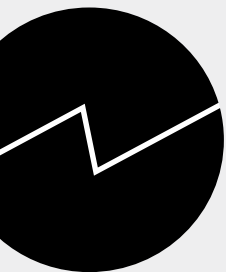


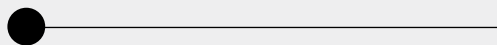
Statistics Norway



Statistisk sentralbyrå



This is  **Statistics Norway**  
– an institution that counts







## **Statistics Norway – an institution that counts**

Statistics Norway is the central body responsible for covering the need for statistics on Norwegian society. Official statistics are the nation's common factual basis and are essential for a living democracy.

Statistics should yield information about differences and correlations in society – between groups, over time and across borders. Statistics should reflect society and show trends in the population and living conditions, the economy, the environment and trade and industry.

Statistics Norway seeks to have satisfied users and motivated data providers, and this requires quality at all stages of production. The aim is for all of Statistics Norway's output to be relevant, up-to-date, precise and accessible. This has to be achieved while meeting very stringent privacy requirements.

Statistics Norway is a professionally independent institution, which is essential in order for official statistics to have the integrity and authority to fulfil their role in society. Individuals, businesses, the authorities, the media, institutes of education and researchers alike can all benefit from Norwegian official statistics.

Hans Henrik Scheel  
*Director General*



## Statistics on people and living conditions

Statistics about people provide information on how the population is developing, changes in our lifestyles and education and health in the country. Statistics and analyses describe noteworthy aspects of life in Norway today. In order to see life in Norway in an international perspective, Norwegian statistics are compared with those from other parts of the world.

Since the first population census in 1769 (more than a century before the founding of Statistics Norway in 1876), statistics have become more comprehensive generation by generation. Today, Statistics Norway produces statistics and analyses of living conditions, health, education, housing, consumption, culture, employment and incomes. Data is collected from administrative registers and from our own surveys. Statistics Norway keeps accounts of the size of the population, numbers of births, deaths, and marriages, and immigration and emigration.

### Economic growth and the environment

Because Statistics Norway produces statistics on both environmental impacts and economic production and consumption, it is possible to investigate whether economic growth leads to increased pressure on the environment. Data from the national accounts and statistics on the environment provide detailed information on economic growth and emission patterns broken down by industry. To date, the figures show that climate gas emissions have increased from their 1990 level, but relatively less than economic growth.

## Statistics on natural resources and the environment

Together with other environmental information, official statistics provide the core data for describing the state of the environment and natural resources in Norway. Statistics Norway's statistics and analyses show the trends in pollution, waste, emissions and the use of natural resources. The statistics shed light on the sustainability of developments in Norwegian society. Statistics Norway also maintains an overview of land use in the country.

The purpose of statistics on the environment is to describe the present situation, changes that are taking place, and the consequences of measures that are taken.

# The statistics



## Economic statistics and the national accounts

Statistics Norway compiles statistics on all goods and services produced in Norway. The statistics show where in the country production takes place, the number of employees and other quantifying indicators that describe activity in everything from agriculture and manufacturing to the service industries. The outcome of the production is either utilised in Norway or for export – and statistics on this are available as well. The external trade statistics also contain import figures for the individual goods and services at a detailed level.

The economic statistics show price trends for various goods and services, owners of limited companies, and how much is spent on research and development work. Statistics Norway publishes figures on the scope of house-building in Norway and on the number of holiday trips Norwegians make in Norway and abroad. The statistics also provide information on households' wealth and debt, and the banks' deposits and lending.

Most of the economic statistics are used in the national accounts to give a complete picture of Norwegian economics. The national accounts show how the different parts of the economy relate to each other, and also provide, among other factors, figures on GDP and other main indicators. The national accounts can be used in international comparisons. The GDP figure per capita shows for instance that Norway is in a better economic position than most other countries, adjusted for price level differences.

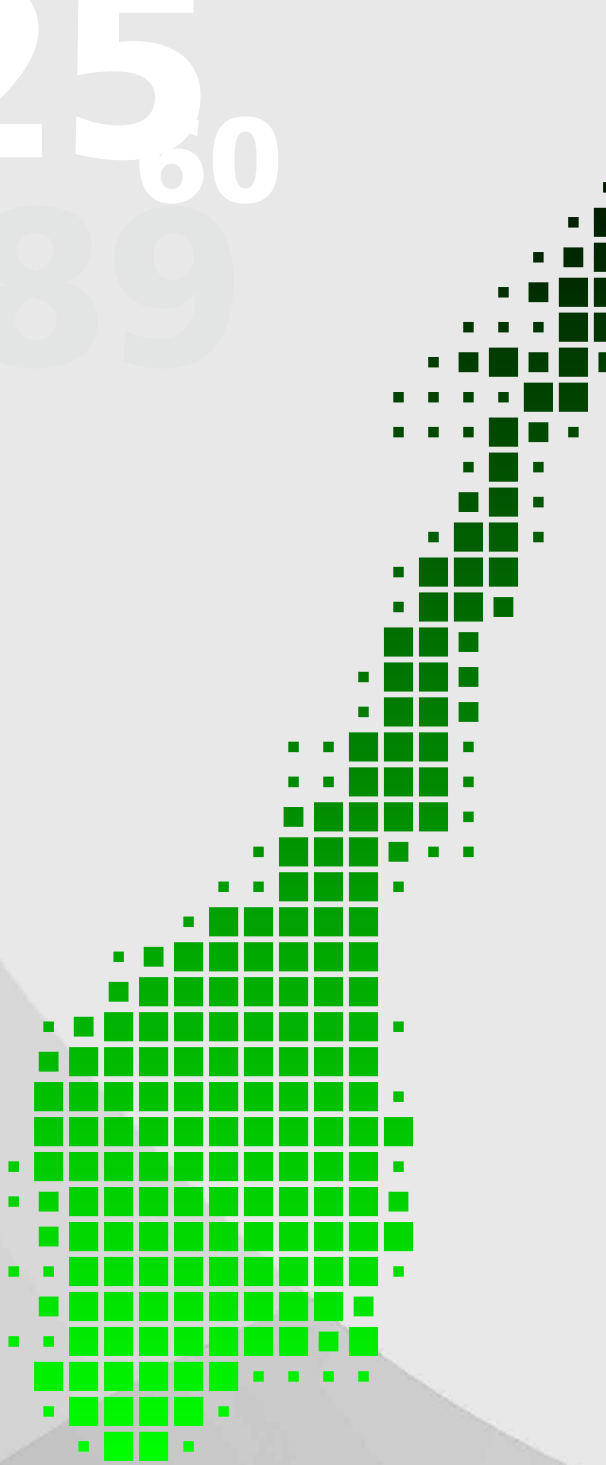
The national accounts are an important source of information for analyses of the Norwegian economy, and for shaping economics policies. Various time series with comparable figures dating back to 1970 are included in the national accounts.

An increasingly large proportion of economic players are multinational companies, and the transnational movement of capital has increased substantially. Statistics Norway issues statistics on economic relations between Norway and other countries and maps various aspects of globalisation.

Statistics on financial institutions and securities are aimed at elucidating what happens in the financial markets.

# 25<sub>60</sub>

# 89



## **Statistics on municipal, county and national government activities**

Statistics Norway publishes a broad selection of statistics at county and municipal level, ranging from municipal activities, population, the environment, municipal economy and business and industry. Some of the statistics are generated at even more detailed geographical levels, such as by neighbourhood or electoral constituency.

KOSTRA (an abbreviation for Municipality-State-Reporting) is an information system on municipal and county activities. It contains comprehensive data on activities ranging from the economy, education, health, culture, the environment, social services and housing to technical services and communication. The figures show priorities, coverage and productivity, and the system enables comparisons between neighbouring municipalities as well as county and national averages.

# • The statistics

51  
78  
22  
90

The StatRes (state resource use and results) system contains statistics on resource consumption in different sectors of the state. These include indicators of activities undertaken and the outcomes of different aspects of public sector initiatives. The aim of StatRes is to contribute to improved factual and analytical decision-support and a more informed debate on the development of the state.

## **Election statistics**

Statistics Norway produces statistics concerning municipal elections and elections for the Sami and Norwegian national parliaments. During the elections, Statistics Norway is responsible for collecting, collating and communicating the election results.





Statistics Norway with close to 1000 employees is one of the few statistical agencies in the world to have its own research department. Annually, more than 100 man-years are performed within a variety of specialist domains.

One of the aims of the research is to provide new knowledge about economic behaviour and the economic and social impacts of political measures. Research is often undertaken in close collaboration with researchers at universities, colleges and other research institutes in Norway and abroad.

#### **Statistics Norway's fortune-tellers**

Four times a year, Statistics Norway publishes forecasts of how the Norwegian and international economy will develop in the years ahead.

Every year, Statistics Norway also publishes projections of the population of Norway, based on estimates of fertility, mortality, immigration and emigration.

The key areas of activity are:

- **Demographics and living conditions**

How are the population and our living conditions changing?

- **Energy and environmental economics**

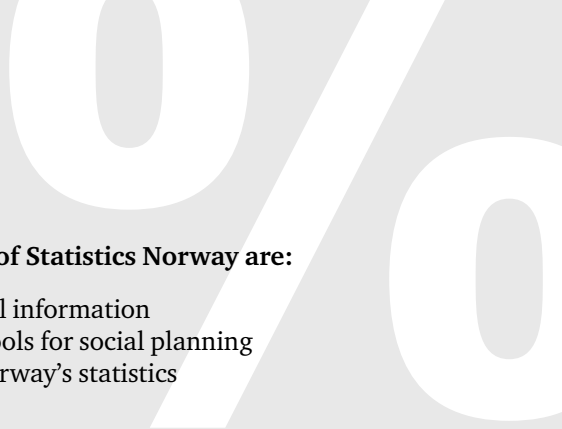
Research maps energy markets and indicators for sustainable development. It also studies environmental and climate policy instruments and gives input on how sustainable development can be ensured.

- **Macro-economics**

How is the Norwegian economy progressing in the long and short terms? To analyse this, Statistics Norway uses macro-economic models for producing forecasts and longer-term projections of the economy. These models are also used for estimating the effects of changes in economic policy and international affairs.



# ● Research



The research objectives of Statistics Norway are:

- to be a source of factual information
- to develop analytical tools for social planning
- to analyse Statistics Norway's statistics

## • Micro-economics

How do changes in public policy impact individuals, households and businesses? In order to explain the economic behaviour of these different groups, Statistics Norway uses simulation models building on historical data.

## • Statistical methods and standards

How can the methods we use for data collection and statistics production be improved? The aim of this research is to make the statistics more reliable.





### **The Statistics Act**

Pursuant to the Act of 16 June 1989 relating to official statistics and Statistics Norway, Statistics Norway has national responsibility for Norwegian official statistics. The Act further states that Statistics Norway is a professionally autonomous institution but is subject to the guidelines and financial framework determined by the Norwegian Government and Parliament.

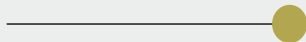
The Statistics Act permits Statistics Norway to make use of national administrative data registers. Because the registers use national identity numbers, company registration numbers or addresses, they enable Statistics Norway to easily combine information from them into statistics that portray how various aspects of Norwegian society interrelate.

Under the Act, Statistics Norway has a particular obligation to:

- identify and prioritise the need for official statistics
- coordinate comprehensive statistics produced by administrative agencies
- develop statistical methods and apply statistics to analysis and research
- provide data for statistical use for research purposes and for public planning
- bear the main responsibility for international statistical cooperation

### **The European Statistical System**

Statistics Norway is a member of the European Statistical System (ESS), a partnership between Eurostat (the EU’s statistical authority), the national statistical institutes in the 27 EU member states and the four EFTA countries. Other national institutions and authorities that produce European statistics are also members. Statistics Norway’s participation follows from the EEA Agreement.



# • Acts and principles

## **Regulation on European statistics**

Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics is also known as the European “Statistics Act”. This regulates the cooperation in the ESS and constitutes the legal framework for the development, preparation and dissemination of European statistics. The regulation is also incorporated into the Norwegian Statistics Act. The overarching principles for the production of European statistics are detailed in guidelines (the European Statistics Code of Practice, often referred to simply as the Code of Practice).

## **Principles of the EU and UN**

Together with the UN’s 10 fundamental principles for official statistics, the EU’s guidelines on European statistics form the overall framework for Statistics Norway’s production of statistics. The principles dictate, among other things, that the statistics shall be impartial and composed on a scientific basis. No party shall have priority to access Statistics Norway’s statistics over another, and all data held on individuals and businesses shall be treated confidentially.

## **Data security**

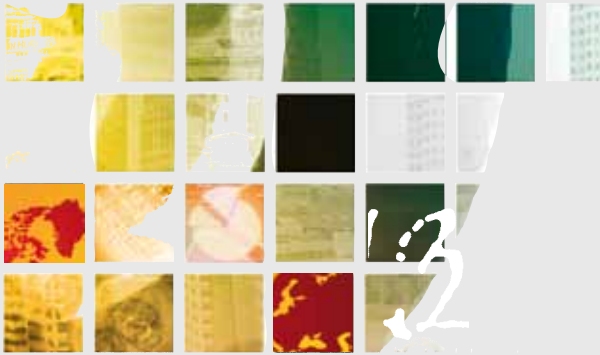
Statistics Norway has a duty to comply with the Personal Data Act and the rules set out by the Norwegian Data Inspectorate with regard to the

processing of personal data. Neither companies nor individuals must find that their information has gone astray, and people must be able to rely on the fact that the information they give to Statistics Norway is used only for the agreed purposes. Statistics Norway complies with the security requirements of the Norwegian Data Inspectorate on the processing of sensitive personal data, and Statistics Norway’s privacy protection officer monitors that this processing complies with applicable regulations. All employees of Statistics Norway have a duty of confidentiality, any breach of which is a punishable offence.

## **Ethics**

Statistics Norway’s statistical production is subject to strict ethical requirements. This means that employees must:

- act in a manner that creates public confidence in Statistics Norway’s statistics and analyses
- prioritise their work and develop and communicate statistics for the benefit of society
- follow the rules for the confidential processing of personal data and avoid obtaining access to personal data that is not strictly necessary for their own work



## Cooperation on improving statistics

Statistics Norway produces roughly 85 per cent of all Norwegian official statistics. Cooperation with other producers is mediated through the Statistics Council. This consists of around 25 Norwegian statistics producers who coordinate guidelines and requirements for official statistics. The Statistics Council is also a forum for the exchange of experiences and competence building. There is also extensive bilateral cooperation between Statistics Norway and other Norwegian statistics producers and register owners.

Statistics Norway participates actively in international statistical cooperation. Of particular importance is European cooperation under the EEA agreement. Work in the EU, UN, IMF and OECD to coordinate statistical activities and develop international standards for the production of different statistics is ongoing.

Statistics Norway regularly reports statistical data on Norway to the EU and a number of other international organisations. By doing so, Norwegian statistics are also disseminated through international databases and publications.

Statistics Norway also offers statistical consultancy and helps develop the statistical agencies of countries that lack well-developed statistical systems.

## How does Statistics Norway produce statistics?

Statistics Norway's statistics are mainly prepared using raw data from two main sources: administrative registers and survey questionnaires. In addition, an increasing amount of information is collected from businesses and municipalities' own computer systems.

## Access to administrative registers

The Statistics Act gives Statistics Norway access to a number of administrative registers, which means that statistics can be produced on the basis of figures that already exist. At present, Statistics Norway uses around 60 such registers.

The three core registers are the Population Register, maintained by the Directorate of Taxes, the Brønnøysund Register Centre's Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities, and the Norwegian Mapping Authority's Ground Property, Address and Building Register (GAB). The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration's register of employers/employees is also a key register for Norwegian official statistics.

# Cooperation and sources

## Survey questionnaires and interviews

If data are not available in an administrative register, the information can be collected through questionnaires, sent by Statistics Norway to companies or individuals. Statistics Norway receives questionnaires mostly in electronic form (close to 450 000 in 2011). In addition, interviews are conducted, either by phone or door-to-door (about 115 000 in 2011).

When collecting data, Statistics Norway endeavours to minimise the burden to companies and individuals as much as possible. The most important measure for reducing the response burden is to help facilitate the use of Norwegian administrative data in statistics production, so that it is not necessary to submit the same information more than once. In addition, more and more data is being collected directly from companies and institutions' own data systems, and increasingly also from a third party, for example, where a head office reports data for all the shops in its chain.

Microdata and adapting data on request  
Statistics Norway supplies raw data on individuals and businesses (microdata) to research and analyses environments. Researchers at approved research institutes are given access to this data on the condition that data protection rules are complied with. In some cases, public planners are also given access.



Statistics contain a large volume of information that can be assembled in various different ways and with many details. The information that is normally published and is transparent and freely available is that which is most interesting to society and/or where there is a user need. The users can also order statistics that entail special adaptation.

# Dissemination



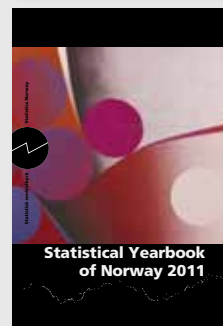
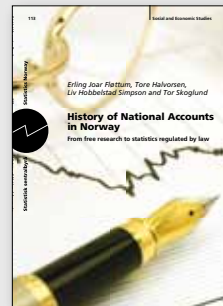
The main channel for the publication of Statistics Norway's products is **ssb.no**, where new statistics and analysis are released every working day at 10 am.

A large part of Statistics Norway's dissemination of statistics and research also consists of paper publications, such as the *Statistical yearbook* and *This is Norway*. Other English-language publications available in paper version include the *Statistical Analyses, Reports* and *Documents series*.

The media are active users of Statistics Norway's statistics and analyses. Journalists use Statistics Norway extensively as a source of information on the Internet, in newspapers and in ether media and by doing so help spread the knowledge of the institution.

Statistics and research from Statistics Norway are for the benefit of all and should be released to everyone at the same time; no one should obtain the results before anyone else. Everything on **ssb.no** is available free of charge and most of it is published in both Norwegian and English.

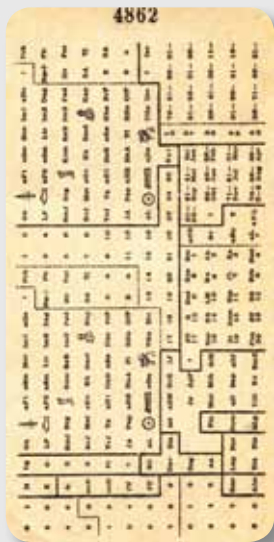
More information about research results and publications is available at **www.ssb.no/english/research**, along with information about the researchers themselves and their projects.



# History

## Millions of figures since 1876

Statistics Norway saw the light of day in 1876 with a staff of 15. Since then the institution has produced millions of figures and thousands of analyses and carried out innumerable polls and surveys. The number of employees and level of activity increased significantly from the 1950s onwards.



## Milestones for Statistics Norway

- 1769 The first population census
- 1797 A separate statistical office in the Ministry of Finance
- 1876 Statistics Norway founded as a separate institution
- 1907 The first Statistics Act
- 1950 The research department is established
- 1953 Creation of the register of companies
- 1958 Statistics Norway receives its first computer
- 1960 Statistics Norway established in the town of Kongsvinger
- 1964 The central population register is created, and the national identity number introduced
- 1989 New Statistics Act
- 1993 The EEA Agreement links Statistics Norway to the EU statistical system
- 1995 The Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities is created, and organisation numbers introduced
- 2001 Population and housing census and establishment of an address register for all Norwegian housing
- 2004 The Statistics Council is created
- 2011 The first fully register-based census

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### **Statistics Norway as a workplace**

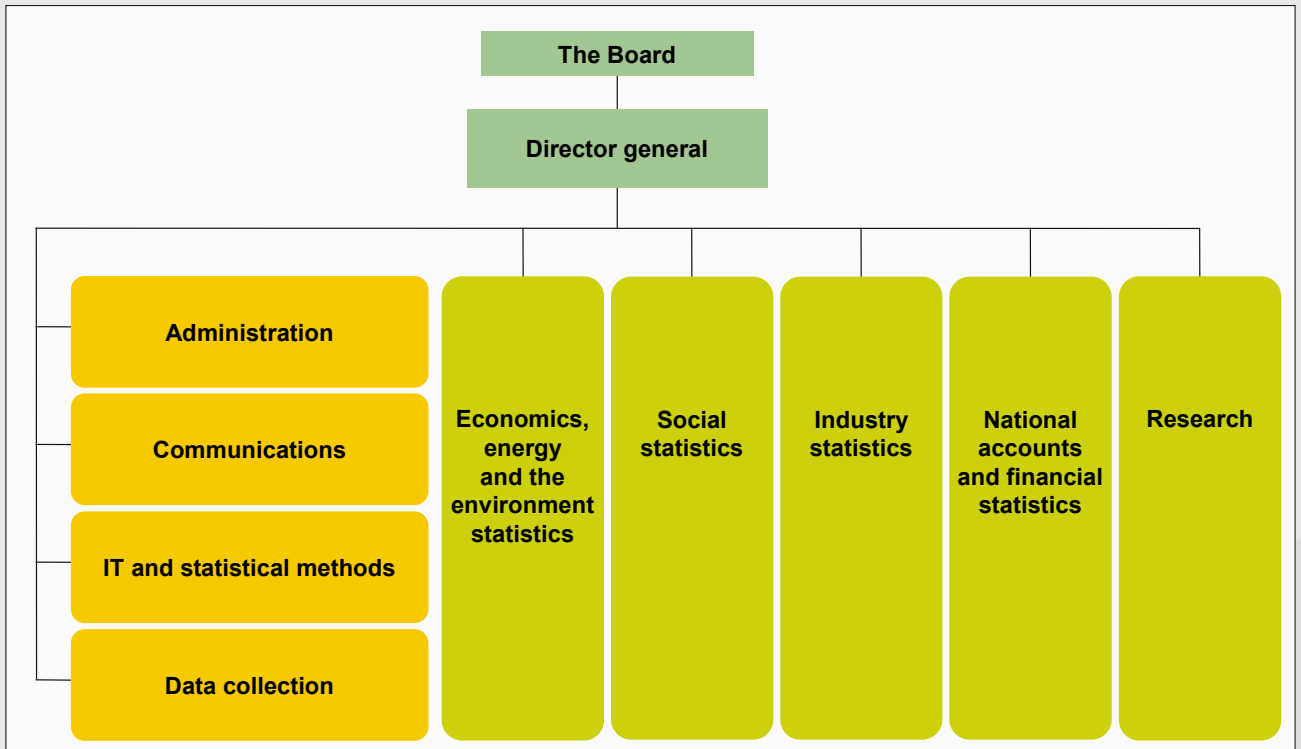
Statistics Norway is a professionally autonomous institution, administratively subordinate to the Ministry of Finance. It has its own board, which is appointed by the Government.

Statistics Norway has just under 1 000 employees, with almost 400 in Kongsvinger and around 600 in Oslo, in addition to 200 interviewers.

The budget of Statistics Norway is in the order of NOK 700 million. Around 70 per cent of this is derived directly from the national budget, while the remainder is financed by users. The largest commissions come from the Ministries, other government bodies and the Research Council of Norway.



# ● Organisation



## More information on Statistics Norway

[ssb.no/english/about\\_ssb](http://ssb.no/english/about_ssb): Up-to-date information about the organisation is available at [ssb.no](http://ssb.no). All key documents are also available here, including the overall strategy, annual report, activity plans and service declaration. Job vacancies are displayed here too, along with an organisation chart and postal and e-mail addresses.

The Strategy is Statistics Norway's principal governing document, and contains guidelines for future work. It is produced in Norwegian and English and is available at [ssb.no/english/about\\_ssb/strategy](http://ssb.no/english/about_ssb/strategy).

The Annual Report describes the main developments in Statistics Norway's activities in the year gone by. It is produced in Norwegian and English and is available at [ssb.no/english/about\\_ssb/annual\\_report](http://ssb.no/english/about_ssb/annual_report).

Questions about statistics and publications may be addressed to our library and information centre in Oslo, [www.ssb.no/english/library](http://www.ssb.no/english/library), [library@ssb.no](mailto:library@ssb.no) or telephone: +47 21 09 46 42

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