and wages and the consumer price index were restructured and put into production on the new platform. In addition, the Business Register was restructured into a new and more functional database solution. Solutions for interview activities and more administrative functions were also developed.

In connection with the change of technology and year 2000 adjustments, a focus was also placed on preparedness and security in the solutions, and the consequences of a system failure. The new year opened with an up-to-date overview of all IT solutions and the assignment of the responsibility for all IT systems and infrastructure.

Head of Division for IT, Rune Gløersen, underlines that Statistics Norway cannot close the book on technological changes.

- The technology switch was originally motivated by a desire for more user-friendly solutions and the desire for a less expensive technological platform. IT developments have opened up new opportunities and raised new issues. When the technology changeover started no one completely saw the potential of the Internet. The need for effective electronic communication with clients and data users is an example of a challenge that surfaced during the technology shift and will impact IT work in the initial years of the new millennium.

Gløersen believes that Statistics Norway, like many other technology-based operations, will find itself in a perpetual state of technological change because experience shows



Head of Division for IT, underlines that Statistics Norway cannot close the book on technological changes.

that it takes many years to move all parts of Statistics Norway's production between different platforms.

- The challenge ahead is to continue to develop solutions for Statistics Norway's products in line with new technical possibilities. We also want to strengthen collaboration with other statistical offices on general solutions for statistical production and dissemination, largely by exchanging software directly without having to make special adjustments because of the difference in underlying technology, says Gløersen.



New project in international consultancy

How can social sector conditions in developing countries be improved? In August 1999, Statistics Norway's Office for International Consulting embarked on a new project to throw light on this issue.

Commissioned by NORAD, the project is part of the Social Sector Initiative (SOSIT). The social sector includes health, education, sanitary conditions and social services - particularly regarding the poor and other vulnerable groups. The social sector is a priority area of Norwegian development aid policy.

In the project's first phase a statistics and information system will be developed based on available data. The project will follow public and private funds to the social sector in aid-receiving countries and find out what services are being produced, who is using them, the impact of national and local factors and what this all means for economic growth and quality of life.

- To see whether development aid works, you have to know how the resources are distributed and what part of the population is actually being offered the various services, says Bjørn K. Wold, head of the Office for International Consulting.

The information will be used by NORAD and its partner countries. The indicators will also tell us whether the UN development goals will be achieved by 2015. These goals include reduced infant mortality rate, mother mortality rate, poverty gap, pollution and the spread of HIV among pregnant women.

The work involving standards, indicators and statistics will last throughout spring 2000 and is being carried out in close co-operation with international organizations, particularly the statistics offices in NORAD's partner countries. In the second half of 2000 the information system will then be tried out in two countries selected by NORAD.

International cooperation

In 1999 Statistics Norway took part in 361 international meetings. A total of 438 SSB-employees participated in international meetings, of these 150 attended in EUROSTAT meetings. The overall level was higher than the year before, for the number of meetings and the numbers of participants.

Under the Statistics Act, Statistics Norway was given the main responsibility for directing Norway's international cooperation in statistics. These activities take place via several international bodies such as the EU/EUROSTAT, OECD, UN, IMF, UNESCO and

Areas adapted to EEA in 1999

- Structural statistics for business and industry
- Short-term statistics for business and industry
- Labour costs
- Labour Force Surveys
- Harmonized consumer price index
- Travel and tourism
- Sea transport
- Road transport of goods

ILO. The Nordic countries also work together closely. Statistical cooperation between the EU and EFTA is coordinated via the EFTA office in EUROSTAT. In cooperation with the other central players, particularly the OECD, EU and IMF, the UN directs the development of statistical standards and systems and coordinates statistical reporting from the different countries. Norway participates actively in this work through its chairmanship of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) under the UN Economic Commission. The European Economic Area (EEA) cooperation is nevertheless clearly the most extensive.

- EEA/EU cooperation has a great impact on the development of Norwegian statistics. EEA adjustments entail inter alia new and expanded collection of data, the use of new methods and changes in certain definitions and classifications. An important aspect of the quality of the statistics is that it can be compared with figures from other countries. The EEA adaptation process clearly provides better international comparability, at least in Europe, says Jan Byfuglien, who is responsible for EEA/EU coordination at Statistics Norway.

In recent years the Research Department has stepped up its collaboration with researchers in Europe and the United States. Cooperative activities include specific projects, study visits and participation in conferences.

New database service

In cooperation with Eurostat, the EU's statistical office, Statistics Norway has set up a new service called Eurostat Datashop. The purpose is to provide users in Norway with

access to the extensive EU statistics found in EU statistical databases. The new service is integrated in Statistics Norway's library and information centre and is part of a network of Eurostat distributors now found in most EU countries and in the United States. The databases contain more than 100 million macro-economic statistics in nine main subjects.

Longva elected head of CES

In June 1999, Director General Svein Longva was elected new chairperson of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) for the next two years. CES is a principal subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), and comprises the heads of national statistical offices in Europe, the United States and Canada. In addition, a number of organizations in the UN system participate along with EUROSTAT, OECD, the ILO and IMF, among others. CES holds an annual plenary session.

CES' governing body, the Bureau, has six members. The statistical directors of the EU, IMF and OECD, director of the UN Statistics Division and chairman of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States participate in Bureau meetings as observers. A Bureau meeting was held in Oslo in November 1999. CES' most important task is to coordinate international statistical cooperation among the various organizations so as to simplify and improve national statistics and their international comparability.

Statistics Norway has previously also played an important role in CES through former Director General Petter Jakob Bjerve, who was an instrumental figure right from its inception in 1952, and as head of the Conference in the early 1970s.

Simpler reporting by municipalities

- All reporting from the municipalities participating in the municipal-state reporting system called KOMMUNE-STAT-RAPPORTERING (KOSTRA) in the spring of 1999 was done electronically. We are very satisfied with this, says Anne Britt Svinnset, Statistics Norway project manager.

KOSTRA is a uniform system for exchanging information between municipality and central government. Through this system it will be possible to couple data on the municipalities' finances and services, and to compare the municipalities in a number of areas, e.g. education, health and culture. The objective in 2001 is for all municipalities to report electronically to Statistics Norway about municipal use of resources and production of services. In 2001 all municipalities and counties in the country will participate, and KOSTRA statistics will be the official Norwegian statistics about municipal finances and services. KOSTRA statistics will consequently replace other statistics in the area. Management information will also go back to the municipalities using the Internet as the means of distribution. KOSTRA is part of a natural subproject in the government's "A Simpler Norway" program, which among other things is conducting a general review of state rules directed at the municipal sector, with a view to giving the municipalities greater scope of action.

- The review of all municipal reporting shows that it is very comprehensive. Coordination and higher productivity will make it easier both for municipalities and the central government, says Svinnset.

In 1999, Statistics Norway's work on KOSTRA has been concentrated inter alia on security solutions, on Statistics Norway's internal production line and about the development of more functional systems for presentation of KOSTRA data via the Internet. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is the commissioner of the project, which started in 1994.

Key figures on the KOSTRA project:

1999:

- 107 participating municipalities
- 5 participating counties
- Budget: NOK 13,101 million (market assignment), NOK 3.6 million (Statistics Norway-financed)
- Full-time equivalents working on KOSTRA in Statistics Norway: 16
- Project manager: Anne Britt Svinnset
- Head of supervisory group: Olav Ljones

Plans for 2000:

- 240 participating municipalities
- 6 participating county municipalities
- Budget: NOK 13,011 million (market assignment), NOK 3.6 million (Statistics Norway-financed)
- Full-time equivalents working on KOSTRA in Statistics Norway: 14.5
- Reporting deadline for the municipalities: 15 February
- Feedback from Statistics Norway: 15 March
- Publishing of statistics covering the participating municipalities: 15 June

www.ssb.no

Statistics Norway's website, its main channel for disseminating statistics, underwent extensive changes in 1999. Daily Statistics were introduced along with a new design and structure. The initial version of the Kommunefakta (Municipal Facts) database was launched.

On 15 June 1999 the Daily Statistics featured on www.ssb.no became the new main channel for releasing statistics from Statistics Norway. The paper version of the Weekly Bulletin of Statistics still exists as a weekly hard copy summary of the daily statistical releases.

Statistics Norway launched its website in February 1995. Over the course of these five years it has become the main channel for daily releases of statistics, and the electronic service has attracted a huge number of users. In 1999 there were 11 897 500 hits on pages, with an average of 991 458 hits per month. In conjunction with the Daily Statistics, a subscription service was established by which users can subscribe without charge to statistics from Statistics Norway via e-mail. Users can also make personal homepages through Statistics Norway. At the end of 1999 we had approximately 2 000 subscribers to this service. In addition to current statistics, Statistics Norway published election-related articles prior to last year's local and county elections on its website. Statistical articles on the run-up to the year 2000 were also published every week. The articles covered major development trends in Norwegian society from 1900 to 1999.

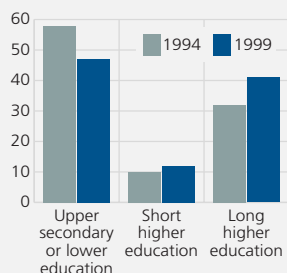
- The distribution of new statistics now works the way it is supposed to. New statistics are published according to schedule and are made available to all users simultaneously – no one receives preferential treatment. The next challenge is to become good at providing databases on the web, so that users may obtain statistics and assemble according to their needs. The Kommunefakta (Municipal Facts) database we launched in 1999 is just the beginning, says Anne Skranefjell, head of the Division for Information and Publishing

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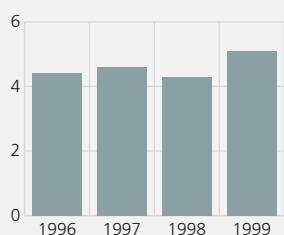
... to receive answers to your questions about the consumer price index and/or the building cost index.

We have operated an answering service for these two indices for many years, but on 1 November 1999 the service was transferred to Statistics Norway's switchboard in Kongsvinger. The change means that staff members of the two specialist sections no longer have to field 42 000 phone calls per year about the two indices. In addition, there were 50 000 users of our webpages on www.ssb.no/kpi and 14 000 users of www.ssb.no/bki in 1999.

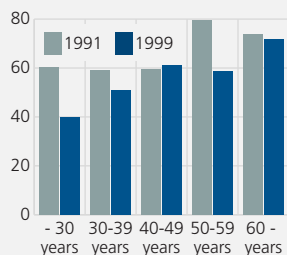
Employees, by highest education. 1994 and 1999. Per cent



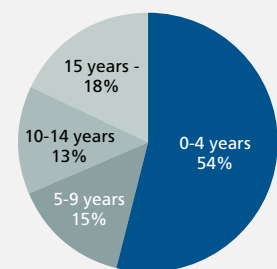
Absence due to illness. 1996-1999. Per cent



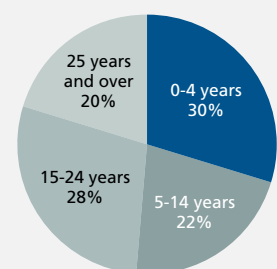
Percentage of women among employees in various age groups. 1991 and 1999. Per cent



Employees who resigned, by seniority. 1999. Per cent



Period of service in Statistics Norway. December 1999



Statistics Norway - Personnel

Review of 1999

Preparations for distance work commenced. A committee comprising representatives of several departments began drawing up guidelines and routines for distance work. Security systems are an important aspect of such a system. At the same time a decision was made to conduct a survey to identify suitable tasks for distance work.

The confidentiality declaration for employees was revised to include a provision barring employees from using information obtained through their work to trade shares on the Oslo Stock Exchange. The change was not prompted by any misuse of information and came about after individual companies asked Statistics Norway to adopt a confidentiality provision in line with other institutions.

PROMUT, a course in project work and project management, was highly successful again in 1999. Altogether 22 participants completed the course, which consisted of four sessions and participation in projects.

Absence due to illness in Statistics Norway increased from 4.3 per cent in 1998 to 5.1 per cent in 1999. Some of the long-term absence was due to repetitive strain injuries caused by PC use. To prevent such injuries, several departments at Statistics Norway have started various training regimens both during and after working hours. The sessions are popular and have become an important factor in creating a more pleasant work environment.

Throughout the 1990s Statistics Norway had a surplus of office employees in relation to ordinary government budgets. Thanks to various measures, the problem now seems to have been solved. At the same time a major shift in the composition of the staff is taking place: employees with a higher education are now in the majority.

In 1999 89 employees resigned, nearly 10 per cent of the total numbers of employees. More than 50 per cent of those who resigned, had a seniority of four or less years in Statistics Norway.

As Norway's largest workplace for professional statisticians, Statistics Norway is currently considering various certification schemes for or competency assessment of professional statisticians. The aim of such efforts is to provide opportunities for advancement within the field, not management training. For a number of statisticians, the new system will be patterned after the researcher qualification programme Statistics Norway has had for many years.

The management development programme's first phase, the analysis phase, was completed in 1999. The background for this initiative is the job satisfaction survey conducted at the close of 1997. Work will continue in 2000.

Statistics Norway's wage policy guidelines were revised in 1999 and are currently an important tool in Statistics Norway's local wage policy.

Man-years. 1990-1999

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total man-years	814	785	769	785	798	798	813	823	821	838
Government work	734	690	659	645	619	612	619	624	652	664
Commercial jobs	80	95	110	140	179	186	194	199	169	174

Wage range for managers, 1999. NOK

Director General	710 000
Director of Research	545 000
Assistant Director General	472 500 - 485 000
Head of Division	344 500 - 406 500
Head of Office	314 700 - 357 000