

Statistics Norway



Statistisk sentralbyrå



This is
Statistics Norway
- Statistics and analyses that
benefit society





Statistics Norway

– society's leading supplier of facts

Official statistics are the nation's common factual basis and are essential for a living democracy. Statistics provide information on society, including social trends and developments, and correlations between the different aspects of society.

Statistics Norway has overall responsibility for producing and disseminating official statistics on Norwegian society. Our research and analyses enhance and supplement the statistics. Statistics Norway is a professionally independent institution, which is essential in order to maintain the credibility of official statistics.

User needs change as society evolves, and Statistics Norway aims to produce the statistics that are most useful. Our statistics and analyses play an important role in public and private planning, debate and research, and must therefore reflect the main features of social development. The aim is for all of Statistics Norway's statistics to be relevant, topical, accurate, timely, comparable and accessible.

Hans Henrik Scheel
Director General



People and living conditions

Since the first population census in 1769, statistics have become steadily more comprehensive. Today, some of the areas in which Statistics Norway produces statistics and analyses include:

- the population and population changes
- lifestyles, living conditions, housing and consumption
- education
- health
- culture
- employment and income
- international comparisons

Natural resources and the environment

Statistics on the environment describe the current condition of the environment, the changes taking place, and the impact of environmental measures. Statistics Norway's statistics and analyses show how Norway is evolving in relation to:

- pollution
- waste management
- emissions to air, at regional and national levels
- use of natural resources
- sustainable development
- land use

Economic growth and the environment

Statistics Norway produces statistics on environmental impacts, production and consumption. This enables Statistics Norway to examine whether economic growth puts a further strain on the environment. Data from the national accounts and statistics on the environment provide detailed information on economic growth in various industries and the development in the different types of emissions from these industries.

• The statistics



Financial statistics and the national accounts

Statistics Norway compiles statistics on all goods and services produced in Norway. The statistics show where in the country production takes place, the number of employees and other quantifying indicators that describe the activity in everything from agriculture and manufacturing to the service industries. The financial statistics include:

- external trade
- price trends for goods and services
- share companies
- research and development (R&D)
- house building
- travel and tourism
- households' assets and debt
- banks' deposits and lending
- financial enterprises and securities
- economic relations between Norway and abroad

Most of the financial statistics are used in the national accounts to give a complete picture of Norwegian economics. The national accounts show how the different parts of the economy relate to each other, and also provide figures on the gross domestic product (GDP), employment and investments in various industries, income and consumption. The national accounts include a number of time series with comparable figures dating back to 1970.

25⁶⁰
89

Municipal, county and central government

Statistics Norway publishes a range of statistics at municipal and county level on municipal activities, the population, the environment, and on the economy and the business sector in the municipalities.

- KOSTRA (Municipality-State-Reporting)) is an information system for municipal and county activities. It contains comprehensive data on activities in the municipalities and counties. The figures show priorities, degree of coverage and productivity.
- StatRes (state resource use and results) contains statistics on resource consumption in different sectors of the state. These include indicators of the activities undertaken and outcomes of different aspects of central government.

- **The statistics**

51
78
90
22





Research activity in Statistics Norway

Statistics Norway is one of the few statistical agencies in the world to carry out its own research. The research is often undertaken in collaboration with universities, colleges and other research institutions in Norway and abroad.

The research in Statistics Norway shall:

- help gain an insight into social development, including the economic impacts of political measures
- help improve the quality of statistics
- develop and manage analysis tools for social planning
- project how the Norwegian and global economy will develop in the years ahead
- project population trends in Norway, based on estimates for fertility, mortality and migration

The key areas of activity are:

Public finances

Economic and demographic problems are analysed in relation to tax, education, population trends, employment and social assistance.

Demographics and living conditions

The research activity also performs analyses of developments in the size and composition of the population and changes in living conditions.

Energy and environmental economics

The research activity maps energy markets and indicators for sustainable development, and studies environmental and climate policy instruments.

● Research

0%

Macro economics

The researchers endeavour to obtain and disseminate knowledge on developments in the Norwegian economy in the short, medium and long term.

Micro economics

The research activity examines how changes in public policy impact individuals, households and businesses.

Statistical methods and standards

The aim of this research is to make the statistics more reliable. How can we improve the methods used in the data collection and production of statistics?

Further details of research outcomes and publications, as well as information on the researchers and their projects, is available at www.ssb.no/forskning.





The Statistics Act

The Act of 16 June 1989 relating to official statistics and Statistics Norway states that

- Statistics Norway has national responsibility for Norwegian official statistics
- Statistics Norway is a professionally autonomous institution, but is subject to the overarching guidelines and financial framework determined by the Norwegian government and parliament
- Statistics Norway is permitted to use national administrative data systems and registers

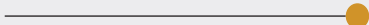
Under the Act, Statistics Norway has a particular obligation to

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

The European Statistical System

Under the EEA Agreement, Statistics Norway is a member of the European Statistical System (ESS), which is a partnership between Eurostat (the EU's statistical authority) and the national statistical agencies in the EU and EFTA countries.

Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on European statistics regulates the cooperation in the ESS and is incorporated into the Statistics Act of Norway. The overarching principles for the production of European statistics are detailed in guidelines (the European Statistics Code of Practice).



Legislation and principles

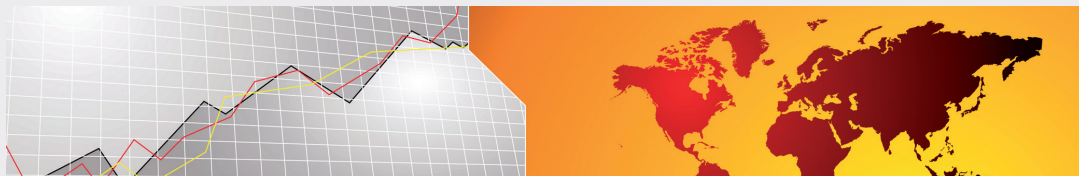
International framework for Statistics Norway's statistics production

- The EU's guidelines on European statistics
- The UN's ten basic principles for official statistics

The principles aim to ensure that the statistics are impartial and are produced on a scientific basis. No party shall have access to Statistics Norway's statistics before another party, and all data on individuals and businesses shall be subject to confidentiality.

Data security

Statistics Norway has a duty to comply with the Personal Data Act and the rules set out by the Norwegian Data Protection Authority with regard to the processing of personal data. Data held on businesses and individuals must not come into the possession of unauthorised parties, and the public must be able to rely on the information they give to Statistics Norway being used solely for the agreed purposes. Statistics Norway complies with the security requirements of the Norwegian Data Protection Authority on the processing of sensitive personal data, and Statistics Norway's data protection officer ensures that this processing complies with applicable regulations. All Statistics Norway employees have a duty of confidentiality, breach of which is a punishable offence.





Cooperation on improving statistics

Statistics Norway produces roughly 85 per cent of all Norwegian official statistics. Cooperation with other producers is partly mediated through the Statistics Council, which coordinates guidelines and quality requirements for official statistics.

Other cooperation to improve the statistics includes

- bilateral cooperation between Statistics Norway and other Norwegian producers of statistics and register owners
- international statistical cooperation, particularly the European cooperation, but also with the UN, IMF and OECD – in order to coordinate the statistical work and devise international standards on how the statistics shall be produced
- regular reporting of statistical data on Norway to the EU and a number of other international organisations. Through this work, Norwegian statistics are also disseminated through international databases and publications.
- Statistical advice to statistical agencies in countries that lack well-developed statistical systems

How does Statistics Norway produce statistics?

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

Statistics Norway aims to cause minimum work for businesses and individuals when obtaining data. The most important measure for reducing the response burden is enabling the national administrative data to be used in the production of statistics. Because the registers use personal ID numbers, organisation numbers and addresses, Statistics Norway can, without incurring major expenses, assemble data from the registers to compile statistics that describe the correlations between the different aspects of Norwegian society.

Cooperation and sources

Access to administrative registers

Statistics Norway obtains data from around 80 national administrative registers. The central registers are:

- The Population Register maintained by the Directorate of Taxes
- Brønnøysund Register Centre's Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities
- Norwegian Mapping Authority's Ground Property, Address and Building Register (GAB)
- NAV's Register of Employers and Employees

Questionnaires and interviews

If data is not available in an administrative register, the information can be collected through questionnaires sent by Statistics Norway to businesses or individuals. Statistics Norway receives questionnaires mostly in electronic form. In addition, interviews are conducted, either by phone or door-to-door.

Microdata and adapting data on request

Statistics Norway supplies data on individuals and enterprises (microdata) to researchers at approved research institutions on the condition that data protection rules are complied with. In some cases, public planners are also given access.

Statistics contain a large volume of information that can be assembled in various different ways and with many details. The information that is most interesting to society can easily be accessed on the Internet and is free. Users can also order specially-adapted statistics, for which a charge is made to cover the extra costs.

Communication



The main channel for the publication of Statistics Norway's products is ssb.no, where new statistics and analyses are released every working day at 10 am. This entails around 1 000 statistics releases, 40-50 articles and 200 publications every year. Other channels include social media such as Twitter and Facebook, as well as international databases such as those held by Eurostat and the OECD.

Statistics and research by Statistics Norway are for the benefit of everyone, and are released to everyone at the same time; no one should obtain the results before anyone else. All material published on ssb.no is available free of charge and the statistics are published in both Norwegian and English.

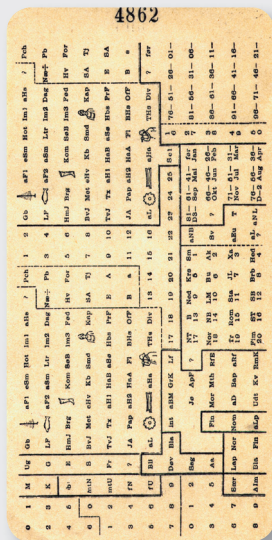
Statistics Norway helps users to understand how the statistics can be interpreted. Statistics Norway has its own information centre, which answers around 12 000 enquiries about statistics and analyses a year, in addition to its own response service for reporting data to Statistics Norway. Statistics Norway also regularly arranges statistics-related courses for the general public.



History

Millions of figures since 1876

Statistics Norway was established in its original form in 1876, with a staff of 15. Since then, the institution has produced millions of figures and thousands of analyses, and carried out countless censuses and surveys. The number of employees and level of activity has increased significantly from the 1950s.



Milestones for Statistics Norway

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

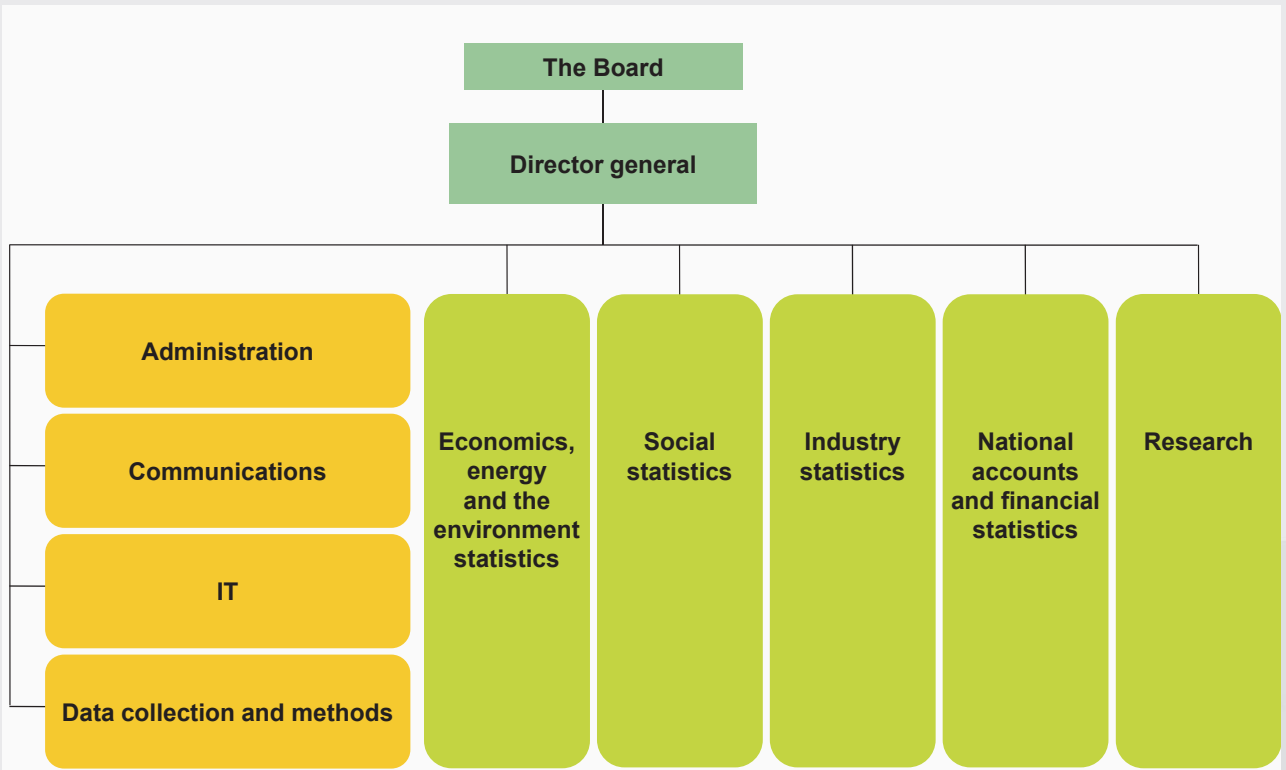
Organisation and management in Statistics Norway

Statistics Norway is administratively subordinate to the Ministry of Finance and has around 900 employees based at its offices in Oslo and Kongsvinger, in addition to 200 interviewers. The budget of Statistics Norway is in the order of NOK 700 million. Around 70 per cent of this is derived directly from the national budget, while the remainder is financed by users, such as the Ministries, other government bodies and the Research Council of Norway.

Statistics Norway is headed by a board and a Director General. The Board is appointed by the Ministry of Finance and has responsibility for overseeing the development of official statistics and the activity in Statistics Norway. The Board discusses and determines Statistics Norway's budget proposal, strategy and activity plan. The Board shall ensure that objectives and performance requirements are followed up and implemented within the framework of the allocated resources.

Up-to-date information on the organisation and management in Statistics Norway is available at ssb.no/omssb, where all central documents can also be found, such as the overarching strategy, reports of the Board of directors and annual reports. Job vacancies, an organisation chart and addresses/e-mail addresses can also be found on Statistics Norway's website.

● Organisation





Questions about statistics can be forward to Statistics Norway's information centre:

<http://www.ssb.no/omssb/tjenester-og-verktoy/informasjonstjenesten>

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16

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