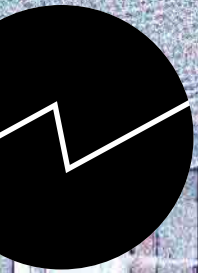
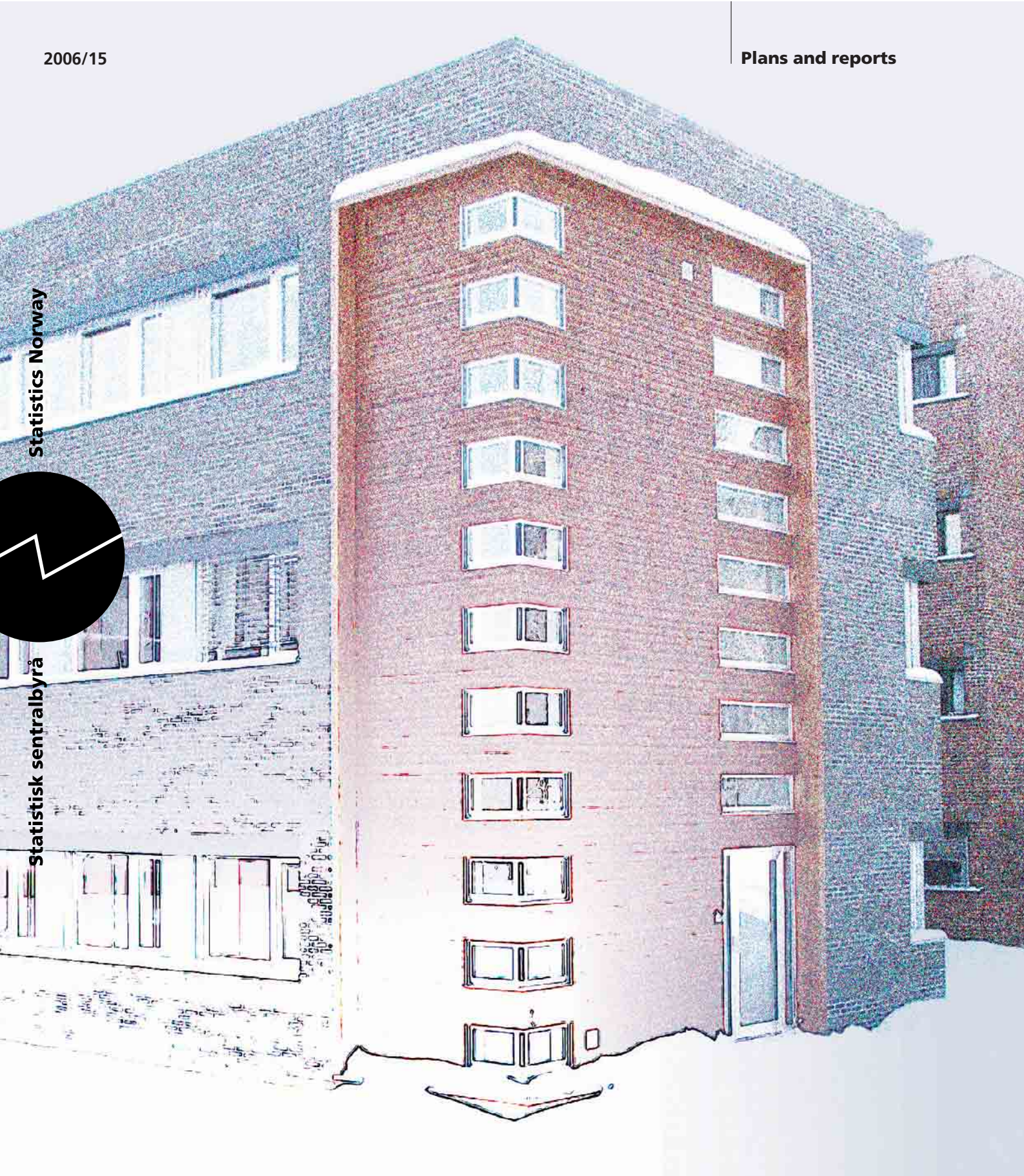


Statistics Norway



Statistisk sentralbyrå



Statistics Norway

Annual Report 2005

This is Statistics Norway

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

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

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

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

The Internet is the main distribution channel for official statistics. New statistics are published on ssb.no every day, and the users can obtain figures from StatBank Norway. In 2005, Statistics Norway was responsible for 791 statistics releases, made up of around 300 different statistics. Statistics Norway also produces a number of printed publications, such as the Statistical Yearbook of Norway, various types of reports and journals.

Statistics Norway's revenues amounted to NOK 536 million in 2005. Government funding made up around NOK 380 million, and NOK 156 million was made up of user-financed assignments. Ministries and the Research Council of Norway are the main customers.

At the start of 2006, Statistics Norway had a staff of 948. Employees based in Oslo total 558, while 390 are based in Kongsvinger. The total number of man-years in 2005 was 895. In addition, Statistics Norway employs 166 interviewers around the country.

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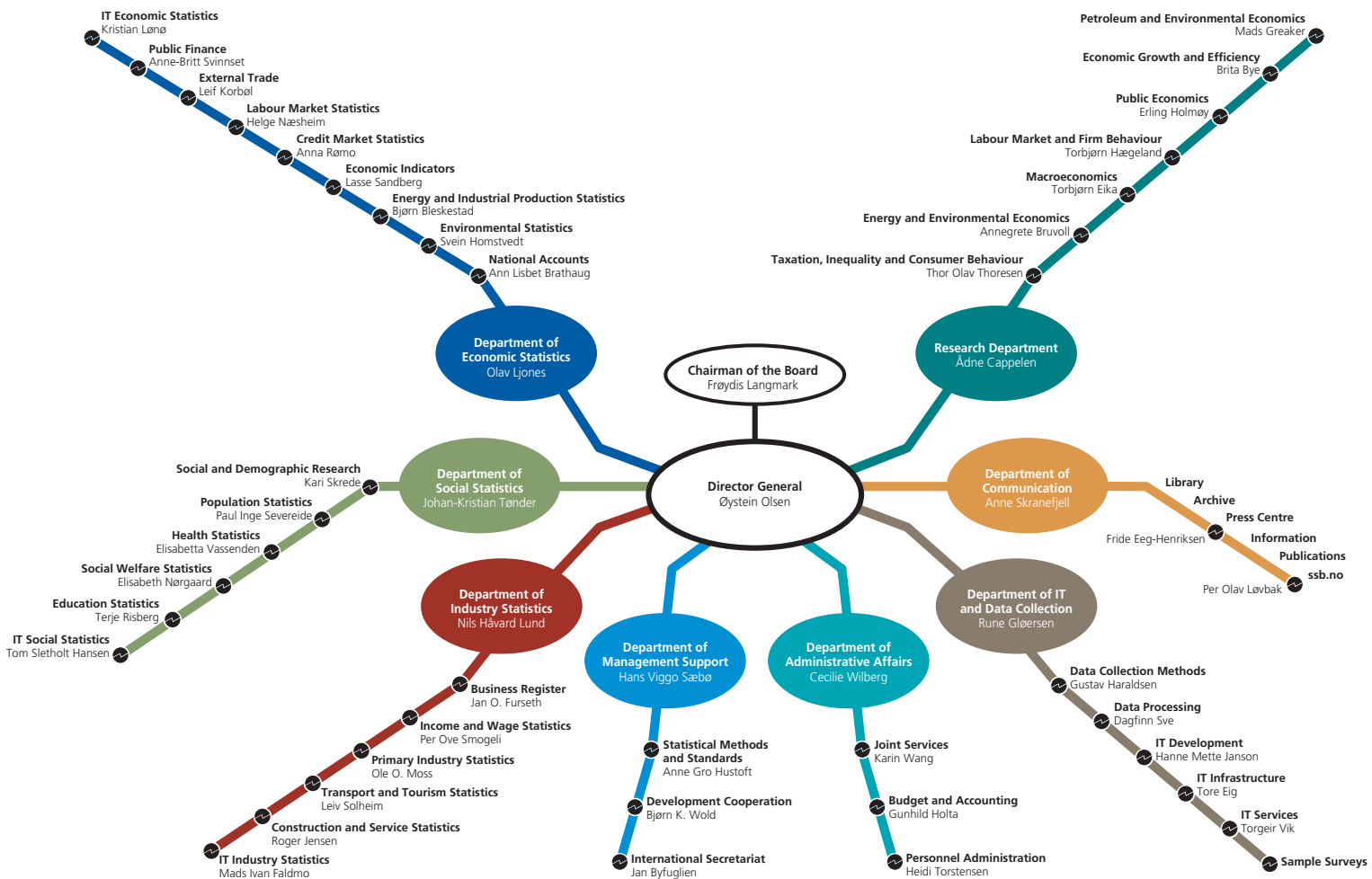
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1. Statistics Norway's organisation

Statistics Norway's senior management consists of the Director General and the directors of the eight departments. The organisation comprises three statistics departments (economic statistics, social statistics and industry statistics), the Research Department, the Department of Communication, the Department of Administrative Affairs and the Department of IT and Data Collection, and from 1 January 2006, the Department of Management Support, which in addition to the Director General's staff, covers the Division for Statistical Methods and Standards and the Division for Development Cooperation.

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

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



2. Report of the Board of Directors

A national statistics agency is an essential part of most countries' infrastructure. Official statistics provide an insight into how society is developing, and are a prerequisite for democratic participation. This also applies to Norway, where Statistics Norway enjoys great confidence as an institution that "counts and tells". 2005 was a good year for Statistics Norway, with extensive and good quality development of statistics, important research contributions to understanding Norwegian society and a well organised dissemination.

Elections and pre-election political discussions are part of democracy, as was the General Election held in 2005. The Board of Directors are committed to the knowledge that is gained from good statistics and research results contributing to the political debate dealing with path choices, policy instruments and goals for the Norwegian society of the future. It is pleasing for the Board to see electoral campaigners base their descriptions of actual situations on Statistics Norway's statistics and analyses.

International statistics cooperation has a long history, and the majority of the cooperation takes place under the auspices of international organisations such as the UN, OECD and IMF. A great deal of the focus for Statistics Norway is aimed at the statistics cooperation with the EEA, since this statistics cooperation is guided by binding legislative acts, which also apply to Norway. The Board considers this cooperation to be crucial in order to quality assure the statistics and create more opportunities for international comparisons.

Democracy building is also the basis for Statistics Norway's international consultancy work. International cooperation organised by Statistics Norway aims at providing professional assistance to develop the institutional statistics and society planning capacity in countries in the southern hemisphere, as well as countries in an economic transitional phase. This work is funded entirely by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway/NORAD. By the end of 2005, Statistics Norway had long-term cooperation projects with the national statistics agencies in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Eritrea, Albania and Moldova. Similar cooperation has also been planned with South Sudan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The Board values the international responsibility that Statistics Norway undertakes and considers this to be a vital area for the coming years.

Official statistics shall satisfy a number of quality requirements based on international consensus. It is not, therefore, sufficient that the statistics are compiled by a public institution. Under the Statistics Act of Norway, Statistics Norway has a national responsibility to inspect and quality assure all official statistics. The Statistics Council, which was established in 2004, is an arena for such coordination. The Board values Statistics Norway's efforts in 2005 to describe the minimum requirements for official statistics as an important contribution to the development of official statistics in Norway. Another part of this work is the extensive course activities organised by the Statistics Council for employees in the different institutions.

According to Brønnøysund's Register of Reporting Obligations of Enterprises, Statistics Norway's share represents less than 2 per cent of the total reporting burden of trade and industry in Norway. However, it is vital to the quality of the statistics that completing forms for Statistics Norway is not primarily perceived as a burden, but as an activity with social value. The Board is therefore satisfied with the fact that trade and industry now has the opportunity for electronic reporting. In 2005, which was the first year that all surveys could be reported electronically, more than a third of respondents made use of this method. Another benefit is that a number of forms have become obsolete because the data can be retrieved from central chain offices or from third parties, such as suppliers.

Statistics Norway achieved a good operating profit in 2005 of NOK 12.1 million, with NOK 21.4 carried forward to 2006. Revenues from assignment work represented 29 per cent of the total revenues. Assignment work is important to Statistics Norway as it provides direct contact with users and helps to replenish and develop the institution. However, it would be beneficial if the appropriation was included in the ordinary government appropriation for some of this work – such as the statistics on the environment, where Statistics Norway has the overall responsibility for statistics.

The Board is satisfied with the administration's safeguarding of effective financial management, but is nevertheless concerned about the comments that were received from the Office of the Auditor General of Norway in 2005 on the accounts for 2004. It is therefore with satisfaction that the Board has noted that the comments from the Office have been followed up expediently and thoroughly by the administration.

Statistics Norway's budget in 2005 had two earmarked appropriations; NOK 14.5 million for the reorganisation of the currency statistics and NOK 9.5 million for the electronic document handling project. Both of these projects are central to Statistics Norway's role in society. The reorganisation of the currency statistics represents both a transfer of statistics from Norges Bank to Statistics Norway and a modification and expansion of the statistics. The objective is a complete description of Norwegians' financial relations internationally with regard to industry, the public sector and individuals. In line with the growing globalisation, this part of the Norwegian economy is becoming even more important. Statistics Norway now has total responsibility, and the first publications were issued in 2005.

Electronic document handling is a long-term project on the further development and user-oriented adaptation of Statistics Norway's data collection and information systems. Electronic document handling entails the further development of electronic data collection from customers, re-use of data between public institutions and the coordination of the dissemination of official Norwegian statistics via a portal structure. In 2005, Statistics Norway celebrated its 10th anniversary of its communication with the outside world via ssb.no. The next phase shall be developed in line with the government's eNorway plan, which focuses on open solutions and common interfaces across systems and public institutions. The Board will follow the development of the project with great interest since it not only ensures a more effective dissemination of information but provides new and user-friendly solutions.

In 2005, measures were taken to develop statistics and indicators to assess resource use in the public sector, the StatRes project. Statistics Norway currently has comprehensive statistics on the public sector, but needs to develop indicators and overviews so that the information is easier to understand and more accessible. This important work was initiated by the Ministry of Government Administration and Reform.

Statistics Norway has one of the largest social science research environments in Norway and is one of the few statistics agencies in the world that includes extensive research activities as part of its work. The Board considers Statistics Norway's research activities to be of a high international standard, and values the activity's independent role. Over the years, a good cooperation has been developed between research and statistics in Statistics Norway, whereby the researchers provide feedback to those producing statistics on the quality of the statistics. This interaction is important internally in the organisation and is of great significance to the quality of official Norwegian statistics. Feedback from other researchers and research institutions is equally important for the quality of statistics. The Board is satisfied with the work that has been carried out in making the statistics' micro data easily accessible to other researchers and research institutions.

Statistics Norway's existing strategy was approved in 2002 and has been a good basis for developing the activity in recent years. However, during the course of a 5-year period, changes take place in society, in the framework of the activity and internally in Statistics Norway. Approval has therefore been given to draw up a new strategy based on the key elements of the existing strategy. The Board considers the strategy process in itself to be a basic element in increasing the knowledge and awareness of necessary change processes both in the organisation and of the Board.

The Board would like to thank Hege Torp, who resigned as Chairman of the Board in the summer of 2005, for her many years of hard work as both a member and Chairman of the Board. The Board also extends thanks to Eva Hildrum, who stood down from the Board at the New Year after a number of years as Vice Chairman, and Acting Chairman for the last half of the year.

The Board would also like to thank Øystein Olsen for all his good work in his first year as Director General of Statistics Norway. Thanks go to Statistics Norway's competent employees whose efforts are vital to the solid and central role that Statistics Norway plays in Norwegian society.

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

Frøydis Langmark

Director Frøydis Langmark,
Chairman of the Board

Lars-Erik Borge

Professor Lars Erik Borge,
Vice Chairman

Eilev A. Meland

Moderator of the Church of Norway
National Council Thor Bjarne Bore

Hanne Marit Svensrud

Senior Executive Officer Hanne Marit
Svensrud

Einar Hope

Professor Einar Hope

Ida Helliesen

Finance Director Ida Helliesen



From top left: Lars-Erik Borge, Frøydis Langmark, Hanne Marit Svensrud.

From bottom left: Thor Bjarne Bore, Ida Helliesen, Einar Hope.

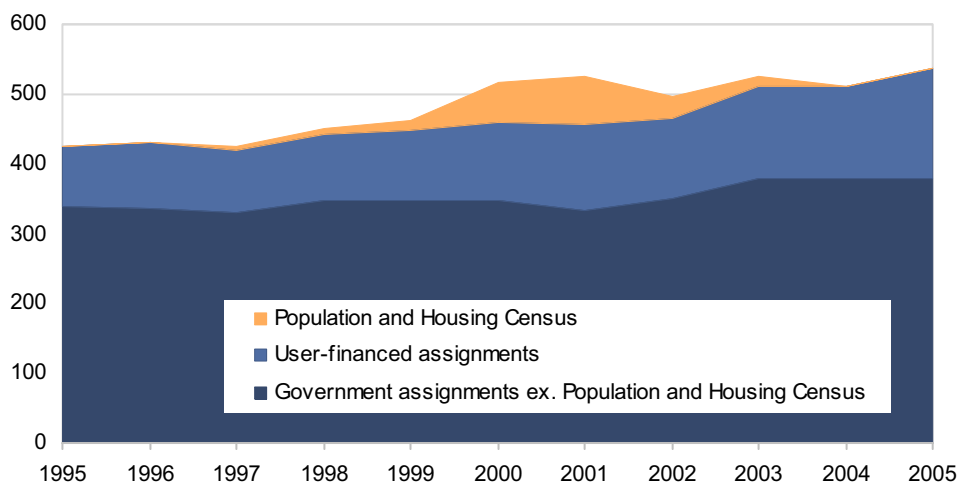
Eilev A. Meland is a new Board Member in 2006.

3. Budget and accounts

A good year for Statistics Norway

Statistics Norway's operating profit for 2005 was NOK 12.1 million, which was NOK 14.1 million more than in 2004. NOK 9.4 million was brought forward from 2004. Thus, NOK 21.4 was carried forward to 2006. The activity level and revenues from user-financed assignments showed an increase in 2005 and now represents 29 per cent of Statistics Norway's total revenues.

Historical accounts. Revenues 1995-2005, NOK million in 2005. NOK million



The figure shows a slight increase in inflation-adjusted revenues from government assignments, and a larger increase for user-financed assignments. The Population and Housing Census was completed in 2005, with only minor follow-up tasks.

Higher revenues for the user-financed assignments

Statistics Norway's total operating revenues totalled NOK 536.2 million in 2005. This is NOK 34.6 million more than in 2004. The main reason for the increase was an increase of NOK 25.5 million in revenues from user-financed assignments. Of this, NOK 2.6 million represents advance payments for assignments to be carried out in 2006.

Ministries and other state institutions are still our main customers and accounted for 54 per cent of the user-financed revenues in 2005. The proportion financed by the Research Council of Norway was 13 per cent.

Increase in activity

Total operating expenditures totalled NOK 524 million in 2005, which was NOK 20.5 million more than in 2004. Total wage costs increased most by NOK 15.9 million. The increase is mainly a result of the wage settlement in 2005 and increased user-financed activity.

Operating expenditures for goods and services increased by NOK 4.6 million.

Operating profit and sums to be carried forward

The accounts for 2005 show an operating profit of NOK 12.1 million, which is NOK 14.1 more than in 2004. NOK 9.2 million was brought forward from 2004, thus a total of NOK 21.4 million will be carried forward to 2006.

Investment level has increased

Appropriations for major acquisitions totalled NOK 10.1 million, while the expenses in 2005 were NOK 7.7 million, which is NOK 2.8 million more than in 2004. IT investments make up the majority of the acquisitions and since these are not consistent, will not normally correspond to the calendar year.

**Annual accounts 2005. Total overview (government assignments, the Population and Housing Census and user-financed assignments. Excluding major acquisitions).
NOK 1 000**

	Notes	Accounts 2004	Budget 2005	Accounts 2005	Budget 2006
Government appropriations	2	357 655	363 100	362 700	368 700
Commission revenues	9	131 583	134 937	157 177	158 922
Wage reimbursements	3	-	-	3 500	-
Refunds	4	12 303	-	12 862	-
Total revenues and refunds		501 541	498 037	536 239	527 622
Wage costs	5, 10	347 490	348 099	363 425	363 899
Operating expenses	1, 6, 10	156 006	149 671	160 626	164 487
Total expenses		503 496	497 770	524 051	528 386
Operating result	7, 8, 11	-1 955	267	12 188	-764
Brought forward from 2004		11 200	9 245	9 245	21 433
Carried forward to 2006	7, 8, 11	9 245	9 512	21 433	20 669

Accounting principles

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

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

	Notes	Accounts 2004	Budget 2005	Accounts 2005	Budget 2006
Government appropriations	2	357 655	363 100	362 700	368 700
Wage reimbursements	3	-	-	3 500	-
Refunds	4	12 303	-	12 862	-
Total revenues and refunds		369 958	363 100	379 062	368 700
Wage costs	5	258 552	254 306	267 477	257 442
Operating expenses	6	112 561	107 313	99 572	110 844
Total expenses		371 113	361 619	367 049	368 286
Operating result	7	-1 155	1 481	12 013	414
Brought forward from 2004		3 957	2 802	2 802	14 815
Carried forward to 2006	7	2 802	4 283	14 815	15 229

The Population and Housing Census. NOK 1 000

	Notes	Accounts 2004	Budget 2005	Accounts 2005	Budget 2006
Government appropriations		-	-	-	-
Total revenues and refunds ..		0	0	0	0
Wage costs		1 946	560	573	0
Operating expenses		1 094	1 194	615	567
Total expenses		3 040	1 754	1 187	567
Operating result	8	-3 040	-1 754	-1 187	-567
Brought forward from 2004		4 794	1 754	1 754	567
Carried forward to 2006	8	1 754	0	567	0

User-financed assignments. NOK 1 000

	Notes	Accounts 2004	Budget 2005	Accounts 2005	Budget 2006
Appropriations		110 100	113 700	125 000	127 300
Additional income		21 483	21 237	32 177	31 622
Commission revenues		131 583	134 937	157 177	158 922
Total revenues	9	131 583	134 937	157 177	158 922
Wage costs		86 991	93 233	95 375	106 457
Operating expenses		42 353	41 164	60 440	53 076
Total expenses	10	129 344	134 397	155 814	159 533
Operating result	11	2 239	540	1 363	-611
Brought forward from 2004		2 449	4 689	4 689	6 052
Carried forward to 2006	11	4 689	5 229	6 052	5 441

Major acquisitions. NOK 1 000

	Notes	Accounts 2004	Budget 2005	Accounts 2005	Budget 2006
Government appropriations	12	7 936	10 100	10 100	9 300
Total expenses	13	4 893	10 100	7 753	11 950
Operating result	14	3 043	0	2 347	-2 650
Brought forward from 2004		1 645	4 688	4 688	7 035
Carried forward to 2006	14	4 688	4 688	7 035	4 385

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

Specification of operating expenses	Accounts 2003. NOK 1 000	Accounts 2004. NOK 1 000	Accounts 2005. NOK 1 000
Machines, equipment and PCs	15 807	13 395	8 831
Consumables	5 855	4 611	5 058
Travel expenses, training etc.	22 885	26 588	26 727
Office services etc.	54 960	53 936	49 021
Consultancy services	21 690	13 389	15 240
Library	1 184	1 235	1 274
Maintenance and operation	173	158	5 331
Maintenance of buildings/plants	2 300	1 126	1 779
Management/rental of premises	40 920	41 568	47 365
Total operating expenses	165 774	156 006	160 626

Total operating expenses were NOK 160.6 million in 2005, which is NOK 4.6 million more than in 2004. In particular, the costs for consultancy services and management/rental of premises increased. The chart of accounts for 2005 has changed in relation to 2004. The increase in expenses in the account for maintenance and operation must therefore be viewed in relation to the decrease in expenses in the account for machines, equipment and PCs.

2 Government assignments

Government appropriations in 2005 were NOK 8.5 million more than in 2004. During the course of the financial year, Statistics Norway's government funding was reduced by NOK 0.4 million, and compensation received for the pay settlement was NOK 3.5 million. The revised government appropriation was thus NOK 366.2 million. Of this, a total of NOK 24 million was earmarked for two projects: NOK 9.5 million for the electronic document handling project and NOK 14.5 million for the re-organisation of the currency statistics.

3 Wage reimbursements

Statistics Norway received NOK 3.5 million in compensation for the wage settlement in 2005.

4 Reimbursements for sickness absence and maternity leave

Reimbursements for sickness absence and maternity leave totalled NOK 12.8 million in 2005. This was a slight increase from 2004 as a result of the increase in sickness absence from 4.5 per cent in 2004 to 4.9 per cent in 2005.

- 5 *Wage costs for government assignments* Wage costs were NOK 8.9 million higher than in 2004.
- 6 *Operating expenses for government assignments* Expenses for goods and services were reduced by NOK 12.9 million from 2004 to 2005. The reduction is partly related to office services and travel expenses.
- 7 *Operating result for government assignments* The operating profit is NOK 12 million, which is NOK 13.1 million more than in 2004, and NOK 8.9 more than the revised budget for 2005. This was mainly due to lower expenditures on goods and services.
- 8 *Operating result for Population and Housing Census* The Population and Housing Census had a negative operating result of NOK 1.2 million. This was due to the fact that this item only consisted of sums brought forward from 2004. Statistics Norway aims to carry forward NOK 567 000 to 2006, which will partly be used to finance the work on the Residence Address Project.
- 9 *User-financed assignments* Revenues from user-financed assignments came to NOK 157.1 million in 2005, which is an increase of NOK 25.5 million from 2004. As Statistics Norway keeps its accounts according to the cash-accounting principle, revenues fluctuate more from year to year than is the case when applying a profit-oriented policy.

User-financed assignments, by customer group. 2004 and 2005

	2004		2005	
	NOK million	Per cent	NOK million	Per cent
Total	131.5	100	157.1	100
Ministries	41.8	32	42.4	27
Other state institutions	28.4	22	41.9	27
Private customers	13.0	10	13.6	9
Municipal customers	1.3	1	1.8	1
International customers	18.6	14	27.9	18
Research institutes and universities	9.5	7	9.3	6
The Research Council of Norway	18.8	14	20.1	13

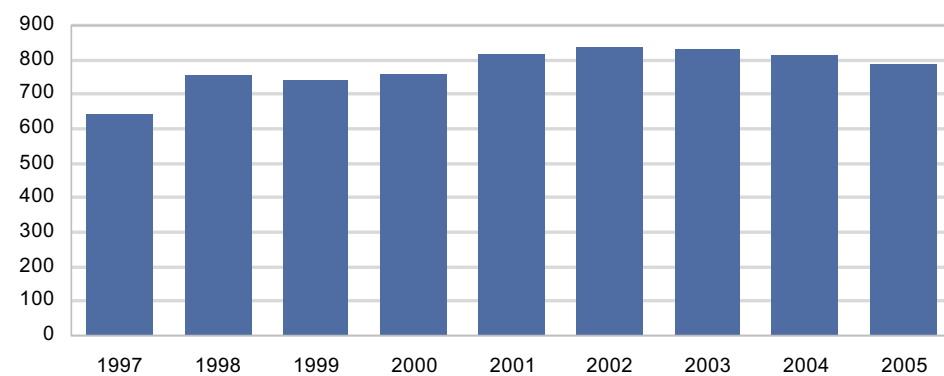
The table shows that ministries and other state institutions are Statistics Norway's main customers, contributing approximately 54 per cent of user-financed revenues. As with the accounts, the table is based on the cash-accounting principle. The distribution of revenues, particularly nominal amounts,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

- 10 *Expenses for user-financed assignments* The accounts show that the expenses for user-financed assignments came to NOK 155.8 million in 2005, which is an increase of NOK 26.4 million from 2004. The increase is due to a higher level of activity in 2005.
- 11 *Operating result for user-financed assignments* The accounts show a profit of NOK 1.3 million for user-financed assignments. This is NOK 0.8 million less than in 2004. Outstanding claims amounted to NOK 12.2 million at the end of 2005, which is an increase of around NOK 3 million from 2004.
- 12 *Government appropriations for major acquisitions* Government appropriations for major acquisitions amounted to NOK 10.1 million in 2005, which is NOK 2.1 million more than in 2004.
- 13 *Major acquisition expenses* Major acquisition expenses were NOK 2.8 million more than in 2004. This was partly due to the set-up costs for the new wages and personnel data system and new cabling in the Kongsvinger extension.
- 14 *Operating result for major acquisitions* The operating result for major acquisitions was NOK 2.3 million in 2005. Taking the amount brought forward from 2004 into account, NOK 7 million was carried forward to 2005.

4. Statistics on statistics

Statistics releases The number of statistics releases in 2005 was 791, which is 24 fewer than in 2004. The decrease is due to the statistics on water reservoir levels being taken over by NVE, with 50 annual releases. Excluding this, there has been an increase in the remainder of the releases of approximately 25 in 2005.

Number of statistics releases. 1997-2005



- New current statistics*
- Wage statistics. Labour cost indices, quarterly
 - Projections of the immigrant population, normally every three years
 - Cross border trade, quarterly
 - Health accounts, annually
 - Institutional sector accounts. Households and non-profit institutions, quarterly
 - Air transport, quarterly
 - New multi-dwelling houses, price index, twice a year
 - Accounts statistics for public-owned non-financial enterprises, annually
 - Sameting (the Sami Parliament) election, every four years
 - Specialist health care, substance abuse treatment, annually
 - Upper secondary education, annually

*Revised statistics/
data collections* All revisions of statistics and data collections are registered. This is important in order to avoid a higher response burden and the same data being collected more than once. In 2005, the following revisions were registered:

- Environmental protection expenditures in manufacturing, mining and quarrying industries – extension of the survey to also include waste and water consumption
- The balance of payments, changed from monthly to quarterly, and a change to the data collection
- Statistics on child welfare and family counselling were changed because the Family Counselling Service is now a central government office as opposed to county office
- Industry statistics for life and non-life insurance companies have been established as separate statistics and were previously published as part of the statistics on life and non-life insurance
- Structural business statistics for sewage and refuse disposal, sanitation and similar activities have been separated from structural business statistics for personal services

Decisions in 2005 on obligation to provide information/compulsory fines

The decision to make surveys mandatory and/or to introduce compulsory fines is taken separately for each survey. In 2005, the following surveys were made mandatory under the provisions of the Statistics Act:

- Foreign transactions
 - Obtaining data from international companies
 - Obtaining data from financial institutions
 - Using the currency register
- Accounts statistics, use of data from the Brønnøysund Registers
- Lorry Survey, obtaining data from leasing firms
- Obtaining data for the price index for legal services (also decision on the right to use compulsory fines)
- Obtaining data for the price index for cleaning activities (also decisions on the right to use compulsory fines)
- Obtaining data for statistics on collective transport (also decisions on the right to use compulsory fines)

Revenues from compulsory fines are not included in Statistics Norway's accounts. These revenues are entered in the national accounts. The revenues from compulsory fines totalled NOK 7 million in 2005, which is approximately NOK 345 000 less than in 2004.

Termination of statistics

The weekly statistics on water reservoir levels were taken over by the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) with effect from 1 January 2005.

Response burden for trade and industry

The total response burden increased by 13 man-years in 2005. A collaboration between Norges Bank, the Directorate of Customs and Excise in Norway and Statistics Norway on the reporting of the balance of payments has led to an overall reduction of 26 man-years due to Statistics Norway taking over the statistics responsibility from Norges Bank. This means an increase for Statistics Norway.

Response burden. 2001-2005. Man-years¹

	2001 ²	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	177	179	180	171	184
Trade and industry	97	91	91	97	102
Trade and industry exc. UT ³	97	91	91	86	84
Other	80	88	89	74	82

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

² The response burden linked to the Population and Housing Census 2001 is not included in the figures for 2001.

Estimated response burden is 368 man-years.

³ For a further explanation of UT, see page 23.

Electronic reporting

From 2005, everyone reporting from trade and industry can do so electronically via AltInn or Statistics Norway's own Idun solution. From 2006, the aim is for AltInn and Idun to be perceived as one common solution for the users. In 2005, approximately 33 per cent of the business units used the electronic reporting. In addition, the reporting is also received electronically from retail chains on behalf of 9 400 businesses for the retail sales index.

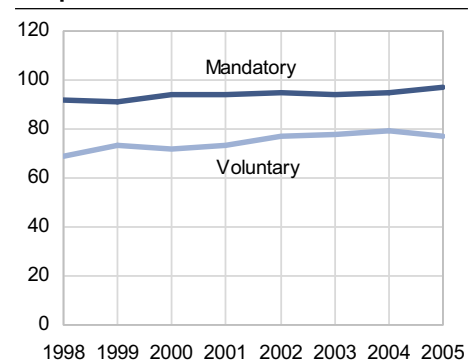
Response rates

Statistics Norway's right to use mandatory surveys naturally increases the response rate. For voluntary surveys, the response rate is considerably lower, but stable and satisfactory.

Response burden for trade and industry

In 2005, 82 per cent of enterprises were not asked to report to Statistics Norway, which is an increase from 78 per cent in 2004. It is the largest establishments that have the greatest response burden, with

Response rate. 1998-2005



almost 90 per cent of establishments with more than 20 employees taking part in surveys in 2005. There are a large number of small establishments in Norway and it is vital to have data from a selection of these in order to gain an accurate picture of the development in society. However, 40 per cent of the establishments with 10-19 employees and 86 per cent of those with less than 10 employees did not need to complete surveys from Statistics Norway in 2005.

Establishments/enterprises that do not participate in surveys, by number of employees. 2005. Per cent

	Total	Number of employees		
		0-9	10-19	20 or more
Establishments/enterprises	81.7	85.9	40.6	12.6

It will continue to be the case that the largest establishments have the greatest response burden, but in order to improve the distribution between the small/medium-sized companies, measures were taken in 2005 under the following guidelines: The number of periods that an enterprise takes part in a survey shall be limited. The number of surveys the enterprise takes part in shall be limited and as many enterprises as possible shall be given periods with exemptions from surveys.

Number of enterprises distributed by number of surveys and employees. 2005

Number of surveys	Number of enterprises	Number of employees		
		0-9	10-19	20 or more
Total	329 287	305 371	13 476	10 440
0	269 169	262 375	5 475	1 319
1	45 322	38 871	4 314	2 137
2-4	11 999	4 057	3 469	4 473
5-9	2 352	67	211	2 074
10 +	445	1	7	437

Publications

The number of standard publications was 127 in 2005. The fall from 2004 is due to random variations caused by fewer analysis publications in 2005. In 2005, a number of older publications were published on ssb.no. Every tenth yearbook from 1880 until the present day is now available on ssb.no. The aim is for all Statistics Norway's publications from pre-Internet days to be made available on ssb.no within a few years.

Various publications. 1996-2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total publications	258	268	286	316	284	274	161	170	153	127
Official Statistics of Norway ¹	83	76	61	64	48	66	46	47	28	27
Analyses publications ²	66	77	84	97	95	107	74	82	104	74
Other publications	109	115	141	155	141	101	41	41	21	26
- Economic analyses	9	9	9	9	9	6	6	6	6	6
- Samfunnsspeilet	4	4	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	6

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

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

There were also 56 publications made in the "Notater" series, which is now also available on ssb.no. The "Notater" series is mainly for internal use with only limited external interest. The series includes documentation notes, study reports, method studies, pre-projects and pilot surveys – all with a certain statistical foundation or relevance.

Two publications in the Social and Economic Studies series

- Urban and regional labour market mobility in Norway
- Population census through 200 years

New publications in the Statistical Analyses series

- Immigration and Immigrants 2004
- Norsk mediebarometer 2004 (Norwegian only - Norwegian Media Barometer 2004)
- Hundre års ensomhet? Norge og Sverige 1905-2005 (Norwegian only – A hundred years of solitude? Norway and Sweden 1905-2005)
- Natural Resources and the Environment 2004. Norway
- Nøkkeltall om Informasjonssamfunnet 2004 (Norwegian only - Key figures on the Information Society 2004)
- Seniorer i Norge (Norwegian only - OAPs in Norway)
- Norsk kulturbarometer 2004 (Norwegian only - Norwegian Cultural Barometer 2004)
- Utdanning 2005 – deltakelse og kompetanse (Norwegian only - Education 2005 – participation and qualifications)
- Naturressurser og miljø 2005 (Norwegian only - Natural Resources and the Environment 2005)

Research activities – external publishing

International publishing is crucial for Statistics Norway's research activities. There was a certain increase in the number of international books and articles in books and a decline in the number of journal articles from 2004 to 2005.

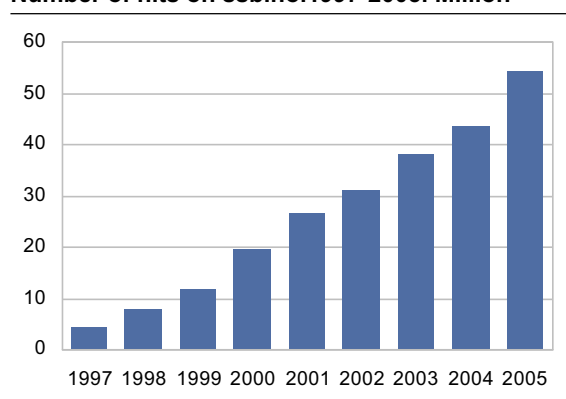
External publishing. 1996-2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Journal articles	28	20	39	24	41	35	34	38	50	41
- International journals.....	21	13	17	15	28	22	17	22	30	27
- Norwegian journals	7	7	22	9	13	13	17	16	20	14
Books and articles in books ...	8	7	4	13	18	17	8	10	10	17
- International	5	-	2	12	13	12	5	8	4	13
- Norwegian	3	7	2	1	5	5	3	2	6	4

Hits on ssb.no

The number of hits on ssb.no was 54.2 million in 2005, which is an increase from 43.4 million in 2004. The name statistics account for more than 10 million, and English pages more than 7 million. There has been a large increase in the amount of data downloaded, from 0.7 to 1.2 terabytes in 2005. The majority of our users access ssb.no via Google. Search robots made up approximately 30 per cent of all hits in 2005.

Number of hits on ssb.no.1997-2005. Million



StatBank Norway

StatBank Norway contained 1 848 table matrices at the end of 2005, which is an increase of 38 per cent from the end of 2004. Two thirds of all the statistics were fully presented in StatBank Norway, compared with just a third in 2004. The use of StatBank Norway, in terms of table extracts, increased by 47 per cent from 2004 to 2005, and 53 000 table matrices were extracted every month.

Use of the library

The number of enquiries to the Library and Information Centre continued to fall in 2005. The decline is due to the increased use of ssb.no.

Loans distributed by user group. 2003-2005

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

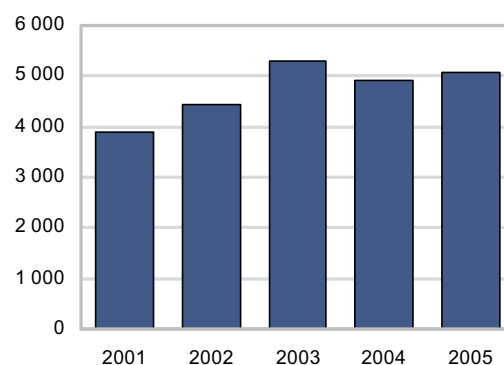
External enquiries. 2003-2005

	2003	2004	2005
E-mail	5 472	5 610	5 359
Telephone	3 132	2 942	2 645
External visitors	848	735	713
Total	9 452	9 287	8 717

External courses In 2005, 56 external courses and seminars were held with around 1 500 participants, compared with 40 courses and 1 000 participants in 2004. Fourteen KOSTRA courses were held for local politicians, mainly in central eastern Norway, and the Statistics Council has arranged eleven courses on methods and various subject topics. Students, pupils, publishing firms and the Storting have learned of offers on ssb.no.

Hearings Statistics Norway is often engaged in the consultative process when new laws and regulations are drafted and in connection with public reports (the NOU series). In 2005, submissions including a comprehensive review were prepared for 66 such proposals.

Media coverage Statistics from Statistics Norway appear daily in the Norwegian media, which shows that we are an important source of information in society. A selection of the largest electronic medias (Dagsavisen, Dagens Næringsliv, Aftenposten, Nationen, Drammens Tidende, Stavanger Aftenblad, Adresseavisen, Bergens Tidende, Sunnmørsposten, Fædrelandsvennen, Nordlys, NRK and TV2) shows a total of around 5 000 references to Statistics Norway in 2005, which is a slight increase from the previous year.

Statistics Norway in the media. 2001-2005

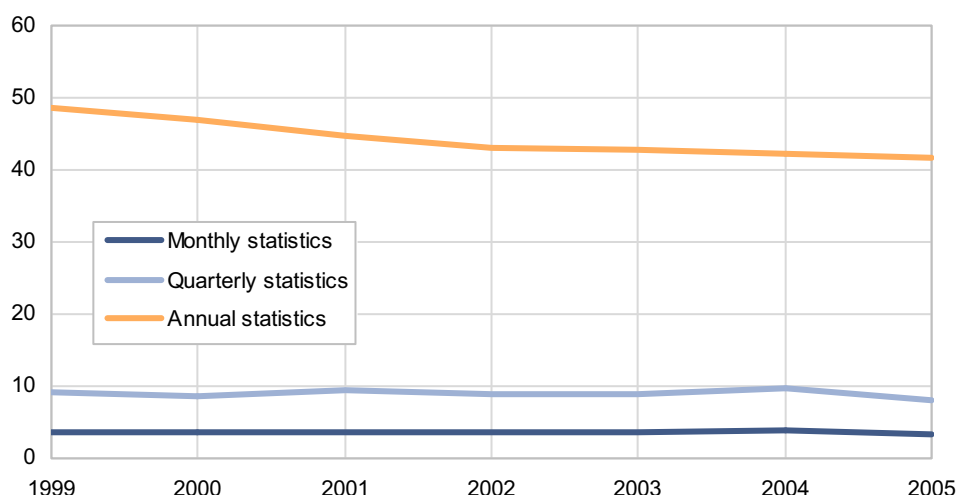
The use of Nynorsk Statistics Norway fulfilled the requirement of the Language Act with regard to the use of Bokmål and Nynorsk in external texts. 33 per cent of "Today's statistics" and 9 per cent of printed publications were in Nynorsk. All of Statistics Norway's forms and questionnaires are available in both Bokmål and Nynorsk. In 2005, Statistics Norway produced 16 brochures, 7 of which (44 per cent) were in Nynorsk.

Punctuality and timeliness Internationally as well as in Norway it is a requirement that official statistics are announced in advance and published on time. This predictability shows that various outside interests cannot influence release dates. That is why it is important for the statistics not to be released either too early or too late. In 2005, only 10 per cent of the statistics in the Advance Release Calendar were not published on time.

Punctuality. Deviations from announced time of release. 1997-2005. Per cent

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	14	10	13	15	13	10	8	11	10
Too early	6	2	4	2	3	2	2	2	3
Too late	8	8	9	13	10	8	6	9	7

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

Timeliness. 1999-2005. Number of weeks from reference period to publishing*Use of resources*

50 per cent of the working time in Statistics Norway is spent on the production of statistics. 20 per cent goes towards development projects on statistics, research and analyses. The overview shows the distribution of resources excluding absence (holidays, sick leave and other leave).

Distribution of man-hours, by type of activity. Excluding absence. 1999-2005. Per cent

Type of activity	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Man-years (exc. absence)	674	696	702	709	715	716	711
Ongoing production of statistics	53	53	53	52	51	50	49
Development projects, statistics	7	9	10	10	10	10	11
Research and analysis projects	10	10	10	11	12	12	13
Administration and planning	10	9	10	10	11	10	10
Internal support functions	19	19	18	17	17	18	17

Continued confidence in Statistics Norway

According to a survey on confidence in 27 Norwegian institutions conducted by the opinion poll company MMI, 75 per cent of the Norwegian population have great confidence in Statistics Norway. This is on a par with previous results, and places Statistics Norway sixth, after the Police, the Consumer Ombudsman, the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, banks and the education system.

As before, there is also a relatively large proportion of those asked (11 per cent) who say that they do not have any perception of Statistics Norway ("don't know/no response"). If we exclude this group and rank according to those who actually have a perception of Statistics Norway, we are third (after the Police and the Consumer Ombudsman).

Statistics Norway conducted a user survey in 2005 aimed at registered users. 61 per cent of users responded and showed that they are very satisfied with the statistics produced by Statistics Norway, ssb.no, StatBank Norway and Statistics Norway's service. According to the users, the quality of the statistics is the most important aspect for them. They gave the impression that their satisfaction with Statistics Norway is so high because Statistics Norway is competent in the skills that the users believe to be the most important: relevance, reliability, punctuality and timeliness. The survey showed, however, that many sides of Statistics Norway's activities can be improved *slightly*. The statistics could still be even more relevant, reliable and timely, and ssb.no and StatBank Norway could be even easier to use.

5. Working in Statistics Norway

Included in the budget for 2005 were 895 man-years, compared with 889 in the previous year.

Budget man-years. 1995-2005

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

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

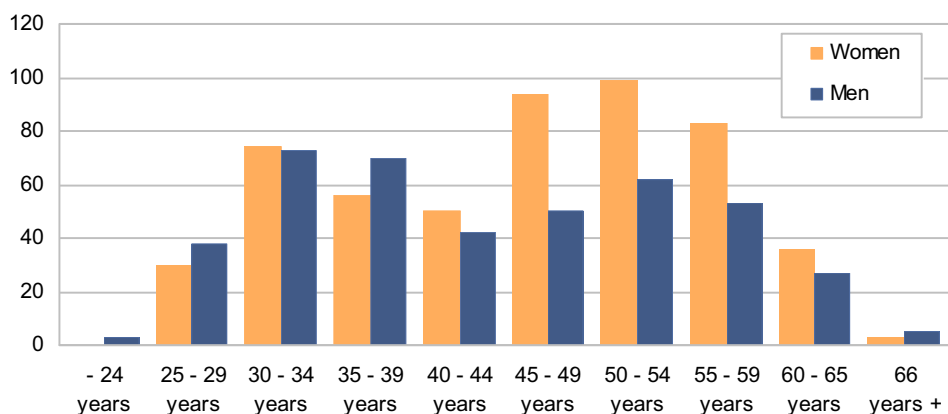
At the start of 2006, Statistics Norway had a staff of 948, including 19 employees on maternity leave. This compares with 942 employees at the start of 2005. Employees based in Oslo total 558, while 390 are based in Kongsvinger. In addition, Statistics Norway employs 166 local interviewers who work with questionnaires.

A total of 40 per cent of the employees have worked in Statistics Norway for 20 years or more. The proportion of employees who have worked in Statistics Norway for less than five years fell from 30 per cent to 25 per cent in 2005, whereas the proportion that has worked here for five to nine years increased from 16 to 21 per cent. 7 per cent have worked in Statistics Norway for 10 to 14 years and 9 per cent for 15 to 19 years. The number of employees who have worked in Statistics Norway for 30 years or more increased by 29 to 179 in 2005.

Men and women

There are more women than men in Statistics Norway. The distribution at the beginning of 2006 was 55 per cent women and 45 per cent men, which is the same as in 2005. Among those over 40, women are in the clear majority (60 per cent). Among those under 40, men are in the majority (53 per cent). In Oslo, half the employees are women, while in Kongsvinger 62 per cent are women.

Employees in Statistics Norway. 31 December 2005



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

Women at the beginning of the year. 1999-2006. Per cent

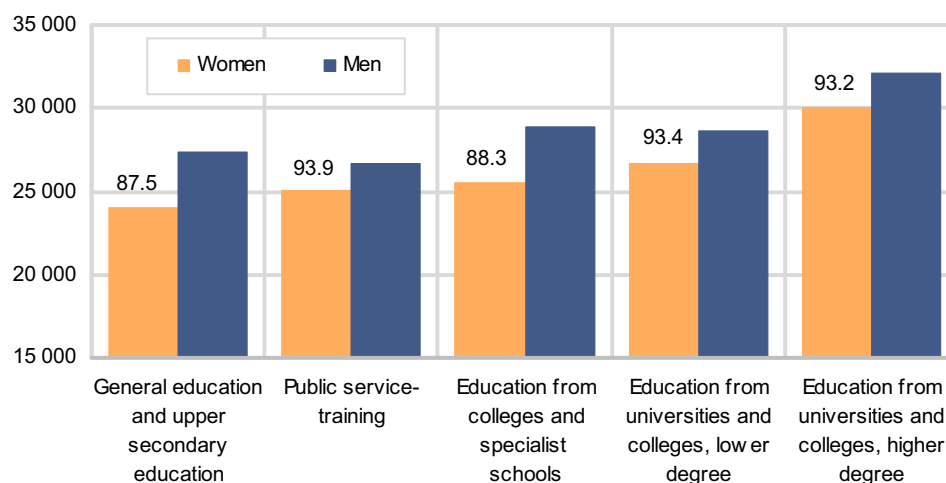
	1999	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Office positions	93	90	94	93	90	89
Executive officers, lower level	79	84	85	84	84	83
Executive officers, higher level	40	43	48	50	48	53
Academic/research positions	34	32	33	35	37	37
Managerial positions.....	24	30	33	29	29	31

There were 51 managerial positions in Statistics Norway at the beginning of 2006. With 16 women and 35 men in these positions, the percentage of female managers is 29, the same as in the previous year. The average age of managers is 50, and 26 of them were in managerial positions in Statistics Norway five years ago. 18 were in charge of the same division or department as today, while 8 were in charge of a different unit. Eight of the 25 new managers are women. Five of the 25 were not employed by Statistics Norway prior to becoming managers in the institution, 3 of which were women.

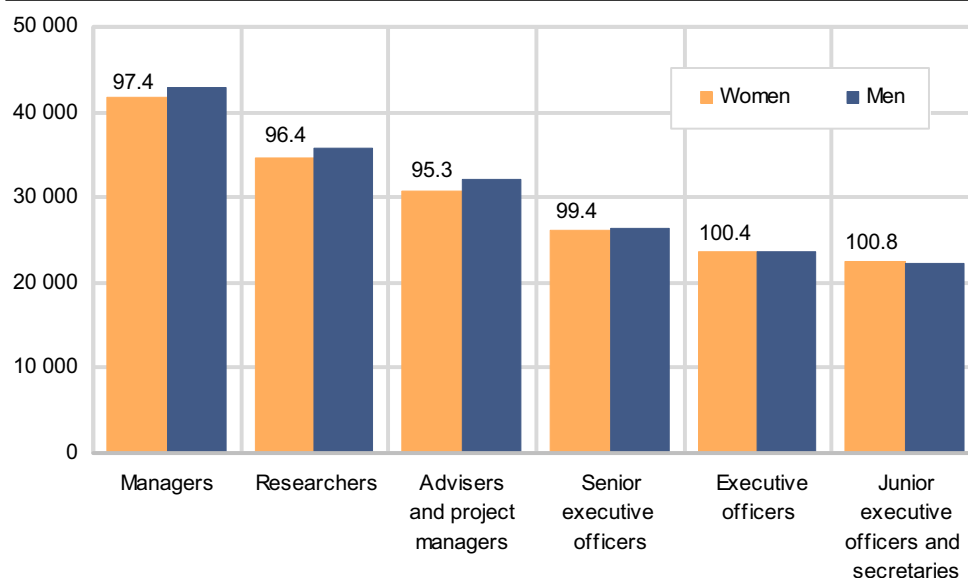
Salary, position, education

The average monthly salary for Statistics Norway employees was NOK 28 827 at 1 October 2005. Women in full-time positions earned an average monthly salary of NOK 26 951, approximately 12 per cent less than men in full-time positions, who had an average monthly salary of NOK 30 580. The differences in salary are primarily due to the high proportion of women in lower positions and in lower education groups. Compared with the previous year, women in full-time positions had a salary increase of 3.8 per cent, whereas men had an increase of 4.1 per cent.

Average monthly salary for men and women in full-time positions, by education. 1 October 2005. NOK



Average monthly salary for men and women in full-time positions, by type of position. 1 October 2005



Statistics Norway's managers had an average monthly salary of NOK 42 586 in October 2005. Women in managerial positions earned 2.6 per cent less than their

male colleagues. Among Statistics Norway's senior executive officers and advisers, and in the lowest position groups, men and women have approximately the same salary. The average salary for female researchers is 3.6 per cent less than their male counterparts.

The position group with the greatest differences in salaries between men and women is full-time advisers and project managers, where the men earn NOK 32 190 a month, 4.7 per cent more than the women.

Among women in full-time positions, those aged 35-44 and over 60 have the highest salaries. Among men, those aged 55-59 have the highest salaries.

Women earn less than men in all education groups, and the average monthly salary for women is between 6.1 to 12.5 per cent lower than for men in the various education groups from general education to higher degree university education.

Women educated at universities or university colleges and who have worked in Statistics Norway for up to 15 years earn 2-3 per cent less than men with similar education and length of service. Women who have worked here for 16-23 years earn 8.5 per cent more than men in the same group, and among those with 24 years of service and more, women earn 6.6 per cent less than men.

At the start of 2006, 46 per cent of all employees had higher degrees from universities, while 18 per cent had degrees from university colleges or lower degrees from universities. The differences in education between men and women are considerable. Whereas 33 per cent of the women hold higher degrees from universities, the figure is 61 per cent for men. 36 per cent of the employees with a higher education have worked in Statistics Norway for less than five years.

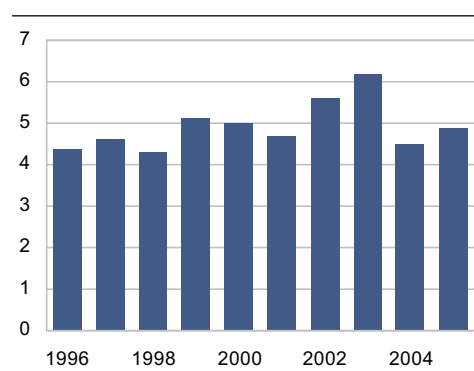
There are 165 part-time employees in Statistics Norway, with 64 per cent of these working less than 80 per cent. The majority of part-time employees are women.

A more inclusive workplace

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

In 2005, the average absence due to illness was 4.9 per cent, compared with 4.5 per cent in 2004. Statistics Norway is committed to improving the health, safety and environment of its employees. In order to prevent ill health, focus is given to physical conditions in the workplace. The follow-up of employees who are absent due to sickness or are at risk of becoming sick are given priority. The *Exercise for health* initiative is practiced during working hours both in Oslo and Kongsvinger. Around 220 people take part in this project, of which 140 are women.

Sickness absence. 1996-2005. Per cent



Representatives for the five trade unions in Statistics Norway are members of the Working Environment Committee and the Working Environment and Liaison Committee. The employees also have one representative on the Board. The trade unions are active contributors both in professional and human resource issues in Statistics Norway.

Skills development and recruitment

In 2005, Statistics Norway spent NOK 7.7 million on employee training in-house and externally. A third of these funds were channelled via internal course programmes. During the year, 110 in-house courses were arranged with a total of 815 participants.

One member of staff was awarded a PhD in 2005. A total of 31 members of staff now hold a PhD. Statistics Norway employs 68 researchers, including 27 senior researchers and 9 managers.

At the end of 2005, 32 members of staff had qualified as statistics advisers. Thirteen of these were women (41 per cent). The aim of the qualification scheme is to improve the quality of the statistics production, offer an alternative career path and reduce the turnover of staff with short terms of service. In 2005, Statistics Norway conducted its second pilot project for career planning, where the e-learning program *Karriereprogrammet I staten* was tested. The project was financed by funds from the Main Tariff Agreement.

The management training was continued in each department for each group, with the focus on team development and communication, culture and expectancy clarification.

Statistics Norway recruited 50 new members of staff in 2005, 78 per cent of which have higher degrees from universities.

The number of employees who resigned was 40, compared with 44 in 2004. This equates to 4 per cent of the total employees. Seventy per cent of those who resigned had higher degrees from universities. Eighty per cent had higher education and 65 per cent had up to four years of service.

The focus on project work and systematic quality work as a work method was continued in 2005. The Project and Team Work education programme had 24 participants, and 10 employees received training as "quality pilots". Statistics Norway currently has 36 quality pilots.

6. Statistics Norway counts and tells

A well-functioning national statistics system requires systematic data collection, a statistics product that is developed in line with the needs of society, and user-friendly dissemination. Effective IT and administrative support functions are also vital. Research and analysis have a high intrinsic value, but also contribute to a higher level of quality in the statistics product. All in all, Statistics Norway can look back at a good year in 2005.

Developing the statistics product will always be one of Statistics Norway's main tasks. New price indices were developed in 2005 for a number of areas, including legal services, telecommunications, cleaning and data processing services. Trade and industry, the authorities and consumers all need good price information. Special focus was given to developing methods for handling quality changes in the price statistics both in Norway and internationally in 2005.

A public debate took place in 2005 on the various trends in measuring unemployment by Statistics Norway and the Norwegian Public Employment Service (Aetat). Aetat showed a fall in unemployment from 2004 to 2005, while Statistics Norway's Labour Force Survey indicated continued growth in 2005. Differences in measuring methods and discrepancies in definitions can explain the disparities. Initiatives to monitor the development of these statistics were implemented to enable Aetat and Statistics Norway to more easily explain the reasons for any differences. From the autumn of 2005, both of the seasonally-adjusted statistics showed a fall in unemployment.

The UT project (statistics on foreign transactions) reached a milestone in 2005, when the new balance of payments for the first quarter was published on 7 June. In the last few years, Statistics Norway has established a new method for obtaining data on the Norwegian population's financial relations internationally in place of the currency statistics of Norges Bank and foreign assets and liabilities. This involves crucial parts of the balance of payments and Norway's international investment position statistics being based on new data collections developed through the project. The adaptation has been demanding for everyone involved, and the work has still not been completed. However, the first major milestone was reached in 2005.

Under the Statistics Act, Statistics Norway has the right to use administrative registers from the public sector for the production of statistics. This right does not yet extend to health registers, where the Personal Health Data Filing System Act sets restrictions. This means that the statistics from Statistics Norway do not cover the field of health as well as other areas of society. There are very few statistics that show the effect that the health services have on patients. In 2005, efforts were stepped up to gain access to such data, but it is still uncertain as to what extent Statistics Norway will be able to use these registers for statistical purposes.

Statistics for the public sector has been a priority area for Statistics Norway for many years. The KOSTRA system has given public authorities, researchers and the public access to comprehensive and correlated information on municipal activity, and it's now the turn of the state sector. The StatRes project was initiated in 2005 under the auspices of the Ministry of Government Administration and Reform. The aim of the project is to further develop statistics for public activities, and make these available to the public through effective and user-friendly dissemination solutions. A delimitation and systematisation of statistics for the state sector must be based on the state and national accounts. It is also a clear aim to develop indicators for production and result targets for the parts of the state sector where this is appropriate. This applies to other key statistics areas such as health and education. StatRes is a broad, transverse project, which involves resources from most of the departments in Statistics Norway. In order for this to succeed, extensive contact is also needed with other government authorities and research environments.

The review of Statistics Norway's strategic plan began in 2005. The current Strategy 2002-, is detailed and thorough, and remains current. We are therefore now aiming at a more concise, "sharp" plan document, supplemented with *sub-strategies* in several

key areas, including IT, data collection, expertise and meta data. A sub-strategy for meta data was completed in 2005. We have also initiated a *scenario process* in order to think through possible development features/changes to the surroundings and discuss the consequences for the statistics production. An important aim of the strategy process is to involve the organisation, and throughout 2006 a number of meetings and seminars will deal with special problems and discuss draft strategies.

Statistics Norway is at the forefront internationally with regard to using the capabilities offered by modern technology in order to improve the efficiency of the various sides of the production chain; from data collection to dissemination. Statistics Norway makes extensive use of administrative registers in the production of statistics. Such extensive use of registers requires Statistics Norway to have good quality statistical base registers. In 2005, further work was undertaken on the three base registers, the Register of Establishments and Enterprises, the Ground Property, Address and Building Register, and the Population Register. The base registers can be used in combination using the address as the key link.

In 2005, Statistics Norway received a number of critical comments from the Office of the Auditor General of Norway on the accounts for 2004. The comments related to certain conditions regarding Statistics Norway's procurement processes, the accounting of VAT for the purchase of services abroad, and the lack of electronic archives for active agreements and commission contracts.

The comments from the Office of the Auditor General of Norway are unfortunate, and considerable efforts were made in 2005 to rectify the various elements in the otherwise satisfactory financial management. One of the measures implemented is an electronic assignments archive. Routines have also been established in order to ensure that threshold values are not exceeded during the procurement process. Work to ensure well-functioning internal controls is making good progress.

The Norwegian Government Agency for Financial Management took over as the supplier of wage services in 2005 both for Statistics Norway and other public institutions after the Government Administration Service terminated the existing agreement. The transition has been demanding both in terms of finances and resources, and the system is still not completely satisfactory. However, the most important elements are now in place and have worked throughout the entire transition phase; salary payments to employees have been made as planned.



Statistics Norway was certified under the Eco-Lighthouse Programme in Norway in 2005. Thus, Statistics Norway fulfils a number of requirements linked to the handling of waste, transport, travel and energy use.

A new extension to the Kongsvinger offices was completed in December 2005. 100 employees can now move into new premises that are linked together with the rest of the Statistics Norway premises, with a nice shared canteen. The Directorate of Public Construction and Property was responsible for the project, which was executed within the time frame and at a somewhat lower price than estimated.

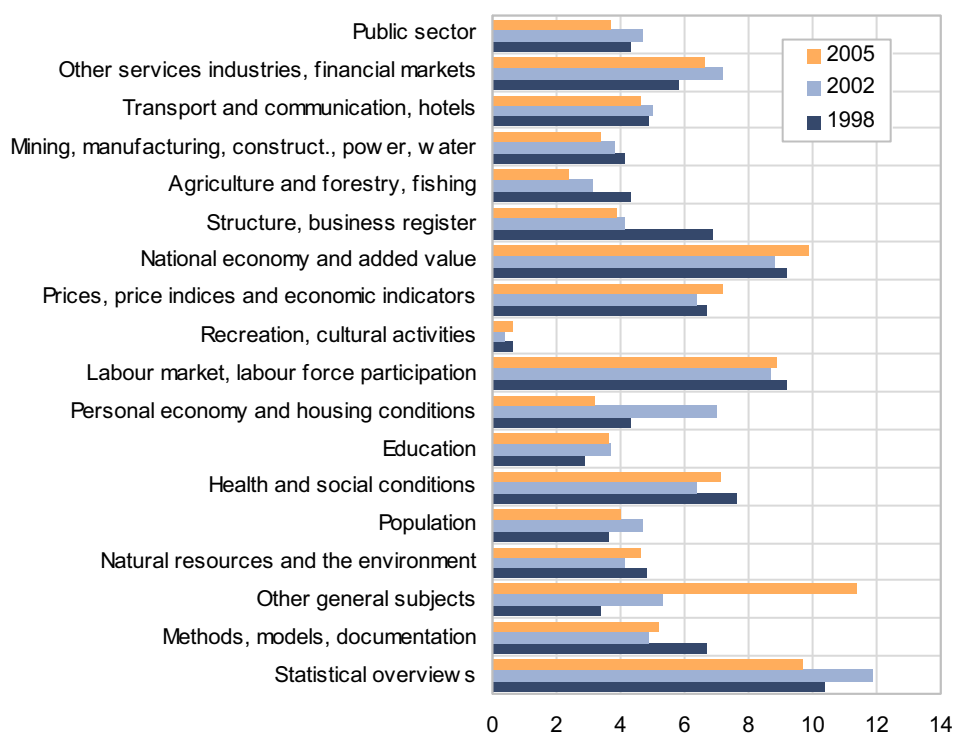
2005 was my first year as Director General of Statistics Norway. I was already aware that the activity was extensive, varied and diverse. I also knew that there are many who work hard to ensure that complicated processes are adhered to and developed in order to be able to provide statistics for a constantly changing society. I am impressed and proud of the work that is carried out by all employees. It is this effort that ensures that Statistics Norway is an institution that counts and tells.

Øystein Olsen
Øystein Olsen

7. Activity in 2005

Activities carried out were divided into the following areas:

Man-hours by subject. 1998, 2002 and 2005. Per cent



7.1 Electronic data collection from industry

All of Statistics Norway's questionnaires for trade and industry could be reported electronically in 2005. Electronic reporting from trade and industry is provided via Statistics Norway's web solution IDUN, via AltInn and through data collection from the respondents' computer systems, for instance payroll systems. In addition, large amounts of data are collected directly from retail chains instead of individual stores.

The proportion of respondents who use electronic reporting is steadily increasing. A total of 33 per cent of Statistics Norway's questionnaires to trade and industry were delivered electronically via IDUN or AltInn in 2005.

Reporting is also received from around 105 retail chains, and helps to a large extent to reduce the response burden to trade and industry.

Trade and industry's increased use of electronic reporting of the SLN materials via the submission solution and now via AltInn, has led to a major increase in Statistics Norway's data capture. A total of 288 000 businesses used AltInn in the financial year 2004, compared with 175 000 the previous year.

7.2 Population management

Statistics Norway has three statistical base registers that cover the population, establishments and enterprises, and ground property, addresses and buildings. There is the statistical version of the Central Population Register, which is the Population Register and the Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises, which is combined with Brønnøysund's Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities, and the statistical version of Statistics Norway's Register of Ground Property, Address and Building Register (GAB).

Statistics Norway's three statistical base registers are designed for shared use, where the address is the key link.

An upgraded version of the statistical version of GAB was implemented in 2005. The database is all-inclusive and a message system gives systematic feedback to the register owner, the Norwegian Mapping Authority, of errors and omissions that are identified.

Establishing complete group relations based on the reporting to the Register of Shareholders is part of the focus linked to the Register of Establishments and Enterprises. The outcome of this work in 2005 produced good results, and may lead to the end of direct reporting obligations to the Brønnøysund registers on group relations. In the public sector area, work continues on coordinating the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities/Register of Establishments and Enterprises with various administrative registers and simplifying the reporting.

Establishing households as a statistical unit has been a priority in the Population Register in 2005. Households as a population shall be based on links between houses/house numbers in GAB and persons/families with house numbers in the Population Register.

7.3 Economic statistics and industry statistics

Price project

The aim of the project is to develop new and upgrade existing statistics on prices and volumes. In 2005, price indices were developed for car rentals, legal services, telecommunications, cleaning services, lorry transport, air services, conducted tours and data processing services. Methods for handling quality changes were developed in 2005, both in Norway and abroad.

Labour market

A survey was conducted in 2005 on labour force participation and care responsibilities. A survey on temporary employment was also conducted as part of the Labour Force Surveys.

The fact that Aetat showed a fall in unemployment from 2004 to 2005, while Statistics Norway's statistics from the Labour Force Survey showed continued growth in 2005 attracted a great deal of attention. There are several differences in the definitions and discrepancies in the measuring methods between the two number series, which can explain the disparities. On this basis, amongst others, an ongoing system for monitoring the number series is being developed, which means that the explanations can be found quicker in similar situations in the future. From the autumn of 2005, both of the number series showed a fall in the seasonally-adjusted unemployment.

Register-based employment statistics were extended to include figures on persons with short-term stays in Norway and statistics on further education such as health and social services personnel. Systems were also developed for special statistics for teaching personnel in primary schools and upper secondary schools, and for employees in the Church of Norway.

It has taken longer than planned to include occupations in the Register of Employees. At the end of 2005, municipal employees still had no occupation code in the Register of Employees.

Statistics of foreign transactions (UT)

From 2005, Statistics Norway has established a new system through the UT project for obtaining data on the Norwegian population's financial relations internationally in place of Norges Bank's currency statistics, which were discontinued at the end of 2004. The new surveys that have been set up, also replace the foreign assets and liabilities.

This involves crucial parts of the balance of payments and Norway's international investment position statistics from 2005 being based on new data collections developed through the UT project. The first major milestone in 2005 was to publish a new balance of payments for the first quarter of 2005 based on new data. This milestone was reached, and figures were published on 7 June 2005.

With regard to the non-financial sector, a data capture system has been established where the bulk of the data is retrieved directly from the enterprises on an annual and quarterly basis. Developing the new data capture system was more complicated than expected, and this has resulted in the data still not being of the desired quality. A great deal of work by a number of central reporting parties in 2005 has helped remedy this. With regard to the household sector, the activity has been concentrated on credit card companies and the cross border trade survey. The quality so far seems to be satisfactory. A separate system has been established for public administration and non-profit organisations in order to obtain data for the sector.

Routines for the exploitation of register data from the Directorate of Taxes, the National Insurance Administration and the Directorate of Customs and Excise are currently being drawn up. The new currency register, which will be crucial to the updating of the population, has been set up, but will not be fully effective until some time in 2006.

House rentals In order to provide a better data basis for tenants, Statistics Norway conducted a rental market survey in 2005. The results from the survey are useful data for applying in house rental regulations. The data will also be considered in relation to improving the measuring of rent in the consumer price index.

New Accounting Act The new Accounting Act, with adaptations for international standards, can result in a change in the access to information on the financial statistics. A national contact network was established for the optimum safeguarding of the need for information in public statistics. In 2005, Statistics Norway took part in a number of consultations on accounting and tax matters with the Norwegian Accounting Standards Board and the Ministry of Finance.

Share statistics New share statistics were released with holdings as at 31 December 2004, with the Directorate of Taxes' Shareholder Register as the source. This data source will also be crucial to Statistics Norway's work with group structures and foreign ownership in Norway.

System for agricultural statistics A system has been developed for data on agricultural establishments and properties based on data from administrative registers and Statistics Norway's surveys. This system could reduce the scope of a complete agricultural census in 2010, and will improve the capability to compile agricultural analyses.

Oslo group for energy statistics The work linked to establishing the Oslo group for energy statistics began in 2005, during which time the first meeting of the group was held. The group works under the auspices of the UN in order to develop the international energy statistics. In 2005, Statistics Norway worked on documenting methods and quality in the oil statistics.

7.4 Statistics for the public sector

KOSTRA The *KOSTRA* reporting covers 17 statistics areas each year, and around 220 000 forms and questionnaires are submitted.

The main publication of *KOSTRA* figures in June 2005 was a success, but there were problems related to the preliminary release in March. The figures were published in StatBank Norway as planned, while the ordinary *KOSTRA* tables were released in April. Work on developing quality indicators for the municipalities' services was undertaken in 2005.

Fourteen KOSTRA courses were held in 2004/2005 for local politicians. The courses were well received, and arrangements are being made to continue this activity in 2006.

The use of KOSTRA's system for electronic reporting has increased. The quarterly reporting of municipal accounts and the accounts reporting of the church sector now take place via KOSTRA. A pilot project for the electronic reporting of service data for the churches was also conducted in 2005. This was successful, and arrangements are being made for full scale reporting from next year. In addition, a pilot project for the reporting of individual payroll data from the municipalities was conducted.

StatRes Commissioned by the Ministry of Government Administration and Reform (formerly the Ministry of Modernisation), Statistics Norway carried out a pre-project for a system to develop and improve statistics on public activity, known as StatRes. The aim of the project is to develop a coordinated system for descriptions of activity, achieving targets and use of resources in the state sector.

The work shall to a large extent be based on existing statistics, with the development of indicators in order to describe the state sector and a joint and uniform publication.

Accounts statistics Accounts statistics are collected for the public sector, i.e. the state accounts and other state and social security accounts, municipal accounts, and accounts for public-owned enterprises. The accounts are included in the national accounts, international reporting and separate publications. In 2005, new accounts statistics were compiled for public-owned enterprises.

Wage statistics Wage statistics for the health enterprises 2004 with its own data collection was presented for the first time in 2005. The collaboration with the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities for the retrieval of wage data for municipal employees, including teaching personnel, was further strengthened in 2005. The Ministry of Government Administration and Reform has initiated the renewal of the State Central Register of Government Employees, and Statistics Norway's role is to safeguard the data for official statistics.

7.5 Social statistics

Health statistics Statistics Norway's statistics on health cover the following parts of the sector, with statistics on the level of activity, personnel and finances: The municipal health services including the dental health service, the specialist health service (hospital statistics) and the nursing and care services. Statistics of health personnel are based to an increasing extent on register data. Since there is still no data on individuals who use the services, no statistics are available that throw light on the effect of the services. However, preliminary work was carried out in 2005 in order to gain access to such data, with regard to the specialist health service (Norwegian patient register), the municipal health service (SEDA) and the nursing and care services (IPLOS). It is still not certain how much access there will be to use these registers in official statistics.

Population and Housing Census Identifiers of the Population and Housing Census were mapped in 2005 based on international recommendations for population and housing census. What can be created directly on the basis of annual register statistics has been mapped, as well as what cannot be covered by means of register data. The problems are primarily linked to the housing identifiers, and to the fact that there is not full coverage of residence addresses in all municipalities. Statistics Norway has also participated in the UN's efforts for new recommendations for the population census in 2010, and was responsible for a Nordic project that will document Nordic practice in the area of register statistics.

7.6 Research activities

<i>Analyses of tax, distribution and consumer behaviour</i>	Work has been carried out on new and more extensive models in the tax area in 2005, with particular emphasis on corporate taxation. The tax computation models were important contributors to the figures in the Bondevik government's tax programme in 2005 and in the work related to the additional proposition by the Stoltenberg government. The calculation model for goods and products exposed to cross border trade was used in parliamentary bill 1 (2005-2006). In 2005, the analysis work linked to tax contributed to the evaluation of the tax reform of 1992 financed by the Research Council of Norway.
<i>Energy and environmental analyses</i>	After many years of major overcapacity on the supply side in the power market, the demand has gradually begun to match the capacity. This has contributed to rising prices in the market. At the same time, the prices are also being affected by increased gas prices, the introduction of emission quotas for CO ₂ and falling coal prices. The authorities are also considering introducing new policy instruments in order to improve the access to renewable energy. A number of research projects in Statistics Norway in 2005 analysed problems linked to these development aspects. With a better balance between supply and demand, the prices in the market will also be able to fluctuate more than previously due to the variation in the inflows to the hydro power reservoirs. In the aftermath of the crisis in 2003, the effect of inflow failures other than those experienced at the time have also been analysed. The effects of instruments are also influenced by the households' adaptations and the composition of the electricity consumption, and analyses show that a considerably smaller share goes to heating homes than was previously estimated. Analyses have also been carried out on the framing of the quota market for greenhouse gases and the effect of other countries' emissions under various formulations of the climate policy.
<i>Indicators for sustainable development</i>	NOU 2005:5 <i>Enkle signaler i en kompleks verden</i> (Norwegian only – Simple signals in a complex world) presents a set of indicators in order to monitor whether the development in Norway is moving in a sustainable direction. Statistics Norway has played a key role in developing the indicator set and the National Budget 2006 supports the proposal for the indicator set, and notes that Statistics Norway will play a key role in the ongoing work. A number of the indicators require to be developed.
<i>Analyses of economic cycles and macro models</i>	There has been a great and growing interest in the cyclical development and how the Norwegian economy works in recent years. The introduction of the inflation target in the monetary policy has probably contributed to this interest, as the development in interest rates is more related to the development of central macroeconomic variables. As usual, Statistics Norway produced four cyclical reports containing prognoses in 2005. Various articles and reports have also been written that throw light on how the Norwegian economy works. The importance of interest rates and exchange rates for the cyclical development and price development in Norway were studied. The factors that determine the currency rate were also studied.
<i>Analyses of the labour market and firm behaviour</i>	A comprehensive project was carried out on the calculation of schools' contribution indicators in 2005. Work continued on a long running project on the evaluation of the SkatteFUNN scheme. A project was carried out in labour market research in order to investigate how the length of unemployment and financial incentives affect the likelihood of leaving the labour force. Two other projects linked to the relationship between technological changes and early retirement, and reasons for the development in invalidity pensions in the 1990s were completed.
<i>Public finance</i>	Analyses of the long-term development in public finance were carried out in 2005, including growth in the tax base and government spending on pensions, health services and care for the elderly. Effects of incentives to work, income distribution of the tax system and various welfare schemes have also been analysed. Analyses

of income distribution, poverty and a Nordic collaboration project on regional labour force mobility were concluded.

Economic growth and efficiency

Statistics Norway's equilibrium model for economic growth and efficiency was developed further in 2005 with a review of the income model. Sensitivity analyses were also carried out of several key parameters in the model. The equilibrium model is used in a number of applied analyses, including analyses of efficiency effects of energy subsidies to energy-intensive industries. The model was also used in several environmental-economic analyses, and in analyses of public finance in the long term. Additionally, the model was used for a project that analyses driving forces behind technological development and knowledge accumulation in a small, open country such as Norway. This project particularly focuses on the correlation between innovation policies and environmental policies to achieve environmental-political targets.

Petroleum and environmental-economic analyses

The global oil market model was used in 2005 to consider different scenarios for the oil price. Analyses indicate that it will be profitable for OPEC to maintain a high oil price both in the short and medium term (30 years). Offers of gas from Russia to Europe have also been considered by analysing how Russia's export to a large extent depends on which policy is in force in the country. If Russia maintains its target of low national gas prices, this will result in Russia exporting less to Europe than is desirable by Russia. Analyses have also been carried out on to what extent business policies and climate policies can have mutual benefits for each other. It was found that the authorities in a small country can have good grounds for setting stringent emission targets for its national industry. This is primarily due to the fact that stringent emission targets will result in fiercer competition between industrial cleaning companies and thereby lower prices on cleaning equipment. This is a new type of strategy that has not been discussed in literature to any great extent. A report has also been published that follows and analyses the development in the Norwegian national wealth during the period 1985 to 2004.

Analyses of population development

New population projections for Norway and all municipalities were published in December 2005. A national projection of the immigrant population was also presented.

A single model has been developed for the ongoing monitoring of the fertility rate. This makes it possible to quickly analyse the underlying components in the development as soon as data becomes available. Key research work in 2005 includes a Nordic project on family policies, fertility trends and family changes, analyses of relationship development and relationship breakdowns, and a Swedish-Norwegian project on registered partnerships. Using data from an extensive postal survey, young Norwegians' fertility and marriage intentions have also been analysed. The same data set was used to analyse choices of surnames upon marriage and choices of surnames for children.

Analyses of living conditions

In 2005, analyses of the contact and finances of single parents and parents with visitation rights were conducted as part of the evaluation of the child maintenance reform of 2003. An analysis of parents' working time and working time arrangements, and an analysis of the farming population's living conditions and analyses of attitudes to immigrants were also carried out. Additionally, an analysis of the correlation between living conditions and crime was carried out in 2005, as well as of the living conditions in inner east Oslo and changes in the settlement pattern of immigrants in Oslo.

7.7 Availability for users

Data for research

An initial version of web pages with information on Data for research has been created, including direct links to definitions and variables. This work is part of a larger exercise to improve the infrastructure and access to micro data for researchers. In June, a broad-based seminar was arranged with a large participation from external research environments.

Twenty older statistics publications were published on *ssb.no*, including Historical statistics 1978, as well as every tenth edition of Statistics Yearbook 1880-1990. The aim is for all older publications to gradually be made available in a searchable form on *ssb.no*.

ssb.no Statistics Norway celebrated the 10th anniversary of *ssb.no* on 1 March. The number of *ssb.no* users is still rising. There were 54.2 million enquiries in 2005, compared with 43.4 million in 2004. The "Focus on" pages on *ssb.no* were further developed and provide an overview, present key figures and explain what the central statistics are for an area of society. At the end of 2005, there were 28 "Focus on" pages. The "Focus on" pages have been well received by the users. Efforts are ongoing in order to use new Internet technology to optimise the services on *ssb.no* for the users. A number of long time series for historical population statistics and historical national accounts are now available in StatBank Norway. The users provide good feedback on StatBank Norway.

As is normally the case in an election year, Statistics Norway published election-related articles in the run up to the election in order to provide as much possible information on the relevant political topics.

7.8 International cooperation

International statistical cooperation has always been important in order to achieve better international comparisons and to strengthen the quality of the statistics. The European cooperation within the frameworks of the EEA is crucial. The cooperation is resource-intensive, both through participation in meetings and projects, and through adapting the Norwegian statistics system to international standards and requirements.

A preliminary overview shows that 112 meetings were held in 2005 in connection with the statistical cooperation in the EEA, compared with 107 the previous year. The number of meetings in OECD and the UN/ECE totalled 24 for 2005, which is the same as in 2004.

In 2005, a total of 25 new legislative acts within statistics were included in the EEA agreement. The majority entail initiating existing orders from the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, however there were also legislative acts linked to the harmonising of the gross national income, statistics on the balance of payments and on public sector debt. The total number of legislative acts within the statistics area is now close to 190.

The work to improve efficiency in the dissemination of data to international organisations was followed up, and new technical transfer methods are being used to a growing extent. In 2005, a multiplexing of statistical information that was transferred to EUROSTAT via a standard data dissemination channel was achieved.

At the end of 2005, there were Norwegian figures for a total of 101 out of 116 possible indicators in the database of comparable indicators for the EU countries based on the Lisbon process.

At a Nordic level, the cooperation continues on the Nordic statistical yearbook and professional development cooperation in various areas, including in connection with the use of administrative registers and with regard to the possibility of establish a register of Nordic companies that have activities in more than one Nordic country.

Development cooperation

Statistics Norway's international development cooperation aims at providing professional assistance to build up institutional statistics and social planning capacity in countries in the southern hemisphere in a financial transition phase. The work is financed entirely by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/NORAD.

At the end of 2005, Statistics Norway had ongoing long-term collaboration projects with the statistics agencies in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Eritrea, Albania and Moldova. Plans have also been drawn up for similar cooperation with South Sudan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

In 2005, Statistics Norway carried out work on establishing a system for monitoring poverty. A report based on this was published for Malawi in cooperation with the Malawian statistics agency. Statistics Norway also published a presentation and documentation of a statistical model for the probability of being poor in 2005.

Since 2003, Statistics Norway has run a programme for the exchange of younger statisticians financed by Fredskorpset (the peace corps). Under the programme, an employee observes in the cooperating country's statistics agency, while Statistics Norway is host for a statistician from the relevant country. The purpose of the exchange is to run mutual capacity building and raise the level of interest for international cooperation. In 2005, a new exchange agreement with Uganda was implemented, and new country agreements are planned for 2006.

7.9 Electronic integration

Electronic integration is an extensive programme carried out over several years, which develops integrated solutions for user-friendly reporting, re-use and exchange of information between public institutions and coordinated dissemination of all official statistics in Norway.

The programme exploits and builds on experiences that are gained through the work of *ssb.no*, KOSTRA and IDUN/AltInn. In order to achieve better integration between these solutions, amongst others, a common IT platform was created in 2005 that is based on the principles of service-based architecture. IT solutions of this nature can easily be used by others.

A system was completed in 2005 which safeguards the use of electronic forms for all of Statistics Norway's formed-based surveys of trade and industry. The planned integration between Statistics Norway's solutions for e-forms, IDUN and AltInn was not implemented in 2005. Pending a new security portal, the integration was postponed because the security portal will be a vital element in the interaction between the solutions.

The planning of the functionality in order to develop a portal for the common dissemination of official statistics is completed for the most part. All official statistics shall be available to users at the same place. The reporting of statistics to international organisations is also a part of this dissemination work.

7.10 Data security and quality assurance

Systematic quality work

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

The quality work has become increasingly more integrated in all aspects of our activities, and quality "pilots" now take part as advisers in projects. In 2005, ten employees were trained as pilots and refresher courses were held for existing pilots. Emphasis is placed on documenting best practices and recommended methods in different areas.

Data security and back-up are also part of the quality assurance work. In 2005, this work concentrated on the internal controls of procedures and back-up planning based on statutory requirements.

Meta data and documentation

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

Statistics Norway's meta data strategy is a guide for the meta data work. The content of the individual meta data systems is being developed such that a system, for instance, documents Statistics Norway's standard classifications and other Statistics Norway variables. Links have been created between the individual systems so that information from one system is also available in other systems where this is relevant. In this way, the users are given a uniform meta data system, and storing information in more than one place can be minimised and the information be made more easily accessible.

In recent years, the documentation has been developed systematically in the form of "About the statistics" on ssb.no. Almost all new statistics are now accompanied by this documentation of terms, production methods and quality.

Two central meta data systems are the database for standard classifications and a documentation system for variables that are used in the statistics. The standard database is available on ssb.no, and the variable database is available to a certain extent via other systems.