

Statistics Norway



Statistisk sentralbyrå



This is _____ ●

Statistics Norway

– an institution that counts







Statistics Norway – an institution that counts

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

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

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

Surveys show that Norwegians have great confidence in Statistics Norway. To maintain this confidence, we will continue to produce and publish high-quality statistics and analyses. Individuals, businesses, the authorities, the media, institutes of education and researchers alike are to benefit from Norwegian official statistics.

Øystein Olsen
Director General



Statistics on people and living conditions

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

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

Statistics on natural resources and the environment

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

The purpose of statistics on the environment is to describe the present situation, changes that are taking place, and the consequences of measures that are taken. Environmental statistics include comprehensive accounts, at municipal level, of how waste is managed and of atmospheric emissions.

Economic growth and the environment

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

The statistics



Economic statistics and the national accounts

Norwegian economic activity involves many actors and its growth is affected by multiple factors. Statistics Norway describes the structure and development of each industry and publishes statistics on private and public sector framework conditions.

Economic development – both at the macro and micro level – is characterised by small, short-term movements, but also by major, longer-term changes. Statistics Norway describes both of these.

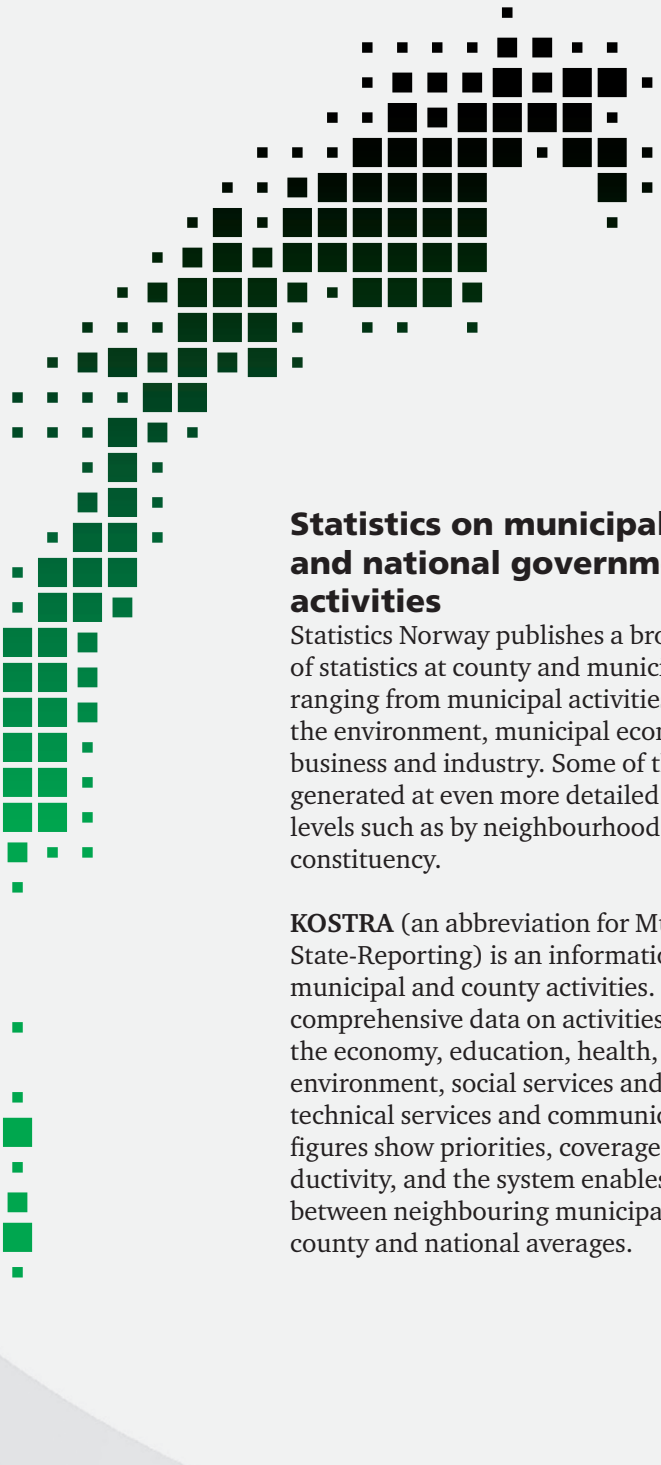
One example of short-term statistics is the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which shows monthly price changes in consumer goods. This is used as a metric for trends in prices, which may be either positive or negative.

After the Second World War, Statistics Norway took on the task of describing the entire Norwegian economy as a set of accounts. Today, the national accounts describe most aspects of the Norwegian economy, and are thus an essential data source for macro-economic analyses. They are also useful for modelling economic policies.

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

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

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Statistics on municipal, county and national government activities

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

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

• The statistics

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

Election statistics

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





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

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

Statistics Norway's fortune-tellers

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

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

The key areas of activity are:

- ***Demographics and living conditions***

How are the population and our living conditions changing?

- ***energy and environmental economics***

Our research charts the markets for electricity, oil and gas and sustainable development indicators. It provides an input into means of ensuring sustainable development.

- ***macro-economics***

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

● Research

The research objectives of Statistics Norway are:

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

• *micro-economics*

How do changes in public policy impact individuals, households and businesses? In order to explain these actors' economic behaviour, Statistics Norway used econometric methods and micro-simulation models.

• *statistical methods and standards*

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

Statistics Norway provides micro-data for research environments. In the case of sensitive data, the general rule is that the researchers must be licensed by the Norwegian Data Inspectorate and the data must be de-identified.





The Statistics Act

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

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

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

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

EU Statistics Act

The EU Statistics Act (Regulation on European Statistics of 11 March 2009) includes guidelines on the development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

• Acts and principles

Principles of the EU and UN

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

Data security

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

Ethics

Statistics Norway's statistical production is subject to strict ethical requirements. These mean that employees must:

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



Cooperation on improving statistics

Statistics Norway produces 85-90 percent of all Norwegian official statistics. Cooperation with other producers is mediated through the Statistics Council, which consists of around 25 Norwegian statistics producers. The Statistics Council coordinates guidelines and requirements for official statistics. It is also a forum for experience exchange and competence building. There is also extensive bilateral cooperation between Statistics Norway and other Norwegian statistics producers and register owners.

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

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

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

How does Statistics Norway produce statistics?

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

Access to administrative registers

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

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

Cooperation

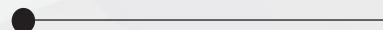
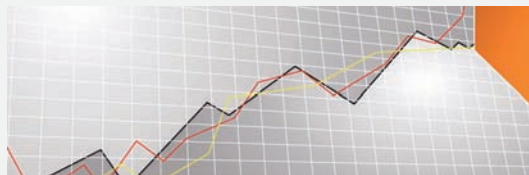
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Survey questionnaires and interviews

If the data are not available in an administrative register, the information can be collected through questionnaires, sent by Statistics Norway to companies or individuals. Statistics Norway receives close to 400,000 questionnaires annually, preferably in electronic form. In addition, some 200,000 interviews are conducted, either by phone or door-to-door.

In collecting data, Statistics Norway aims to burden companies and individuals as little

as possible. The most important measure for reducing the response burden is to help facilitate the use of Norwegian administrative data in statistics production, so that it is not necessary to submit the same information more than once. In addition, more and more data is collected direct from companies' and institutions' own data systems, and increasingly also from a third party, for example, by having a head office report data for all the shops in its chain.



Dissemination



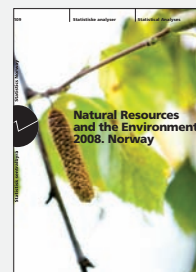
The main channel for the publication of Statistics Norway's products is **ssb.no**. New statistics are released here daily at 10:00 am. Statistics are

for the benefit of all and should be released to everyone at the same time. No-one should obtain the results before others. Everything on ssb.no is available free and published in both Norwegian and English.

Much of Statistics Norway's output is also available in print, notably the Statistical Yearbook. Other English-language publications available in printed versions include This is Norway and Natural Resources and the Environment.

The media are among the most active users of Statistics Norway's statistics and analyses. Use of Statistics Norway as a media source is increasing every year.

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



History

Millions of figures since 1876

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

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Milestones for Statistics Norway

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



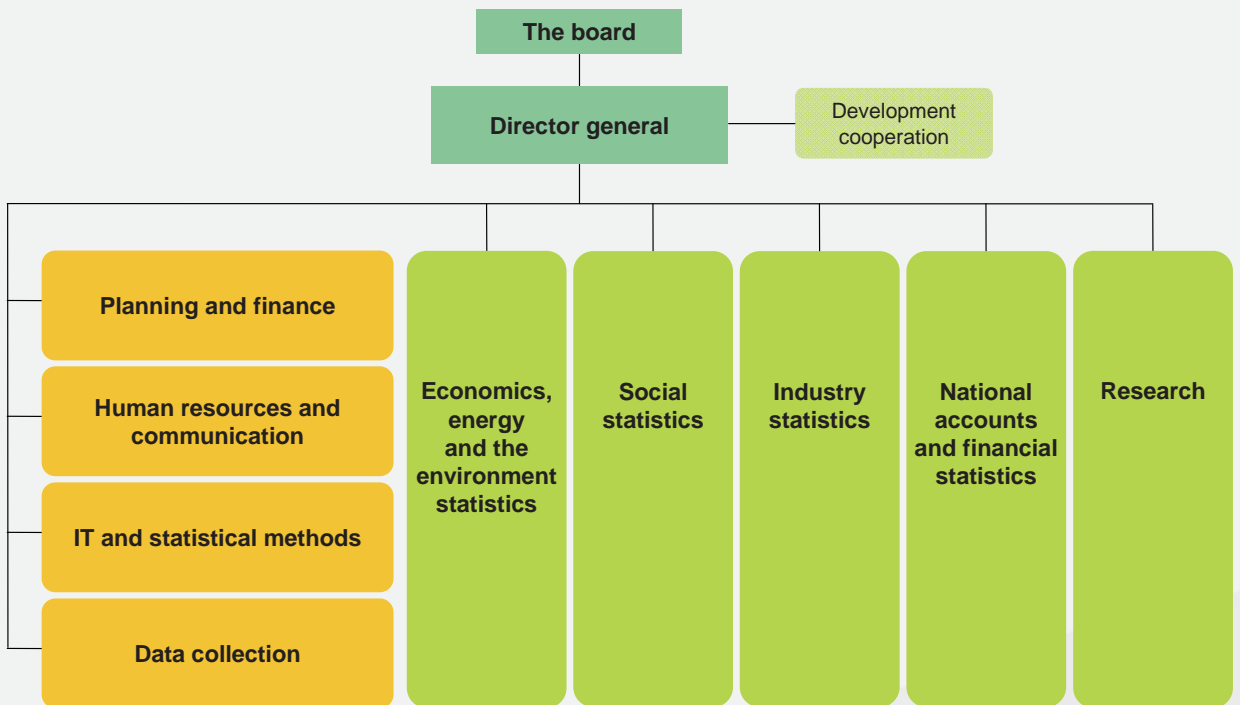
Statistics Norway as a workplace

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

Statistics Norway has approximately 1,000 employees, almost 400 in the town of Kongsvinger and some 600 in Oslo. Around 200 interviewers are also employed.

The budget of Statistics Norway is in the order of 680 million Norwegian Kroner. Around 70 per cent of this derives directly from the national budget while the remainder is financed by users. The largest commissions come from the Ministries, other government bodies and the Research Council of Norway.

● Organisation



More information on Statistics Norway

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

The Strategy is Statistics Norway's principal steering document. It contains guidelines for future work. It is produced in Norwegian and English and is published at ssb.no/english/about_ssb/strategy.

The Annual Report describes the main developments in Statistics Norway's activities in the year gone by. It is produced in Norwegian and English and is published at ssb.no/english/about_ssb/annual_report.

Questions about statistics and publications may be addressed to our library and information centre.

Kongens gate 6, Oslo
Telephone: +47 21 09 46 42
E-mail: library@ssb.no
Website: www.ssb.no/english/library

Statistics Norway's addresses:
Postal address: Postboks 8131 Dep,
NO-0033 Oslo, Norway

Street address Oslo: Kongens gate 6
Street address Kongsvinger: Oterveien 23

E-mail: ssb@ssb.no
Reception: +47 21 09 00 00 or +47 62 88 50 00

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