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Statistics Norway

Report on the quality of official statistics, 2026

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Preface

Section 6 of the Act relating to official statistics and Statistics Norway, the Statistics Act (Statistics Norway, 2019a), states that Statistics Norway shall submit an annual report to the Ministry of Finance on the quality of official statistics. The Ministry's letter of allocation for 2026 to Statistics Norway states that, as a priority, Statistics Norway shall ensure cooperation, coherence and quality in the Norwegian statistical system. This is the fifth report on the quality of all official Norwegian statistics.

This report is based on the information and quality assurance systems that are available at the time of reporting. The assessments and recommendations take a comprehensive view of the production of official statistics whenever possible.

The report has been discussed by the Committee for Official Statistics (Statistics Norway, 2019b) and the Council for Statistics Norway.

The translation into English was assisted by M365 Copilot.

Statistics Norway, 10 June 2026

Geir Axelsen

Director General

Summary

Key findings

The main source of information for this report is the annual quality evaluation conducted among all producers of official statistics. A self-assessment covering all statistics in the National Programme for Official Statistics 2024–2027 (Statistics Norway, 2024a), together with information from follow-up meetings with those responsible for the statistics, constitutes the factual basis for the evaluation.

The results of the quality evaluation show a good level of compliance with many of the quality requirements set out in the Norwegian Statistics Act and the European Statistics Code of Practice (Eurostat, 2017). In most areas, the results are broadly at the same level as last year. In some areas, improvements are evident. The share of statistics that now describe uncertainty and potential sources of error on the statistics' website has increased from 75 to 90 per cent. Statistics Norway has shared its template and guidelines for the user-oriented documentation "About the statistics" with other producers, and descriptions of sources of error and uncertainty are included in this template. Many producers outside Statistics Norway are working to improve their user-oriented documentation and to adapt it to the template. Several are also considering adopting PxWeb as a dissemination platform, in line with the recommendations from last year's report.

In other areas, there is still a need for stronger awareness and compliance. This applies, among other things, to the quality requirement on statistical confidentiality. Insufficient use of recognised methods and software to ensure statistical confidentiality entails a risk of either overly strict disclosure control, which may reduce the relevance of the statistics, or overly weak control, which may lead to disclosure of individual units in statistical dissemination.

The use of quality indicators to measure various aspects of compliance with quality requirements remains low. Only 27 per cent report that such indicators are used in the assessment of the production process and output quality, which is the same level as in previous years. Measures such as publishing a note on recommended indicators and offering courses have so far not had a visible effect. For Statistics Norway, the transition to the new cloud-based data platform (Dapla) has also created challenges, due to both time pressure and to immature functionality for quality measurements. At the same time, there are good examples of indicators being used effectively. Such experiences should be shared more widely. Producers recognise the value of quality indicators, but both awareness and competence vary considerably across environments. In the longer term, numerical quality indicators should constitute a larger part of the basis for quality reporting, as they enable more continuous, automated and precise monitoring of quality.

This year's evaluation examines how the transition to Dapla affects compliance with quality requirements. The transition to Dapla represents a comprehensive modernisation of statistical production at Statistics Norway, with the aim of achieving more efficient processes, improved data retrievability and increased reuse of code. Approximately one third of the statistics have now been partially or fully migrated to the cloud platform, and several benefits have been reported, in particular, improved overview of production workflows, greater automation and improved code quality. Many also report better documentation and opportunities to clean up existing routines, as well as increased competence and opportunities to adopt new methods such as machine learning. At the same time, Statistics Norway's statistical divisions point to several challenges, including missing or immature tools on Dapla, frequent changes in systems and standards, and reliance on legacy solutions that have not yet been phased out. Time pressure, shortages of competence and vulnerability when only a few individuals master new technologies add further strain. Although quality is largely maintained, some report that analytical work is being deprioritised and that the transition period is long and demanding.

Overarching recommendations and status of improvement measures

In addition to the need for continued work on statistical confidentiality and quality indicators, this report highlights a number of new recommendations. Many of these concern increased and improved logging, including corrections of errors in published statistics, to monitor developments over time. Another new recommendation relates to privacy and entails that statistics with personally identifiable information in the underlying data must either pseudonymise such information or document exemptions from the requirement to store such information separately from other data.

The implementation of improvement measures is a central part of the quality system, and statistical producers annually assess which new measures are necessary based on the recommendations. In March 2026, the status for 315 measures was reported, of which 57 per cent of the measures planned since 2022 have been completed. Although many measures have been implemented, there remain areas—particularly related to quality indicators and confidentiality—where further efforts are required. The measures vary in scope and impact, and counting measures alone does not provide a complete picture of quality improvement but must be supplemented by qualitative assessments.

Development of the quality system

The quality system for official statistics is continuously developed to adapt to technological and societal changes. Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly important in the production of official statistics, and the current quality framework was developed before AI gained widespread application. Producers are now using AI in both production and support processes, which require new interpretations of quality requirements and increased emphasis on traceability, transparency and control. The AI Act (EU Artificial Intelligence Act, 2026) introduces a risk-based regulatory framework that will also apply in Norway. This implies that producers of official statistics must identify, document and classify the use of AI, particularly those that may be considered high risk. This requires a coherent framework for the use of AI in statistical production and updated guidelines that ensure quality, compliance and trust.

Content

1. The quality system for official statistics

1.1. The Norwegian statistical system

The Statistics Act stipulates that Norway shall have a multi-year, national programme for official statistics. This forms the basis for the national statistical system. The programme specifies the statistical domains to be covered and the public authorities responsible for the individual statistics. The statistical system encompasses the statistics under the programme, the authorities responsible for them, and other actors and forums involved in coordinating official statistics.

The Committee for Official Statistics assists Statistics Norway in coordinating the development, production and dissemination of official statistics and helps ensure that the national statistical system is fit for purpose and effective. The committee has 32 public authorities as members, of which half are producers of official statistics in this programme period. The other members are owners of administrative information systems that serve as sources for official statistics, or authorities involved in cooperation related to official statistics. The committee contributes to the quality assurance of the annual report on the quality of official statistics. See Chapter 5.1 for more information on the work of the committee during the past year and the establishment of a working group in 2025.

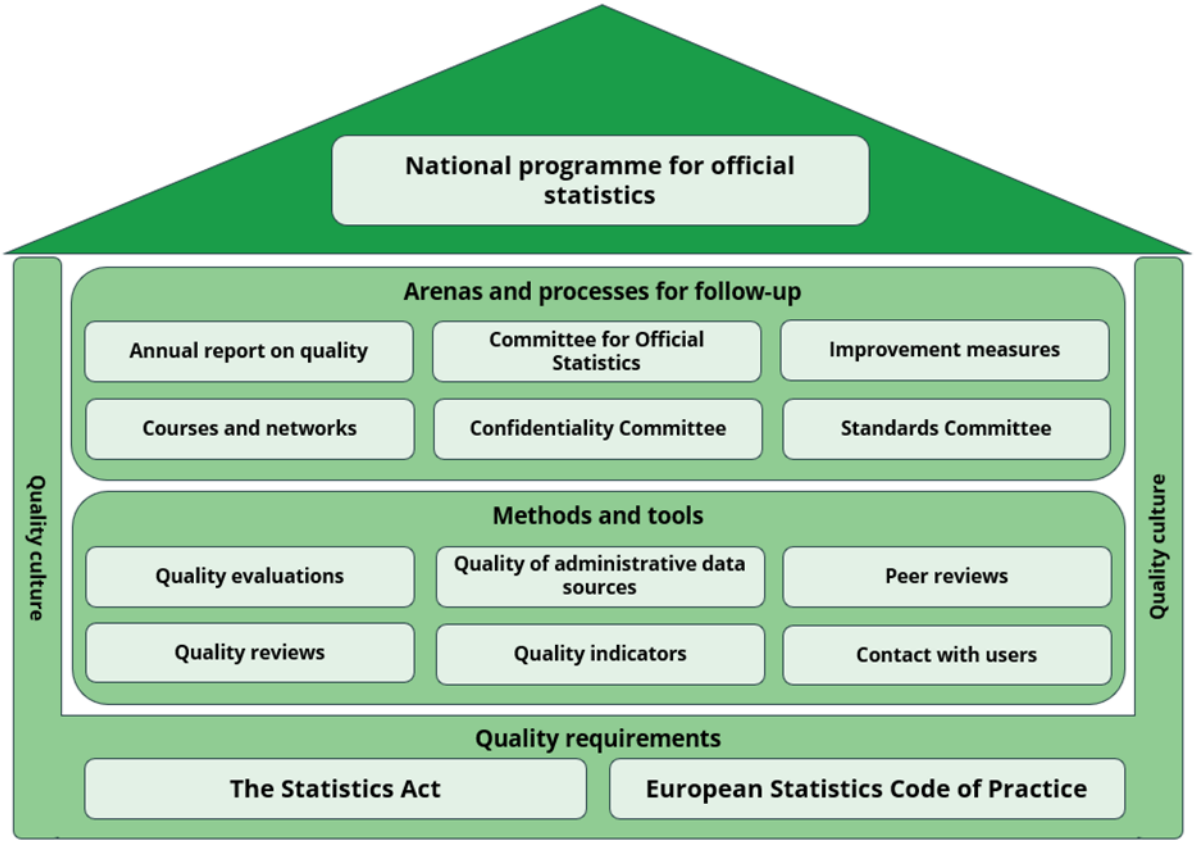
1.2. About the quality system

The quality system for official statistics is intended to safeguard the quality of official statistics and consists of the following key elements:

- *The quality requirements defined in the Statistics Act and the European Statistics Code of Practice* (*Eurostat, 2017).* These form the foundation of the quality system and are discussed further in Appendix C.
- *The national programme for official statistics (the statistical programme).* The programme defines what constitutes official statistics and specifies which statistical domains are to be covered and which public authorities are responsible for the statistics.
- *Methods and tools for measuring and assessing the quality of official statistics.* The various methods and tools provide the basis for assessing the quality of official statistics and how different aspects of quality develop over time.
- *Arenas and processes for monitoring quality.* The various processes and arenas provide the basis for improvements and competence building, and can aid with defining and producing guidelines for effective compliance with the quality requirements.
- *A quality culture throughout the production of statistics and the quality system, in which all organisational levels take responsibility for ensuring good quality in the statistics*. The follow-up of the quality system helps to build a quality culture. The implementation of quality evaluations, courses and networks for dissemination and methodology is important in this work.

The quality system is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1 The quality house – the quality system for official statistics



Source: Statistics Norway

1.3. The statistical programme and producers of official statistics

In December 2023, the Norwegian government approved the second national programme for official statistics for the period 2024–2027. The programme contains 86 measures for the development of official statistics (Statistics Norway, 2024a), spanning many statistical domains. They are based on important user needs which emerged during the programme work and the public consultation. The statistics producers are responsible for following up on data access, funding and other factors that need to be in place to carry out the development work during the programme period.

There are 16 producers of official statistics:

- Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV)
- Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ)
- Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries
- Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH)
- Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi)
- Norwegian Agriculture Agency
- Norwegian Food Safety Authority
- Norwegian Meteorological Institute
- Norwegian Environment Agency
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)
- Norwegian Communications Authority (Nkom)
- Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE)

- Norwegian Offshore Directorate
- Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI)
- Statistics Norway (SSB)

Appendix A shows the number of statistics in the statistical programme for 2024–2027 by statistical domain and statistics producer as of January 2026.

1.4. Report structure

This report is based on information obtained using the methods and tools on the first floor of the quality house (Figure 1).

The primary source for forming a picture of the quality of official statistics is the quality evaluation conducted in autumn 2025. Chapter 2 provides a summary of the results, assessments and recommendations from the quality evaluation, and presents the development from earlier quality reports.

Other methods and tools for measuring and assessing quality are discussed in Chapter 3, including the status of the work on quality reviews, follow-up of the peer review, the quality of registry data, quality indicators and contact with users.

An important part of quality work in official statistics is to determine areas where compliance with the quality requirements needs to be strengthened. The various methods and tools for measuring and assessing quality identifies areas where improvement are needed and recommendations are given on how compliance with quality requirements can be improved. The statistics producers define improvement measures based on the recommendations. The status of improvement measures from previous quality evaluations and quality reviews is summarised in Chapter 4. Improvement measures following the European peer review and development measures in the statistical programme are also discussed in the same chapter.

The status of other processes and work in additional arenas for quality follow-up is discussed in Chapter 5. This covers the Committee for Official Statistics, networks, courses and various committees within Statistics Norway.

Chapter 6 provides a comprehensive overview of the prioritised areas of development for the quality system.

2. Quality evaluation of official statistics

2.1. Introduction

The purpose of the quality evaluation is to provide a basis for evaluating compliance with the quality requirements set out in the Norwegian Statistics Act and the European Statistics Code of Practice. The quality evaluation is the main source of information for this report and the only source that covers all official statistics as defined by the statistical programme. The quality evaluation consists of two parts: first, a self-assessment of compliance with the quality requirements, followed by follow-up meetings with all producers conducted by Statistics Norway's quality team.

The quality evaluation was conducted at the level of individual statistics for the third time. It took place during the period October–December 2025. A self-assessment in the form of a questionnaire was completed for all of the approximately 350 statistics in the statistical programme, with the exception of statistics that are published less frequently than annually and for which there had been no activity in 2025. The questionnaires were mainly completed by those responsible for the statistics or others with in-depth knowledge of the statistics and how they are produced.

The questionnaire contains around 30 questions based on the quality principles in the European Statistics Code of Practice, covering topics relevant to Norwegian conditions and that can be answered at the level of individual statistics. Some questions included in 2024 were removed, either because compliance was assessed as satisfactory or because the results were difficult to interpret in a way that would provide a clear picture of quality. Some changes were made to the wording of questions or response options, and a small number of new questions were added. Large parts of the questionnaire are nevertheless comparable with earlier versions, allowing for measurement of developments in compliance with the quality requirements.

The questionnaire is designed to cover all types of statistics, but not all questions are relevant to all of them. For some questions, "Not applicable" is therefore included as a response option.

The five institutions that became producers of official statistics from 2024 (hereafter referred to as "new producers") also completed a questionnaire on compliance with quality requirements at the institutional level.

Follow-up meetings were held with each statistical producer outside Statistics Norway and with each statistical division within Statistics Norway. The purpose of the follow-up meetings is to quality assure the responses from the self-assessment. In addition, producers provide background explanations for their responses, which is important for interpreting the questionnaire results. In meetings with statistical divisions at Statistics Norway, the head of divisions participated together with selected statisticians responsible for statistics or group leaders. In meetings with statistical producers outside Statistics Norway, the participants included statisticians responsible for statistics, the coordinator for official statistics and, in some cases, managers responsible for the statistics unit.

A self-assessment allows room for subjective interpretation, and there may also be questions for which the respondent does not know the answer. Although the responses are quality assured, both at submission and during the follow-up meetings, there will nevertheless be a certain degree of uncertainty in the responses.

There is considerable variation among the statistics in terms of the attention they receive and the scope and complexity of the production process. All of the approximately 350 statistics are weighted equally in the results presented in this report.

The quality evaluation does not involve an in-depth evaluation of individual statistics, and no assessments of individual statistics or individual producers are presented in this report. The results of the quality evaluation are aggregated to assess the quality of official statistics as a whole.

For some statistics, regular quality assessments are carried out by international organisations, such as Eurostat for EU-regulated statistics. Such external assessments are important for evaluating and, where necessary, improving the quality of individual statistics. However, they have not been used as sources in this report, as the assessments are domain-specific and neither compiled nor systematised across statistical areas. To use them as a basis for an overarching report, it would have been necessary to aggregate and harmonise the information to a more general level. This has not been done for this report, but may be considered in future reports.

The results of the quality evaluation are shared with the statistical divisions in Statistics Norway and with statistical producers outside Statistics Norway. They can access the results for their own statistics, but not those of others. This enables statistical producers to use the results of the quality evaluation in their own improvement work.

In addition to the self-assessments and follow-up meetings, information has been collected from several other sources. Statistics Norway's statistics register provides information on timeliness, advance release dates and punctuality for Statistics Norway's statistics. For the second year in a row, Statistics Norway has mapped the dissemination of official statistics by other national producers. By exploring the producers' websites, an assessment has been made of the routines in place for advance announcement of publication times, the scope of metadata and user-oriented statistical documentation. It has also been assessed how easy it is to locate official statistics, both directly via the website and via search engines. The mapping was carried out using simple methods and provides, at an aggregated level, an overview of challenges related to the dissemination of official statistics in the Norwegian statistical system.

In subchapters 2.2–2.4, results, assessments and recommendations from the quality evaluation are presented. The subchapters are organised according to the quality principles in the European Statistics Code of Practice. All 16 quality principles are addressed and assessed.

In Statistics Norway, extensive modernisation work is ongoing to move statistical production to a new cloud-based data platform (Dapla). Last year's report pointed out the need to examine whether this modernisation work affects the quality of Statistics Norway's statistical products and concluded that the established tools of quality reviews and quality evaluation are well-suited to monitoring the transition. An important part of the quality evaluation conducted in autumn 2025 has therefore been to collect information on how the transition affects compliance with the quality requirements for official statistics. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 2.5.

2.2. Institutional environment

Principle 1. Professional independence

The principle, which is also stated in Section 5 of the Statistics Act, stipulates that statistical authorities must be able to develop, produce, and publish statistics entirely independently of political or other external influence, so that methods, content, and timing of publication are based on professional considerations. This is intended to ensure objective, reliable, and credible statistics that users can have full confidence in. Professional independence is achieved, among other things, by statistical authorities having a head with overall responsibility for ensuring that official statistics are produced and disseminated in accordance with this principle.

The five new producers of official statistics included in the statistical programme for 2024–2027 were asked whether official statistics are developed, produced, and disseminated in an independent manner. All producers now respond "Yes." The responses may indicate that the five new producers are now more mature in their role as statistics producers with regard to the principle of professional independence.

Professional independence was a topic at a meeting of the Committee for Official Statistics in autumn 2025, which contributed to increased awareness of this quality principle among all producers.

When asked whether the producers have a leader with overall responsibility for ensuring that official statistics are developed, produced, and disseminated in a professionally independent manner, four out of five respond that this is in place. This is the same result as in 2024. It is important to establish and make visible the position of head of statistical production, and producers who do not yet have this in place are still encouraged to follow this up.

Principle 1 bis. Coordination and cooperation

The principle concerns ensuring good coordination and cooperation between Eurostat and the national statistical authorities to produce consistent and comparable European statistics. It also emphasises that National Statistical Institutes should lead and coordinate other producers of official statistics to strengthen quality and efficiency across the entire statistical system.

In the self-assessment, no questions have been posed regarding compliance with this principle. Recommendation K02 from previous reports, concerning engagement in cooperation that develops and promotes innovation in statistical production, is now considered completed.

All producers participate in coordination and cooperation through the Committee for Official Statistics and its underlying networks. This is described in more detail in Chapter 5. With the establishment of the working committee of the Committee for Official Statistics, coordination has been further strengthened. No information has emerged in the follow-up meetings to indicate a need for additional improvement measures related to this quality principle.

Principle 2. Mandate for data collection and access to data

The principle establishes that the statistical authorities must have a clear and well-defined legal basis that grants them the right to collect and access the data required from various sources to produce official statistics. This legal mandate is essential to ensure complete, relevant, and timely data, while safeguarding privacy and data protection.

No questions concerning compliance with this principle have been included in the self-assessments. The Statistics Act provides Statistics Norway with the mandate to impose a duty to provide information for statistical surveys. Statistical producers outside Statistics Norway often collect data for purposes other than the production of statistics, and on the basis of legislation other than the Statistics Act.

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

- K16 (2022) Producers of official statistics who use data from administrative data systems (registers) should enter into agreements with data owners regarding the supply of data and cooperation on quality, for example, according to the template used in Statistics Norway.
- K22 (2022) Collect and share best practices in new technologies and new data sources among producers of official statistics.

Principle 3. Adequacy of resources

No direct questions about resources were included in the quality evaluation, but it has been assessed how compliance with this quality principle is affected by the transition to Dapla for Statistics Norway's statistics; see Chapter 2.5. The topic is also discussed in Chapter 7.5 of the Report on Quality in Official Statistics, 2024.

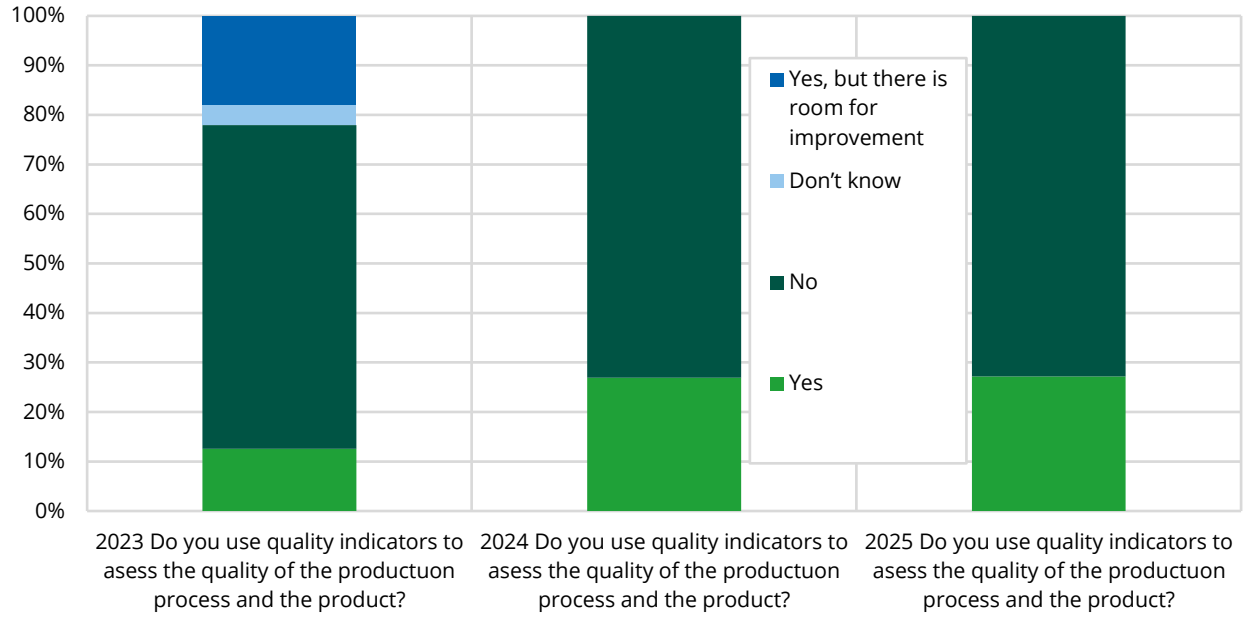
Principle 4. Commitment to quality

The principle implies that statistical authorities should systematically monitor, ensure, and improve the quality of both statistical processes and statistical products, based on internationally recognised standards. This is intended to ensure that the statistics published are reliable, relevant, and fit for users' needs.

When asked about their awareness of the quality principles in the European Statistics Code of Practice, 93 per cent responded "Yes". This question has not been asked in previous quality evaluations. The responses show that awareness of the quality principles is generally good, but some producers should become more familiar with them, for example, by participating in quality training courses. Participation in courses and networks is discussed in more detail in Chapter 5.2.

When asked whether quality indicators[1] are used to assess the production process and output quality, 27 per cent responded "Yes". This is comparable with 2024 and confirms findings from previous reports that the use of such indicators remains limited.

Figure 2.1 Use of quality indicators to assess the production process and output quality. Per cent. 2023–2025



Source: Statistics Norway

Increased focus and reported measures in this area have, so far, not had any effect. A memorandum on recommended quality indicators has been prepared, and courses on indicators are being offered, while other measures have largely not been implemented. Information provided in the

[1] Quality indicators are objective quality measurements that provide a fact-based information foundation for evaluation processes and make it possible to measure the impact of improvement measures.

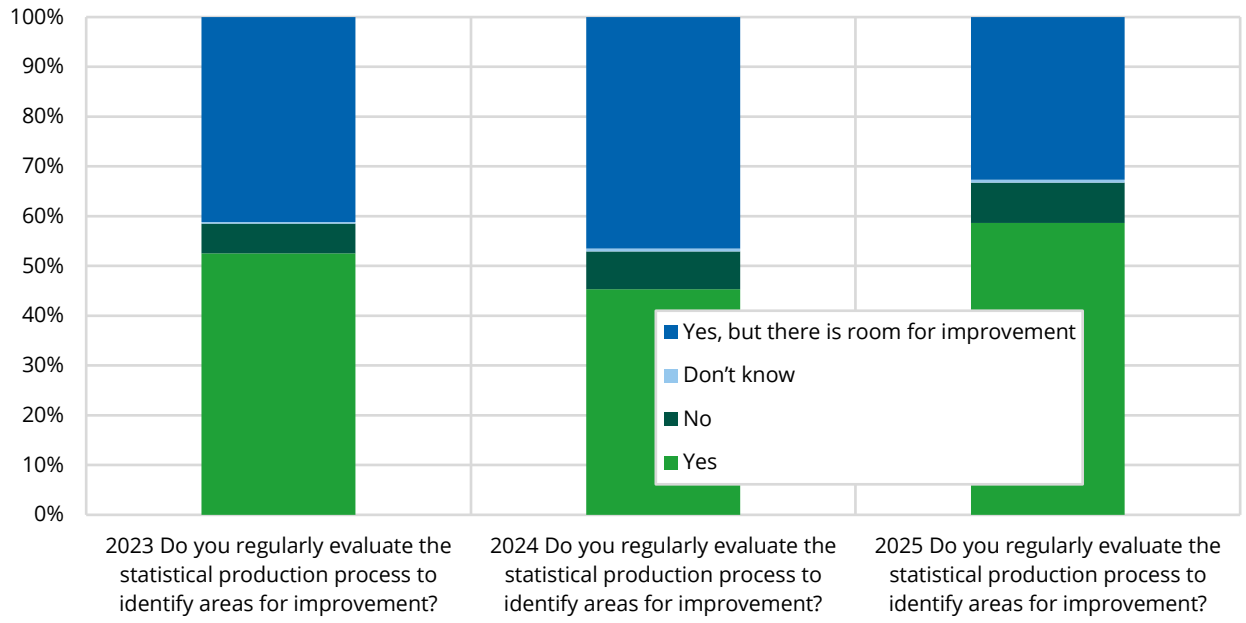
follow-up meetings with divisions in Statistics Norway and external producers points to several challenges:

- For some, it is difficult to understand what is meant by the term "quality indicator." It is a concept that is not commonly used in day-to-day work.
- The divisions in Statistics Norway state that quality indicators will be integrated into production processes as part of the transition to Dapla, but the transition has so far proved challenging with regard to increasing the use of quality indicators. The challenges are related to both time pressure and immature functionality for quality measurement within the platform. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 2.5 (Transition to a new data platform at Statistics Norway).
- Some producers do not see the need for quality indicators because the statistics are small in scale and require relatively few resources to produce.

Despite the fact that the increased focus on quality indicators has shown little visible effect, there are good examples from individual statistics that have implemented quality indicators. One producer has systematically reviewed the list of recommended quality indicators, selected relevant indicators, and developed a plan for their implementation. Such an approach should be feasible for more producers. Experience shows that implementing the indicators does not need to be resource intensive. These experiences should be shared with other producers.

In response to the question, "Do you evaluate statistical production at regular intervals to identify areas for improvement?", just over 90 per cent answered "Yes" or "Yes, but there is a need for improvement." This is at the same level as in the two previous years. For the follow-up question on whether the European Statistics Code of Practice is used in these evaluations, there are now more "Yes" responses than previously. This suggests that knowledge of the European Statistics Code of Practice and how it can be used for evaluation is increasing. The results of the quality evaluations show that regular evaluation and identification of areas for improvement are carried out for most official statistics. For some statistics, however, there is a need to establish such evaluation processes. To ensure the best possible and most objective basis for evaluation processes, a set of quality indicators should serve as input to these processes. The use of quality indicators and regular evaluation of statistical production should therefore be seen in context.

Figure 2.2 Evaluation of the production, to find improvement. Per cent.2023 – 2025



Source: Statistics Norway

As in 2024, the five new producers of official statistics were asked whether they have a quality manager or a group with specific responsibility for assessing compliance with quality requirements. Three responded "Yes" and two "No." This is one more "Yes" response than in 2024 and indicates increased maturity in quality awareness. However, some producers should still work to clarify and formalise quality responsibility within their organisation.

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

- K64 (2024) Standardise log data structures to facilitate the establishment of quality indicators.

New recommendations 2026:

- K78 (2026) Establish guidelines for statistical logging[2].
- K79[3] (2026) All producers incorporate relevant quality indicators as an integral part of the production process for their statistics.

Principle 5. Statistical confidentiality and data protection

Statistical confidentiality and methods for disclosure control in published statistics

Statistical confidentiality, or disclosure control, is used in official statistics to prevent the statistics from being used to identify or reveal information about statistical units. Statistical units may be individuals, enterprises, households, or other types of units. Effective disclosure control is essential to safeguard data providers. Section 7 of the Statistics Act addresses statistical confidentiality in official statistics as follows:

> Section 7. Statistical confidentiality in the dissemination of official statistics
>
> (1) Official statistics shall be disseminated in such a manner that it is not possible to directly or indirectly identify a statistical unit and thus disclose individual data.
>
> (2) The first subsection shall not apply when the exception follows from an obligation to produce statistics pursuant to the EEA Agreement.
>
> (3) An exception may be made from the first subsection if the statistical unit is a public authority, and the interests of the public sector are protected. An exception may also be made from the first subsection if the statistical unit has granted consent or if the data are publicly available.

As the Statistics Act states, disclosure control means that official statistics must be published in a way that prevents direct or indirect identification of statistical units. To ensure this in tables, three main methods are used: aggregating categories, suppressing values, or modifying/rounding values. For aggregation, manual methods may be applied, whereas recognised methods and tools must be used when values are to be suppressed or modified/rounded to ensure consistent and correct protection.

The quality evaluation shows that producers of official statistics conduct disclosure control using recognised and quality-assured software, self-developed program code, or by manually attempting to protect data through aggregation, suppression of values, or modification of values. Statistics Norway has established as a rule that manual modification or suppression of values must not be carried out in Statistics Norway's statistics. There is a significant risk that manual data protection or the use of self-developed code by statistical managers does not capture all possibilities for

[2] Systematic documentation of data, code, transformations, parameters, and other processing steps involved in the development and production of statistics, so that the results can be traced, verified, and reproduced.

[3] Replaces previous Recommendation K42 (from 2023): All producers of official statistics initiate work to assess relevant quality indicators for selected statistics.

disclosure of information about individual units. There is also a risk that this approach results in too much information being suppressed or modified, thereby impairing the relevance of the statistics. Even when recognised software is used to carry out disclosure control, it is important to have expertise both in the subject matter and in the software being used.

Adopting recognised disclosure control software can present a barrier, especially for smaller producers of official statistics. For these, it may not necessarily be appropriate to implement such software, considering risk and cost–benefit, if the published tables are of low complexity and it has been assessed that manual processes adequately meet the need for disclosure control.

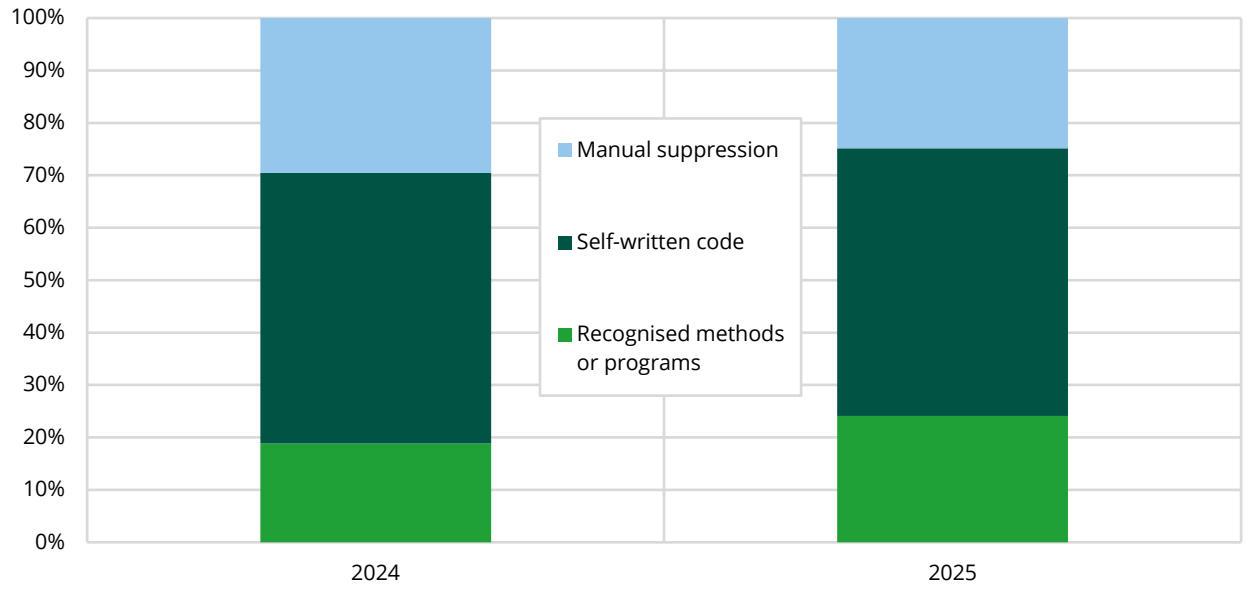
Aggregation into larger groups to avoid disclosure of individual units is used for 66 per cent of all official statistics. Suppression of values is used by 42 per cent of the statistics, and 28 per cent both aggregate and suppress values. Only a small share of statistics, 9 per cent, use modification of values as a method.

Figure 2.3 Statistics using the different methods for disclosure control to secure statistical confidentiality. Per cent. 2024 – 2025

Source: Statistics Norway

The quality evaluation shows a slight improvement in the use of recognised methods and software for disclosure control. Nevertheless, recognised methods are still used in only 12 per cent of the official statistics. In 24 per cent of the statistics, self-developed code is used, while manual suppression is applied in 11 per cent of the statistics.

Figure 2.4 When hiding values, do they use recognised methods or programs, do they use self-written code, or do they use manual suppression. Per cent. 2024-2025



Source: Statistics Norway

In total, 48 official statistics have exemptions from the Statistics Act's requirement to protect information so that individual persons or enterprises cannot be identified, cf. Section 7 (2) and (3) of the Statistics Act. Among these are 43 statistics produced by Statistics Norway and 5 by other producers than Statistics Norway.

For 88 per cent of the statistics, respondents answered that confidentiality had been adequately safeguarded at dissemination, representing a clear improvement from 78 per cent in 2024. For 2 per cent, it was answered that confidentiality may not have been sufficiently safeguarded, while 10 per cent responded "Don't know."

Among staff responsible for statistics, 74 per cent reported that they perceive their institution to have a clear and consistent interpretation of confidentiality that is practical and applicable. By comparison, 16 per cent answered "No," while for 10 per cent of the statistics, the question was not considered relevant. In the follow-up meetings, it was pointed out that there are grey areas, meaning that rules and data material must be interpreted for each dissemination to identify the most appropriate method for avoiding disclosure of information about individuals or enterprises.

Data sharing

At Statistics Norway, access to data for researchers within Statistics Norway's statistical domains is most often handled by the Division for Microdata, either via microdata.no or through special requests. For one third of Statistics Norway's statistics, data are shared with researchers through one or both of these channels. Data from some statistics are also shared via Sikt (Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research), with Eurostat and other international organisations, as well as directly with researchers and others.

Producers outside Statistics Norway share data from 70 per cent of their statistics. The most common practice is to share unit-level data directly with researchers. The quality evaluation showed that data from 61 per cent of the statistics produced by other producers are shared with researchers. In total, 8 per cent of the statistics deliver data to Sikt, and 8 per cent of the statistics transmit data to Eurostat or other international organisations. For 33 per cent of the statistics, data are shared with other groups or organisations.

In response to the question of whether any measures are taken to anonymise shared data, most responded "Yes" or "Yes, but we should improve the methods and/or use other tools," or indicated that anonymisation is carried out by Sikt or by the Division for Microdata at Statistics Norway.

For 24 statistics, the response to the question of anonymisation when sharing data with researchers and/or others was "No." Some of these statistics are covered by exemptions from the Statistics Act.

In 2025, a review of disclosure control and confidentiality in Statistics Norway's provision of microdata was carried out. The result was a set of recommendations on how disclosure control should be implemented to ensure confidentiality.

Data protection and pseudonymisation
Under the Statistics Act and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the requirements for data protection have been strengthened. Article 89 of the GDPR states that when the purpose is statistical, the data controller shall provide the data subject with safeguards through technical and organisational measures. Pseudonymisation is an example of such a safeguard. Section 9 (2) of the Statistics Act states that directly identifying information shall be processed and stored separately from other information, unless this would be incompatible with the purpose of the processing or manifestly unnecessary. To link data sources and reference periods, Statistics Norway has chosen to pseudonymise such information, which involves replacing or modifying the information so that it can no longer be directly linked to a specific individual.

Questions about whether personal identifying information is pseudonymised before statistical production begins were addressed only to statistics produced by Statistics Norway. 100 statistics contain such information in their data basis. For 57 of these, the information is pseudonymised before statistical production starts. An exemption from the requirement for pseudonymisation may be granted by a Head of Department when it is incompatible with the purpose of the processing, cf. Section 9 (2) of the Statistics Act. A specific assessment must be carried out in each case before an exemption can be granted. For those that do not pseudonymise, exemptions approved by a Director General apply to 26 of the statistics. These exemptions mainly relate to operational needs linked to the management of statistical populations, and temporary exemptions, based on a cost–benefit perspective, pending the transition of the statistics to Dapla. Several statistics will implement pseudonymisation once they are transferred to Dapla, but some statistics will also need to obtain formal exemptions from the pseudonymisation requirement.

Data protection was one of the topics addressed in the producers' self-assessments at the institutional level in 2021 and 2022. The five new producers were asked about confidentiality declarations, access to data, and logging of activity to detect potential unauthorised access. These producers largely have such measures in place, are in the process of establishing solutions, or handle data that are publicly available.

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:
- K05 (2022): That Statistics Norway develops courses on statistical confidentiality for all producers of official statistics.
- K59 (2024): Establish and improve guidelines to safeguard statistical confidentiality and raise awareness of these with statistics producers.
- K61 (2024): Make training in statistical confidentiality compulsory for all new employees involved in statistics production and relevant support functions.
- K65 (2025): Replace manual suppression and noise addition, and the use of self-developed code for disclosure control, using recognised methods and software.
- K66 (2025): Finish the review of confidentiality in Statistics Norway's deliveries of microdata and follow up on the results of this.

New recommendations 2026:

- K80 (2026) All statistics that contain personal identifying information in the underlying data shall either pseudonymise this information or have a formal exemption in place where pseudonymisation is incompatible with the purpose of the processing.

Principle 6. Impartiality and objectivity

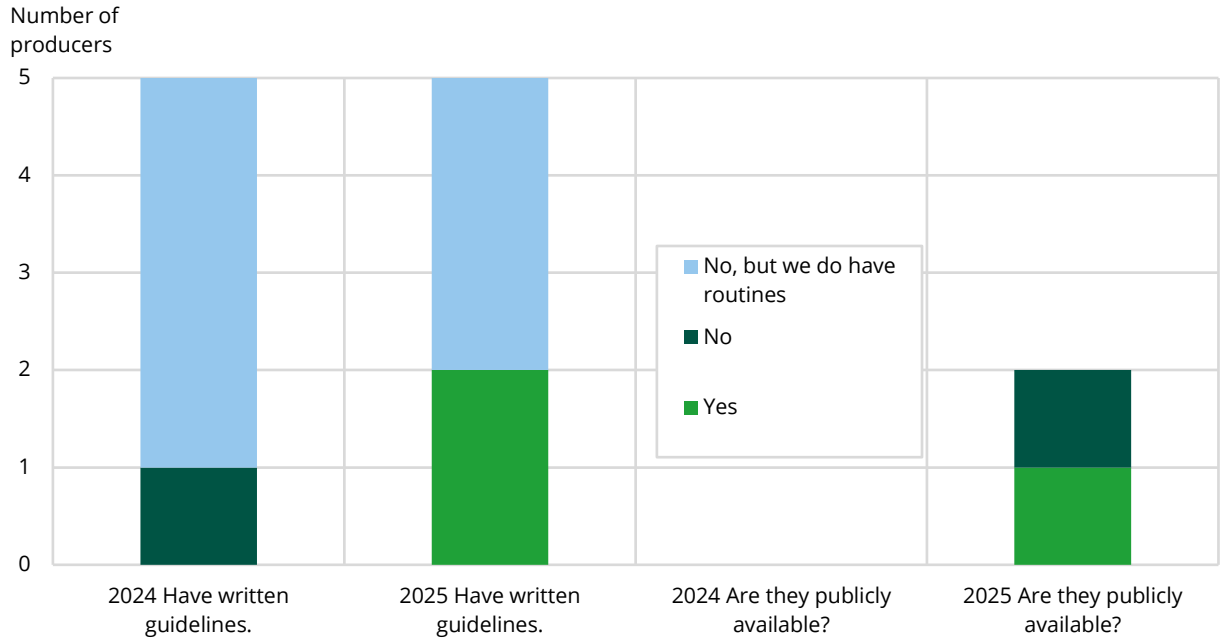
Equal treatment of users, the choice of data sources and methods based on statistical expertise, and transparency about methods are important requirements for ensuring that statistics have value and for maintaining trust in official statistics.

A total of 14 statistics share results prior to publication, and for half of these, this is not disclosed in the public statistical documentation. In the follow-up meetings with those responsible for these statistics, this issue was discussed, and it was emphasised that simultaneous access is important to ensure equal treatment of users. Over the past year, several producers have changed their practices so that no one receives statistics before others or have ensured that users are informed when statistics are shared with certain stakeholders prior to publication. For some statistics, production lies in a grey area between administrative use and statistical production, and in such cases, other legislation may override the principle of simultaneous access. The European Statistics Code of Practice states: “Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, well-justified, controlled and publicised”. Quality assurance and professional collaboration may constitute a justification.

Planned revisions are relevant for 57 per cent of the statistics. Of these, only just over half report announcing such revisions in advance.

The five producers new to the programme from 2024 were asked whether there is publicly available information on how they ensure their statistics are as impartial and objective as possible, whether advance information is provided when new statistics are released, and whether errors in published statistics are corrected. Several of the new producers established written guidelines in 2025 to ensure that statistics are as impartial and objective as possible. One of these has also published the guidelines on its website. Several have improved their advance information on when new statistics will be released. Most provide information on future release dates on their websites and announce any postponements; see also Principle 13 on timeliness. Slightly more producers than in 2024 announce when the statistics are corrected.

Figure 2.5 Do the five new producers have written guidelines to ensure that the statistics are as unbiased and objective as possible? 2024–2025



Source: Statistics Norway

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

- K08 (2022): All producers should have written guidelines for impartiality and objectivity in the production and presentation of statistics and publish them on their website. They can refer to or reuse guidelines available on ssb.no.
- K11 (2022): All producers should announce the date and time for the release of statistics at least three months in advance and adhere to the announced date and time for all users.
- K12 (2022): All producers should announce corrections to published statistics.
- K15 (2022): If someone outside the statistics production team has access to statistical output prior to publication, this deviation must be justified and made known to users in connection with publication.
- K33 (2022): Customised analyses that may be relevant to the general public should be published on the producer's website or in a public record.

New recommendations 2026:

- K81 (2026): All producers have written guidelines or principles for correcting errors in published statistics.
- K82 (2026): All producers keep a log of errors in published statistics, categorised by severity, as specified in the guidelines for corrections of errors in published statistics.

2.3. Statistical processes

Principle 7. Sound methodology, Principle 8. Appropriate statistical procedures, and Principle 9. Non-excessive burden on recipients

These principles state that sound methods and statistical procedures are prerequisites for high-quality statistics. Furthermore, the response burden should be proportionate to users' needs and should not be excessive for data providers.

The quality of the information underlying the statistics is crucial for the accuracy of the results. It is therefore important to ensure that the collected data are suitable for statistical purposes. The 2025 quality evaluation assessed the methods used by the statistics to ensure data quality before the

data is received or used. The methods applied depend on how the data are collected, and several methods may be combined. Producers were therefore able to select multiple activities.

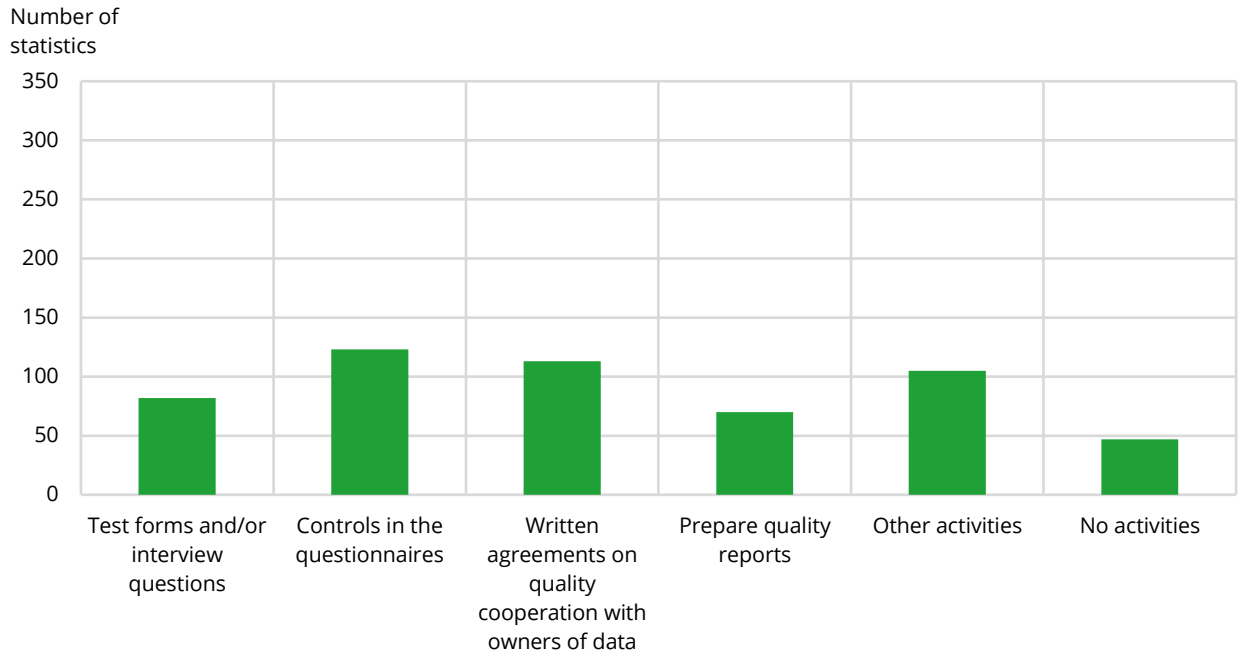
Nearly 90 per cent of the statistics reported implementing measures before or during data collection to improve data quality. For statistics that collect information directly from respondents using questionnaires or interviews, testing the questions is a key method. In 2025, 82 statistics reported that they had tested the questions with potential respondents prior to data collection. This is approximately at the same level as in 2023 and 2024. Another method is to incorporate validation checks into the questionnaires. In 2025, this applied to 123 statistics. It is worth noticing that 68 statistics reported that they had both tested the questionnaires and incorporated validation checks.

A large share of official statistics is based on the reuse of administrative data collected by other authorities or on data collected for administrative purposes. One method for improving the quality of administrative data is Statistics Norway's system for quality cooperation with owners of administrative data, described in Chapter 3.1 (Register quality in Statistics Norway's statistics). Some other statistical producers also have similar arrangements involving agreements and quality cooperation. In the 2025 quality evaluation, 113 statistics reported that their data are covered by such cooperation agreements. In addition, 70 statistics reported that they prepare quality reports that are shared with the data owners. As described in Chapter 3.1, Statistics Norway alone produces more than 80 such quality reports annually. This may indicate that more statistics should have selected this option in the evaluation. It is unclear whether the discrepancy is due to a lack of awareness among respondents or differing interpretations of the response option.

In the 2025 evaluation, respondents were also given the opportunity to describe other activities used to ensure data quality prior to or upon receipt of the data. Among other things, it emerged that many statistics use automatic checks and validations upon receipt, but that manual checks also occur. Some report that automated feedback is provided to data reporters, while others handle this manually. There is also dialogue with data providers prior to collection to clarify changes, formats, and technical requirements. Reporting may also be regulated by law, with detailed requirements.

A total of 47 statistics reported that they do not have activities in place to ensure data quality before the information is received or used. For statistics that reuse internal data, such measures are often not necessary, as the data basis has already been quality assured through previous processes.

Figure 2.6 What activities do you carry out to ensure data quality before the data are received or put into use? 2025



Source: Statistics Norway

To avoid collecting more information than necessary, producers should regularly review all the information collected. In 2025, 80 per cent report that this is done – a clear improvement compared with 2024 and 2023, when 71 and 70 per cent, respectively, reported the same. In the follow-up meetings, it was nevertheless pointed out that the choice of information to be collected is at times outside the control of the statistical producer, for example because of administrative needs or international requirements.

Almost all statistics have written internal documentation describing how the statistics are produced: 98 per cent report having such documentation, a figure that has remained stable over the past three years. However, the share that believes the documentation should be improved is high – 54 per cent report that documentation exists, but that improvements are needed.

All of Statistics Norway's statistics have user-oriented documentation in the form of "About the statistics". Among other producers, some statistics still lack such documentation, but the trend is positive. In 2025, 84 per cent report having user-oriented documentation, up from 71 per cent in 2024 and 67 per cent in 2023. Of these, half report that the documentation exists but should be improved.

77 per cent report assessing the need to update the documentation for users at each release. For statistics with frequent releases, such an assessment may not always be necessary every time, which may have influenced the responses.

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

- K17 (2022): Ensure that user testing of questionnaires is carried out systematically.
- K19 (2022): Prepare written guidelines for how the production of statistics should be carried out.
- K21 (2022): Where applicable, discontinue data capture by e-mail and replace it with a secure solution, such as file transfer.
- K52 (2024): Establish guidelines and build expertise in retrieving data directly from the IT systems of respondents or other data providers. One such example is machine-to-machine (M2M) communication.

- K67 (2025): All producers adapt the user-oriented documentation of their statistics to Statistics Norway's template and guidelines for "About the statistics" and make this available on the statistics' website.
- K68 (2025): All producers establish procedures and practices for assessing the updating of user-oriented documentation in connection with each publication.

Principle 10. Cost effectiveness

This principle, which is also stated in Section 5 of the Statistics Act, stipulates that statistical authorities shall make efficient use of available resources. This includes monitoring resource use, adopting new technology and new data sources, and promoting and sharing standardised solutions.

Some statistical domains use considerable resources on data editing. Editing refers to the control, examination, and possible modification of data to increase the accuracy of the statistics. Knowledge about the effect editing has on final results can provide information on whether it is possible to save resources and/or publish the statistics more quickly. It is therefore recommended to measure the effect of editing, for example, by comparing statistical results to be published with and without editing.

Altogether, 72 per cent of the statistics involve data editing. Of these, 27 per cent report that the effect of editing is measured, which is far fewer than in 2024, when the share was 41 per cent. These figures are uncertain, and it appears that the question is not interpreted consistently from year to year, or from one statistics manager to another. Follow-up is needed to ensure that measures are implemented to increase understanding of editing and the effects of editing, cf. recommendations K58 (2024) and K69 (2025).

Few of those who measure the effect of editing use the indicator described in the report on recommended quality indicators in official statistics (in Norwegian only, Notater 2024/5 Statistics Norway (2019-2026), but some do so in a similar way.

Several of the staff responsible for statistics at Statistics Norway mention that they will look into improved editing solutions and better opportunities to measure the effects of editing when they transition to the new data platform, Dapla.

Statistics Norway has published a report titled "Principles and guidelines for data editing" (in Norwegian only, Notater 2023/49). 92 per cent of those who edit data are familiar with these principles, which is a much higher proportion than in previous years.

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

- K36 (2022): Statistics Norway should compile a collection of best practices with guidelines and make it available to the Committee for Official Statistics.
- K58 (2024): Measure the effect of editing and assess whether the editing work can be reduced and/or concluded earlier, or if it is possible to improve the quality of input data. See quality indicator number 4 in the report on recommended quality indicators in official statistics (in Norwegian only, Notater 2024/5 (Statistics Norway, 2019-2026)).
- K69: Producers are recommended to familiarise themselves with Statistics Norway's principles for editing.
- K70: Statistics Norway monitor developments in the quality of statistics in connection with the transition to Dapla.

2.4. Statistical output

Principle 11. Relevance

The principle implies that official statistics shall be developed and produced in such a way that they meet users' actual needs. The statistics must therefore be continuously assessed and adapted to ensure that their content, scope, and level of detail are fit for purpose for decision-makers and other users. Contact with users is essential to ensure that the statistics are relevant for those who are to use them. Using regular meeting forums and structured follow-up, it is easier to obtain feedback that is relevant for further development of the statistics and to receive information on how the statistics are used. Around 60 per cent of the statistics have regular meeting forums with users. This is approximately the same as in 2024.

Information provided in follow-up meetings with the producers after the evaluation survey shows large differences in how producers follow up users of the statistics. Some have established or newly created advisory committees and regular meeting forums, while others rely on ongoing, informal contact via email, feedback solutions, or ad hoc meetings. There are also several statistics producers who do not have a full overview of who the users actually are, beyond the largest users or commissioning bodies.

The overall picture is that relevance is safeguarded through various forms of dialogue, but that the degree of formalisation and systematisation varies considerably between actors.

See also Chapter 3.5 (Users contact) for more detailed information on different forms of user contact.

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

- K23 (2022): Producers who do not have established forums for contact with users should establish this. Conducting a user and stakeholder analysis can be a useful tool in this work.
- K43 (2023): Producers should conduct regular surveys to measure user satisfaction with the statistics.
- K44 (2023): Producers should introduce a feedback function for the statistics websites.

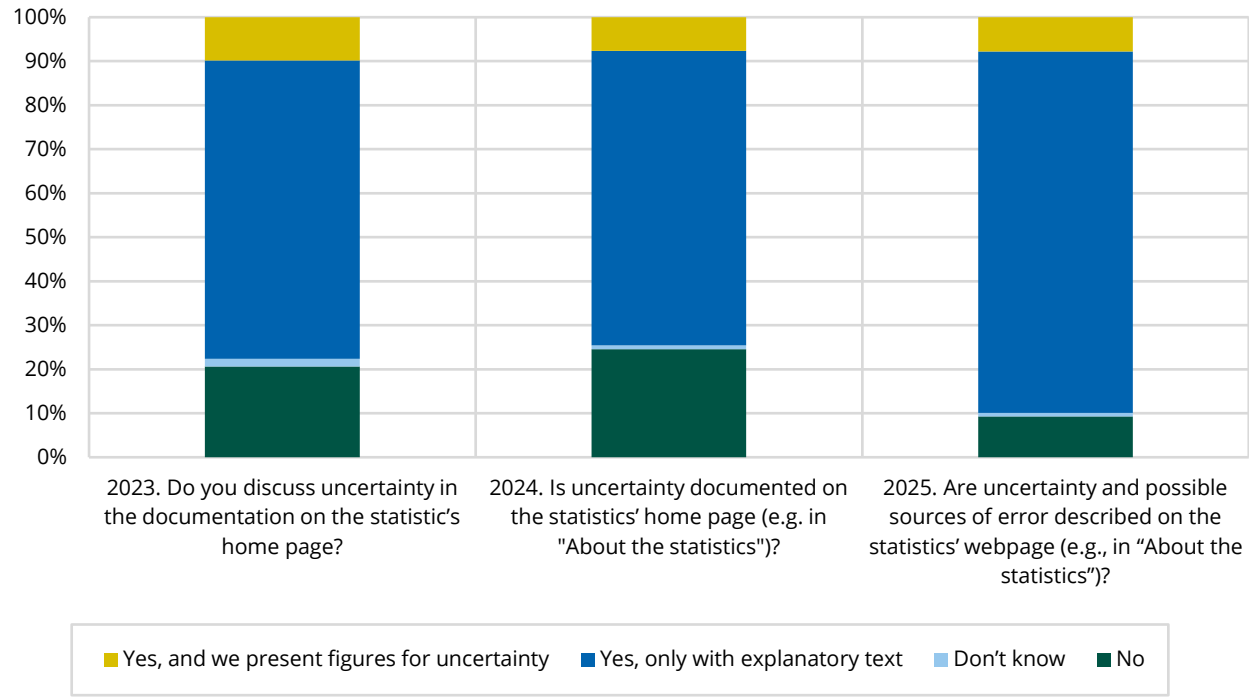
Principle 12. Accuracy and reliability

Statistics should reflect reality, and it is important to be aware of uncertainty both in the analysis of data material and in the communication of findings. A sober presentation of results and communication of the degree of uncertainty are essential. At the same time, it can be challenging to describe uncertainty in a way that is understandable and useful for users of the statistics, including when indicators are used internally to assess data quality in the production process.

Within Statistics Norway, there are different views on whether and how uncertainty should be communicated. In one follow-up meeting, it is stated: "We do not overcommunicate uncertainty in the figures on ssb.no." It is also pointed out that Statistics Norway's statistical database (Statbank) does not facilitate the communication of quantitative uncertainty.

The share of statistics for which uncertainty and possible sources of error are described on the statistics' webpage, for example in the section "About the statistics", has increased from 75 per cent in 2024 to 90 per cent in 2025. This represents a substantial improvement following the attention given to uncertainty in the quality evaluations. For most of these statistics, uncertainty and possible sources of error are described in text. The proportion of those that present quantitative measures of uncertainty remains about the same as before, at 9 per cent.

Figure 2.7 Share of statistics where uncertainty is communicated. Per cent. 2023–2025



Source: Statistics Norway

The share of statistics in which uncertainty and possible sources of error are communicated in commentary on the figures, for example, in news articles, has increased from 53 to 59 per cent. The proportion that addresses uncertainty at every release has increased from 12 to 18 per cent.

For some statistics, new requirements are being introduced in EU regulations to report quantitative measures of uncertainty in statistics.

As of January 2026, there are 122 statistics in the statistical programme that report to Eurostat (i.e. have obligations pursuant to the EEA Agreement, Annex XXI), including statistics from five producers outside Statistics Norway. These statistics often have requirements to report various quality indicators alongside the figures.

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

- K55 (2024): Explain uncertainty and potential sources of error on the statistics' home page.
- K56 (2024): Where uncertainty is already calculated for statistics, consideration should be given to publishing this on the statistics' home page.
- K57 (2024): Raising awareness and enhancing competence in understanding, calculating and communicating statistical uncertainty.
- K71 (2025): Expand Statistics Norway's methodology library through the addition of more methods for calculating uncertainty.

New recommendations 2026:

- K83 (2026): Consider further developing Statbank solutions with a view to improving the communication of quantitative uncertainty.

Principle 13. Timeliness and punctuality

The principle, which is also stated in Section 5 of the Statistics Act, stipulates that statistical authorities shall publish statistics punctually, and that the statistics shall be relevant at the time of

publication. Official statistics must be produced and published quickly enough to be relevant for users. There may be different timeliness requirements for different statistics and across different user groups.

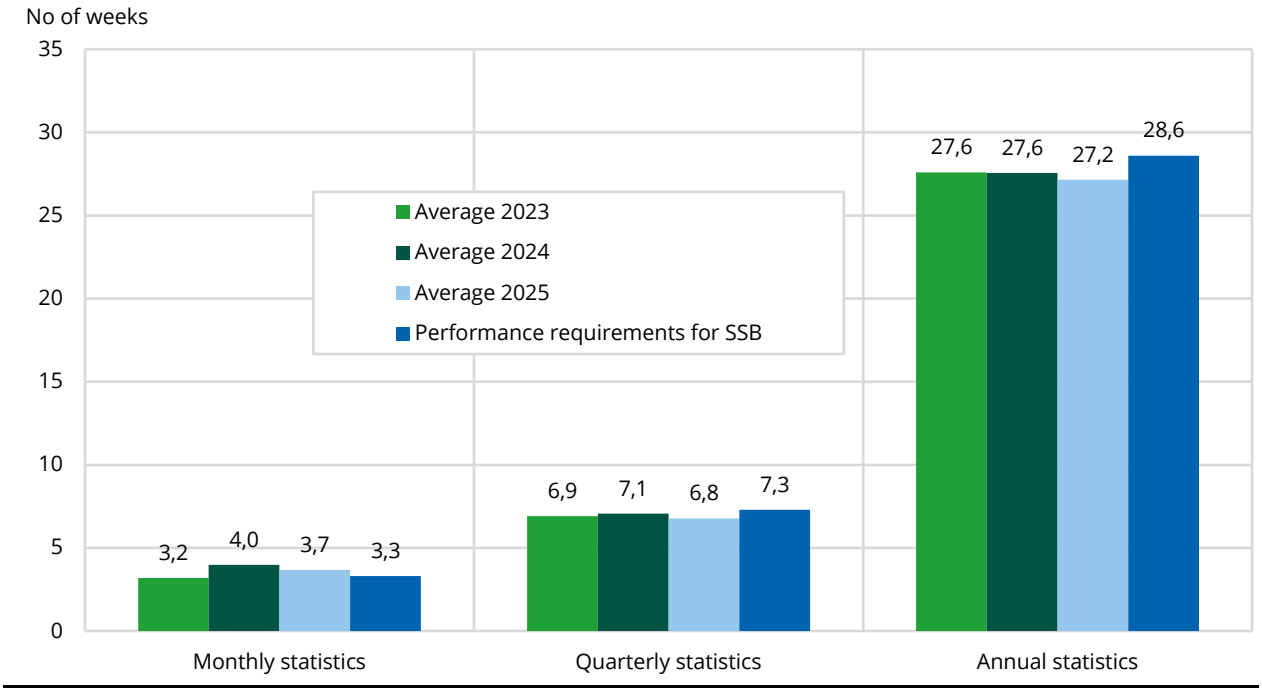
Punctuality means that statistics are published on the date and at the time announced in advance. Statistics Norway has set a requirement for its statistics that publications shall be pre-announced at least three months in advance. If statistics are published earlier than the pre-announced time, this is problematic, particularly with regard to equal treatment of users. There must be compelling reasons to publish earlier than the announced date. Delayed publication can also create problems.

Timeliness

The timeliness indicator shows the number of weeks from the end of the reference period to the publication of the statistics; see also Chapter 3.4 on quality indicators. The average timeliness for all official statistics in 2025 is 3.7 weeks for monthly statistics, 6.8 weeks for quarterly statistics, and 27.2 weeks for annual statistics. This represents a slight improvement compared with 2023 and 2024.

The Ministry of Finance has set requirements for average timeliness for Statistics Norway's statistics; this figure is shown as a reference in a separate bar in Figure 2.8. For Statistics Norway, the timeliness requirement contributes to improving and maintaining timeliness. The timeliness requirement does not apply to producers outside Statistics Norway.

Figure 2.8 Timeliness. Average number of weeks of timeliness for all official statistics. 2023–2025



Source: Statistics Norway

As many as 87 per cent of the statistics report that their timeliness corresponds to users' needs to a very large or fairly large extent. This is an improvement from 81 per cent in 2024. Only just over 2 per cent—corresponding to eight statistics—are reported to have timeliness that meets user needs to a fairly small or very small extent. Half of these are planning measures to improve timeliness.

Punctuality

All of Statistics Norway's statistics must be announced in advance in Statistics Norway's statistical calendar. All the other producers, except one that publishes on a continuous basis, state that their

publication dates are also announced in advance. However, the mapping of dissemination practices among statistical producers outside Statistics Norway shows that information on publication dates is difficult to find for some producers.

Figures on punctuality for Statistics Norway's statistics are taken from the statistics register, while other producers responded to questions on punctuality for the first time in 2025. In total, 40 statistics, 32 of them from Statistics Norway, had deviations from the planned publication date in 2025. In 2025, punctuality for Statistics Norway's statistics was 96 per cent, a level that has been maintained for several years. Reasons for delays at Statistics Norway include the transition to Dapla and Altinn[4] 3, capacity constraints, the need for additional quality assurance, and delayed data deliveries. Four statistics from Statistics Norway were published earlier than planned. One was justified by data being received earlier than expected, and one by coordination with KOSTRA[5] statistics.

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

- K25 (2022): Producers should review the process for publishing preliminary statistics for all official statistics. The review should aim to establish common guidelines for all official statistics.
- K26 (2022): Some producers should analyse the difference between preliminary and final statistics. Based on the analysis, the need for preliminary statistics can be evaluated.
- K41 (2023): All producers adopt Statistics Norway's timeliness indicator: the number of days between the end of the statistics' reference period and publication of the statistics.
- K48 (2024): For the KOSTRA statistics in Statistics Norway, it is recommended that an assessment is made of whether timeliness can be improved by allowing certain statistics to be published earlier or more frequently, based on a balance between timeliness and other quality objectives.
- K73 (2025): Arrange a seminar with the theme of punctuality and timeliness for all producers of official statistics.

New recommendations 2026:

- K84 (2026): All deviations from punctuality are logged together with the reason.

Principle 14. Coherence and comparability

Coherence and comparability refer to statistics being consistent over time and comparable across regions, countries, and statistical domains. The use of national and international classifications helps ensure that statistics are comparable with actors working in the same field, both nationally and internationally.

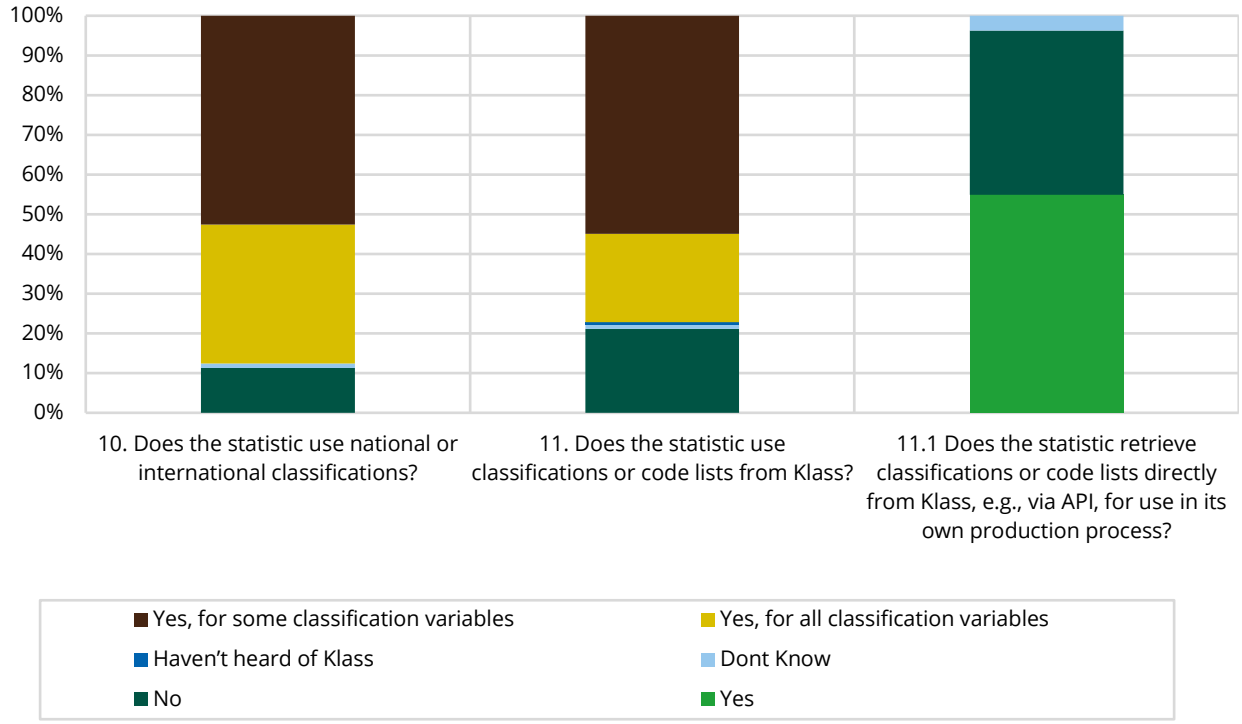
In response to the question of whether the statistics use national or international classifications, the share answering "Yes" (for all classification variables or for some classification variables) has increased from 80 per cent to 87.5 per cent.

The quality evaluation examines the use of Klass (Statistics Norway, 2024b), which is Statistics Norway's system for managing, documenting, and making available classifications used in official statistics. Klass helps promote comparability nationally, internationally, over time, and across statistical domains. Only Statistics Norway can enter and maintain classifications in the system, but anyone can view and retrieve them automatically via an API. Many of the classifications included in the system, such as the municipality register and industrial classification codes, are also relevant for

[4] Altinn is an internet portal for digital dialogue between businesses, private individuals and public agencies. Altinn is also a technical platform that government bodies can use to develop digital services.
[5] KOSTRA stands for Municipality-State-Reporting. Via KOSTRA, all local and county authorities in Norway submit figures on their activities to Statistics Norway.

producers outside Statistics Norway. Therefore, the question about the use of Klass has been posed to all statistics. The results of the quality evaluation show that the use of Klass is increasing.

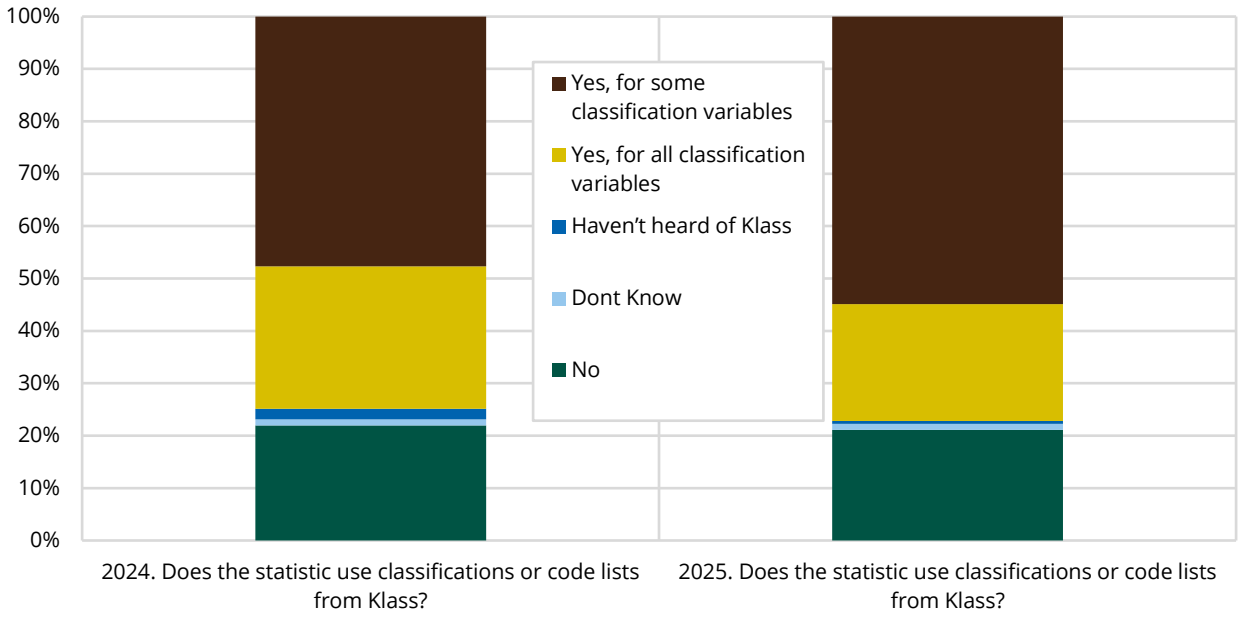
Figure 2.9 Use of national and international classifications, as well as use of Klass. Per cent. 2025



Source: Statistics Norway

Around 77 per cent of the statistics use classifications included in Klass in 2025, an increase from 75 per cent in 2024. Among those using national or international classifications, the share that retrieve them directly from Klass increased from 50 per cent in 2024 to 55 per cent in 2025.

Figure 2.10 Use of Klass. Per cent. 2024-2025



Source: Statistics Norway

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

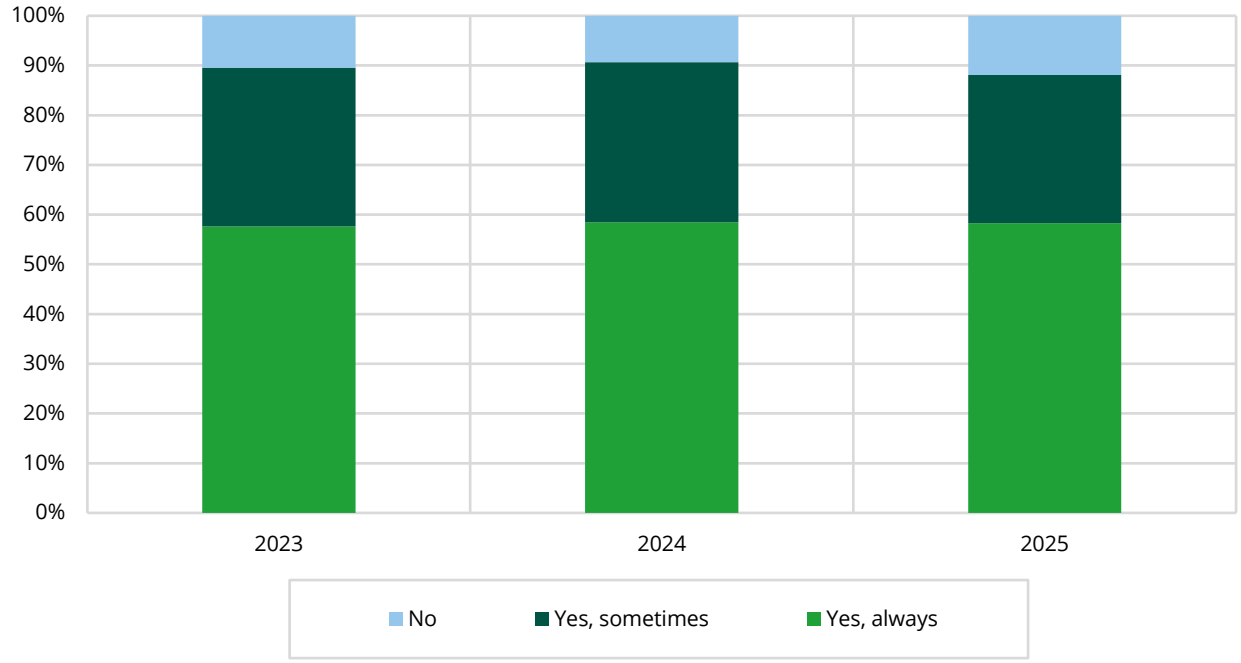
- K53 (2024): Statistics Norway: consider opening up the Klass coding system so that external producers of statistics can input their coding systems and classifications.
- K54 (2024): Klass should be adopted where practical and appropriate.

Principle 15. Accessibility and clarity

The principle states that statistics shall be presented in a clear and easily understandable manner. They shall be published and stored in ways that make them easy to understand and compare. Modern technology and open standards shall be used in dissemination. Tailor-made analyses may be carried out as needed and shall be made public. Users shall be provided with information on methods, data sources, and quality in line with European requirements.

For as many as 88 per cent of the statistics, an article, analysis, explanatory text, or similar content always (58 per cent) or sometimes (30 per cent) accompanies the publication or is released shortly afterwards. This nevertheless represents a slight decline from 2024, when the share was 91 per cent. In follow-up meetings, several statistical divisions at Statistics Norway reported that article writing sometimes is deprioritised as a result of the work to migrate statistical production to Dapla. It was also highlighted that articles can be omitted when they are known to attract few readers.

Figure 2.11 Is an article, analysis, or explanatory text provided alongside or within a reasonable time after the publication of the statistics? Per cent. 2023–2025



Source: Statistics Norway

The use of visualisations— such as charts, maps, and other types of graphics—shows a decline in 2025. Just under 75 per cent of the statistics use visualisations, compared with just over 80 per cent in 2024. A positive sign is that fewer now report a need for improvements, which may indicate increased satisfaction with the visual presentations[6]. At the same time, the follow-up meetings made it clear that many would like more flexible tools for creating and presenting visualisations, including

[6] The wording of the response options was slightly changed from 2024 to 2025. In 2024, the response option was "Yes, but there is room for improvement," whereas in 2025 it was "Yes, but there is a need for improvements." This may have influenced some of the responses.

interactive graphics and maps with multiple dimensions. Several also pointed out that articles and the use of visualisations are often closely linked, as confirmed by the results: for 93 per cent of the statistics that always publish an article or explanatory text, visualisations are also included. At the same time, only 3 per cent use visualisations without publishing an article, analysis, explanatory text, or similar content.

In 2025, 62 per cent of the statistics reported that they provide tailor-made analyses or custom table deliveries to users. The question was formulated more clearly in the 2025 questionnaire, which may have contributed to more respondents answering "Yes" than in 2023 (56 per cent) and 2024 (52 per cent). At the same time, the share answering "Don't know" decreased from 4–5 per cent in 2023 and 2024 to 1.5 per cent in 2025.

Among those that provide such analyses or tables, 84 per cent make the results publicly available on their website, in the public records journal, or through other means. The remaining 16 per cent do not make the results public (13 per cent) or respond that they do not know (3 per cent). These results are at the same level as in 2024. In the follow-up meetings, several expressed that they should improve their practice of making such analyses available. Those who do not offer tailor-made analyses or custom table deliveries explain this by a lack of demand, limited capacity, or the inability to carry out the requested analyses due to disclosure control considerations.

The five new producers of official statistics included in the statistical programme 2024–2027 have additionally responded to questions on how they, as institutions, comply with the European guidelines concerning institutional matters. In the responses for 2025, one area in particular shows a clear improvement: four out of five producers have now developed written guidelines for the publication of statistics, while the remaining producer has established routines. In comparison, three producers reported having routines in 2024, while two had neither written guidelines nor routines.

As in the previous report, Statistics Norway has conducted a simple review of statistical dissemination among producers outside Statistics Norway. This shows that some producers have made improvements, including better accessibility, metadata publication, and clearer identification of official statistics. However, there are still shortcomings and large variation in dissemination practices. Some statistics are difficult to find, both via search engines and from the producers' websites. There are still deficiencies related to clear advance announcement of publication dates and user-oriented documentation of how the statistics are produced. Many producers provide opportunities to download statistics to Excel and text files, but few offer API solutions. It is important that producers continue to improve dissemination solutions in line with the quality principles.

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

- K20 (2022): Guidelines for how statistics should be produced are published on the statistics authorities' websites, or links are provided to guidelines on ssb.no.
- K50 (2024): Improve the dissemination platforms and the tools for creating visual presentations to make it easier to publish different types of visualisations.
- K51 (2024): Use different types of visualisations in dissemination of the statistics.
- K74 (2025): Producers should make official statistics visible to users and ensure that they are easy to find both by using search engines and on their website.

2.5. Transition to new data platform in Statistics Norway

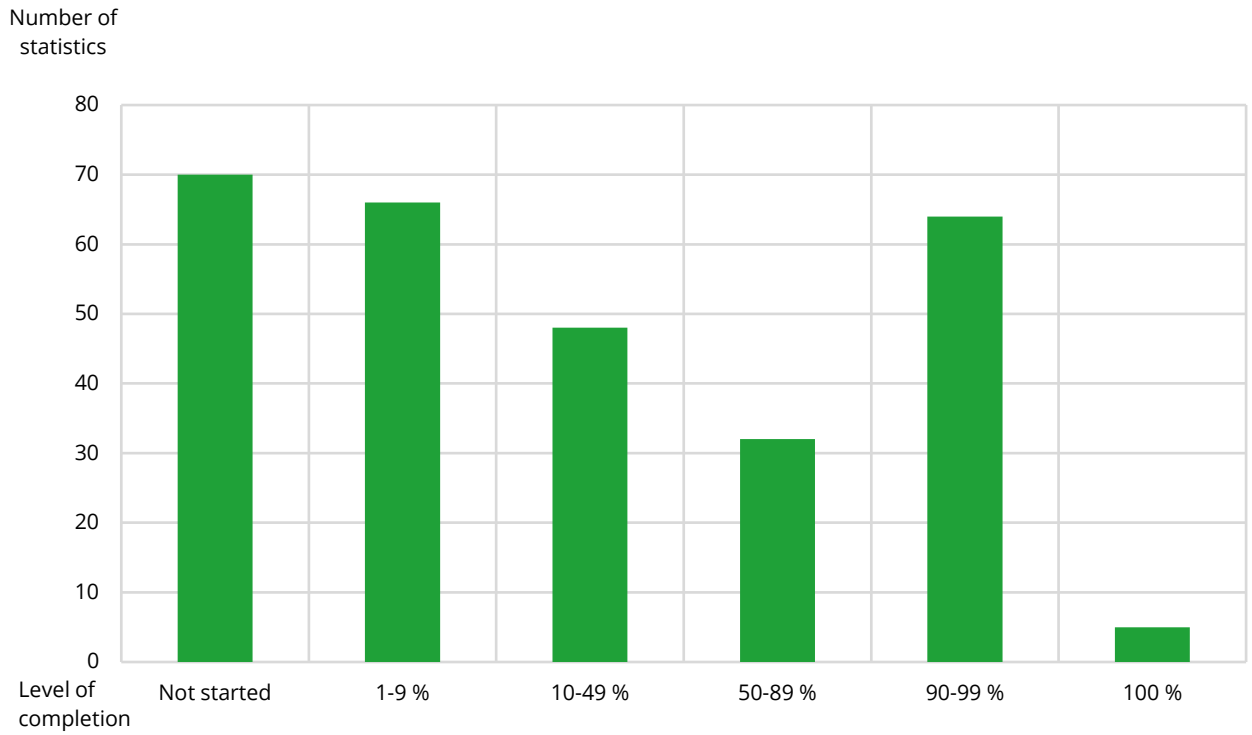
General overview of the transition to Dapla

At Statistics Norway, a comprehensive process is underway to move statistical production to a new cloud-based data platform (Dapla). Dapla is intended to help streamline work and production

processes, ensure efficient storage and retrieval of data and metadata, and support the sharing of data across statistical domains. Such a transition may improve the quality of the statistics, but there is also a risk that the transition could, to some extent, have a negative impact on quality.

Most of the questions related to Dapla are new as of 2025. The categories related to benefits are based on free-text responses on benefits provided in 2024.

Figure 2.12 Number of statistical products at Statistics Norway by level of completion on Dapla. October 2025



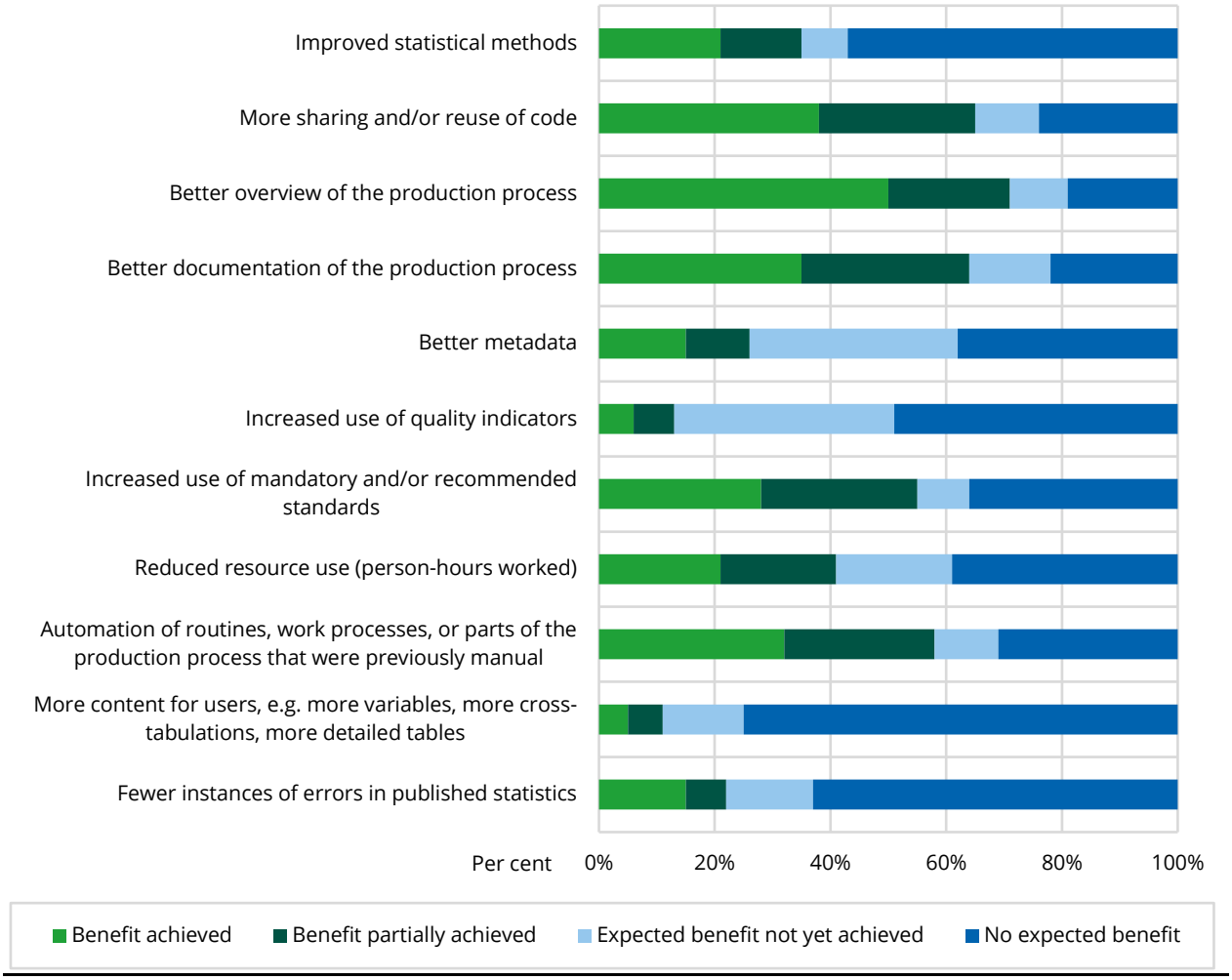
Source: Statistics Norway

In October 2025, 101 of Statistics Norway's 285 statistics were at least 50 per cent completed on Dapla[7]. These statistics were asked about the number of releases produced using the new platform. Of these, 28 statistics had been published once using a production workflow on Dapla, 22 had been published two to five times, 13 had been published six times or more, while 38 statistics had not yet been published.

In addition, for these 101 statistics, questions were asked about benefits and challenges related to the transition to Dapla, as well as about the consequences of the experienced challenges for the quality of the statistics.

[7] 50 per cent completed: A large share is in place, and there is a good overview of what remains. Testing, file storage, and dependencies are not necessarily completed. 100 per cent completed: A fully implemented production workflow on Dapla, with standards followed. A relatively large number of statistics are in the 90–99 per cent completion range. These statistics are produced on Dapla, but currently do not meet all the established standard requirements

Figure 2.13 Benefits of migrating to Dapla



Source: Statistics Norway

The results of the evaluation show that the transition to Dapla has uncovered some errors and weaknesses in previous production workflows, while code quality and accuracy have improved through increased automation and built-in controls. Many report gains in the form of code reuse, better documentation, and more efficient production work across statistics and teams. The most frequently cited benefit, by about 70 per cent, is that the transition work has provided a better overview of the production workflow. This insight also appears to contribute to improved documentation of the production process. Furthermore, the transition to Dapla has made it possible to clean up existing production workflows and routines. For several, this clean-up has had effects at least as significant as the transition itself. Programming skills have improved across several environments, and some have been able to adopt new methods such as machine learning.

The benefits least frequently mentioned, by only about 10–15 per cent, are more content for users and increased use of quality indicators. With regard to increased use of quality indicators, the expected benefit that has not yet been realised is relatively large. This suggests that although quality indicators have so far been used to a limited extent, many wish to further develop production workflows to measure different aspects of quality on Dapla. Several also say that it is a conscious choice to deprioritise work on quality indicators during the transition to Dapla, due to time pressure and immature solutions. Instead, they are focused on implementing such indicators at a later stage, once the statistics have been restructured and the solutions have become more mature.

While the transition is still ongoing, it is difficult to fully assess the benefits, particularly as some tools, such as editing solutions, are not yet completed. The goal of a coherent end-to-end production workflow is clear, but several point out that work remains to be done before all parts of the process are in place on Dapla.

For some statistics, the transition to Dapla is hindered by the fact that parts of data collection and statistical production still take place in production solutions that are to be phased out. Missing and immature tools on Dapla—especially for editing, data reception, automation, and pseudonymisation—make the processes time-consuming. Frequent changes in systems, standards, packages, and guidelines lead to repeated rework and create uncertainty and time pressure. Some also experience challenges related to insufficient documentation of old production workflows. Many statistical divisions face capacity and competence challenges, particularly when complex tasks must be solved locally within the division. Several call for better solutions for data flows and data preparation, as well as access to databases. A common concern across divisions is time pressure, lack of resources, and vulnerability when only a few individuals have sufficient expertise in new programming languages or the systems surrounding Dapla.

Overall, the picture is that quality is largely being maintained. Several statistics state that the transition has led to a better understanding of the publication process and the underlying data, but also resulted in deprioritisation of analyses, a longer transition period, and a risk of reduced relevance.

Summary of some of the main challenges experienced by the statistical divisions during the transition to Dapla:

- Dependence on data and functionality located in solutions that are being phased out
- Missing or immature tools on Dapla
- Frequent changes in standards, packages, and solutions
- Lack of expertise / skills gaps

Assessment of how the transition to Dapla affects compliance with relevant quality principles.
Principle 3. Adequacy of resources
The statistical divisions experience that additional and new tasks are being added to the statistical producers. There is also an expectation that statistical production will be maintained in parallel with the reorganisation. The perception is that insufficient resources have been allocated to carry out the transition.

Principle 4. Commitment to quality
The statistical divisions are concerned with the quality of what is delivered. The transition to Dapla is highlighted as an opportunity to measure various aspects of quality by introducing quality indicators, since the production process will in any case be redesigned using new programming languages. In practice, however, for the statistics that have been transitioned so far, this has been done only to a limited extent. This is due to both time pressure and immature Dapla functionality regarding quality measurement. Without such functionality being established in Dapla, it is difficult to envisage any significant increase in the use of quality indicators, for example, to measure the extent and impact of editing and to view these indicators across statistics.

Principle 5. Statistical confidentiality and data protection
Some statistics have, in the transition to Dapla, adopted R packages with statistical disclosure control methods, thereby phasing out old in-house solutions or manual routines. This contributes to strengthening compliance with this quality principle.

Principle 7. Sound methodology
There has been some development in the use of new or improved methods, including machine learning and other statistical methods. Time pressure may mean that some statistics do not have sufficient time and resources to establish new and improved methods on Dapla.

Principle 8. Appropriate statistical procedures
Many experience that the clean-up of the production process carried out in connection with the transition to Dapla leads to an improved production process and better documentation and understanding of their own production workflow. This contributes to better ways of working.

Principle 10. Cost effectiveness
Some statistics have reduced their resource use, while others expect to do so over time. Approximately 40 per cent of the statistics do not expect a reduction in resource use.

Principle 11. Relevance
There is a tendency to deprioritise analysis in connection with the transition to Dapla. There is also a risk that professional development of the statistics will be deprioritised. Over time, this may negatively affect relevance for users. Few expect that the transition to Dapla will result in more content for users.

Principle 12. Accuracy and reliability
In connection with the review of existing production processes, some statistics identified errors in the production workflow that have now been corrected.

Principle 13. Timeliness and punctuality
For the statistics that have been transitioned to Dapla, the timeliness is overall at about the same level as before. Statistics Norway does not expect improved timeliness in the short term as a result of the transition. About 60 per cent of the statistics experience benefits related to the automation of routines, processes, and production workflows following the transition. Over time, this may contribute to improved timeliness, but several other factors besides automation also affect timeliness.

A small number of statistics have experienced deviations in punctuality in connection with the transition to Dapla and attribute this to technical problems. The extent of such deviations is relatively evenly distributed between statistics that have published using Dapla and those that have not yet done so. Timeliness therefore does not appear to be significantly affected by the transition.

New recommendations 2026:

- K85 (2026): Establish standard setups on Dapla for calculating and monitoring quality indicators.

3. Other tools and methods for assessing and measuring quality

3.1. Register quality in Statistics Norway's statistics

Background

Since 2012, Statistics Norway has had a formalised collaboration with owners of administrative information systems. Agreements between Statistics Norway and the data owners regulate the ordering of annual data deliveries, regular meetings at the management level, and structured feedback on the quality of the data deliveries Statistics Norway receives from the data owners (quality reports).

The objective of the collaboration is to improve the quality of administrative information systems used as data sources for official statistics.

Status

Today, the collaboration consists of 26 agreements entered into or renewed after the current Statistics Act came fully into force in 2021. Work is ongoing to determine whether an additional three agreements, which were entered into under the former Statistics Act, should be renewed.

The agreements cover approximately 200 different data deliveries to Statistics Norway. The deliveries vary in frequency, ranging from daily streamed data to monthly, quarterly, or annual data transfers. For most agreements, data deliveries are ordered during the autumn preceding the delivery year, but there is considerable variation in how consistently the responsible divisions within Statistics Norway follow up on the agreements. According to the agreements, Statistics Norway is to prepare approximately 100 quality reports annually. The number of quality reports actually produced is somewhat lower, mainly due to capacity constraints. In 2025, 83 quality reports were prepared. In the quality reports, aspects related to data transmission and to the quality of units and values are assessed, and suggestions for measures to improve quality and strengthen cooperation between the data owner and Statistics Norway may be provided.

For approximately 14 per cent of the data deliveries, numerical quality indicators are produced in addition to the quality reports. Both the quality reports and the numerical quality indicators may provide feedback on invalid, missing, suspicious, or inconsistent values, as well as on units that are missing, duplicated, or should have been deleted. The numerical quality indicators include counts indicating the number of observations that may have various errors and deficiencies. Feedback is not provided in a way that could influence the data owner's case management of individual units.

The quality reports are designed to provide textual assessments and feedback on the quality of each individual administrative data source, but they are not particularly well-suited to describing developments in quality over time. The format of the quality reports also makes them poorly suited for efficient compilation and aggregation across data sources. For this reason, work has been initiated to further develop and design a quality report using a Likert scale[8], enabling comparison and measurement of quality developments over time.

In some cases, other non-standardised documents are also produced and exchanged with the data owners in connection with quality work. There are regular follow-up meetings between Statistics Norway and the data owners, and annual top-level meetings are held with the largest data owners.

[8] Used in questionnaires where respondents are asked to assess various questions or statements about a given phenomenon. For example, a statement about data quality in register data might be "suspicious/questionable values," and a scale associated with this could be "1 – Very high," "2 – High," "3 – Moderate," "4 – Low," "5 – Very low."

Experience with structured collaboration on quality has been positive. One effect of the cooperation agreements is increased awareness of quality among the data owners.

In response to recommendation K75, Statistics Norway organised an internal information meeting on register cooperation in autumn 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarise relevant staff with the obligations and tasks involved in cooperation with register owners, as well as the importance of active follow-up of the agreements. The meeting had high attendance and was well-received. Plans are in place to hold annual information meetings to maintain awareness and inform new staff members.

Assessments

The quality of data from administrative information systems is assessed as very good, and these data sources are of great value in statistical production. Using data from such systems helps keep the overall response burden on society low. The cooperation agreements provide Statistics Norway and the data owners with a good overview of annual data deliveries, updated contact points, and thus better predictability and better conditions for collaboration aimed at improving quality.

Below is a summary of the findings from the quality reports prepared for 2025.

Delayed or missing data deliveries

Data are mainly received on time and in accordance with the agreed specifications. Most deliveries are stable, but some data streams are affected by system changes and transition periods. In 2025, there were a few instances where data deliveries were delayed or had significant deficiencies.

The quality reports note that sporadic technical challenges in file transfers may occur. Several data sources require test files and clear file descriptions in connection with structural changes. For some datasets, there have been periods when data were not delivered, or when datasets were incomplete. New procedures and deliveries have been established to address this.

Assessments of quality related to units

By units, this primarily refers to individuals or enterprises. The units' identifiability is generally good. This means that units can be uniquely and automatically identified using an identification number, for example, individuals with a national identity number and enterprises with an organisation number. Good identifiability is very important, as it is crucial for efficiency to be able to link multiple data sources and produce statistics using pseudonymous identification numbers.

Overall, identifiability is good for most units. There are some cases where units cannot be identified automatically. This is often due to missing identification numbers for individuals with foreign citizenship. Some data sources have time lags in registrations, which affects change analyses and completeness.

Several quality reports indicate challenges related to undercoverage, with units missing from certain deliveries during specific periods, necessitating additional data collection. Some quality reports also point to challenges related to overcoverage, where units that should not have been included are nevertheless included.

Variation in registration practices in some systems leads to inconsistencies between units and roles. This occurs when different individuals, units, or professional environments register information in different ways within the same system. When common guidelines are lacking, or when regulations are interpreted differently, the same type of event may be registered with different roles, categories, or status codes. As a result, the data are not uniform, units may appear with different roles from case to case, and overviews or statistics may become misleading because the underlying data are inconsistent.

Assessments of quality related to values
Values are understood as information associated with the units. This may include numerical values, characteristics, and states. In general, feedback on challenges related to values is reported more frequently than challenges related to units. Measurement errors, inconsistencies, and suspicious values are reported. Most feedback concerns missing and inconsistent values.

For some deliveries, the data are of very high quality, with little need for corrections. For other data deliveries, certain variables show greater uncertainty, including missing values and a risk of double counting, while for other deliveries, moderate shares are recorded as unspecified/other, with variation across types of variables. For some datasets, post-corrections are made that result in figures changing after publication. This means that data that have already been delivered and published are subsequently updated by the data owner. When new information becomes available, errors are corrected or values are revised retroactively, the figures used by Statistics Norway in the statistics may change after publication. Such post-corrections particularly affect time series, as values for previous months or years may differ from those initially received. This requires subsequent updates to the statistics and may reduce the stability of published figures.

The quality reports indicate that some statistical areas are affected by changes in the data owner's systems and formats, resulting in missing variables.

Assessments of quality related to time-related aspects
Time-related aspects concern the quality of data as affected by when information is recorded, delivered, or updated. Registration lags may affect punctuality and the publication month. In some data sources, post-corrections are made by the data owner, and updated extracts are delivered that include previously omitted data. Reference periods and publication generally follow a fixed schedule, but some areas experience temporary deviations.

System transitions or new routines may create breaks or temporary data loss in certain periods, and we observe that some statistical areas have been affected by changes in the data owner's systems and formats.

Suggestions made to data owners to improve quality
In 67 per cent of the quality reports, Statistics Norway proposes collaborative measures to improve quality, reduce the response burden, or further develop the data source. Continued close and regular cooperation is recommended to ensure good coordination, rapid information flow, and a shared understanding of data quality. Improved controls are requested, particularly to detect invalid or missing codes, extreme values, duplicates, and inconsistent information prior to delivery. Several recommendations focus on moving quality assurance closer to the source, strengthening metadata, and ensuring clear labelling of datasets that have been reviewed.

Measures to reduce the response burden are also proposed, including modernising technical solutions, replacing manual file transfers with automated interfaces, and coordinating extracts currently delivered across multiple files. Further development of registers and reporting systems is emphasised as important, including the introduction of new standards, better and more detailed variables, electronic reporting, and modernisation of extraction structures.

Overall, the suggestions aim to strengthen data quality, reduce errors, simplify processes, and make the data basis more precise and reliable for statistical production.

Recommendations
Despite positive experience with the approach at Statistics Norway and positive feedback from the 2021 peer review, there is still room for improvement in the work on quality reports, including in

terms of monitoring developments over time. In some cases, Statistics Norway could improve its follow-up of agreements and data owners, as well as the completion and submission of quality reports.

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

- K75 (2025): Statistics Norway should ensure that relevant employees are familiar with obligations and tasks in the cooperation with register owners and ensure active follow-up of the agreements.

New recommendations 2026:

- K86 (2026): Statistics Norway is introducing a new template for quality reports on administrative data that makes it possible to compare and measure quality over time.

3.2. Peer review

During the period 2021–2023, Statistics Norway and four other producers of official statistics in Norway were subject to an external peer review as members of the European Statistical System. The four producers were the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH), the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI), all of which report statistics to the European Statistical Office, Eurostat.

The peers found no issues contrary to the European Statistics Code of Practice but issued 15 recommendations on how the Norwegian statistical system could be further developed and improved. Many of these recommendations focus on more detailed planning of ongoing initiatives, improved visibility of the quality work being carried out, and closer cooperation between Norwegian producers of statistics.

Among the recommendations were further development of the national programme for official statistics and the preparation of an action plan for quality improvements in the Norwegian statistical system. The expert team also recommended that Statistics Norway consider possibilities for publishing more detailed statistics, strengthen engagement with users, and further develop services for access to microdata. The other authorities were recommended to clarify their role as producers of official statistics, both internally within their organisations and externally, including on their own websites.

Follow-up of the action plans is described in more detail in Chapter 4.3.

3.3. Quality reviews

One of the tools for measuring and assessing quality in official statistics is quality reviews, which are conducted for a small number of individual statistics each year. In these reviews, compliance with the quality requirements of the Statistics Act and the European Statistics Code of Practice is assessed using various methods, such as user focus groups, reviews of possible sources of error in populations and data, and reviews of the production process based on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) (UNECE, 2025). The review report describes strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations for improvement. The responsible statistical unit formulates improvement measures based on the recommendations, and the status of these measures is reported annually. The framework for quality reviews is described in more detail in Appendix D.

In addition to concrete recommendations and measures, the quality reviews contribute to increased awareness of the quality principles.

The recommendations from the quality reviews are linked either to improvements in the statistics themselves or to the systems used to produce them. Although quality reviews focus on individual statistics, the improvement measures may have effects beyond the statistics reviewed.

At Statistics Norway, the selection of statistics for quality reviews is based on criteria adopted by management: *Statistics with identified errors or that have recently undergone major changes; critical statistical areas or areas that have not previously been reviewed; or statistics proposed by the statistical divisions*. Each year, the Directors' Meeting decides which statistics will undergo quality review, based on proposals from the quality team.

For statistics produced outside Statistics Norway, the producers submit statistics for quality review. According to the plan anchored in the Committee for Official Statistics, all producers are to have a quality review of one of their statistics by the end of the current statistical programme period. So far, quality reviews have been carried out at seven producers outside Statistics Norway, and four reviews are planned for 2026. This leaves four producers to meet the target by 2027.

Since 2015, a total of 31 quality reviews have been conducted. Six of these were carried out in 2025, two at Statistics Norway and four at other producers. See Chapter 4.1 for more information on the status of measures resulting from quality reviews.

In 2026, up to six quality reviews are planned, two at Statistics Norway and four at other producers. At Statistics Norway, the transition to a new data platform requires substantial efforts in the statistical divisions, which is taken into account in planning the quality reviews.

3.4. Quality indicators

While the other methods and tools on the ground floor of the quality house (see Figure 1) largely concern various forms of qualitative *assessments* of compliance with the quality requirements for official statistics, numerical quality indicators provide opportunities to *measure* different aspects of compliance. Numerical quality indicators constitute objective information, in contrast to self-assessments, which allow for subjectivity on the part of those carrying them out. It is desirable that objective information, in the form of numerical quality indicators, forms the basis for assessing compliance with the quality requirements.

In a few areas, such indicators already exist. These are strategic indicators used in dialogue on governance with ministries or for monitoring internal performance targets within a statistical authority. Examples include Statistics Norway's figures for timeliness and response rates. These indicators are generated and logged at the level of individual statistics, while aggregated figures are reported and used strategically for management purposes. The availability of figures at the statistics level enables linking this information with the self-assessments and using it as a source for the annual quality report. This is done for timeliness and punctuality figures for Statistics Norway's statistics; see Principle 13 on timeliness and punctuality in Chapter 2.4. Apart from this, however, there are currently very few such indicators that can be used as a source for assessing compliance with the 16 quality principles in the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Increased use of quality indicators has been a key message in previous quality reports, and several recommendations are related to this. The impression from follow-up meetings in the quality evaluation, and from other activities, is that statistical producers see the value of quality indicators and wish to make use of them. Producers of official statistics, both within and outside Statistics Norway, show interest in quality indicators, for example, through participation in training courses. However, awareness of the usefulness of such indicators and the ability to develop solutions for producing them are person-dependent and therefore vary substantially across areas. There are several good examples of indicator implementation, both within Statistics Norway and among other

producers. Nevertheless, measures to implement the recommendations have not resulted in increased use of quality indicators to assess production processes or output quality. This is discussed in more detail under Principle 4, Commitment to quality, in Chapter 2.2.

At Statistics Norway, the transition to Dapla is, in principle, an excellent opportunity to implement quality indicators in the production process for individual statistics, since the entire production process must be rebuilt (re-coded). So far, however, the experience is that work on implementing quality indicators is not prioritised during a hectic phase focused on meeting deadlines for transition and release of statistics. Statistical producers state that statistics need to be migrated to Dapla before work can continue on improvements, such as the implementation of quality indicators. This may be a sensible approach, provided a plan for the improvement work is established and technical solutions are not chosen that could later hinder such developments.

Although many indicators have very simple formulas, collecting the data required to calculate them can be demanding. At present, Dapla has no built-in support for quality indicators, and each statistic must code its own solutions for calculating them. For the time being, this may be more demanding on Dapla than the old production solutions being phased out, as they, to a greater extent, were based on shared solutions with built-in support for capturing log data and automatically generating quality indicators as part of the production process. In 2025, more concrete work was initiated to assess and test solutions for log data and quality indicators on Dapla.

The establishment of shared editing solutions on Dapla has progressed significantly compared with 2024. Such solutions make it possible to implement quality indicators within the solution itself and thereby for all statistics that use them. However, a module for quality indicators has not yet been prioritised within these solutions.

In 2024, Statistics Norway published a memorandum on recommended quality indicators in official statistics. The memorandum presents 26 numerical quality indicators and serves as a tool for selecting relevant quality indicators for individual statistics. More than half of the 26 indicators in the memorandum are numerical indicators found in SIMS (Eurostat, 2015). Statistics produced under EU regulations are often required to report SIMS indicators to Eurostat. This means that in several statistical areas, indicators are already being produced, but Statistics Norway lacks technological solutions for collecting and storing them. As a result, the indicators cannot be compiled across statistics in a consistent and efficient manner. Establishing a reference metadata system based on the SIMS structure would be one solution. This has previously been proposed as a peer review action but has not yet been prioritised. Establishing a technical solution that enables the extraction of quality indicators across statistics is a prerequisite for using them as a source for the annual quality report.

It should be a goal and an ambition that numerical quality indicators constitute a substantial part of the information base for the annual quality report. This will provide the opportunity to publish quality reports on selected topics more frequently and to more continuously monitor how compliance with quality requirements changes. Information collection could be automated to a greater extent and made more efficient. It is not realistic for indicators to cover the entire information base of the report; this would be too resource-intensive, and it is unlikely that numerical measurements can be found for all quality dimensions that the report should address. Nevertheless, this should be seen as a vision, i.e. the direction in which quality work should evolve. Over time, it should be possible to replace parts of self-assessments with numerical quality indicators, but this requires prioritisation and targeted efforts. Overall, the gains will be significant from moving from *assessing* quality to *measuring* quality.

3.5. User contact

Official statistics are intended to meet users' needs, which can vary from user to user and for different types of statistics. For some statistics, it might be more important that the figures are published quickly, rather than being as accurate as possible. For others, accuracy might be the most important factor. In any case, the statistics must be of such quality that the figures are reliable and can be used as a basis for important decision-making in society. It is also important to consider which user needs can be met within the given resources.

To understand users' needs, it is important to have sufficient contact with users. Statistics Norway has identified six target groups for the dissemination of statistics:

1. The general public: anyone without particular competence in utilising statistics but who is interested in questions that official statistics can answer.
2. The media: those working for newspapers and broadcast media. Disseminators of official statistics to wide audiences.
3. Analysts/decision-makers: disseminators of data to decision-makers in both the public and private sectors, as well as the decision-makers themselves.
4. Researchers: researchers at universities and university colleges, as well as students at master's level and above.
5. School pupils: pupils in lower secondary and upper secondary schools in Norway.
6. Respondents: individuals who supply information that forms the basis for official statistics.

The statistics are also used internally by producers of official statistics for analysis, research and the collation of other statistics. International organisations, such as the UN and Eurostat, are also important users of official statistics. This particularly applies to statistics that are mandated via the EEA Agreement or covered by cooperation under other agreements.

Advisory committees and established forums

Statistics Norway has established 19 advisory committees across different statistical areas. These cover approximately two thirds of Statistics Norway's statistics. For some statistical areas, the establishment of additional advisory committees is being considered. This has been recommended in previous quality reports.

Approximately two thirds of producers of official statistics outside Statistics Norway do not have permanent forums for dialogue with users. Some external producers are also working to establish such permanent forums. This is done either by setting up their own advisory committees following Statistics Norway's model, or by linking into existing advisory committees within the same thematic area that Statistics Norway already has. Among some producers of official statistics with a limited number of statistics, it is noted that establishing advisory committees for a small statistical area can be resource-intensive. Some also argue that permanent forums are unnecessary, as user engagement is adequately ensured through more informal contact.

In addition to advisory committees, there are various other permanent user forums, such as annual meetings with ministries, reference groups, working groups, and other regular meeting arenas.

Informal user contact

Several of the staff responsible for statistics report having extensive user contact, even where no formal user forums have been established. This contact also contributes to insight into user needs. User contact takes place directly with users via email and telephone, both through central information services and through those responsible for the statistics themselves. For most statistics, the names of the person responsible, along with their email addresses and telephone numbers, are

clearly visible on the statistics pages. User contact also takes place through central information services or the main switchboard. It is important that information about inquiries is fed back to the staff responsible for the statistics.

Statistics Norway has a central information service that assists journalists and the public with questions about statistics. The information service receives inquiries both by telephone and by email. In 2025, the information service logged 3,245 email inquiries and 1,942 telephone inquiries. Over time, the number of inquiries to the information service has declined significantly, approximately halving since 2017. A likely reason for this decline is increased use of search engines and, more recently, AI tools to find information about statistics. Most inquiries to the information service come from the target groups “analysts/decision-makers” and “the general public”. While the public shows the greatest interest in name statistics, analysts and decision-makers are primarily concerned with the statistical areas of prices/price indices, external trade, and KOSTRA.

User focus groups

In 2025, Statistics Norway conducted a total of six quality reviews of individual statistics, both within Statistics Norway and at other producers, including focus groups with users of the statistics. User focus groups are a valuable method for obtaining direct user feedback regarding needs and the quality of the statistics.

The focus groups cover a very broad range of users and statistics, yet several findings are clearly evident across groups. Users perceive the statistics as important and essential for their work, and they are used for analysis, decision support, media reporting, policy development, and operational assessments. Relevance is high, but there is often a need for more detailed data than is currently available. Many users request finer geographic breakdowns, more background variables and greater detail within the various subject areas covered by the statistics.

A key cross-cutting theme is the desire for greater transparency regarding data quality and uncertainty. Users have overall trust in the statistics, but miss clearer information on completeness, methodological limitations, non-response, biases, and revisions. Several point out that quality assurance by data providers is not always sufficient, and that errors in reporting are, in some cases, first identified by users. This creates uncertainty and highlights the need for more visible methodological information and better ongoing controls.

Time series are of crucial importance for almost all users. Long and stable time series are perceived as the greatest strength of the statistics, but challenges arise when there are breaks in series, large discrepancies between preliminary and final figures, or limited possibilities to retrieve time series in existing solutions. Users would like explanations of why breaks in time series occur and how they should be handled.

Regarding accessibility and clarity, users find that the figures are available but not always easy to use. Statistics pages and tables are either too simple or too technically complex, documentation is insufficiently visible, and many miss graphics that provide better insight into developments. PDF files are still used, which makes further processing cumbersome. Excel files and tables are often hard to navigate or lack flexibility, and several users wish to create their own tables and combine variables. Across groups, there is a clear need for solutions that more closely resemble the functionality of a Statbank, allowing users to combine variables themselves, retrieve time series, and download data in processable formats.

A consistent and positive finding is that dialogue between users and statistical producers functions very well. Users perceive the professional environments as open, accessible, and responsive, and the cooperation is described as professional and constructive. At the same time, several note that

good dialogue, in some cases, becomes a substitute for insufficient information on websites, rather than a complement.

Users also ask for more explanations and contextualisation of the figures, preferably in the form of short articles, analyses, or professional assessments addressing trends, uncertainty, and causal relationships. They emphasise that statistics have different user groups and that presentation should be adapted accordingly, so that overarching key figures and visualisations can be combined with more detailed documentation and flexible data solutions for more advanced users.

Overall, the focus groups show high trust in the statistics and significant value to users but also reveal considerable potential for improvement in the level of detail, data quality, dissemination, time series, and accessibility of technical solutions. This applies across statistics and producers and points to shared challenges and opportunities for further improvement in the system of official statistics.

User survey for ssb.no

The user survey for ssb.no is described in Statistics Norway's annual reports and aims to map user satisfaction and identify challenges related to finding, using, and understanding the content on ssb.no. The survey was conducted online in the period December 2025–January 2026 and received 1,600 responses and 400 suggestions for improvement. The results are relatively similar to those of the previous year. Seventy-four per cent of respondents stated that they found what they were looking for, and 59 per cent reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their use of the website.

Changes made to the survey in 2024, including the removal of participation incentives, more concrete wording of questions, and the removal of the "Don't know" response option, affect the results and likely make them more realistic than in previous years. The figures after these changes show, among other things, that fewer respondents report finding what they are looking for, changes in visit frequency, and that more respondents give neutral answers regarding how easy ssb.no is to use. At the same time, some user groups are underrepresented, such as the media and younger users, which limits what can be said about the total user population.

The conclusion indicates that the survey has value but provides a superficial picture of users and does not constitute a sufficient basis for understanding their needs. There is untapped potential in more advanced analyses of the responses, such as cross-tabulation of variables and more detailed insight into different user groups. At the same time, the survey has clear limitations, including low representation from key target groups and the fact that it does not capture differences between different parts of ssb.no. It is emphasised that the survey should be supplemented with other sources of insight, and that AI-based analysis cannot currently replace professional work related to user experience.

4. Improvement measures

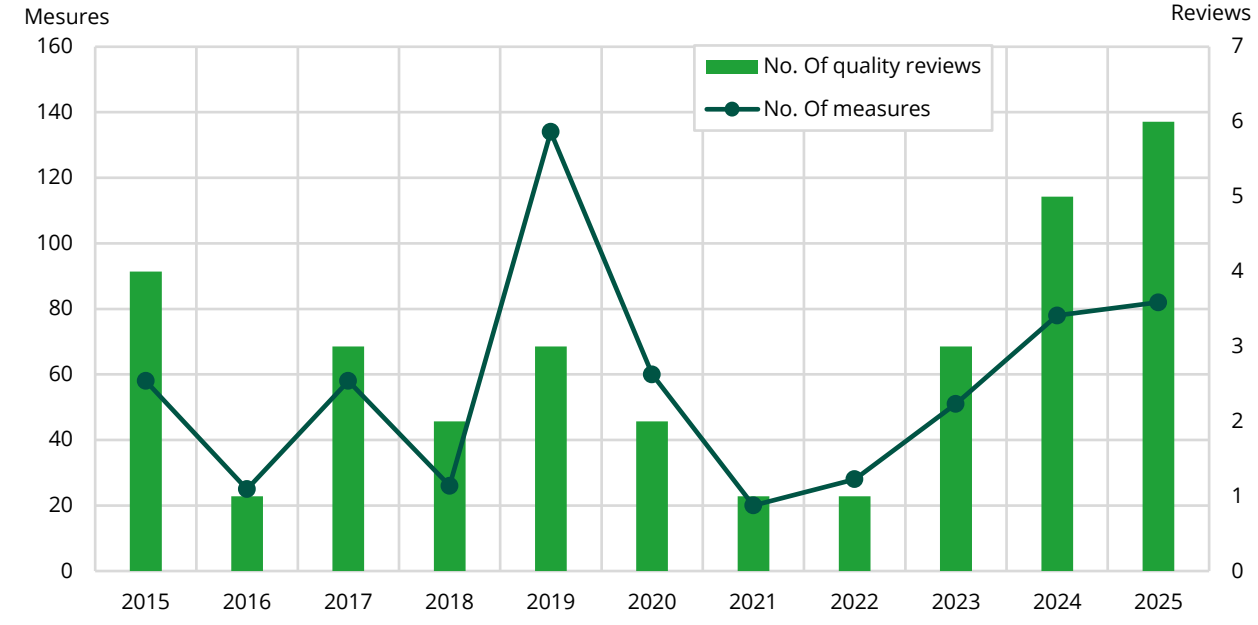
A key part of quality work is the follow-up of measures intended to strengthen and further develop the quality of official statistics. Following quality reviews, quality evaluations, and peer reviews, action plans are drawn up describing the necessary improvements. The measures are implemented by the statistical producers or relevant support functions and are systematically followed up on over time until they are considered completed.

4.1. Improvement measures following quality reviews

In 2025, six quality reviews of individual statistics were carried out, two at Statistics Norway and four at other producers. Experience with the quality reviews has been positive. They contribute to both increased awareness of the quality principles and to concrete improvements in statistical processes and products.

Since 2015[9], a total of 31 quality reviews have been conducted. After each quality review, the statistical producers prepare proposals for improvement measures. The status of the measures is updated by the statistical producers and marked as completed when they have either been implemented or incorporated as a permanent activity in statistical production. In total, 620 measures have been planned since 2015. Of these, 502 measures (81 per cent) have been completed. Figure 4.1 shows the number of quality reviews and the measures resulting from them. For one of the quality reviews conducted in 2025, the statistical producers' plans for improvement measures are not yet finalised.

Figure 4.1 Number of quality reviews and reported quality-enhancing measures, 2015–2025



Source: Statistics Norway

4.2. Improvement measures following quality evaluations

The report on the quality of official statistics for 2025 (Statistics Norway, 2019–2026) contains 77 recommendations (K1–K77) on how the quality of official statistics can be improved. The producers

[9] During the period 2011–2014, 21 quality reviews were conducted at Statistics Norway, all of which have been completed. They are not included in the overview in this memorandum.

carry out independent cost–benefit assessments of the recommendations and prepare plans with prioritised measures based on these assessments. The action plans include information on the start and completion dates for the measures, as well as the status of the work. Statistics Norway collected status information on the action plans from all producers as of March 2026.

All producers have prepared an action plan. Figure 4.2 shows the status of reported measures in 2022, 2024, 2025, and 2026. In total, 315 measures have been reported, and 181 of these have already been completed.

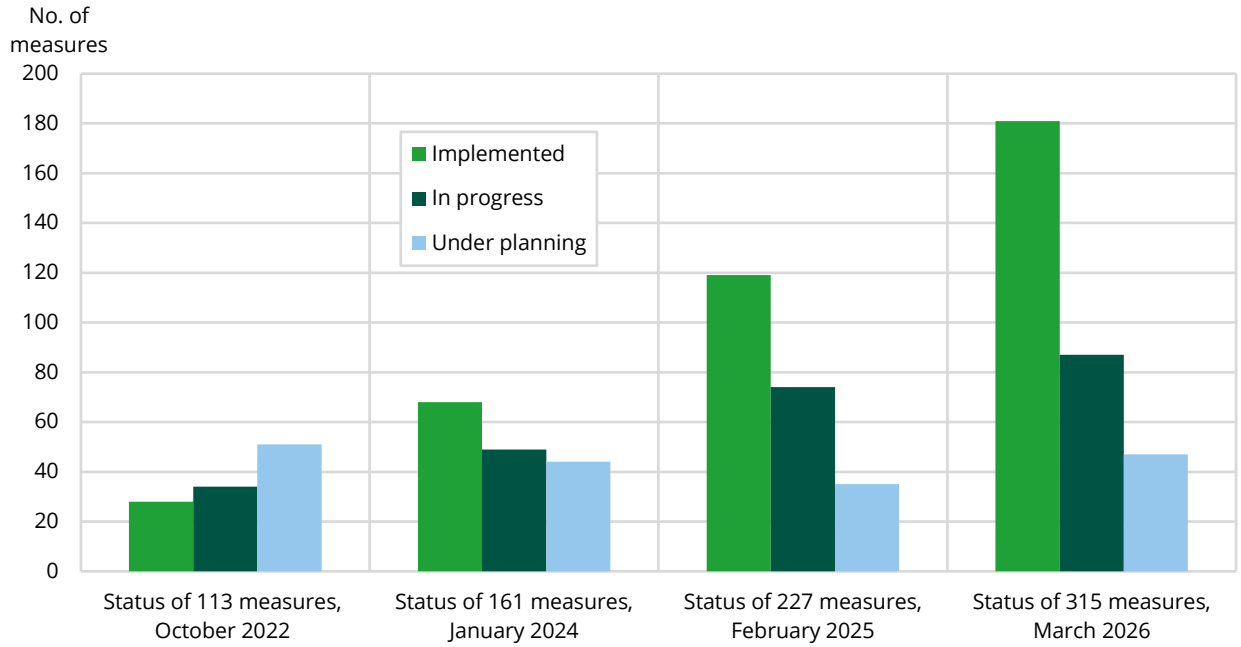
Although many measures have been planned and implemented, there are still some recommendations for which it would be desirable to identify and implement additional measures. Examples include the recommendations to introduce quality indicators and to use recognised methods and software for statistical disclosure control. These are recommendations that, in some cases, will require additional resources to implement but may yield substantial quality gains.

Some producers point out that recommendations can be challenging to implement in practice. This is partly because necessary measures may involve increased costs, require access to licensed software, or compete with other priority tasks. In addition, unclear internal responsibilities within the organisation can make it more difficult to follow up on the recommendations in some cases.

The recommendations vary in nature, and there can be significant differences in how easy they are to implement. The proposed measures also differ in nature and vary in scope, complexity, and impact. Some measures have a narrow focus with limited impact on overall quality, while other measures have the potential for substantial quality improvements and positive effects for several producers. Examples include developing shared solutions that benefit all producers, as described in more detail in Chapter 6.5. Counting the number of measures implemented therefore provides some indication of activity and follow-up, but is not in itself sufficient as a measure of quality improvement.

To assess whether and how the measures contribute to improved quality in the statistics, it is necessary to supplement counts of measures with qualitative assessments and relevant quality indicators. This may include, for example, assessments of documentation, measurements of compliance with standards, user satisfaction, or identified weaknesses in subsequent quality reviews. Information provided in open-ended survey responses and follow-up meetings in connection with the quality evaluation also provides qualitative insights. However, such a comprehensive assessment of the effects of measures across all producers is resource-intensive. Resource use for measurement of effects must therefore be weighed against the need to allocate resources to implementing the improvement measures themselves. A balance must be struck between documenting improvement and actually achieving improvement.

Figure 4.2 Status of reported measures following quality evaluations, 2022, 2024, 2025 and 2026

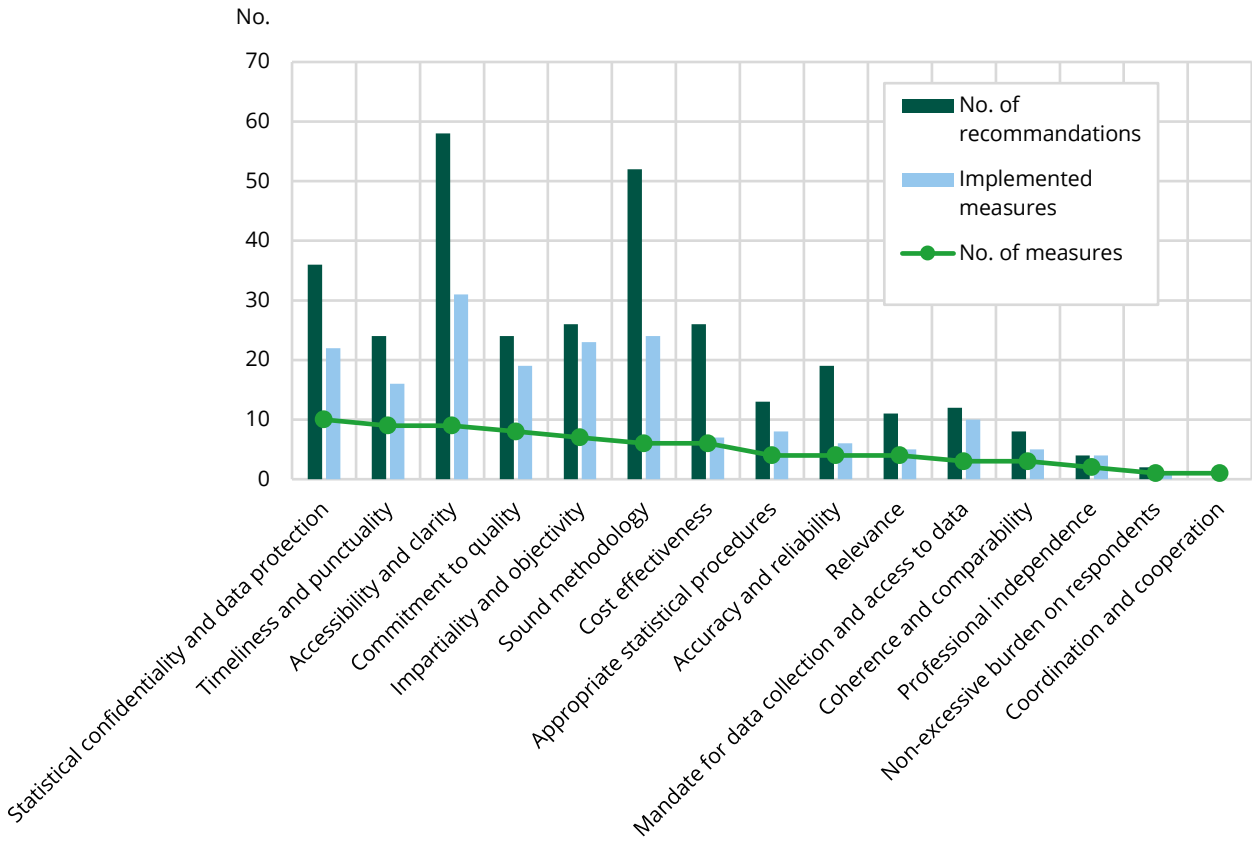


Source: Statistics Norway

Relationship between recommendations and measures

This section takes a closer look at the relationship between recommendations and measures, and how they are distributed across the various principles in the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Figure 4.3 Number of recommendations and measures per quality principle

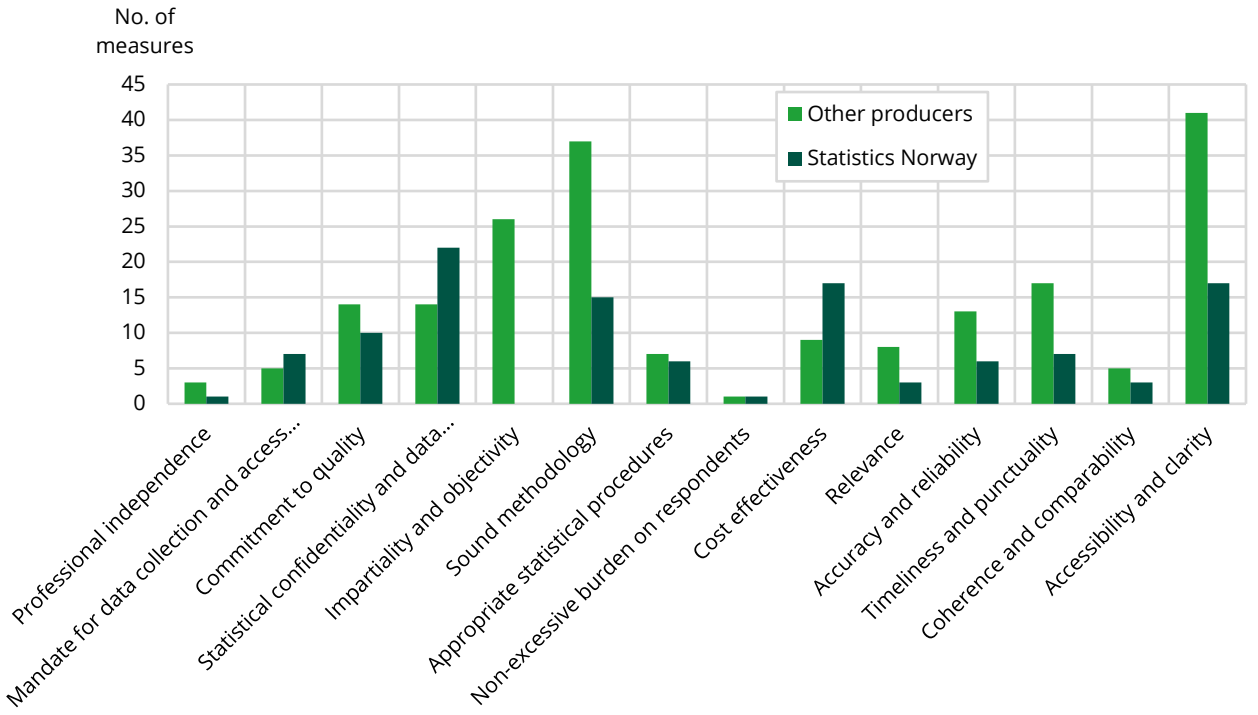


Source: Statistics Norway

Figure 4.3 shows the number of recommendations and measures by quality principle. From the start of the quality evaluations up to and including the 2025 report, a total of 77 recommendations for quality-enhancing measures have been issued. The largest number of recommendations relate to Principle 5, Statistical confidentiality and data protection, followed by Principle 13, Timeliness and punctuality, Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity, and Principle 4, Commitment to quality.

By comparison, the largest number of measures has been implemented for Principle 15, Accessibility and clarity, and Principle 7, Sound methodology. These two principles also have the highest number of completed (finalised) measures.

Figure 4.4 Number of measures per quality principle broken down between Statistics Norway and other producers of official statistics



Source: Statistics Norway

Figure 4.4 shows the variation between Statistics Norway and other producers regarding the number of measures by principle. Statistics Norway is responsible for 36 per cent of all completed and pending measures, while the remaining 64 per cent are planned by the other producers. Producers outside Statistics Norway are responsible for 17 per cent of all official statistics, measured by the number of published statistics. The fact that Statistics Norway accounts for only slightly more than one third of the measures can be explained by the fact that measures at Statistics Norway are largely organised at the departmental level rather than by statistical division or individual statistic. The other producers have, to a greater extent, implemented quality-enhancing measures at the level of individual statistics or measures related to institutional conditions. As the central statistical producer, Statistics Norway has established the institutional framework over many years.

Status of recommendations

This year's report contains a total of 11 new recommendations (K78–K88) on how to improve the quality of official statistics. One of these new recommendations replaces a previous recommendation. Furthermore, 18 recommendations from earlier reports are assessed as completed in this year's report. There are now a total of 55 open recommendations, including the 11 new ones in this year's report. This is 6 fewer open recommendations than in last year's report. In

assessing whether a recommendation can be considered completed, two aspects are taken into account:

- Whether all measures related to the recommendation have been completed.
- Whether responses from the questionnaire survey or other information sources indicate that the recommendation has been fulfilled.

Many of the recommendations from the first two reports, published in 2022 and 2023, which focused primarily on institutional issues, are now considered fulfilled.

See Appendix B for further details on the status of individual recommendations from the quality reports for 2022–2025.

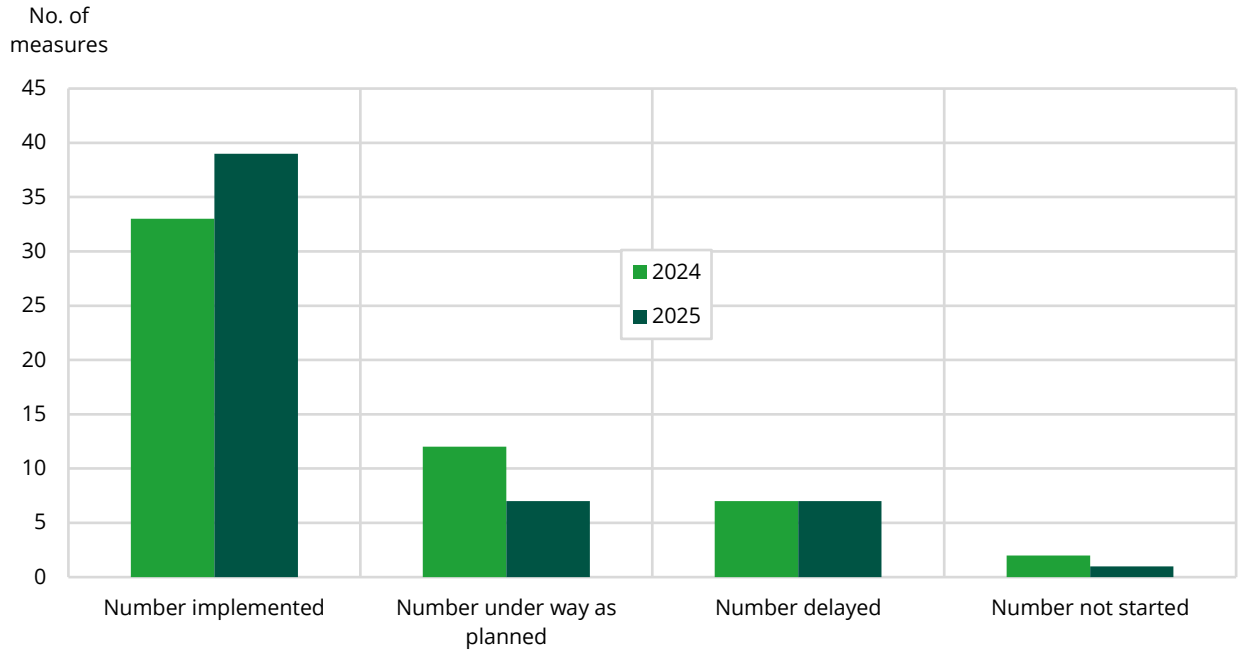
4.3. Measures following peer review

Statistics Norway and the other four authorities that participated in the peer review in 2021 have drawn up a joint action plan to follow up on the recommendations. The plan contains a total of 54 measures, of which 38 will be implemented by Statistics Norway and 16 by the other four authorities.

The action plan has been approved by Eurostat, and annual reports on the implementation of the measures will be submitted from the end of 2024 to the end of 2027. The complete action plan, with detailed descriptions and deadlines, has been published on the websites of Eurostat and Statistics Norway (Eurostat, 2021-2023).

The status review at the end of 2025 shows that implementation of the measures is largely proceeding as planned. Of the 54 measures, 39 were reported as completed by 31 December 2025. Work on 7 of the measures was ongoing as planned, while 7 of the measures had been delayed according to the original schedule. Work on one measure had not yet started.

Figure 4.5 Status of the 54 measures following peer review, as of 31 December 2024 and 31 December 2025



Source: Statistics Norway

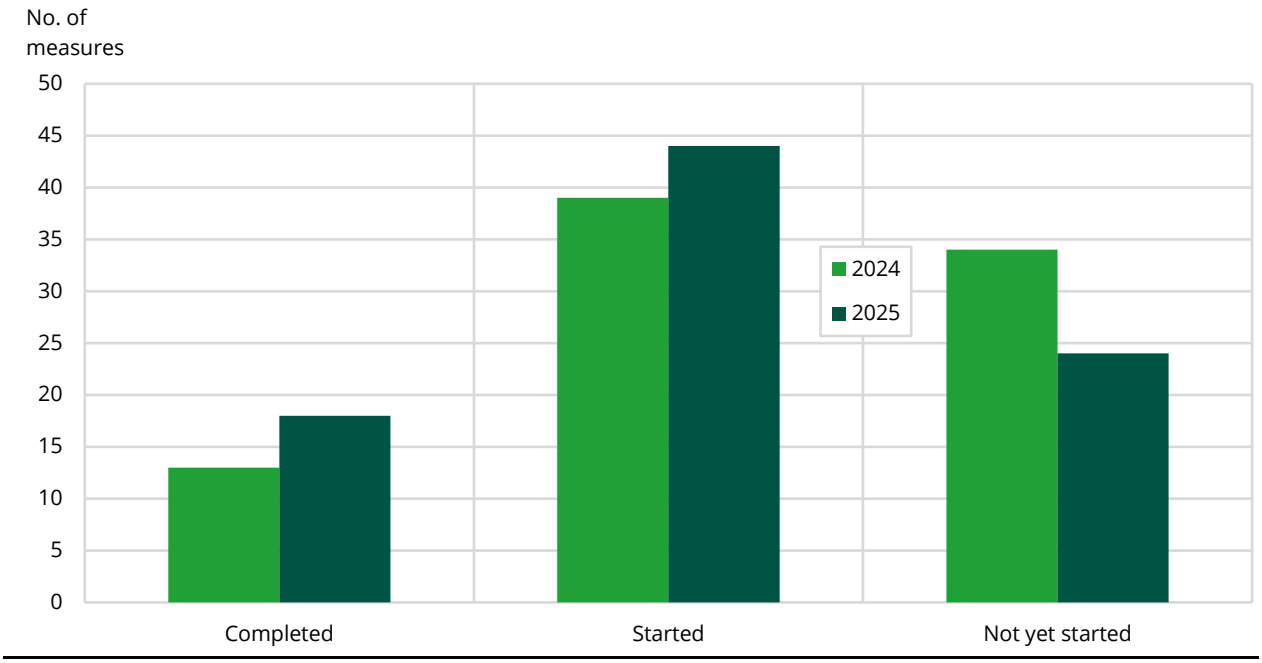
4.4. Development measures within the statistical programme

The National Programme for Official Statistics 2024–2027 contains 86 measures aimed at developing new official statistics and further developing existing ones. These measures are important for meeting users' needs and expectations for official statistics and are relevant to quality principles such as relevance, timeliness, and accuracy. The development measures, which are listed in an appendix to the documentation note for the statistical programme (Statistics Norway, 2024a), are distributed across 69 measures at Statistics Norway and 17 at other producers.

Statistics Norway follows up on progress on the development measures through annual status reporting from those responsible. At the beginning of 2026, 18 development measures had been completed. Five measures were completed, and five were initiated in 2025. Of a total of 44 measures currently ongoing, 37 are at Statistics Norway and seven at other producers. One of the largest measures is the establishment of a system of natural capital accounts in cooperation between the Norwegian Environment Agency and Statistics Norway.

There are 24 development measures that have not yet been initiated, 23 of them at Statistics Norway. It remains uncertain whether several of the measures can be implemented with the desired level of ambition and scope, among other things, due to uncertainty related to data availability or funding. At Statistics Norway, the transition to a new data platform has implications for the implementation of other development tasks.

Figure 4.6 Status of the 86 development measures in the National Programme for Official Statistics 2024–2027 as of 31 December 2024 and 31 December 2025



Source: Statistics Norway

5. Other arenas and processes for the follow-up of quality

5.1. Committee for Official Statistics

Several producers presented their statistics at committee meetings in 2025, and the members discussed challenges and exchanged experiences. Among the topics discussed were professional independence and how responsibility for quality work is clarified among the producers. Statistics Norway provided information on the new user interface in the Statbank and on the use of PxWeb (see Chapter 6.5) as a dissemination solution.

In 2025, Statistics Norway established a working committee consisting of six[10] members to assist with the coordination and planning of the committee's work. The purpose is to strengthen coordination, quality, and the development of official statistics in Norway. The committee addressed the mandate and composition of the working committee.

The methodology network and the dissemination network are intended to facilitate the exchange of experience at the technical and operational level among committee members. The networks and Statistics Norway's training courses are useful to the members. These activities are described in more detail in Chapter 5.2.

5.2. Courses and networks

Statistics Norway organised seven quality courses in 2025. The course "Quality – guidelines and requirements" was delivered five times. Two courses were intended for new employees at Statistics Norway, and one was a dedicated course for one of the external producers of official statistics. This course had 15 participants from the external producer. The remaining two courses were open to both Statistics Norway's staff and members of the Committee for Official Statistics.

The course "Quality indicators and management information" was held twice and was open to both Statistics Norway's staff and members of the Committee for Official Statistics.

Altogether, the seven quality courses had 114 registered participants, of whom 35 were from outside Statistics Norway. Both the number of quality courses and the number of participants have increased since 2024. Important reasons for this increase are that the course "Quality – guidelines and requirements" is now mandatory for new employees at Statistics Norway, and that the number of producers of official statistics has increased. All quality courses were delivered in-person with lectures and group work. In addition, the quality team at Statistics Norway has been invited to statistical divisions within Statistics Norway to give presentations on quality topics, such as quality indicators.

Statistics Norway also held 15 methodology courses or workshops. Some of these were open to members of the Committee for Official Statistics. The courses covered topics such as editing, index theory, estimation, confidentiality/statistical disclosure control, seasonal adjustment, and questionnaire methodology. A basic course in confidentiality has now been made mandatory for new employees at Statistics Norway. New in 2025 was an introductory course in statistical production based on the statistical production process model, the Generic Statistical Business

[10] Statistics Norway, three other producers of official statistics, and two other members of the Committee for Official Statistics.

Process Model v 5.2 (GSBPM). In addition, four methodology seminars were organised, with a total of more than 200 participants, of whom approximately one quarter were external participants.

The dissemination network, which now has more than 100 participants from 22 public agencies, organised two seminars in 2025. The themes of the seminars were PX-Web 2.0 and disinformation and misunderstandings related to published statistics.

Statistics Norway shares relevant publications on standards, quality, principles, and guidelines within the methodology network. In 2025, one such publication was shared, concerning the rounding of figures. No separate meetings of the methodology network were held in 2025.

Statistics Norway and members of the Committee for Official Statistics who produce European statistics can participate in courses organised through the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP). In 2025, a total of 12 Norwegian participants attended such courses. Participation was greatest in courses related to specific statistical domains, but also included courses on AI, visualisation, and programming.

5.3. Committees in Statistics Norway

Statistics Norway has two committees that contribute to the development and management of frameworks for quality in official statistics: the Standards Committee and the Confidentiality Committee.

The Standards Committee is responsible for the overarching work on standardisation at Statistics Norway. The committee acts as a driving force and coordinator for the harmonisation of existing code lists and variables, as well as for the development of new standards and related shared services. The work of the Standards Committee is closely linked to Statistics Norway's transition to Dapla, where standardisation is a key prerequisite for efficient data sharing, reuse, and automation.

The main task of the Confidentiality Committee is to develop general and practically applicable rules and guidelines for how Statistics Norway interprets and applies the legal provisions on statistical confidentiality. The committee's mandate has recently been expanded and now also covers confidentiality related to the processing of and access to microdata, in addition to the publication of official statistics and the provision of tailored tabulations.

Both committees contribute to strengthening the quality of official statistics through the development of common frameworks, standards, rules, and guidelines. Results and recommendations from the committees' work are shared with the Committee for Official Statistics when they are relevant beyond Statistics Norway. In connection with seminars, courses, and other competence-building activities, other producers of official statistics are invited to participate in order to promote a shared understanding and common practices across the statistical system (see Chapter 5.2).

Work in the Standards Committee relevant to other statistical producers includes, among other things, the further development of Klass. The further development of Klass is currently planned to start in late 2026. A need for new and extended functionality has been identified. Klass currently offers an API for the retrieval of classifications and code lists, but there is demand for more user-friendly solutions for the input and management of code lists, including an API that can replace today's more manual processes.

6. Developing the quality system

6.1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) in official statistics

Developments in artificial intelligence (AI) are increasingly affecting the production and use of official statistics. The European framework for official statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice, was last revised in 2017, before machine learning and AI became widely used in statistical production. Today, AI is increasingly used both as a working tool and as an integrated part of production processes, particularly for classification, coding, and other forms of automated processing. The emergence of large language models offers additional opportunities for automation, efficiency gains, and support for analytical work, while at the same time raising new questions related to quality, traceability, transparency, and control. This implies that existing principles and quality requirements must be interpreted, operationalised, and further developed in light of new technology.

The EU regulation on artificial intelligence, the AI Act (EU Artificial Intelligence Act, 2026), was adopted in the summer of 2024 and will enter into force gradually, with full application by 2027. The regulation will be implemented in Norway through the EEA Agreement and establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework for the development and use of AI systems, based on a risk classification of different applications. Statistics Norway already uses AI and machine learning in production, analysis, and support functions, and the scope of use is expected to increase. This means that producers of official statistics must identify, document, and classify their AI applications in accordance with the regulation and establish appropriate governance and monitoring mechanisms.

The AI Act establishes a risk-based approach, where AI systems are divided into categories with different requirements, ranging from prohibited systems, via high-risk AI systems with strict requirements for documentation, risk management, data quality, and human oversight, to systems with limited or minimal risk. As the national statistical institute, Statistics Norway has a particular responsibility for trust, transparency, and the correct use of data. Several of Statistics Norway's current and future AI applications may fall within the high-risk category, for example, where AI is used for classification, imputation, decision support, or other core processes in statistical production. The use of AI in support functions, such as recruitment or user support, is also relevant.

These developments and the new regulatory framework indicate that Statistics Norway needs to establish a comprehensive framework for the use of AI in statistical production, ensuring compliance with both the AI Act and the principles of official statistics. A common framework for all official statistics should be considered to ensure consistent practices, high quality, and continued trust in an increasingly automated and AI-driven statistical production.

New recommendations 2026:

- K87 (2026): Update the guidelines for "About the statistics" to include documentation of the use of AI in the production of statistics.
- K88 (2026): Develop a framework and/or procedures for the use of AI in statistical production.

6.2. Metadata in official statistics

High-quality metadata are essential for ensuring that data can be used safely and effectively for training AI and AI assistants. Statistics Norway's broad and representative data can help reduce bias in models and support the development of responsible AI. Other public authorities and producers of statistics also hold data that may be valuable for this purpose.

At Statistics Norway, new metadata systems have been developed and are being implemented as statistical production is migrated to Dapla. This entails a strengthened focus on metadata and represents important steps towards making Statistics Norway's data and statistics available for AI.

At the same time, developments in artificial intelligence, both nationally and internationally, point to metadata taking on an increasingly central role in assessing quality, traceability, and suitability for use in automated analyses and decision support. For data and statistics to be used responsibly in AI-based solutions, precise and machine-readable descriptions of concepts, definitions, production processes, assumptions, uncertainty, and limitations are required. Metadata is thus not only an aid for human users, but as a prerequisite for algorithms to correctly interpret and apply data.

As the importance of AI increases, metadata can also be seen as a shared quality foundation across statistics, registers, and sectors. Standardised and harmonised metadata facilitate reuse, integration, and comparability, and reduce the risk of misuse and misunderstanding. This suggests that work on metadata in official statistics should increasingly be viewed in a holistic perspective, where common concepts, standards, and structures become key instruments for ensuring quality, trust, and efficient use of data in a more automated and AI-driven public administration. See Chapter 6.5.

6.3. Certification of the quality management system

One of the recommendations to Statistics Norway in the peer review report (Eurostat, 2021–2023) was to consider certification of the quality management system. The relevant certification standard is ISO 9001:2015 – the quality management system standard. Statistics Norway has assessed its quality management system against the requirements of the standard. In most areas, the assessment indicates that the quality management system meets the requirements of the standard. However, deficiencies have been identified related to operational risk management, non-conformance handling, document control, and management review.

Possible certification under the standard has been considered by Statistics Norway's management. In 2025, the Director Meeting decided that Statistics Norway should not pursue certification but instead work towards meeting the requirements of the standard. Work already initiated to meet the standard's requirements includes assessing the document management system, improving non-conformance handling, and establishing management review within the quality area. Regarding risk assessments, Statistics Norway has an established framework at the strategic level. At the operational level (statistics level), risk assessments are more sporadic and ad hoc. Establishing a formal framework for risk management at the operational level is not a prioritised area.

6.4. Quality culture

In March 2025, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted a maturity model for quality culture in official statistics (UN, 2025). Addressing quality culture is a new initiative within the UN statistical community, stemming from the recognition that shared values and behaviours are essential for the production and dissemination of official statistics. The model is operationalised as a checklist with self-assessment, which provides an overview of the level of maturity of a statistical producer's quality culture. The maturity model enables identification of areas for improvement, thereby strengthening efforts and capacity to safeguard and enhance the quality of official statistics.

In 2025, some assessments were made of how the model could be applied in Norway. One possible approach is to pilot the model in connection with the establishment of management review for the quality area at Statistics Norway in 2026. A completed checklist, i.e. the self-assessment, could be included as an annex to the review and help identify areas where the quality culture needs

strengthening. Such an approach enables testing the value added by the model before it is potentially implemented more fully at Statistics Norway and among other producers of statistics.

6.5. Status of shared solutions for the production and dissemination of official statistics

Last year's report highlighted the challenge of fragmented production and dissemination solutions among producers of official statistics, and the need for shared solutions across producers to streamline statistical production and strengthen user orientation. The report presented two recommendations in this area.

The first recommendation (K76) concerned assessing the development, financing, and governance of shared solutions across producers of official statistics within the areas of dissemination, metadata, and documentation. Examples of such solutions include a common statistical calendar, a shared system for documenting official statistics ("About the statistics"), and shared metadata systems, for example, for classifications and code lists. Statistics Norway plans to establish a working group with participants from several producers to follow up on this recommendation. Such solutions require development work and investments. It must be clarified how the different areas should be organised. There are also questions regarding how development work can be financed, both through the producers' own contributions and through opportunities to apply for external funding, and how the operation and management of the solutions should be ensured.

The second recommendation (K77) concerned the adoption of PxWeb and PxAPI to ensure efficient, user-friendly, and coherent dissemination of official statistics. The PX tools are the engine behind Statistics Norway's Statbank and are free, open-source tools used by more than 150 institutions and organisations worldwide. Producers of official statistics have shown considerable interest in this recommendation, and many producers recognise that statistical dissemination needs improvement. The recommendation has resulted in reported improvement measures from 11 producers outside Statistics Norway. These measures primarily involve building competence and assessing the tools more closely, while some producers are also working concretely on implementing the tools. At the time of the status reporting in March 2026, four of the reported measures were under planning, six had been initiated, and one had been completed.

A new version of PxWeb and PxAPI has recently been launched, and Statistics Norway has presented the new solution to the Committee for Official Statistics and encouraged producers of statistics to test it for their own dissemination. The more producers of official statistics that adopt PxWeb, the easier and better it will be for users. Statistics Norway has provided further information to producers who have expressed interest in implementing the tools.

Recommendations from previous quality reports which are still applicable:

- K76 (2025): Explore the development, funding and administration of common solutions across producers of official statistics, within the following domains: dissemination, metadata and documentation.
- K77 (2025): Producers of official statistics adopt PxWeb and PxAPI to ensure the efficient, user-friendly and comprehensive dissemination of official statistics.

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Appendix A: Overview of the producers of official statistics

Table A1 Number of statistics in the statistical programme 2024–2027, by domain and statistics producer

Domain	Responsible authority. National programme for official statistics 2024–2027. As of 1 January 2024.																
	DFØ	NIPH	Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries	IMDi	Norwegian Agriculture Agency	Norwegian Food Safety Authority	Norwegian Meteorological Institute	Norwegian Environment Agency	NAV	NIBIO	Nkom	Norad	NVE	Norwegian Offshore Directorate	UDI	Statistics Norway	Total
Labour market and earnings									5							14	19
Banking and financial markets																10	10
Population				1											9	22	32
Construction, housing and property																11	11
Energy and manufacturing													4	1		14	19
R&D, technology and innovation											1					11	12
Health and social care		8														10	18
Income and consumption																5	5
Culture and recreation																10	10
Agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture			6		5	1				3						29	44
National accounts																9	9
Nature, climate and environment							1	2								26	29
Public finance												1				11	12
Prices and price indices																12	12
Social conditions and crime									12							16	28
Transport and tourism																19	19
Education																22	22
International economic relationships																13	13
Elections and democracy	1															12	13
Wholesale and retail trade and service activities																9	9
Establishments, enterprises, and accounts																12	12
Total no. of statistics	1	8	6	1	5	1	1	2	17	3	1	1	4	1	9	297	358

Source: Statistics Norway

Appendix B: Recommendations and improvement measures from the quality report

Table B1 Recommendations and improvement measures from the quality evaluations

Recom-men-dation no.	Recom-men dation given, year	Recommendation	No. of measure s	No. of measures implemente d as of March 2026	Of which implemented February 2025-March 2026	Status
K01	2022	Producers with no manager with overall responsibility for the production of statistics ensure that such a position is established and made visible on the producer's organisation chart.	3	3	0	Completed 2026
K02	2022	Producers of official statistics engage in cooperation that develops and promotes innovation in statistics production.	0[11]	0	0	Completed 2026
K03	2022	Carry out quality reviews among the smaller producers and invite employees from small-scale production processes to participate in quality reviews at other producers.	3	3	1	Completed 2026
K04	2022	Offer staff working with the production of official statistics training in statistical confidentiality.	10	10	1	Completed 2025
K05	2022	Statistics Norway develops courses on statistical confidentiality for all producers of official statistics.	2	1	0	
K06	2022	Establish a routine for external parties who carry out commissioned assignments for producers of official statistics to sign a confidentiality agreement.	1	1	0	Completed 2026
K07	2022	The results of the ongoing work at Statistics Norway to introduce guarantees in accordance with the GDPR and the provisions of the Statistics Act on information security should be documented and made available to other producers of official statistics through the Committee for Official Statistics and the methodology network.	1	1	0	Completed 2025
K08	2022	All producers should have written guidelines for impartiality and objectivity in the production and presentation of statistics, and publish them on their website. They can refer to or reuse guidelines available on ssb.no.	8	7	0	
K09	2022	All producers should prepare written documentation on how the statistics are produced and keep the documentation up to date.	12[12]	12	1	Replaced by K67 and K68
K10	2022	Documentation of the statistical production is published on the statistical authority's website.	3[13]	3	0	Replaced by K67
K11	2022	All producers should announce the date and time for the release of statistics at least three months in advance and adhere to the announced date and time for all users.	7	6	1	
K12	2022	All producers should announce corrections to published statistics.	2	2	1	

[11] The measure that was previously under K02 has been moved to K22.
[12] Measures that, as of March 2026, have not been implemented have been moved to K67 or K68.
[13] Measures that, as of March 2026, have not been implemented have been moved to K67.

Recom-men-dation no.	Recom-men dation given, year	Recommendation	No. of measure s	No. of measures implemente d as of March 2026	Of which implemented February 2025-March 2026	Status
K13	2022	Statistics Norway should prioritise the development of a common release calendar for all official statistics on ssb.no. Other producers are encouraged to actively work towards announcing the publication of their statistics on ssb.no.	1[14]	1	0	Replaced by K76
K14	2022	Producers familiarise themselves with the principles of revision developed by Statistics Norway and make them known to their users, for example by referring to ssb.no.	2	2	0	Completed 2026
K15	2022	If someone outside the statistics production team has access to statistical output prior to publication, this deviation must be justified and made known to users in connection with publication.	1	1	0	
K16	2022	Producers of official statistics who use data from administrative data systems (registers) should enter into agreements with data owners regarding the supply of data and cooperation on quality, for example according to the template used in Statistics Norway.	6	5	0	
K17	2022	Ensure that user testing of questionnaires is carried out systematically.	2	1	0	
K18	2022	Consider offering training courses in using plain language.	7	7	1	Completed 2026
K19	2022	Prepare written guidelines for how the production of statistics should be carried out.	6	3	1	
K20	2022	Guidelines for how statistics should be produced are published on the statistics authorities' websites, or links are provided to guidelines on ssb.no.	7	5	1	
K21	2022	Where applicable, discontinue data capture by email and replace it with a secure solution, such as file transfer.	8	4	2	
K22	2022	Collect and share best practices in new technologies and new data sources among producers of official statistics.	5	4	1	
K23	2022	Producers who do not have established forums for contact with users should establish this. Conducting a user and stakeholder analysis can be a useful tool in this work.	2	0	0	
K24	2022	Producers who collect data for official statistics voluntarily, and who have experienced non-response leading to reduced accuracy, should explore the possibility of making participation in the survey mandatory.	1	1	0	Completed 2025
K25	2022	Producers should review the process for publishing preliminary statistics for all official statistics. The review should aim to establish common guidelines for all official statistics.	4	3	0	
K26	2022	Some producers should analyse the difference between preliminary and final statistics. Based on the analysis, the need for preliminary statistics can be evaluated.	5	4	2	
K27	2022	Statistics Norway should develop a quality indicator for timeliness in official statistics.	3	3	0	Completed 2024

[14] Measures that, as of March 2026, have not been implemented have been moved to K76.

Recom-men-dation no.	Recom-men dation given, year	Recommendation	No. of measure s	No. of measures implemente d as of March 2026	Of which implemented February 2025-March 2026	Status
K28	2022	Producers whose statistics include variables that are not comparable with corresponding variables in other Norwegian statistics or who are unsure whether they are comparable with similar statistics in other countries, should investigate whether they can improve comparability, or possibly explain to users why comparison is difficult.	1	1	0	Completed 2026
K29	2022	All producers should draw up written guidelines for publishing statistics.	3	3	2	Completed 2026
K30	2022	All producers must ensure that the guidelines for publishing statistics are accessible on their websites. These may be guidelines drawn up by the producers themselves or the principles in the European Statistics Code of Practice, available on ssb.no.	4	4	1	Completed 2026
K31	2022	Statistics Norway holds a themed meeting in the methodology network on the dissemination of official statistics and graphics as a tool.	1	1	0	Completed 2023
K32	2022	Producers who do not offer customised analyses for clients are encouraged to consider doing so.	0	0	0	Completed 2026
K33[15]	2022	Customised analyses that may be relevant to the general public should be published on the producer's website or in a public record.	4	3	0	
K34	2022	Statistics Norway should offer a course in quality work that covers the European Statistics Code of Practice and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).	1	1	0	Completed 2023
K35	2022	Statistics Norway should devise a plan for quality reviews of official statistics which ensures that all producers can participate in a quality review during a programme period. All producers are encouraged to participate in a quality review at another producer.	3	3	1	Completed 2026[16]
K36	2022	Statistics Norway should compile a collection of best practices with guidelines and make it available to the Committee for Official Statistics.	4	2	0	
K37[17]	2023	All producers of official statistics are encouraged to participate in networks, courses, seminars and meetings on quality in statistics held by Statistics Norway or others.	5	5	2	Completed 2026
K38[18]	2023	Statistics Norway raises the topic of professional independence in the Committee for Official Statistics or the methodology network.	1	1	1	Completed 2026
K39	2023	The issue of assigning responsibility for quality work is discussed in the Committee for Official Statistics.	1	1	1	Completed 2026
K40	2023	When the efforts in information security are discussed in the Committee for Official Statistics, the producers of official statistics are invited to present their experiences.	1	1	0	Completed 2025
K41	2023	All producers adopt Statistics Norway's timeliness indicator: the number of days between the end of the statistics' reference period and publication of the statistics.	7	4	2	

[15] Recommendation K33 was clarified in 2025.
[16] This recommendation was previously listed as completed in 2023.
[17] The wording of the recommendation was slightly changed in 2025.
[18] From this recommendation, "and responsibility for quality work" was removed in 2025. This is covered by K39.

Recom-men-dation no.	Recom-men dation given, year	Recommendation	No. of measures	No. of measures implemented as of March 2026	Of which implemented February 2025-March 2026	Status
K42	2023	All the producers of official statistics initiate work on assessing relevant quality indicators for selected statistics.	6	1	1	Replaced by K87
K43	2023	Producers should conduct regular surveys to measure user satisfaction with the statistics.	2	0	0	
K44	2023	Producers should introduce a feedback function for the statistics websites.	5	3	2	
K45	2023	All producers are recommended to document statistics in line with SIMS, following Eurostat's recommendation.	2[19]	2	1	Replaced by K67
K46	2024	It is recommended that Statistics Norway establish a clear and universal definition of the reference period used as a basis for calculating timeliness.	1	1	0	Completed 2025
K47	2024	A review of the reference period is needed for all statistics in accordance with the revised definition.	1	1	1	Completed 2026
K48	2024	For the KOSTRA statistics in Statistics Norway, it is recommended that an assessment is made of whether timeliness can be improved by allowing certain statistics to be published earlier or more frequently, based on a balance between timeliness and other quality objectives.	1	0	0	
K49	2024	It is recommended that enquiries about user needs received by the central support team be summarised and communicated to those responsible for the statistics.	2	2	1	Completed 2026
K50	2024	Improve the dissemination platforms and the tools for creating visual presentations to make it easier to publish different types of visualisations.	7	6	4	
K51	2024	Use different types of visualisations in dissemination of the statistics.	13	5	3	
K52	2024	Establish guidelines and build expertise in retrieving data directly from the IT systems of respondents or other data providers. One such example is machine-to-machine (M2M) communication.	2	1	1	
K53	2024	Statistics Norway: consider opening up the Klass coding system so that external producers of statistics can input their coding systems and classifications.	1	0	0	
K54	2024	Klass should be adopted where practical and appropriate.	6	4	0	
K55	2024	Explain uncertainty and potential sources of error on the statistics' home page.	11	4	4	
K56	2024	Where uncertainty is already calculated for statistics, consideration should be given to publishing this on the statistics' home page.	1	0	0	
K57	2024	Raising awareness and enhancing competence in understanding, calculating and communicating statistical uncertainty.	5	2	0	

[19] Measures that, as of March 2026, have not been implemented have been moved to K67.

Recom-men-dation no.	Recom-men dation given, year	Recommendation	No. of measure s	No. of measures implemente d as of March 2026	Of which implemented February 2025-March 2026	Status
K58	2024	Measure the effect of editing and assess whether the editing work can be reduced and/or concluded earlier, or if it is possible to improve the quality of input data. See quality indicator number 4 in the report on recommended quality indicators in official statistics (in Norwegian only, Notater 2024/5, Statistics Norway, 2019-2026).	7	2	0	
K59	2024	Establish and improve guidelines to safeguard statistical confidentiality and raise awareness of these with statistics producers.	2	1	0	
K60	2024	Adopt recognised software to ensure adequate statistical confidentiality.	1	1	0	Replaced by K65
K61	2024	Make training in statistical confidentiality compulsory for all new employees involved in statistics production and relevant support functions.	3	2	2	
K62	2024	Offer courses on quality to everyone and make it compulsory for all new employees in statistics production and relevant support functions.	3	3	2	Completed 2025
K63[20]	2024	Consider whether the quality reports on administrative information systems can be further developed to better track quality over time and more easily adapt the report template as new needs arise.	1	1	1	Completed 2026
K64	2024	Standardise log data structures to facilitate the establishment of quality indicators.	2	0	0	
K65[21]	2025	Replace manual suppression and noise addition, and the use of self-developed code for disclosure control, using recognised methods and software.	12	3	3	-
K66	2025	Finish the review of confidentiality in Statistics Norway's deliveries of microdata and follow up the results of this.	3	1	1	-
K67[22]	2025	All producers adapt the user-oriented documentation of their statistics to Statistics Norway's template and guidelines for "About the statistics" and make this available on the statistics' website.	16	2	2	-
K68	2025	All producers establish procedures and practice for assessing the updating of user-oriented documentation in connection with each publication.	13	3	3	-
K69	2025	Producers familiarise themselves with Statistics Norway's principles for editing.	7	3	3	-
K70	2025	Statistics Norway monitor developments in the quality of statistics in connection with the transition to Dapla.	2	0	0	-
K71	2025	Expand Statistics Norway's methodology library through the addition of more methods for calculating uncertainty.	2	0	0	-
K72	2025	Statistics Norway's management regularly follows up on the indicator for punctuality.	0	0	0	Completed 2026
K73	2025	Arrange a seminar with the theme of punctuality and timeliness for all producers of official statistics.	2	0	0	-

[20] Recommendation K63 was clarified in 2025.
[21] K65 replaces the previous recommendation K60. The recommendation was clarified in 2026.
[22] K67 replaces three previous recommendations: K09, K10, and K45.

Recom-men-dation no.	Recom-men dation given, year	Recommendation	No. of measures	No. of measures implemented as of March 2026	Of which implemented February 2025-March 2026	Status
K74	2025	Producers should make official statistics visible to users and ensure that they are easy to find both by using search engines and on their website.	8	2	2	-
K75	2025	Statistics Norway should ensure that relevant employees are familiar with obligations and tasks in the cooperation with register owners and ensure active follow-up of the agreements.	2	1	1	-
K76	2025	Explore the development, funding and administration of common solutions across producers of official statistics, within the following domains: dissemination, metadata and documentation.	4	0	0	-
K77	2025	Producers of official statistics adopt PxWeb and PxAPI to ensure the efficient, user-friendly and comprehensive dissemination of official statistics.	11	1	1	-
K78	2026	Establish guidelines for statistical logging[23].	-	-	-	
K79	2026	All producers incorporate relevant quality indicators as an integral part of the production process for their statistics.	-	-	-	
K80	2026	All statistics that contain personal identifying information in the underlying data shall either pseudonymise this information or have a formal exemption in place where pseudonymisation is incompatible with the purpose of the processing.	-	-	-	
K81	2026	All producers have written guidelines or principles for correcting errors in published statistics.	-	-	-	
K82	2026	All producers keep a log of errors in published statistics, categorised by severity, as specified in the guidelines for corrections of errors in published statistics.	-	-	-	
K83	2026	Consider further developing Statbank solutions with a view to improving the communication of quantitative uncertainty.	-	-	-	
K84	2026	All deviations from punctuality are logged together with the reason.	-	-	-	
K85	2026	Establish standard setups on Dapla for calculating and monitoring quality indicators.	-	-	-	
K86	2026	Statistics Norway is introducing a new template for quality reports on administrative data that makes it possible to compare and measure quality over time.	-	-	-	
K87	2026	Update the guidelines for “About the statistics” to include documentation of the use of AI in the production of statistics.	-	-	-	
K88	2026	Develop a framework and/or procedures for the use of AI in statistical production.	-	-	-	
Total number of measures			**315**	**181**	**62**	

Source: Statistics Norway

[23] Systematic documentation of data, code, transformations, parameters, and other processing steps involved in the development and production of statistics, so that results can be traced, verified, and reproduced.

Appendix C: Quality requirements for official statistics

The quality requirements for official statistics are defined in the Statistics Act and the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Section 5 of the Statistics Act stipulates the following:

1. Official statistics shall be developed, produced and disseminated in a professionally independent, impartial, objective, reliable and cost-effective manner.
2. The development, production and dissemination of official statistics shall be based on uniform standards and harmonised methods. The statistics shall be relevant, accurate, timely, punctual, accessible and clear, comparable and coherent.

The requirements in the Statistics Act are in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, to which the Norwegian statistical system is subject under the EEA Agreement. The Code of Practice sets requirements for the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical output, and is formulated as 16 principles with a range of underlying indicators:

Institutional environment (structure quality)

1. Professional independence
1. bis. Coordination and cooperation
2. Mandate for data collection and access to data
3. Adequacy of resources
4. Commitment to quality
5. Statistical confidentiality and data protection
6. Impartiality and objectivity

Statistical processes (process quality)

7. Sound methodology
8. Appropriate statistical procedures
9. Non-excessive burden on respondents
10. Cost effectiveness

Statistical output (output quality)

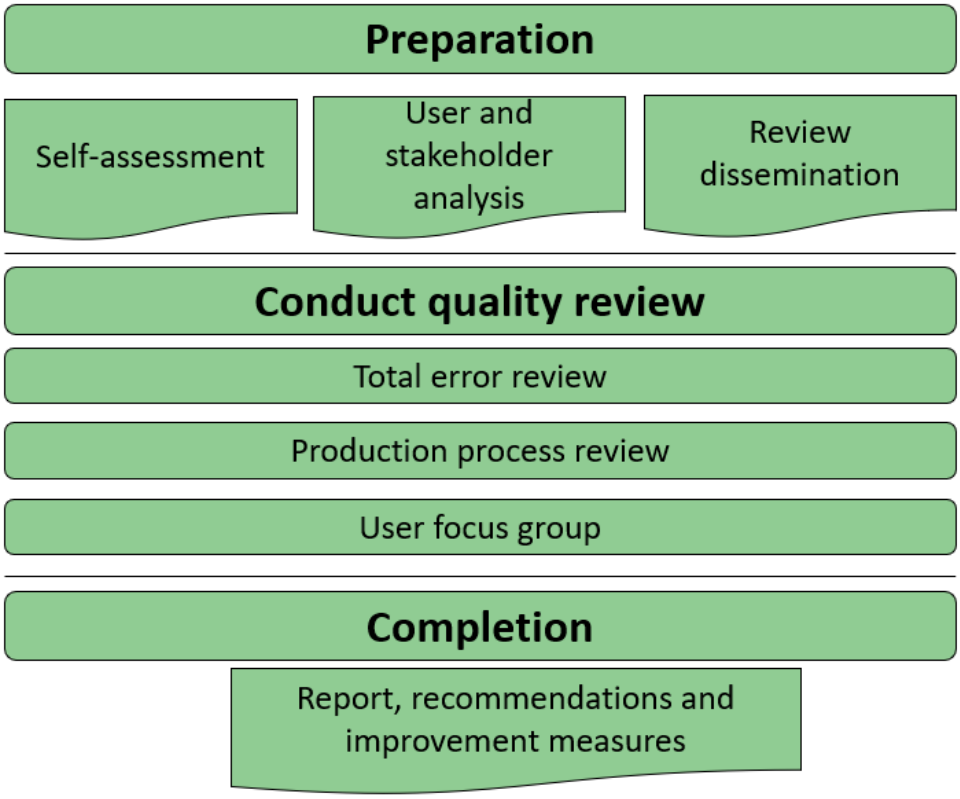
11. Relevance
12. Accuracy and reliability
13. Timeliness and punctuality
14. Coherence and comparability
15. Accessibility and clarity

Appendix D: Quality review framework

A quality review consists of the following activities:

- Statisticians perform a self-assessment based on the European Statistics Code of Practice.
- Statisticians perform a user and stakeholder analysis.
- Review of the dissemination of statistics on the website and in other media.
- Review of potential sources of error in population and data, assess data quality, based on the total error framework, the TE model, (Zhang, 2012).
- Review of the production process based on the process model GSBPM.
- Focus group (group discussion) with some users of the statistics, focusing on the quality principles for statistical output.
- Report from the quality review with recommended improvements from the quality team and an action list from the statistician.
- Annual status report on actions.

Figure D.1 The stages in a quality review



Source: Statistics Norway