



Annual Report 2020

Statistics Norway

TALL

SOM FORTELLER

PLANER OG MELDINGER / PLANS AND REPORTS

2021/7

This is Statistics Norway

Founded in 1876, Statistics Norway is a national administrative body under the Ministry of Finance, and its activities are regulated by the Statistics Act. Statistics Norway is a professionally independent institution and the central authority for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics in Norway. Statistics Norway also conducts extensive research and analysis activities and, through the EEA Agreement, is an integral part of the European Statistical System.



Statistics releases in 2020

797

www.



Active statistics

303



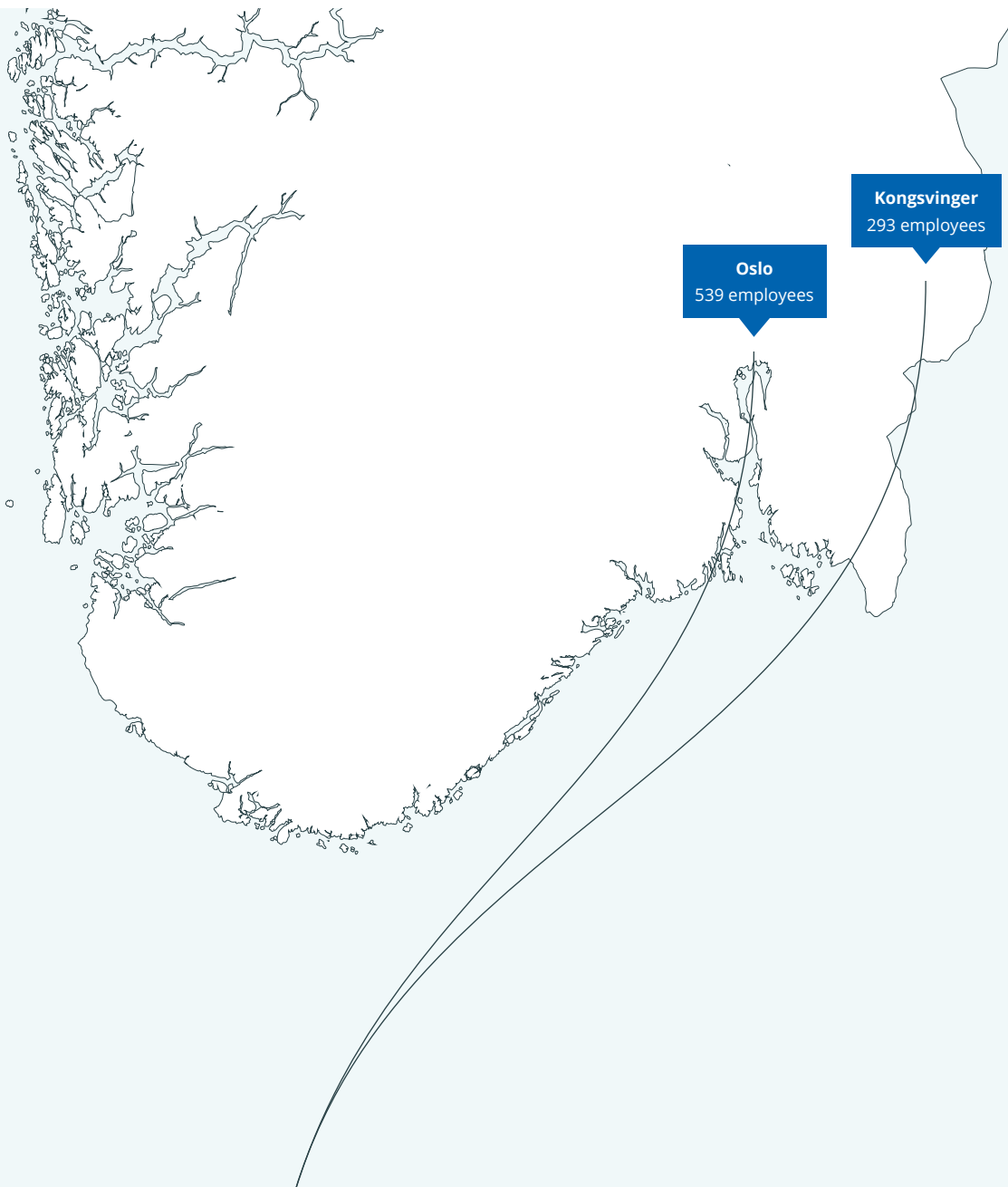
Academic published works

58

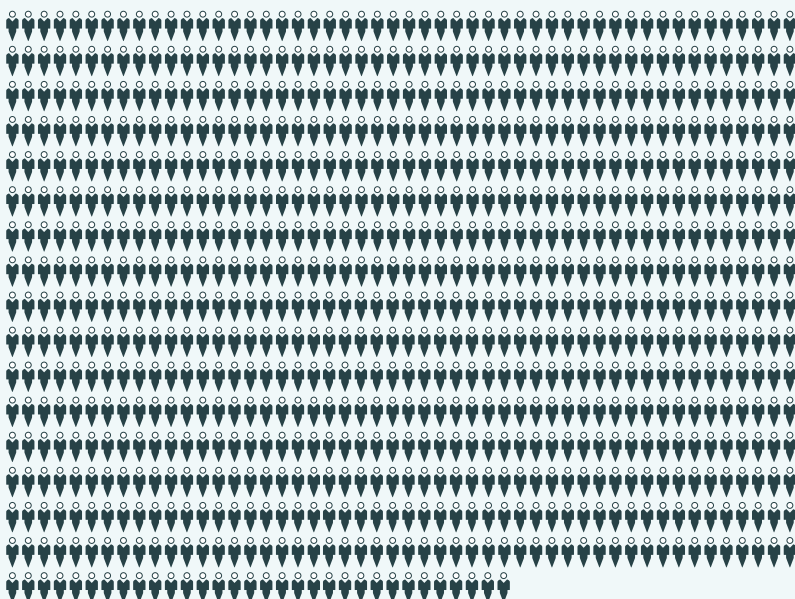


Percentage of women in Statistics Norway

47,7 %



832 Number of employees in Statistics Norway



133 Number of interviewers



64 Number employed in part-time secondary positions



In the series Plans and reports, documents of an institutional nature and notes with a certain official character are published.

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Preface

The annual report includes an overview of Statistics Norway's results for 2020, in line with the requirements in the letter of allocation.

Statistics Norway, 15 March 2021

Geir Axelsen
Director General



Innhold

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1. Report of the Director General

Statistics Norway's main tasks are to develop, produce, quality assure and disseminate relevant statistics, analyses and research. Performance in 2020 was mainly in line with the expectations set out in the letter of allocation from the Ministry of Finance. Statistics Norway is working continuously to simplify and further develop reporting solutions that enable businesses to submit figures as early as possible using minimal resources. This work has helped to reduce the reporting burden and produce more relevant statistics. The timeliness improvements are also due to targeted efforts to streamline internal work processes. Statistics Norway's statistics are generally released on the planned date, and punctuality is on a par with previous years. In terms of research, the activity level was high in 2020, and a number of external and internal projects were realised.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted on Statistics Norway in 2020. Despite the restrictions resulting from national guidelines and advice on infection control, we have maintained production and delivered high-quality products and services. New and more frequent statistics relating to the pandemic have also been produced in addition to analyses. This would not have been possible without the sterling efforts of Statistics Norway's staff, who have largely been working from home since March 2020, quickly adopting digital forms of interaction. Improvements and updates to Statistics Norway's IT systems and infrastructure have been pivotal, including in relation to data security.

1.1. New Statistics Act

Parts of the new Statistics Act entered into force in November 2019 and January 2020. The Act entered into force in its entirety on 1 January 2021. An important task in 2020 has therefore been to make preparations for and implement the new Act. The drafting of a proposal for the first national statistical programme was a core part of this work, and involved statistics producers and users. The proposal was sent out for public consultation before being approved by the King in Council. The programme thus has broad-based support and represents a good foundation for the further development, production and dissemination of official statistics.

The Council for Statistics Norway was appointed by the Ministry of Finance in January 2020 and has assisted the director general in strategic and overarching issues. Statistics Norway assesses and follows up the recommendations of the Council. The Council submits its own annual report to the Ministry of Finance.

The new Act stipulates that Statistics Norway shall continue to have a dual mission; development, production and dissemination of statistics, and research and analyses. On 1 January 2020, the Ministry of Finance issued Statistics Norway with new guidelines for research and analysis activities, and we have been actively adapting to these throughout the year. A new sub-strategy for research has been adopted, and internal guidelines have been drawn up for commissioned work and for part-time secondary positions in the research department.

Statistics Norway's data are a valuable resource, and as stipulated in the new Statistics Act, we shall make data available to research institutions and public authorities. In 2020, Statistics Norway's various channels for sharing data were simplified and improved in a close dialogue with the users. Statistics Norway's platform for making data available for research and analysis purposes, microdata.no, has also been further developed. The solution now encompasses more than 200 variables, and the requirements for adapting data and improving metadata will lead to more efficient processes and higher quality in traditional data accessibility.

1.2. Development and efficiency improvements

In 2020, Statistics Norway continued to develop and rationalise its operations. The development work was carried out in large projects such as MOD-Sirius, but also through continuous development in the ongoing production.

An important result of the development work in 2020 was the launch of the first version of a new data platform for the production of statistics, DAPLA. This platform facilitates the reuse and sharing of data and enables a greater degree of automation and improved work processes. New statistics production processes will be devised in interdisciplinary collaborations.

1.3. New strategy

Statistics Norway adopted a new strategy in June 2020 following a broad-based process to shape the strategy, in which employees at all levels were involved. The strategy was considered within Statistics Norway's co-determination framework and discussed with Statistics Norway's board (2019) and the Council for Statistics Norway (2020). The strategy was submitted to the Ministry of Finance before being adopted.

The strategy is based on the new Statistics Act and is in line with Statistics Norway's mission. It also addresses how Statistics Norway will carry out its new role as the central authority for official statistics. The three main goals of the strategy are as follows:

- Statistics Norway shall be the leading supplier of facts about Norwegian society.
- Statistics Norway shall ensure cooperation, coherence and quality in the Norwegian statistical system.
- Statistics Norway shall collect, use and share data for the benefit of society.

Statistics Norway has also devised a sub-strategy for its research and analysis activity, which is an integral part of Statistics Norway's new strategy. The sub-strategy shall serve as a guide and will give Statistics Norway's employees a better understanding of, and greater ownership of, the overall purpose of the research and analysis activities in Statistics Norway. The sub-strategy for research states that Statistics Norway's research department shall be a leading applied research community for the Norwegian economy, mainly based on Norwegian data and quantitative modelling. It will create more clarity and predictability, and help to optimise Statistics Norway's fulfilment of its mission.

A long-term plan for the period 2021–2023 was drawn up in the autumn of 2020 on the basis of the strategy. The long-term plan operationalises the strategy and sets out how Statistics Norway will develop its activity over the next three years. Statistics Norway involved most of the organisation in the preparation of the long-term plan. The strategy and long-term plan will contribute to more targeted and effective internal management.

Oslo 15. mars 2020



Geir Axelsen
Director General

2. Introduction to the activity and key figures

Founded in 1876, Statistics Norway is a national administrative body under the authority of the Ministry of Finance. Statistics Norway's activities are regulated by the Statistics Act, a new version of which was adopted by the Norwegian parliament (Storting) in spring 2019. The Act entered into force in its entirety on 1 January 2021, but parts of it entered into force in November 2019 and January 2020.

Statistics Norway is professionally independent in the performance of its tasks as set out in the Statistics Act.

2.1. Statistics Norway's activity and mission

Statistics Norway is the central authority for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics in Norway, and has primary responsibility for meeting the need for statistics on Norwegian society. As the central statistical authority, Statistics Norway is also responsible for coordinating the work with official statistics. This is done through the Committee for Official Statistics and the National Programme for Official Statistics. Statistics Norway also facilitates the availability of data and statistics for research and public planning purposes.

Statistics Norway shall conduct research and analyses that support the production of statistics and are useful for the public administration, Storting, labour market's organisations, media and general public.

Statistics Norway also has primary responsibility for international statistical cooperation and is an active participant in this. One of the goals is to improve official statistics, both in Norway and in other countries, and to ensure that statistics are comparable across national borders. The cooperation takes place through the growing EEA cooperation, and through international organisations such as the OECD, UN, IMF, ILO and UNESCO. Statistics Norway's contribution to international development cooperation also aims to improve the production capacity and use of official statistics in several developing countries.

Committee for Official Statistics

The Committee for Official Statistics is an advisory body that helps to coordinate the development, production and dissemination of official Norwegian statistics.

The Committee is chaired by Statistics Norway and consists of representatives from 24 public statistics-producing authorities and some of the main register owners.

A key part the Committee's work is to assist Statistics Norway in the drafting of a proposal for a national, multi-year statistical programme.

National programme for official statistics

The national programme for official statistics defines and delimits official statistics. It sets out which statistical domains are covered and which public authorities are responsible for the statistics.

Only statistics covered by the programme are categorised as official statistics.

The first national statistical programme was approved by the King in Council on 18 December 2020 and applies to the period 2021–2023.

The proposal for the national statistical programme was drafted by Statistics Norway after consultation with the Committee for Official Statistics.

Strategy for Statistics Norway

Statistics Norway adopted a new operations strategy in June 2020, which shall help Statistics Norway to effectively fulfil its mission within the given framework. The three main goals of the strategy are as follows:

- Statistics Norway shall be the leading supplier of facts about Norwegian society.
- Statistics Norway shall ensure cooperation, coherence and quality in the Norwegian statistical system.
- Statistics Norway shall collect, use and share data for the benefit of society.

The new strategy is described in more detail in Section 3.3.

2.2. Organisation and management

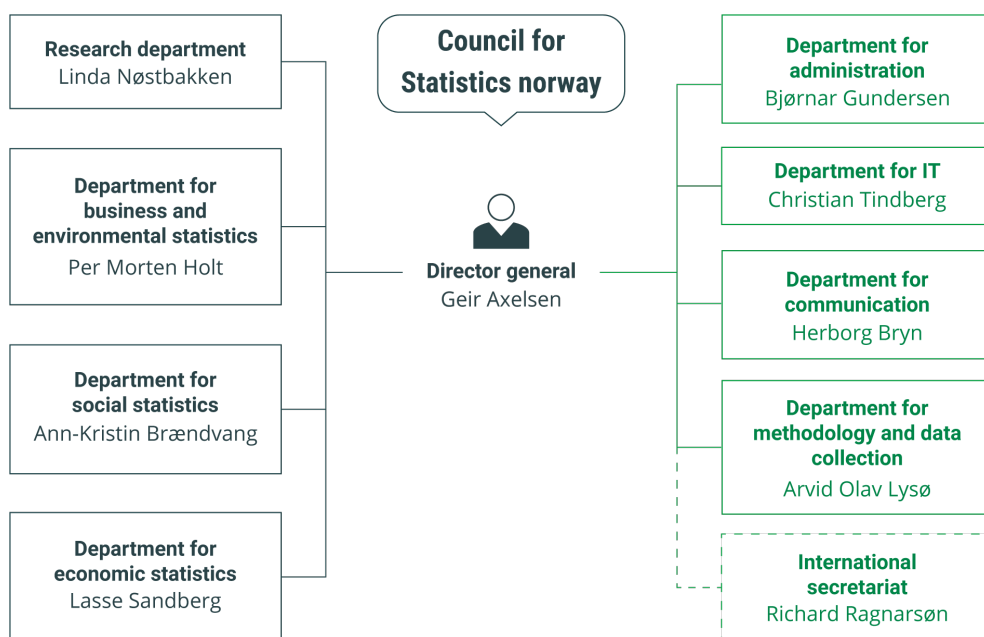
Statistics Norway is headed by the director general, Geir Axelsen, and is organised into eight departments plus an international secretariat.

In 2020, the Council for Statistics Norway was appointed by the King in Council. The Council shall assist the director general in statistical matters and in relation to research and analysis, and shall help ensure that Statistics Norway's work is performed to the highest standard. The advice given shall mainly be at a strategic level.

In the period 2020–2023, the Council for Statistics Norway shall consist of the following members:

- Birger Vikøren, executive director, Norges Bank, Oslo (chair)
- Professor Claire Armstrong, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø
- Professor Grete Brochmann, University of Oslo
- Marta Ebbing, department head, Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen
- Jørgen Elmeskov, former director general of Statistics Denmark
- Astrid Undheim, executive director, Sparebank 1, Trondheim
- Helge Veum, chief of staff in innovation and technology, Ålesund municipality

Organisation chart as of 31 December 2020:



At the end of 2020, Statistics Norway had 832 employees, 293 of whom are based in Kongsvinger and 539 in Oslo. In addition, Statistics Norway had 133 interviewers and 64 people employed in various part-time secondary positions. Statistics Norway is also normally affiliated with several master's degree students who are supervised by a researcher in Statistics Norway. In 2020, twelve such students completed their master's degree.

1.1. Key figures

Table 2.1 shows the key figures for Statistics Norway's performance results for 2020, including for the key performance indicators set by the Ministry of Finance. The results are discussed in more detail in Section 3.

Table 2.2 shows selected key figures on personnel and accounts. These are discussed in more detail in Sections 4 and 6.

Table 2.1 Key figures

	2018	2019	2020
Timeliness, monthly statistics, number of weeks from the end of the reference period until release of the statistics	3.6	3.7	3.5
Timeliness, quarterly statistics, number of weeks from the end of the reference period until release of the statistics	8.0	7.6	7.3
Timeliness, annual statistics, number of weeks from the end of the reference period until release of the statistics	33.5	32.5	29.9
Punctuality, proportion of statistics released as notified three months in advance	90	97	97
Statistics releases, proportion notified too late	5	11	8.5
Response rate mandatory surveys	96	96	94
Response rate voluntary surveys	61	58	56
Response burden, business sector. Number of FTEs	75	73	69
Response burden, others. Number of FTEs	12	16	17
Number of statistics releases	814	812	797
Number of active statistics ¹	315	307	303
Number of discontinued statistics	21	10	1
Number of new statistics	5	2	3
Research, publication points ²		75	76
Number of completed doctoral theses	2	2	3
New legislative acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement, Appendix XXI Statistics	12	9	1 ³
Number of decisions on duty to provide information pursuant to the Statistics Act	5	4	4

¹ The number of active statistics changes as a result of new statistics being established and old statistics being discontinued, as well as the merging and splitting of statistics.

² Preliminary figures. This indicator has now replaced the previously used indicator *Research, number of external publications*. There are no figures for the new indicator prior to 2019.

³ The number of legislative acts on statistics incorporated into the EEA Agreement in 2020 is significantly lower than in previous years due to a backlog in the EEA Committee's processing of new legislative acts.

Table 2.2 Selected key figures on personnel and accounts

	2018	2019	2020
Number of employees ¹	848	841	832
FTEs ²	760	760	757.7
FTEs interviewers ³	33	39	40.1
Percentage of SSB employees in Kongsvinger	36.1	36.3	35.2
Sickness absence rate	4.5	4.7	3.1
Gender equality, percentage of women	49	49	47.7
Gender equality, percentage of women in managerial positions ⁴	47	45	42

Chapter 1620 Item 01. Figures in NOK 1000

Appropriation, see Prop. no. 1 to the Storting	579 134	605 450	609 865
Appropriation, including transfers from the previous year	600 197	629 459	639 824
Recognised expenses, less reimbursements	576 188	599 500	613 736
Calculated transfer ⁵	24 009	29 959	26 414

Chapter 1620 Item 21 and 4620 Item 02. Figures in NOK 1000

Appropriation. Additional revenue authorisation chap. 4620 item 02	247 215	253 100	230 500
Appropriation, including transfer from preceding year	275 764	263 031	230 500
Appropriation, chap. 1620 item 21	250 946	256 100	248 100
Recognised expenses chap. 4620 item 02	229 482	234 590	238 488
Recognised expenses chap. 1620 item 21	244 369	251 752	241 768
Calculated transfer	9 931	0	14 343

Chapter 1620 Item 45. Figures in NOK 1000

Appropriation	19 600	20 000	25 900
Appropriation, including transfer from preceding year	63 056	42 628	36 094
Recognised expenses	40 428	32 434	33 013
Calculated transfer	22 628	10 194	3 081

Other financial key figures from the business accounts

Wages as a percentage of operating costs	73.4	72.9	75.0
Consultancy costs as a percentage of operating costs	6.5	6.4	5.5
Premises costs as a percentage of operating costs	6.4	6.2	6.7
Total assets	140 481	113 337	110 569

¹ Employees in a part-time secondary positions, retired employees, students and interviewers are not included in the figures. Source: SAP.

² As of 2018, FTEs are calculated according to resource input, where overtime and absence associated with leave and illness of more than one day are taken into account. Interviewers, retired employees and trainees are not included. Source: SAP.

³ As of 2018, FTEs for interviewers are calculated according to resource input, including overtime, excluding sick leave and other types of leave.

⁴ Management consists of the director general, department directors and division heads.

⁵ Amounts for 2018 and 2019 are actual transfers. The potential amount transferrable to 2021 includes NOK 325 534 for chap. 1620 item 01 and NOK 23 884 for chap. 1620 item 21. The reorganisation of the payment solution for overtime, travel time and hourly pay affects government institutions that pay wages via the Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ). Consequently, such institutions have been granted a one-off authorisation to exceed the appropriation by the amount corresponding to the extent they have been affected.



3. Activities and results in 2020

3.1. General assessment of goal achievement and results

Statistics Norway has, on the whole, met the goal and performance requirements set by the Ministry of Finance. A large number of statistics have been produced and published. The statistics are in line with international requirements and users' expectations, and are continuously being improved. The level of research activity has been high, and various external and internal projects have been realised. The number of applications approved by the Research Council of Norway, however, was somewhat lower in 2020 than in previous years.

In 2020, the number of users of Statistics Norway's statistics increased, and the feedback on the content of our digital platforms was positive. Statistics Norway's employees are in demand in the media, and are frequently quoted and called on as experts. This indicates that Statistics Norway is a preferred supplier of facts that largely reaches its target groups. The institution nevertheless works continuously to adapt its products and services to new user needs and high expectations. Statistics Norway has therefore initiated a number of development measures with a view to improving and expanding the range of relevant products and services, as well as streamlining work processes.

3.2. Consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout the world in 2020, and has also had consequences for Statistics Norway. The most important of these are as follows:

- Most employees working at home
- New statistics relating to the pandemic
- Change in the survey response rate
- Fewer coercive fines imposed
- Fewer user-financed assignments

Statistics Norway has followed the national recommendations on infection control throughout the epidemic. Most of the employees have been working from home since 13 March 2020, where they quickly adopted digital forms of interaction. The employees have shown a remarkable ability to adapt and to carry on working in such a challenging time. This has enabled Statistics Norway to continue supplying products and services in line with user needs and quality requirements. Improvements and updates in Statistics Norway's IT systems and infrastructure have been pivotal, including in relation to data security.

Statistics Norway's main priority during the pandemic has been to ensure that statistics are released as planned, and we have largely succeeded in this. With regard to the development work, progress has been somewhat slower than planned in some projects.

Managers and other employees have been closely followed up throughout the pandemic. Regular surveys and two risk assessments relating to the working environment have been carried out. These have been followed up with measures to meet identified needs.

Production and dissemination of statistics

In addition to the production of planned statistics, Statistics Norway has also produced and published statistics, analyses and research reports relating to the pandemic. The following have been developed and published: monthly figures based on the Labour Force Survey and the "α-ordning" reporting system, weekly statistics on foreign trade in goods, weekly figures on the number of deaths and analyses of excess mortality, daily statistics on bankruptcies and monthly statistics on

the basis for employers' contributions. Statistics with a particular relevance to COVID-19 are located under a separate heading on ssb.no within, for example, the business sector, population, labour market, health, transport and holiday homes in Norway.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to methodology challenges in some statistics. The restrictions on foreign air travel, hotels, restaurants and the periodic closure of shops have created delays in data input and methodology challenges for the price statistics. This was resolved in line with international guidelines that were issued a few weeks into the pandemic. Correspondingly, there have also been challenges related to updating consumption figures in the consumer price index and in the harmonised consumer price index.

Due to the pandemic, deadlines were extended for businesses reporting to various registers that are used as a basis for the production of statistics. The ramifications of these extensions were less than first assumed, and the production of the affected statistics has largely been able to proceed as normal.

The pandemic has led to a somewhat lower response rate for some business surveys. This is due to the temporary easing of routines for imposing and collecting coercive fines in order to reduce the burden on the business community in a difficult time. In order to ensure a sufficient response rate, considerable efforts have gone into contacting respondents who did not respond within the set deadlines. We have also had a good cooperation with business associations, which have encouraged their members to report to Statistics Norway. The overall effort has limited the reduction in the response rate, and the quality of the affected statistics has therefore been satisfactory.

The temporary easing of routines for imposing and collecting coercive fines has reduced state revenues to a far greater extent than originally budgeted for. NOK 15 million of revenues was originally budgeted for in 2020, but only NOK 4.8 million was collected.

Furthermore, the portfolio of personal surveys has changed because face-to-face interviews have not been possible since the lockdown in March.

User-financed assignments

The COVID-19 pandemic has had ramifications for the scope of Statistics Norway's activity in user-financed assignments. Overall, demand for such assignments fell in 2020, but the financial impact of this has been moderate. Some areas experienced an increase in demand for estimated figures. Statistics Norway has produced research reports and analyses for the central administration outside the standard contracts and without additional funding.

With regard to international development work, all travel activity was halted on 13 March 2020, and many of the assignments in other countries have been postponed until further notice. This has led to a significant loss of income for Statistics Norway. Efforts have been made to restructure the development work through, for example, collaborations with national and international partners to establish and implement digital platforms for capacity building, as an alternative to planned trips.

3.3. Goals and priorities in 2020

New Statistics Act

In 2020, Statistics Norway was adapting to and preparing for the new Statistics Act. The drafting of a proposal for a national, multi-year statistical programme has been a core task. The work has involved large parts of Statistics Norway, users of statistics and the Committee for Official Statistics. Following a public consultation process, Statistics Norway was commissioned to assess the

consultation responses and produce an updated programme proposal. The statistical programme was approved by the King in Council on 18 December 2020 and applies to the period 2021–2023.

The work on the programme has laid the foundation for better coordination and a better allocation of responsibilities within official statistics. Further development of the programme will take place through monitoring quality and statistical cooperation in the Committee for Official Statistics. Opportunities for improving coordination will be followed up in areas such as the use of data, statistical classifications, standards and methods.

In 2020, work was initiated on a proposal for a system for monitoring quality in the Norwegian statistical system, and this work will be completed during the first half of 2021. Together with the quality reports for administrative data and the outcome of a forthcoming peer review under the auspices of Eurostat, the quality work in the second half of 2021 will form the basis for the first annual report to the Ministry of Finance on the quality of official statistics.

Under Section 13 of the new Statistics Act, public authorities with responsibility for official statistics are given the opportunity to obtain the background data from Statistics Norway that are necessary for developing, producing and disseminating the official statistics for which they are responsible under the programme. Statistics Norway has discussed this provision with the Committee for Official Statistics, and specific needs of other authorities will be followed up in 2021.

New strategy for Statistics Norway

A new strategy for Statistics Norway was adopted in June 2020. The strategy consists of three goals with underlying objectives and five priority areas. The goals are in line with the mission stipulated in the new Statistics Act, and are an expression of Statistics Norway's ambitions as the central authority for official statistics. The goals in the strategy are not time-limited.

The priority areas indicate the direction for Statistics Norway's development work over the next three years.

Employees at different levels in Statistics Norway have been involved in the preparation of the strategy. The strategy was considered within Statistics Norway's co-determination framework and discussed with Statistics Norway's board (2019) and the Council for Statistics Norway (2020). The strategy was submitted to the Ministry of Finance before being adopted.

In the autumn of 2020, a long-term plan was drawn up that operationalises the goals and priority areas in the strategy and sets out Statistics Norway's priorities in a three-year perspective. The long-term plan includes measures that will be implemented to achieve the goals, indicators for assessing goal achievement, financial forecasts and an assessment of Statistics Norway's financial latitude for the next three years. The long-term plan shall be updated in connection with the annual planning and budget process.

The new strategy and long-term plan lay the foundation for more efficient and predictable performance management. The steering documents, system for follow-up and internal reporting are created based on the principles for management by goals and objectives. The established indicators shall provide a basis for monitoring the ongoing activity and measuring the achievement of goals.

The key performance indicators set by the Ministry of Finance in the letter of allocation for 2021 are addressed in the long-term plan. Indicators have also been established to monitor other parts of the activity. As part of the efforts to continuously improve management by goals and objectives, the organisation and suitability of the indicators will be assessed when the long-term plan is updated.

Research and analysis activity in Statistics Norway

New statute and guidelines

The new Statistics Act stipulates that Statistics Norway shall continue to have a dual mission in relation to the development, production and dissemination of statistics, and research and analyses. New guidelines for research and analysis activities were issued to Statistics Norway by the Ministry of Finance, and these were applicable from 1 January 2020. The Act and the guidelines establish core tasks and frameworks for Statistics Norway's future research and analysis activities.

In order to comply with the Ministry of Finance's guidelines, Statistics Norway has finalised a new sub-strategy for research and analysis activities, reorganised the research department into four instead of five research groups, adopted new wage policy guidelines for researchers in the research department, and established new guidelines for recruiting employees in part-time secondary positions and for commissioned assignments in the research department. *Samvirke forskning og statistikk*

About Statistics Norway's research and analysis activity

In addition to Statistics Norway's research and analyses under its remit to develop, produce and disseminate statistics, the institution also conducts research and analyses aimed at the government, central administration, Storting and labour market's organisations.

The research and analysis activity in Statistics Norway shall:

- mainly be empirical, based on Norwegian data and quantitative modelling
- underpin the production of statistics
- be of a high standard
- be disseminated to the general public

Collaborative research and statistics

The research in Statistics Norway shall underpin the production of statistics. In 2020, the research department helped to safeguard the quality of the national accounts and the labour force accounts. The department has also contributed to the updating and revision of the municipal groupings used in KOSTRA (Municipality-to-State Reporting) and in the preparation of environmental and ecosystem accounts.

Publishing and dissemination

External publications by Statistics Norway totalled 58 in 2020, which is a slight increase from 2019. These range from Norwegian-language academic articles in journals and books, to articles in leading international scientific journals. Forty-five of these publications were in international journals compared to 40 in 2019, and several were at the highest level (Level 2). The publishing activity in 2020 is roughly on a par with that of the last decade. In 2019, Statistics Norway joined CRISTIN (Current Research Information System in Norway), where we register all publications and lectures, and can extract quality-assured information and performance indicators related to research output, such as publication points. Preliminary CRISTIN figures for 2020 show a slight increase in the number of publication points from 2019, from 75 to 76.

The research department also published 14 Statistics Norway reports, three Statistics Norway analysis articles, four editions of Economic Trends, the Economic Outlook for 2019 and a number of working papers in the working paper series by Statistics Norway and other research institutes. Statistics Norway's research also led to a number of media reports, media appearances and lectures in 2020.

Contributions to public committees and panels

Statistics Norway's researchers participate in and provide analyses and estimates for national panels and committees, such as the Norwegian Technical Calculation Committee for Wage Settlements, the Norwegian Technical Calculation Committee for Municipal Finances, the Norwegian Technical Calculation Committee for Climate, the Demography Committee, the Wages Committee, the Advisory Panel on Macroeconomic Models and Methods, the Pensions Committee and the

Employment Committee. Our researchers have also participated in several committees that have analysed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Norwegian economy.

Modelling and analytical work

Statistics Norway shall provide analyses for the public administration, Storting, labour market's organisations and general public, and develop, update and manage numerical models in the relevant subject areas. In 2020, we published an extra edition of *Economic Trends* as a result of the pandemic, and three reports were submitted to the expert panel responsible for analysing the socioeconomic consequences of infection control measures. Statistics Norway has also provided macroeconomic estimates for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the sectors not included in the EU Emissions Trading System on behalf of the government (Climate Cure 2030), as well as the background material for the government's climate report (Report no. 13 to the Storting (2020-2021) Climate Plan for 2021–2030). The delivery of these contracts has helped to develop the SNOW model (Statistics Norway's world model) and make it more relevant to the administration and useful for research projects. In 2020, we also published much sought-after figures for regional population projections at the municipal level for the first time. This was made possible by a major upgrade of the model to accord with advances in research.

In 2020, Statistics Norway assumed responsibility for maintaining and further developing the NORA model, which is a new model developed by the Ministry of Finance for analysing fiscal policy. During 2020, the responsibility for NORA was gradually transferred from the old to the new team, an article on corporation tax and investments was delivered and a document on the NORA model was published in an international journal.

Forecasting

Every year, Statistics Norway evaluates its forecasting activity, including how accurate the forecasts are for three important macroeconomic variables: growth in gross domestic product for mainland Norway, growth in the consumer price index and unemployment as a percentage of the labour force. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the results were not published in 2020, however they indicate that there are no major systematic errors in the estimates.

Modernisation and strategic IT development

In order to meet user needs and streamline internal processes, Statistics Norway is undertaking a comprehensive modernisation of the statistics production. The MOD-Sirius project is crucial to its success, and is discussed below. A number of larger and smaller measures have also been initiated to facilitate the development and rationalisation of Statistics Norway's activities. Major development initiatives are discussed in the sections *Development of the statistics portfolio*, *Dissemination of statistics and analyses* and *Availability of data*.

MOD-Sirius

The MOD-Sirius project aims to modernise the statistics production by creating a common data platform for the production of statistics, DAPLA, which will encompass most of Statistics Norway's statistics products. A new production process will be developed for the statistics included in the project, and this will serve as a model for other relevant statistical domains. The new process is being developed in a close interdisciplinary collaboration.

A standardised method for documenting, processing and publishing statistics is being established on the new data platform, which is cloud-based and a prerequisite for receiving and processing large volumes of data.

The Sirius part of the MOD-Sirius project has been postponed due to delays in the Norwegian Tax Administration's SIRIUS project. The MOD part of the project has progressed well, and the first version of DAPLA was launched in 2020. Services have been established to manage and process

data on the platform. This will help facilitate the reuse and sharing of data, and enable more automation and continuous improvement. It will also facilitate reuse in Statistics Norway's platform for accessing research and analyses, microdata.no.

Development of the statistics portfolio

As shown in Table 2.1, the number of active statistics has been reduced from 307 in 2019 to 303 in 2020. The number of statistical releases fell from 812 to 797. The decrease is partly due to the merging of some statistics. When statistics are merged, and therefore released on the same day and on the same page, they only count as one release. New and more frequent statistics in connection with the pandemic are not included in the figures as these are not registered in the release calendar or entered in StatBank.

Statistics Norway continuously assesses the need for and implements improvements in established active statistics. The development work within a selection of statistics is discussed below.

In 2020, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) introduced a multilateral method for calculating price trends for groceries. This will enable the CPI to more effectively identify new products that have been introduced to the market. Development work has also been initiated to adopt generalised web scraping tools (automated data collection from websites) and use information from the internet as a supplement to transaction data.

A new solution has been established for receipt of the Norwegian Customs Services' TVINN data for the external trade in goods statistics. The single nightly download of all declarations from the previous day has been replaced by a continuous transfer of declaration transactions as they are registered. The solution has formed the basis for Statistics Norway's data capture solution on the new data platform (DAPLA).

In 2020, the business statistics in the deliveries to Eurostat were based on statistical enterprises to a greater extent than previously, which enables better comparability across international statistics. The capability to register statistical units and kind-of-activity units in the Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises was created as part of this adaptation, and the work will be continued until the next main revision of the national accounts. The business statistics were previously published as nine individual releases, thematically placed according to the industries covered by the statistics. In order to meet user needs for easier access to the statistics, these statistics have been merged to form the *Business statistics*. The merging of the statistics was completed in 2020.

As a result of the regional reform and new regulations from Eurostat, the accommodation statistics were expanded in 2020, and more detailed geographical figures have been added.

Work on the agricultural census for 2020 played a central role in Statistics Norway's activity throughout the year. In connection with last year's census, new administrative data sources (the "*ordningen*") as well as several automated processes were introduced. We also utilised the capability in Altinn (the internet portal for digital dialogue between businesses, private individuals and public agencies) to customise forms and services. In connection with publication, the previous census has been recoded, which means that time series can be created at municipal level after the regional reform in 2020. The experience gained from working on this census will be useful in the annual agricultural survey.

Within the education and culture statistics, the statistics on completion rates in upper secondary education and higher education underwent a major reorganisation. The production process was also reviewed with a view to future timeliness gains in several areas. The cultural activity survey has also been further developed and converted into a separate survey.

Adapting to international framework regulations

Norway has an obligation under the EEA Agreement to expand and reorganise statistics in a number of domains. In 2020, Statistics Norway made preparations for the implementation of new framework regulations for social statistics and business statistics.

The new Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) regulation entered into force on 1 January 2021. This brings together the various social statistics in Eurostat that are regulated by law, and includes seven large surveys:

- Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Living Conditions Survey (European statistics on income, poverty, social exclusion and living conditions, EU-SILC)
- Adult Education Survey (AES)
- European Health Interview Survey (EHIS)
- Survey on ICT usage in Households
- Household Budget Survey (HBS)
- Harmonised European Time Use Survey (HETUS)

In the adaptation to the new regulation, all surveys are subject to changes and improvements with a view to streamlining production processes, quality improvements and reducing or limiting the response burden. In 2020, extensive efforts were made to adapt the production process for the Labour Force Survey and the Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC); the two surveys that are conducted on an ongoing basis every year. This work is on schedule. The first delivery is related to the Labour Force Survey, and figures for the first quarter of 2021 will be published in May 2021. Furthermore, separate projects have been established for the work on the new budget and time use surveys, and these are progressing according to plan.

The new European Business Statistics (EBS) regulation will apply from 2021. Until now, the development, production and dissemination of statistics on businesses' economic activity in Europe have been in line with several different regulations. This has hindered consistency across the various statistical domains and served as a barrier to establishing a cohesive approach to the development, production and dissemination of business statistics. The new framework regulation replaces a total of ten regulations, and will ensure harmonised and consistent statistics and help achieve the objectives of the European statistical cooperation.

In 2020, the need for various Norwegian adaptations to the EBS framework based on the EEA Agreement was assessed. The regulation requires Statistics Norway to develop new statistical domains and increase the frequency of some existing products.

Dissemination of statistics and analyses

Efforts have been carried out throughout Statistics Norway in 2020 to establish effective dissemination solutions to make statistics, research and analyses even more accessible and user-friendly. This applies to the development of *ssb.no*, facilitation for the media, dissemination adapted to school pupils and direct contact with the general public, especially through social media.

Ssb.no

In 2020, Statistics Norway began developing a new and more modern publishing solution for *ssb.no*, and this work will continue in 2021. The entire *ssb.no* website will be redesigned in a new solution, and we will simplify and tidy up the content, streamline workflows and optimise the capability for automated updates. Improvements are also being made that will make it easier for users to find the right statistics from Statistics Norway as well as other producers of official statistics.

The user interface in StatBank has also been improved. The page where users create their own tables is now more user-friendly and has a universal design. Improvements have also been made to other parts of StatBank, which will be launched in early 2021.

Statistics that are relevant to the pandemic are now easy to find. A dedicated page was quickly created for statistics related to COVID-19, including deaths, the economy and businesses, and several statistics have been established that are updated more frequently than usual.

The development and improvement of *ssb.no* has had the desired effect. In 2020, the website had 11 per cent more users than in 2019. Eighty-eight per cent of the respondents in our annual user survey were satisfied or very satisfied with *ssb.no*, which is the same as the year before. The use of articles and publications increased by 27 per cent in 2020, and there has also been an increase in the use of statistics relating to COVID-19. Use of statistics on deaths increased by a massive 210 per cent from 2019 to 2020, and the statistics on registered unemployment and the national accounts saw a 43 per cent and 33 per cent increase respectively.

Statistics platform

Statistics Norway was commissioned to develop a dedicated platform for official statistics, and this work was initiated in 2020. The platform will be integrated into *ssb.no*. The goal is to develop a common statistics platform that does not require users to know the producer of the statistics they are looking for. Access to statistics from other producers of official statistics will be enabled in the first half of 2021.

Dissemination in traditional and social media

In addition to publishing statistics, research and analyses on *ssb.no*, Statistics Norway also wants to ensure a clear presence in both the more traditional media and in social media. As in previous years, Statistics Norway was quoted extensively in the media in 2020, and there has been a particularly high demand for statistics and research in connection with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Experts in Statistics Norway have therefore been in great demand, and several have become experienced spokespersons within their field. Statistics Norway's employees are quoted around 1000 times a year in the national and regional media.

Statistics Norway is now working to attract additional target groups through social media. In 2020, we had a special focus on Instagram with the goal of reaching a younger target group than those we reach via other channels. The number of followers has doubled to about 2300. Of these, around 40 per cent are in the age group 25 to 34 years. In addition, priority is given to content on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, where the number of followers has been steadily increasing.

Statistics Norway in schools

As a provider of public information, Statistics Norway has been working for several years to increase teachers' and pupils' use and knowledge of official statistics and Statistics Norway's role. The main strategy is to create and adapt content on *ssb.no* that teachers can use in their teaching, as well as to collaborate with publishers of learning material who link to statistics and content on *ssb.no* that has been adapted for different school years. Courses for students and teachers are currently on hold due to the pandemic. E-learning initiatives are now being developed as a replacement for and addition to physical courses.

In collaboration with Eurostat and European sister organisations, Statistics Norway arranged the Norwegian part of the European Statistics Competition for secondary school pupils in 2020. A total of 242 teams from all over Norway participated. The competition provided insight into how we can provide teachers with information, and also provided more knowledge about teachers' wishes and needs for services from Statistics Norway. Subsequent evaluations by pupils and teachers have been very positive and have led to the decision to carry out the competition again in 2021.

Availability of data for research and analysis

Data for use in research and analyses should be easily accessible, and the conditions for access should be predictable. The efforts to facilitate user-friendly access to data have been a high priority in 2020.

A number of measures have been implemented to adapt Statistics Norway's data access services to users' needs. The measures are based on feedback from users and the quality review of the microdata service in autumn 2019. They are linked to six key areas and include measures to ensure good-quality applications, correct pricing of the microdata service, better cooperation within Statistics Norway to expedite the processing of applications, the production of metadata for new domains, improvements in procedures, as well as simplifications and adaptations to meet the requirements of the new Statistics Act.

The work to further develop the research portal microdata.no in collaboration with the Norwegian Centre for Research Data continued in 2020. There are now over 200 variables available in the solution, and more will be added. This work is also important for the traditional access to data because the requirements for adapting data and improving metadata help ensure more efficient processes and a higher quality in traditional access.

Efforts are also being made to establish an export function for transferring microdata from microdata.no to existing remote access solutions. This means that where the anonymised interface in microdata.no is not sufficient for the researcher's needs, the researcher will be able to export microdata to other secure analytic platforms. We are collaborating with two projects: Development of the Health Analysis Platform (HAP) and the Knowledge Sector's Data Community (KUDAF) to meet researchers' needs for incorporating Statistics Norway's data into health and education data.

The *Guidelines for access to microdata from Statistics Norway* were drawn up in 2020 in addition to guidelines in Norwegian for internal researchers' access to data. Both of these guidelines are supplements to Section 14 of Act no. 32 of 21 June 2019 relating to official statistics and Statistics Norway (the Statistics Act) and Regulation no. 2731 of 11 December 2020 relating to official statistics and Statistics Norway (the Statistics Regulation). The guidelines are also based on relevant preparatory works: NOU 2018: 7 and Proposition to the Storting no. 72 (2018-2019).

Statistics Norway's international activity

Statistics Norway's participation in the international statistical cooperation in 2020 was impacted by the pandemic, but has largely gone as planned. The majority of international meetings were conducted remotely, while some large meetings have been postponed.

The meeting of the Nordic Chief Statisticians was held remotely in December. The main theme of the meeting was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the production of statistics and the work with multinational companies on economic statistics. The ongoing work with multinational companies will be followed up in a series of Nordic workshops.

The ramifications of the pandemic were also a key theme in the European statistical cooperation in 2020. The European Statistical System Committee has established the European Statistical Recovery Dashboard, which contains indicators from a number of statistical areas relevant for tracking the economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Statistics Norway has played a key role in this work.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated indicators have a high priority internationally in the development of official statistics. In 2020, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted a revised framework for global sustainability indicators. Priorities were simultaneously set for further work on developing and adapting certain indicators. Statistics Norway

was given responsibility, in collaboration with Colombia's National Administrative Department of Statistics, for leading a working group to establish a new indicator for measuring assistance for sustainable development (SDG 17, target 17.3). Norad is also participating in this work.

In the national follow-up of the SDGs, Statistics Norway was commissioned by 12 ministries to create an information page on ssb.no for the global SDGs, where the development for Norway is presented. This was launched on 1 April 2020. On behalf of the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Statistics Norway has developed a taxonomy for sustainability indicators. The taxonomy is a model for classifying and evaluating indicators or sets of indicators for the SDGs, and is intended for use by municipalities to sort, assess and compare such indicators in light of the work on the SDGs.

Norway plays a prominent role in the development of recommendations for statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons, and Statistics Norway presented the first international recommendations to the United Nations Statistical Commission in March.

As part of the work to incorporate EU regulations into the EEA Agreement and Norwegian law, Statistics Norway has assessed the consequences for Norway of new statistical regulations for personal and household surveys and business statistics, among others. The new regulations require existing statistics to be adapted and new statistics to be established.

In 2020, the EU's financial framework for the period 2021–2027 was adopted. Statistics Norway has actively contributed to national authorities' and EFTA's assessments of the statistics budget and the consequences of a new long-term programme for statistics. It has been particularly important to ensure the continuation of the 25 per cent discount for participation in the statistical programme.

In the autumn of 2020, Statistics Norway's director general was appointed to the board of the OECD's Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy for the period 2021–2023. This role means that Statistics Norway will be involved in steering and coordinating the OECD's statistics portfolio, and will help ensure effective coordination with other regional and global statistics collaborations.

International development cooperation

The pandemic affected all planned activities within international development cooperation in 2020. In March 2020, all cooperation was scaled down, and has subsequently taken place via digital platforms. We still face some challenges in the digital cooperation, and all our partners are affected by the situation. However, despite the limitations, Statistics Norway has carried out a variety of activities in 2020, and has managed to improve digital cooperation for future projects.

Several agreements have been signed for large projects over the next few years. These include a three-year agreement for the Ukraine project funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2021–2023, a three-year agreement for the Mozambique project under Norad's Knowledge Bank's Oil for Development Programme, a three-year agreement on food security statistics with Norad in which Statistics Norway will collaborate with COMESA (the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), the FAO (the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) and the World Bank.

3.4. Performance requirements

Statistics Norway's performance requirements are set by the Ministry of Finance in the letter of allocation. The Ministry generally expects the performance level in 2020 to be at least the same as in the best of the last three years.

Timeliness

The performance indicator 'timeliness' shows the average number of weeks from the end of the reference period until the statistics are released. In 2020, timeliness was on a par with or better than in previous years, and Statistics Norway has met the Ministry of Finance's performance requirement. Statistics Norway has improved the timeliness of several statistics, and measures have been implemented to improve the timeliness of the annual statistics in particular. As a result, the timeliness of these statistics has been significantly improved. Overall, Statistics Norway is satisfied with the timeliness improvements and performance in 2020. We will nevertheless continue to work on improving the timeliness in individual areas.

Table 3.1 Timeliness, number of weeks from the end of the reference period until the statistics are released

	2018	2019	2020	Performance requirement
Timeliness, monthly statistics, total	3.6	3.7	3.5	≤ 3.6 weeks
Timeliness of preliminary figures, monthly	2.3	2.3	1.1	
Timeliness, quarterly statistics, total	8.0	7.6	7.3	≤ 7.6 weeks
Timeliness of preliminary figures, quarterly	7.2	6.3	6.3	
Timeliness, annual statistics, total	33.5	32.5	29.9	≤ 32.5 weeks
Timeliness of preliminary figures, annual	28.2	19.4	20.6	

Punctuality

The performance indicator 'punctuality' reflects the percentage of statistics that are released on the date announced three months in advance. Punctuality is required to ensure predictability and equal treatment of users, and is an important principle in the European Statistics Code of Practice.

In the vast majority of cases, the production and publication of statistics are in line with the release calendar. In total, the release date was changed for 26 statistics in 2020, compared with 22 in 2019, which corresponds to 97 per cent punctuality. Seven of the statistics were released earlier than originally planned. None of these included market-sensitive information. Nineteen statistics releases were postponed. The delays were partly due to technical problems in Statistics Norway and with data suppliers, challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and quality assurance measures. Some statistics were postponed for practical reasons. Punctuality in 2020 was on a par with 2019, and Statistics Norway has met the Ministry of Finance's performance requirement.

A total of 8.5 per cent of the statistics releases were announced late in 2020. This is an improvement on 2019 and average for recent years, but is below the performance requirement of 5 per cent.

Table 3.2 Punctuality. Percentage of statistics released on the date announced three months in advance. Per cent.

	2018	2019	2020	Performance requirement
Percentage of statistics released on the date announced three months in advance	90	97	97	≥ 97 per cent
Percentage of releases announced late (less than 3 months before release)	5	11	8.5	≤ 5 per cent

Response rate

The average response rate for mandatory surveys was 94 per cent in 2020. This is a decrease of 2 percentage points compared with the two previous years, and means that Statistics Norway has not met the Ministry of Finance's performance requirement of 96 per cent. This is mainly due to the temporary changes in the routines for coercive fines. Between March and September 2020, businesses were not fined for non-reporting, and coercive fines were replaced with a reminder. Considering the challenges that the business sector has faced over the past year and the temporary changes in routines, Statistics Norway is satisfied with the response rate overall.

In order to maintain as high a response rate as possible, Statistics Norway telephoned or emailed more units than normal in a number of surveys, and this required considerable resources. However, we have also worked closely with various business associations, which have encouraged their members to continue reporting to Statistics Norway.

Table 3.1 Response rate

Results	2018	2019	2020	Performance requirement
Response rate for mandatory surveys	96	96	94	≥ 96 per cent
Response rate for voluntary surveys	61	58	56	≥ 61 per cent

Response rates for voluntary surveys vary from year to year, partly as a result of the variation in the portfolio. Surveys with online questionnaires made up a larger proportion of the portfolio in 2020 than in previous years. The drop-out rate is still higher in this type of self-administered survey than in interview surveys. Combined with the composition of the statistics portfolio, this contributes to a lower overall response rate, despite the increase in the response rate in interview surveys. Consequently, Statistics Norway once again failed to meet the performance requirement for voluntary surveys in 2020.

Table 3.2 Details of response rate for voluntary surveys 2018–2020

Response rates for voluntary surveys	2018	2019	2020
Voluntary surveys. Total	61	58	56
Interview surveys	61	58	59
Annual interview surveys	59	58	60
Self-administered surveys (voluntary online questionnaires)	61	58	53
Response rates excluding commissioned surveys	59	58	60
Commissioned surveys	64	58	57

Response burden

Statistics Norway works continuously to reduce the response burden for respondents through automation, as well as increased use of administrative data or other types of secondary sources for the production of statistics. Simplification and further development of the form-based solutions also help to reduce the overall response burden on the business sector. Businesses can submit all reporting via a single channel, Altinn, which is an online portal with secure login.

Table 3.5 shows that the response burden for the business sector corresponded to 69 FTEs in 2020, compared with 73 FTEs in 2019. This was therefore within the performance requirement of 73 FTEs or less. In 2020, an agricultural census was conducted with a sample consisting of 39 000 agricultural holdings. The response burden associated with the census was measured as 15 FTEs. Agricultural censuses are carried out every 10 years. In line with the guidelines for the Register of the Reporting Obligations of Enterprises, the response burden in periodic surveys with intervals of several years is registered and distributed equally over the census year and all intervening years.

The response burden for individuals has increased from 16 in 2019 to 17 in 2020. This is because the samples are larger in online surveys than in interview surveys.

Table 3.3 Distribution of response burden

FTEs	2018	2019	2020	Performance requirement
Response burden, businesses	75	73	69	≤ 73 FTEs
Response burden, individuals	12	16	17	

3.5. Scope and organisation of externally commissioned work

In accordance with the letter of allocation, Statistics Norway shall report briefly on the scope and organisation of externally commissioned work in 2020, broken down into research and analysis, statistics and table production and the facilitation of microdata.

Tabell 3.6 Omfang og innretning på eksterne oppdrag, jf. note 1 inntekter fra oppdrag og tilskudd. Tall i 1000 kr

	Central and municipal administration	Colleges, universities and research institutes	EU and foreign clients	Other clients	31.12.2020
Statistics	38 850	-9	4 025	4 308	47 174
Research and analyses	61 403	12 406	3 761	2 474	80 044
Microdata	3 716	7 296	288	991	12 291
Creating tables	5 249	342	33	1 475	7 099
Other income	64 280	1 160	15 107	5 506	86 053
Total income from commissioned work and grants	173 496	21 195	23 215	14 754	232 661

The categorisation is based on the financial model and product structure. The main features are as follows:

- *Statistics* refers to the statistics that are available in StatBank on ssb.no.
- *Microdata* encompasses commissioned assignments for microdata. The microdata.no project is not included in this category.
- *Other income* covers international development cooperation and European assignments (e.g. EU grants). Income from areas that are not covered in other categories is also included here.

Seventy-five per cent of Statistics Norway's income from external assignments is financed by central and local government, including NOK 27.9 million from the Research Council of Norway. The high proportion of funding from central and local government means that Statistics Norway faces the risk of reduced external funding in the coming years as a result of tight budget frameworks.



4. Governance and control

4.1. Systematic improvement and rationalisation

Statistics Norway's new strategy and long-term plan give better predictability for the internal management, as well as a basis for more effective planning and budgeting processes. The strategy and the long-term plan are designed with a view to strengthening the internal strategic management, so as to prioritise improvement and rationalisation measures that improve long-term goal achievement. The improvement and rationalisation measures will be initiated and implemented on the basis of the strategy and the long-term plan, and will be followed up.

Furthermore, the long-term plan facilitates further development and improvement of the management by goals and objectives. Ongoing assessment of results and effects, continuous improvement and learning are key elements that will be ensured in the internal management dialogue.

The improvement and rationalisation efforts in Statistics Norway are taking place at multiple levels, and we are using different forms of management to follow up the different types of measures. In the follow-up of major initiatives, we use Management of Portfolios and the Norwegian Digitalisation Agency's project manual. Development needs that require IT, methodological or data capture resources, and which cannot be handled through portfolio management, are dealt with in line with the internal needs and priorities model. This model describes the principles, requirements, guidelines, roles and responsibilities for prioritisation.

Technology is an important tool in the improvement and rationalisation efforts. Statistics Norway's largest development projects involve digitalisation, but we also give consideration to whether and how technology can be used to improve and streamline the production of products and services in development initiatives of a smaller scope. Preparing for the introduction of Statistics Norway's new data platform for the production of statistics (DAPLA) has been a key task in 2020. Migration of statistics to the new data platform facilitates the introduction of new data capture methods and new and more efficient methods for processing and sharing data.

Statistics Norway involves users in the development and refinement of new and existing products and services, and maintains regular contact with users through formalised committees, user groups and user forums. We have separate register agreements with the owners of all the major registers, and annual meetings are held at the senior executive level. Special working groups have also been established with the register owners.

Systematic quality reviews of statistics, in light of the European Statistics Code of Practice, are an important element in the efforts to improve and streamline the production of statistics. The results from the quality reviews are shared internally and used for learning and improvement across statistical domains. Fifteen quality reviews have been conducted since 2015, and two more were conducted in 2020. Altogether 325 measures have been planned as a result of these reviews. A total of 222 measures have been completed, including 87 in 2020.

Standardisation and documentation of recommended methods and related tools are a key element in Statistics Norway's quality enhancement efforts. Standardisation will provide a basis for more efficient use and reuse of data that Statistics Norway collects, processes and manages as the production of statistics is gradually moved to the new data platform. This work is undertaken with a long-term perspective and in line with international recommendations. To expedite this work and ensure coordination, Statistics Norway has revitalised the internal Standards Committee, which will act as a driving force and coordinator for the harmonisation of existing coding frameworks and variables, as well as for the development of new, shared functionalities/services associated with these.

Assessment of productivity development

Statistics Norway's productivity must be assessed in light of a number of indicators, including resource use and the scope and quality of the products and services that are produced. In 2019, a new financial model and an related product structure were introduced. Compared to the old product structure, the new product structure provides a better basis for assessments of productivity. As part of the follow-up of Statistics Norway's new strategy and long-term plan, and the assignment defined in the letter of allocation, efforts are being made to assess and establish indicators that will permit measurement of goal achievement. In this work, we will consider what indicators should be used to assess productivity. In combination with the establishment of new indicators, the new product structure will form the basis for Statistics Norway's assessments of productivity going forward.

The productivity assessment for 2020 was undertaken on the basis of important key figures, cf. Tables 2.1 and 2.2, and data from the register of hours worked. In 2020, approximately 1.3 million hours of work were registered. Close to two-thirds of the hours worked were spent on core activities such as the production of statistics, research and analysis, sharing of data and delivery of tables.

The development of productivity must be seen in light of the fact that Statistics Norway has been given a number of new tasks in recent years, while the de-bureaucratisation and rationalisation reform has entailed tighter budgets. The number of products and services that Statistics Norway delivers may vary from one year to the next, while products and services within the same category (e.g. statistics, reports and delivery of data) may require different amounts of resources. Although the number of deliveries from Statistics Norway may rise or fall from one year to the next, this will not necessarily indicate that the productivity has risen or fallen, but should be seen in conjunction with other indicators and qualitative information on the activities.

The key figures in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 and the data from the register of hours worked indicate that productivity development in Statistics Norway over time has been acceptable and that we have largely met the performance requirements from the Ministry of Finance. Various measures to modernise and digitalise the activities have been undertaken, which over time will make our production processes more efficient and improve the quality of our products and services. This work will continue in the years to come.

4.2. Human resources¹

Number of employees and planned FTEs

Statistics Norway has reduced its number of employees from 2019 to 2020. This is a continuation of the trend from the preceding years and in line with the ongoing rationalisation of the activities.

Table 4.1 Number of employees and planned FTEs as of 31.12.2019 and 31.12.2020 (total and by operating unit) according to Statistics Norway's statistics

Number of employees and planned FTEs as of 31.12	2019	2020
Kongsvinger	306	293
Oslo	535	539
Total	841	832

Table 4.2 Total FTEs¹ as of 31.12.2019 and 31.12.2020 (total and by operating unit)

Total FTEs as of 31.12	2019	2020
Kongsvinger	274	275.7
Oslo	486	482.8
Total	760	757.7

FTE = an FTE is defined as the equivalent of a person in a 100% position for an entire year. Part-time employees are calculated on the basis of the percentage of the FTE that they work. Interviewers, retired employees and trainees are not included.

¹ Source: Sickness absence and HR statistics were retrieved from SAP.

Gender and age composition

Statistics Norway has a relatively even gender balance, with a slightly lower proportion of women than men in 2020. Special measures associated with the gender balance have not been considered necessary.

Table 4.3 Gender composition as of 31.12.2020 (total and by operating unit)

Gender composition as of 31.12.2020	Kongsvinger	Oslo	Total
Women	146	251	397
Men	147	288	435
Total	293	539	832

In Table 2.2 we can see that the proportion of women in managerial positions has fallen from 49 per cent in 2018 to 42 per cent in 2020. We regard this as a normal variation with no underlying structural causes. Over time, the proportion of women in managerial positions has remained at a stable and high level, and it has not been deemed necessary to implement any special measures.

Table 4.3 Age composition as of 31.12.2020, grouped as < 29 years, 30–39 years, 40–49 years, 50–59 years and > 60 years (total and by operating unit)

Age composition as of 31.12.2020	Kongsvinger	Oslo	Total
<29 years	41	43	84
30-39 years	37	127	164
40-49 years	73	137	210
50-59 years	65	140	205
>60 years	77	92	169
Total	293	539	832

Sickness absence

The sickness absence rate amounted to 3.1 per cent in 2020, compared to 4.7 per cent in 2019, and is the lowest on record. This may be associated with the infection control measures introduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Less physical contact may have helped reduce the risk of infection. The employees have also reported an increased tendency to working full or part time when unwell whilst working from home.

Table 4.4 Total sickness absence¹, in total and for each gender

Sickness absence in per cent	2019	2020
Women	6.1	4.0
Men	3.4	2.4
Total	4.7	3.1

¹ Sickness absence = Total sickness absence, i.e. the sum of self-certified absence and absence documented by a medical certificate, rounded to one decimal place.

Table 4.5 Sickness absence measured in number of FTEs for women, by age, Oslo/Kongsvinger and with medical certificate/self-certified

Age	Oslo			Kongsvinger			Statistics Norway as a whole		
	Self-certified	Med. certified	Sickness absence, %	Self-certified	Med. certified	Sickness absence, %	Self-certified	Med. certified	Sickness absence, %
20–29	21	71	2	17	28	1.3	38	99	1.7
30–39	144	651	5.2	42	321	10.6	186	972	6.2
40–49	161	224	3	51	79	1.7	212	403	2.6
50–59	115	488	4	88	299	3.8	203	786	3.9
60+	62	345	4.8	59	351	4.6	141	696	4.7
TOTAL Women	523	1779	4.0	257	1078	4	780	2956	4.0

Table 4.6 Sickness absence for men, measured in number of FTEs, by age, Oslo/Kongsvinger and with medical certificate/self-certified

Age	Oslo			Kongsvinger			Statistics Norway as a whole		
	Self-certified	Med. certified	Sickness absence, %	Self-certified	Med. certified	Sickness absence, %	Self-certified	Med. certified	Sickness absence, %
20-29	59	29	1.3	44	3	0.8	103	32	1.1
30-39	141	97	1.5	40	8	1	181	105	1.3
40-49	166	222	2.2	57	17	0.7	222	239	1.7
50-59	119	531	4	72	244	3.3	191	775	3.7
60+	60	206	2.3	45	257	7.6	105	463	3.7
TOTAL Men	545	1085	2.4	258	529	2.3	802	1614	2.4

Availability of skills

Statistics Norway works actively to recruit and develop competence that can support the changes it is facing. In the new strategy, competent and motivated managers and other employees constitute a separate priority area.

The overall competence situation in Statistics Norway is deemed as good. In 2020, there was largely good availability of relevant candidates for vacant positions, with a somewhat higher number of applicants for positions in Oslo than in Kongsvinger. In order to profile Statistics Norway as a workplace to relevant candidates in the Kongsvinger region, we are participating in a regional cooperation project.

However, recruiting the desired competence is more challenging in some areas than in others. This applies to, for example, IT development, where the competition in the labour market is strong. Statistics Norway has therefore kept a special focus on recruiting developers in 2020, and this will continue in 2021.

Digitalisation and development of the statistical systems may entail an increased need for competence enhancement in Statistics Norway. This includes a need for higher competence in programming languages and use of the new data platform for statistics production, DAPLA. Work started in 2020 and will continue in the years to come. We use, for example, established competence development arenas, such as Statistics Norway's internal training programmes. However, other measures, such as the establishment of interdisciplinary product teams, will also be important for raising the competence level.

A total of 72 members of staff resigned in 2020, making for a total employee turnover of 8.7 per cent. This is as expected, after somewhat higher turnover figures in 2018 and 2019. Some of those who left were retiring. This particularly applies to Kongsvinger, where many of those who retired had a period of service in excess of 40 years. Employee turnover can represent a challenge as it entails the loss of valuable competence, but it also provides an opportunity for renewal. Efforts are continuously made to ensure that competent staff members choose to remain in Statistics Norway.

In the autumn of 2020, Statistics Norway adopted an agreed new HR and wage policy. In combination with the new strategy, it defines the premises for the competence enhancement efforts going forward and will help steer Statistics Norway in its recruitment, development and retention of the required competence.

The inclusion project

The target of the government's inclusion project is that five per cent of all positions will be filled by persons with functional impairments or gaps in the employment history. Statistics Norway will seek to develop procedures and forms of work that will help achieve the goals of the inclusion project.

Out of a total of 63 new appointments in 2020, four were filled by persons with functional impairments or a gap in their employment history. This is 6.3 per cent of all appointments, and Statistics Norway has thereby achieved the target for the inclusion project in 2020. In addition, we

have had a number of work placement contracts for candidates with functional impairments or a gap in their employment history.

Table 4.7 Appointments in 2020

Number of appointments	63
Number of permanent appointments	44
Number of temporary appointments	19
Number of candidates with functional impairments or a gap in their employment history	4

Statistics Norway has a good collaboration with managers, trade union representatives and safety delegates with a view to achieving a more inclusive workplace. A management development programme for division heads has been initiated, where diversity and inclusive recruitment are among the topics. Every four months, all managers receive information on the status of goal achievement in the inclusion project.

The goals of the inclusion project are also followed up in the new HR and wage policy through specific instructions for recruitment in Statistics Norway. All vacancy announcements specify that Statistics Norway seeks to include candidates who are outside the labour market because of functional impairments or a gap in their employment history. A new declaration of diversity was added to vacancy announcements in 2020, in line with instructions from the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation.

New premises for Statistics Norway in Kongsvinger

Statistics Norway's lease of the premises at no. 23 Oterveien in Kongsvinger expires on 15 July 2025 and cannot be extended. Statistics Norway therefore needs to sign a new lease agreement and be in place in future premises before this date. The search for premises in the Kongsvinger area has started. Statsbygg is assisting Statistics Norway in this process.

4.3. Internal control and risk management

No significant weaknesses were detected in the regular internal control in 2020, but the quality reviews have identified some areas that need improvement. Some work remains to be done before Statistics Norway has a cohesive and documented internal control system.

In 2020, an interdisciplinary team was established with a mandate to further develop internal control and risk management in Statistics Norway, and to establish and implement an information security management system (ISMS) in accordance with ISO 27001. In order to establish a more cohesive approach to information security management, a comprehensive review of various processes has been initiated with a view to implementing the ISMS. The purpose of this is to prepare for technological change, increased digitalisation, cybercrime and other developments that may represent a security risk. This work will continue in 2021.

Internal audit

In 2020, an assessment was made of whether Statistics Norway should establish an internal audit unit, and in this context the internal control system was reviewed and appraised. The report concluded that instead of establishing an internal audit unit, Statistics Norway should continue its efforts to further develop the internal control and risk management systems in line with recognised international standards.

Compliance with the GDPR through a new pseudonymisation solution

In 2020, Statistics Norway continued its work on solutions that meet the requirements for pseudonymisation of personally identifiable variables in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). A project (PAPIS) was initiated to ensure that all processing of personal data used in the production of statistics will comply with the new regulation by the end of 2021.

In 2020, the project assessed and decided on a pseudonymisation solution, and prepared an overview of files and variables that shall be pseudonymised. This can be implemented for all personal statistics once the technical solutions and working procedures are established during the first half of 2021. Statistics Norway will thereby have a shared solution for the pseudonymisation of all types of personally identifiable variables. This will improve information management, and enhance the quality of source data for some statistics.

Efforts are also underway to address the stricter requirements for the processing of information that identifies organisations, in line with the provisions in the new Statistics Act. These efforts will continue in 2021.

4.4. Security and preparedness

The security situation in Statistics Norway is deemed to be satisfactory, and no major discrepancies or security-related incidents were reported in 2020.

The inherent risk associated with Statistics Norway's activities is considered to be moderate to low. The inherent risk in the IT area is deemed to be high, mainly because of data volume, complexity and a large technical debt. Compensatory measures have been implemented in areas exposed to risk, and the remaining risk is therefore deemed to be moderate to low.

As regards the information security area, the likelihood of events that could threaten goal achievement is considered to be low, but the consequences of such an event would be major. The greatest risk is associated with information values being lost, becoming inaccessible or manipulated. In 2020, a number of risk assessments were undertaken at the overall and system levels to identify and implement risk management measures to reduce the risk to a level that can be deemed acceptable. A number of measures have been implemented, while others are under implementation. The risks are closely monitored by Statistics Norway's management. Various risk assessments have also been undertaken at lower levels and addressed on an ongoing basis. For example, in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread practice of working from home, a risk assessment has been undertaken with regard to interaction solutions and Office 365. The technical solutions, involving the division into zones and two-factor authentication also for the tools in the Office 365 portfolio, are considered to have reduced the risk to an acceptable level.

The ability to detect and respond to new threats and changes to the risk profile is considered important for Statistics Norway being able to maintain the desired level of security. Statistics Norway's IT area is complex, and Statistics Norway handles large amounts of data and information, including sensitive information about individuals and businesses. Work to strengthen information management and the systems for information security is therefore given priority in the new strategy and long-term plan.

In terms of preparedness, the pandemic has been a major concern for Statistics Norway in many respects. The area plan for pandemic influenza was implemented in March, and a large proportion of the staff have been working from home since that time. Statistics Norway was well prepared with good solutions for remote working. These solutions have remained stable throughout the entire period, thus helping staff to work efficiently from home.

No fire drills were held in 2020, since very few staff members have been present in the office premises. Nor was it deemed possible to maintain a social distance of one metre, as stipulated in the national recommendations for infection control, during an evacuation exercise. Furthermore, no internal or external security audits have been undertaken during the reporting period.

4.5. Follow-up of comments from the Office of the Auditor General

The Office of the Auditor General had no comments to Statistics Norway's accounts for 2019.



AVKLARE
BEHOV

PLANLEGGJE
& UTFORME

BYGGJE

SAM
IN

REFERANSE
OK

BRUKERTESTING

KoordINERING

Metode lager
alle utvalgte

DEL REGISTER
(14)

FRÅE

STØTTE OG
INFRASTRUK

5. Assessment of outlook

5.1. The new Statistics Act

The new Statistics Act provides a good framework for official statistics and for Statistics Norway's activities in the years to come, and Statistics Norway has primary responsibility for ensuring that the intentions of the Act are carried out.

The Statistics Act establishes a new national statistical programme that defines the framework for official Norwegian statistics. In cooperation with other producers of statistics, Statistics Norway will seek to further develop official statistics to meet changing needs. This may entail changes to statistical domains and production responsibilities.

The new Statistics Act entails increased responsibilities and new tasks for Statistics Norway. As the central authority for official statistics, Statistics Norway has been given a special responsibility to help meet the stipulated quality requirements for official statistics. This also applies to official statistics produced by other authorities. We shall establish and follow up a quality system and provide guidance and advice to other producers of official statistics. Official statistics are the nation's shared factual basis and essential for good planning, evaluation, public discourse and research. Quality assurance of these statistics is an instrument for creating and maintaining trust, ensuring that official statistics will continue to be the preferred source of facts about Norwegian society.

The dissemination of official statistics in Norway shall be further developed through a common statistics platform on ssb.no. In the longer term, Statistics Norway's ambition is to make all official statistics available in one place, and that Statistics Norway's StatBank also includes statistics from the other producers. Statistics Norway will involve the other producers of official statistics and devise a plan for gradual development.

In addition to the new Act, new guidelines define a clear and predictable framework for Statistics Norway's research and analysis activities. Adapting these activities to the guidelines has been an important task for Statistics Norway in 2020, and this work will continue as we go forward.

The new Act provides for more opportunities to apply for access to data from Statistics Norway. It is important for Statistics Norway to meet the needs of the research institutions and the data needs of other users within the framework defined by the new Statistics Act. It is our goal to develop better services to ensure fast and predictable access to data. Statistics Norway is developing a new data platform (DAPLA), which will provide a better overview and knowledge about our data, and facilitate more efficient and appropriate sharing. This means that it will be simpler and safer to make data available for research purposes, while continuing to develop microdata.no to provide immediate access to large amounts of data where the concerns for data protection are incorporated into the solution. To succeed, it is necessary to adapt the data and maintain good control over metadata. This is necessary to be able to make data available efficiently, irrespective of which analysis and sharing service that the users choose.

5.2. Digitalisation and development

Ongoing technological development facilitates increased automation and standardisation of Statistics Norway's production processes, and thereby also improved efficiency, a lower response burden for businesses and individuals, and better quality in the statistics and analyses. Increased access to data, combined with better tools for processing and disseminating the data, provides a good basis for introducing new data sources that permit us to continuously improve the quality of our products and services. However, these opportunities also entail new requirements for Statistics Norway's IT infrastructure, production processes and forms of work. In order to successfully adopt

new data sources, it is important that a good working relationship is established and developed with data owners.

The development of digital services is proceeding at a rapid pace, and users expect ever quicker and better adapted access to data. In parallel, there is increasing competition from commercial actors and other stakeholders in the production and dissemination of statistics and analyses. Many enterprises devote considerable resources to this activity. Increased competition can lead to better knowledge and incentives for development and improvement. On the other hand, competing descriptions of development of the society can also lead to fragmentation, and ultimately serve as a barrier to a public discourse based on common knowledge. This gives rise to new requirements for the way in which Statistics Norway should develop its products and services. We therefore need to work systematically and continuously to deliver better products and services based on knowledge about society's needs, as represented by various target groups. This will also require good collaboration with other agencies and enterprises.

In order to successfully digitalise and develop Statistics Norway it is also important to enable the employees to continuously enhance their competence, and provisions need to be made for interaction across domains. Statistics Norway will therefore test new forms of work that can promote competence sharing and more efficient performance of tasks, including the use of interdepartmental, autonomous teams in which different specialties and IT developers collaborate to deliver continuous development and maintenance.

5.3. New statistics regulations and increased productivity

Through the EEA Agreement, Norway participates in the European statistical cooperation, in which various EU regulations are having an increasing influence on the production of official Norwegian statistics. More than half of Statistics Norway's releases of statistics are covered by such regulations, and more will come in the years ahead. For example, new framework regulations for business and social statistics will entail major requirements for restructuring and developing statistics by Statistics Norway. This will open up opportunities but also present challenges. The new regulations can mean more relevant, comparable and reliable statistics on the economy and society at the national, regional and European levels. However, the implementation of new requirements and restructuring of the statistics production will also require considerable resources.

Statistics Norway is facing a number of new, major tasks as well as increasing expectations from users. Moreover, like other public agencies, we are required to lower our operational costs and increase productivity. This calls for strict prioritisation and high demands for restructuring and rationalisation. By setting a course for Statistics Norway's implementation of the necessary developments, the new strategy provides a good basis for further work, so that we can continue to fulfil our mission.



6. Annual accounts

6.1. Management comments

Statistics Norway is a gross-budgeted administrative agency under the Ministry of Finance.

Confirmation

The annual accounts have been prepared and are presented in accordance with provisions on financial management in the central government and related circulars and requirements issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The annual accounts provide a comprehensive view of Statistics Norway's disposable government appropriations, recognised expenses, revenues, assets and liabilities. The annual accounts include a statement of government appropriations, a general ledger statement and business accounts.

Assessment of material issues

Reporting on government appropriations

Statistics Norway's total appropriation under Chapter 1620 amounts to NOK 924 million, a reduction of NOK 11.1 million compared to 2019. The reduced appropriation must be seen in the context of the associated reduction in the budget for income from commissioned work under Chapter 4620 item 02.

The pandemic has led to reduced activity internationally and delays in many of Statistics Norway's external assignments. The budget for income from commissioned work in Chapter 4620 item 02 was therefore reduced by NOK 35.3 million as of May 2020, cf. Proposition no. 117 (2019–2020) to the Storting and Proposition no 360 (2019–2020) to the Storting. In a normal year, it is presumed that Statistics Norway's revenues from external assignments cover the cost of performing them. In the short term, Statistics Norway has no possibility to reduce its costs by an amount equal to a significant and unforeseen loss of revenue. To address the situation, Statistics Norway's cost budget in Chapter 1620 item 21 was adjusted downwards by NOK 11.8 million as of 12 May 2020, cf. Proposition no. 117 (2019–2020) to the Storting and Proposition no. 360 (2019–2020) to the Storting. As a result, the costs were reduced by a higher amount than the associated reduction in revenue.

Compared to the adjusted budget, Statistics Norway's accounts show a reduced expenditure under Chapter 1620 item 21 of NOK 6.3 million and an increase of NOK 8 million in revenue under Chapter 4620 item 02. The budget reduction was made at an early stage, when there was still some uncertainty regarding the duration of the various restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic. Reallocation of resources, higher reimbursements and postponement of hiring temporary staff as a result of the pandemic are the reasons for the reduced expenditure. The increase in revenue is largely due to advance payments for work to be undertaken in 2021.

General ledger reporting

We have received NOK 238.5 million in payments in 2020. This is an increase of NOK 3.9 million from 2019, which is caused by advance payment for assignments that were initiated in 2020 and will continue in 2021. Expenditure for operations amount to a total of NOK 877.6 million, an increase of NOK 1.6 million from 2019.

In 2020, NOK 659 million was paid out in salaries and social contributions, a decline of NOK 2.8 million from 2019. The sickness absence rate fell in 2020, and there was a corresponding reduction in the reimbursement of sick pay, while the reimbursement of the parental benefit and care benefit increased, reducing the total expenditure. Payment for overtime work and travel time was also significantly reduced in 2020.

Travel expenses fell by NOK 15.1 million as a result of reduced international activity and the travel restrictions that were introduced in March. Expenses for licences and external computer capacity increased by NOK 15.1 million compared to 2019. These expenses vary from one year to the next. Moreover, the annual expenses for operation of the Altinn portal are increasing. The EEA fee increased by NOK 5.2 million to NOK 21.7 million.

Payments for operations also include expenses for development work in Statistics Norway. In 2020, Statistics Norway spent NOK 80.7 million on development work, whereof NOK 20 million was funded by an earmarked appropriation. Expenses for internal and external resources for the MOD-Sirius project amounted to NOK 34.4 million.

The investments increased by NOK 4.2 million, mainly because of the procurement of equipment for staff working from home as a result of the pandemic.

Statistics Norway has applied for a transfer of NOK 43.5 million to 2021. This is necessary to enable Statistics Norway to continue its modernisation of the statistics production and deliver assignments that were funded in 2020 and are continuing in 2021.

Business accounts

Statistics Norway's revenues fell by a total of NOK 11.7 million in 2020. Grants from other government agencies have been reduced. This applies especially to development cooperation, where the international activities have been curtailed. Delays in certain other external assignments have also reduced the revenues in 2020.

Labour costs fell by NOK 7.1 million compared to 2019. Reduced labour expenses also mean lower wage provisions. In addition, provisions are made for accrued reimbursements, care benefits and parental benefits in the business accounts.

Procurement of external services fell by NOK 15 million compared to 2019. A major proportion of this decline is associated with the 'Modern IT platform' project, which went into regular operation in April 2020.

Internal resource use in our development projects is recognised in the accounts with NOK 44.9 million. Ssb.no and MOD-Sirius account for NOK 15.3 million and NOK 11.5 million respectively.

Further explanations of minor discrepancies in the business accounts are provided in the notes to the profit and loss account.

Auditing

The Office of the Auditor General is our external auditor and confirms the annual accounts for Statistics Norway. Their assessment of the accounts will be provided in the audit report that we expect to receive in May 2021.

Oslo/Kongsvinger 15.mars 2021



Geir Axelsen
Director General

6.2. Annual accounts

Note on the accounting principles in the cash accounts

The cash accounts have been prepared and presented in accordance with guidelines stipulated in the provisions on financial management in the central government ('the provisions'). The annual accounts comply with the requirements in Section 3.4.1, further provisions in Circular R-115 issued by the Ministry of Finance in December 2019 and any additional requirements stipulated by a superior ministry.

The statements on appropriations and the general ledger are prepared on the basis of Section 3.4.2 of the provisions – fundamental principles for annual accounts:

- a) The financial statement follows the calendar year.
- b) The financial statement includes all reported expenses and revenues for the financial year.
- c) The financial statement is prepared in accordance with the cash principle.
- d) Expenses and revenues are recognised as gross amounts in the accounts.

The statements on the government appropriations and general ledger have been prepared according to the same principles, but are grouped according to the different account plans. The principles correspond to the requirements in Section 3.5 of the provisions regarding how the agencies are to report to the central government accounts. The total item 'Net reported to the government appropriations accounts' is the same in both statements.

Statistics Norway is linked to the government group account scheme in Norges Bank in accordance with the requirements in Section 3.7.1 of the provisions. Gross-budgeted entities do not receive liquidity throughout the year, but have drawing rights on their group account. At the end of the year, the balance of each settlement account is reset to zero.

Reporting on government appropriations

The statement on government appropriations consists of a top part showing the government appropriations and a lower part that shows the holdings listed for Statistics Norway in the capital accounts. The reporting on appropriations shows accounting figures that Statistics Norway has reported to the central government accounts. It is presented according to the chapters and items in the appropriations accounts that Statistics Norway has been authorised to have at its disposal. The column 'Total government appropriation' shows what the agency has been granted in the letter of allocation for each government account (chapter/item). In addition, the statement shows all financial assets and liabilities listed for Statistics Norway in the central government capital accounts.

Statistics Norway has been granted an exemption from the financial regulations – Section 3.4.3.2 final paragraph. This means that the granted debit authorisation is included in the reporting on government appropriations, and that additional columns may be used. This exemption has been granted by the Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management, on the basis of delegated authority pursuant to Section 3 first paragraph of the Regulations on Financial Management in Central Government. Note B shall have the same content as in other government agencies. The exemption is valid for the financial year 2016 until the financial year 2020.

Received authorisations to debit another agency's chapter/item (debit authorisations) are not shown in the column for the total government appropriation, but are described in Note B to the statement on government appropriations. Expenses related to received debit authorisations are recognised and reported to the government accounts, and are shown in the column for accounts.

Granted debit authorisations are included in the column for total government appropriations, but are not recognised or reported to the central government accounts by Statistics Norway. Granted

debit authorisations are recognised and reported by the agency that has received the debit authorisation and are therefore not shown in the column for accounts. The granted authorisations are listed in Note B to the statement on government appropriations.

Oppstilling av bevilgningsrapportering 31.12.2020

Expense chapter	Chapter name	Item	Item text	Note	Total appropriation	Accounts 2020	Extra expenditure (-) and reduced expenditure	Items for other/ granted authorisations	Discrepancy relative to allocation
1620	Operating expenses	01		A,B	639 824 000	613 735 887	26 088 113		
1620	Special operating expenses	21		A,B	248 100 000	241 768 486	6 331 514		
1620	Large procurements of equipment and maintenance	45		A,B	36 094 000	33 013 381	3 080 619		
0500	Special operating expenses	21		A	0	500 000	0		
1600	Special operating expenses	21		A	420 000	420 160	-160		
1633	Net scheme for VAT in the central government	01			0	36 189 360			
<i>Total recognised expenses</i>					<i>924 438 000</i>	<i>925 627 273</i>			
Income chapter	Chapter name	Item	Item text		Total appropriation	Accounts 2020	Extra expenditure (-) and reduced expenditure		
4620	ASSIGNMENT INCOME	02			230 500 000	238 488 092	7 988 092		
4620	COERCIVE FINE	85	Coercive fine	B	4 500 000	0		4 759 376	-259 376
5309	VARIOUS	29			0	1 057 100			
5700	EMPLOYER'S CONTRIBUTION	72			0	74 751 461			
<i>Total recognised income</i>					<i>235 000 000</i>	<i>314 296 654</i>			
Net reported to the appropriations accounts						611 330 619			
Capital accounts									
60077201	Norges Bank customer accounts/deposits					306 168 275			
60077202	Norges Bank customer accounts/payments					-912 614 766			
716600	Changes in outstanding accounts with the Treasury					-4 884 129			
<i>Total reported</i>						<i>0</i>			
Holdings reported to capital accounts (31 Dec.)									
Account	Text				2020	2019	Change		
716600	Outstanding accounts with the Treasury				-42 780 412	-37 896 283	-4 884 129		

Note A Government appropriation for 2020 (expenses)

Chapter and item	Transferred from last year	This year's government appropriation	Total government appropriation
162001	29 959 000	609 865 000	639 824 000
162021		248 100 000	248 100 000
162045	10 194 000	25 900 000	36 094 000
160021		420 000	420 000

Note B Explanations for authorisations exercised and estimates of amounts potentially transferable to the next year

Chapter and item	Key-words	Extra expenditure (-)/ reduced expenditure	Extra expenditure (-)/ reduced expenditure acc. to granted debit authorisations	Extra income/ reduced income (-) acc. to authorisation for extra income	Authorisation to exceed the appropriation for overtime, travel time and hourly pay for November 2020*	Total basis for transfer	Max. transferable amount **	Potential transferable amount estimated by the agency
162001		26 088 113	26 088 113		325 536	26 413 649	30 493 250	26 413 649
162021/ 462002	Transferable	6 331 514	6 331 514	7 988 092	23 884	14 343 490	501 200 000	14 343 490
162045	Transferable	3 080 619	3 080 619			3 080 619	45 900 000	3 080 619

* In 2020, the Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ) changed the principle for the payment of overtime, travel time and hourly pay. Government institutions that paid wages via DFØ for the financial year 2020 have paid overtime for 13 months. Affected parties have been authorised to exceed their appropriation in 2020 by an amount equal to the one-off effect associated with the reorganisation of the payment solution in DFØ.

**The maximum amount transferable is equal to 5% of the annual appropriation under operational items 01-29, except item 24, or the sum of the appropriations for the last two years with the keyword 'transferable'.

Granted debit authorisations by income chapter

Chapter and item	Extra income and reduced income (-)	Recognised as income by others acc. to granted debit authorisations (+)
462085	-259 376	

Granted debit authorisations

The Norwegian National Collection Agency is collecting a coercive fine on behalf of Statistics Norway under Chapter 4620 item 85. The revenue budget for 2020 amounted to NOK 4.5 million. This income is offset directly to the Treasury and is not at the disposal of Statistics Norway.

Received debit authorisation from the Ministry of Finance

Statistics Norway has received a debit authorisation from the Ministry of Finance for NOK 0.42 million under Chapter 1600 item 21. This debit authorisation finances our work on analyses and estimation assignments associated with taxes for non-personal taxpayers.

Received debit authorisation from the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation

From the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation we have received a debit authorisation for NOK 0.5 million under Chapter 5000 item 21 for further development and operation of the indicator platform on ssb.no.

Transfer of unused operating appropriations

With consent from the Ministry of Finance, Statistics Norway can transfer an unused operating appropriation from one year to the next.

The keyword 'transferable'

Statistics Norway's appropriation under Chapter 1620 items 21 and 45 is shown with the keyword 'transferable'. Unused funds can be transferred, provided that the amount does not exceed the appropriation for the two preceding budget years.

Authorisation to exceed operating appropriations against equivalent extra revenues

The Ministry of Finance has decided that Statistics Norway can exceed its appropriation under Chapter 1620 item 21 with an amount equal to extra revenues under Chapter 4620 item 02. For the financial year 2020, Statistics Norway has been granted authorisation to recognise expenses under Chapter 1620 item 21 with an amount up to NOK 23.5 million higher than the revenue recognised under Chapter 4620 item 02, cf. Proposition no. 117 (2019–2020) to the Storting and Proposition no. 360 (2019–2020) to the Storting.

Authorisation to recognise reduced costs as net value

The Ministry of Finance has authorised Statistics Norway to recognise reduced costs as net value under Chapter 1620 item 01 for reimbursements of joint expenses and similar in cases where Statistics Norway sublets premises.

Authorisation to sign lease agreements that extend beyond the budget year

Statistics Norway is authorised to enter into lease agreements and procurements of services that extend beyond the budget year, cf. R-110 *Authorisations pursuant to the appropriations regulations*.

General ledger reporting

The general ledger statement includes an upper part that shows what has been reported to the government accounts according to the standard account plan for government agencies, and a lower part that shows assets and liabilities included in the outstanding accounts with the Treasury. The general ledger statement shows the accounting figures that Statistics Norway has reported to the central government accounts according to the standard account plan for government agencies. Statistics Norway has drawing rights on the group account in Norges Bank. These allocations have

not been reported as income to the central government accounts and are therefore not shown as income in the general ledger statement.

Statement on the general ledger as of 31 December 2020

	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Operating income reported to the appropriation accounts		
Payments from grants and transfers	103 224 042	110 049 726
Sales and rental income	133 770 630	122 365 261
Other payments	1 493 420	2 174 881
<i>Total operating income</i>	<i>238 488 092</i>	<i>234 589 867</i>
Operating expenses reported to the appropriation accounts		
Wage expenses	658 963 727	661 753 617
Other operating expenses	218 627 626	214 573 022
<i>Total operating expenses</i>	<i>877 591 353</i>	<i>876 326 639</i>
Net reported operating expenses	639 103 261	641 736 772
Investment and financial income reported to the appropriation accounts		
Receipt of financial income	496 912	11 835
<i>Total investment and financial income</i>	<i>496 912</i>	<i>11 835</i>
Investment and financial costs reported to the appropriation accounts		
Disbursement for investments	12 075 997	7 883 776
Disbursement of finance costs	267 475	68 727
<i>Total investment and finance costs</i>	<i>12 343 471</i>	<i>7 952 502</i>
Net reported investment and financial costs	11 846 560	7 940 668
Collection activities and other transfers to the central government		
<i>Total collection activities and other transfers to the central government</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Grant management and other transfers from the central government		
<i>Total grant management and other transfers from the central government</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Income and expenses reported under collective chapters		
Group life insurance account 1985 (ref. Ch. 5309, income)	1 057 100	1 080 657
Employer's contribution account 1986 (ref. Ch. 5700, income)	74 751 461	75 160 155
Net recognition scheme for VAT account 1987 (ref. Ch. 1633, expense)	36 189 360	30 632 125
<i>Net reported expenses under collective chapters</i>	<i>-39 619 202</i>	<i>-45 608 687</i>
Net reported to the appropriations accounts	611 330 619	604 068 752

Overview of outstanding accounts with the Treasury

	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Assets and liabilities		
Receivables	460 836	420 153
Taxes and other deductions owed	-21 104 265	-22 758 830
Public fees owed	-14 359 765	-7 438 153
Other liabilities	-7 777 218	-8 119 453
Total outstanding accounts with the Treasury	-42 780 412	-37 896 283

General accounting principles for the business accounts

The business accounts are presented in accordance with the central government accounting standards (SRS).

Transaction-based income

Transactions are recognised in the profit and loss account as the value of the payment at the time of the transaction. Income is recognised when earned. Revenues from the sale of goods are recognised at the time of delivery, when the risk and control have been transferred to the purchaser. Sales of services are recognised in pace with performance.

Income from appropriations and income from grants and transfers

Income from appropriations and income from grants and transfers are recognised according to the matching principle. This means that income from appropriations and income from grants and transfers are recognised in the period in which the related revenues are earned i.e. in the same period as the costs are accrued (matching).

Gross-budgeted enterprises apply a simplified version of the matching principle, in that the income from appropriations is calculated as the difference between the period costs and earned transaction-based income and any other income from grants and transfers to the enterprise. One consequence of this is that the financial result of the activities in the period becomes zero. This amendment to SRS Section 10, *Income from appropriations, grants and transfers to the enterprise, and transfers to and from the central government*, came into force in the financial year 2020. As a result, the figures as of 31 December 2019 in Note 7A are no longer comparable to Note 7A in the annual report for 2019.

Costs

Expenses concerning transaction-based income are recognised in the same period as the related income is earned. Expenses that are financed by income from appropriations and income from grants and transfers are recognised in the period when the activities were performed and the resources used.

Pensions

SRS Section 25 applies a simplified approach to the accounting of pensions. Government agencies shall not recognise net pension liabilities for schemes under the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund (SPK) in the balance sheet.

Statistics Norway recognises the employer's part of the pension premium as a pension cost. Pensions are recognised as if the pension scheme in SPK were based on a defined contribution plan.

Lease agreements

Statistics Norway has chosen to use the simplified method in SRS Section 13 on lease agreements, and classifies all lease agreements as operational lease agreements.

Classification and assessment of fixed assets

Fixed assets are long-term significant assets that are at Statistics Norway's disposal. 'Fixed assets' refers to assets with a useful life of three years or more. 'Significant assets' are defined as assets with an original cost of NOK 30 000 or more. Fixed assets are recognised in the balance sheet at original cost, minus depreciation. Office furniture and computing equipment (computers, servers etc.) with a useful life of three years or more are recognised as separate groups in the balance sheet.

In cases of changed use or application, fixed assets are depreciated to their actual value if the actual value is lower than the value recognised in the balance sheet.

Internal development of software

Statistics Norway has chosen to recognise expenses for using its own employees to develop computer software, cf. Amendments to the central government accounting standards decided in December 2018. Licences for software developed internally before the amendment are recognised in the balance sheet and depreciated at regular intervals.

Classification and assessment of current assets and short-term liabilities

Current assets and short-term liabilities include items that are due for payment within one year of procurement. Other items are classified as fixed assets/long-term liabilities. Current assets are valued at either original cost or actual value, whichever is the lower. Short-term liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet at the nominal amount at the time they were incurred.

Accounts receivable

Receivables from clients and other receivables are recognised in the balance sheet at face value after deductions for expected loss provisions. Provisions for loss are made on the basis of individual assessments of each receivable.

Foreign currency

Monetary items in foreign currencies are valued according to the exchange rate at the end of the financial year. Norges Bank's spot exchange rate as of 31 December is used as reference.

Central government capital

The central government's capital consists of the net amount of the agency's assets and liabilities, and is reported in the item for settlements of accounts in the balance sheet. Gross-budgeted entities do not present the group accounts in Norges Bank as bank deposits. The group accounts are included in the item settled with the Treasury.

Government framework conditions*The self-insurance principle*

The central government operates under self-insurance. Accordingly, no items intended to reflect alternative net insurance costs or liabilities are therefore included in the balance sheet or the profit and loss account.

The central government group account scheme

Government agencies are included in the central government group account scheme. The group account scheme entails all incoming and outgoing payments being settled against the agency's settlement account in Norges Bank on a daily basis. Statistics Norway does not receive liquidity throughout the year, but has drawing rights on its group account. For gross-budgeted agencies, the balance on each settlement account in Norges Bank is reset to zero in the transition to a new financial year..

Profit and loss account

	Note	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Operating income			
Income from appropriations	1	645 461 207	669 825 470
Income from grants and transfers	1	102 780 324	94 509 392
Sales and rental income	1	128 338 828	148 288 983
Other operating income	1	1 541 559	1 886 081
<i>Total operating income</i>		<i>878 121 919</i>	<i>914 509 926</i>
Operating costs			
Labour costs	2	658 954 781	666 062 899
Depreciation of fixed assets and intangible assets	3,4	18 951 374	21 484 833
Other operating costs	5	200 450 343	226 900 433
<i>Total operating costs</i>		<i>878 356 498</i>	<i>914 448 165</i>
Operating result		-234 580	61 761
Financial income and financial costs			
Financial income	6	496 912	11 835
Financial costs	6	262 332	73 596
<i>Total financial income and financial costs</i>		<i>234 580</i>	<i>-61 761</i>
Result of the period's activities		0	0
Settlements and allocations			
<i>Total settlements and allocations</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Collection activity and other transfers to the central government			
<i>Total collection activity and other transfers to the central government</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Grant management and other transfers from the central government			
<i>Total grant management and other transfers from the central government</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
	Note	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Operating income			

Balance sheet

	Note	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
ASSETS			
A. Fixed assets			
I Intangible assets			
Software and similar rights	3	44 967 065	53 295 574
<i>Total intangible assets</i>		44 967 065	53 295 574
II Tangible assets			
Machinery and vehicles	4	556 983	1 621 794
Movable assets, furnishings, tools etc.	4	28 951 617	26 585 434
Total fixed assets		29 508 599	28 207 228
III Capital assets			
Total fixed assets		74 475 664	81 502 802
B. Current assets			
I Stock of goods and materials			
II Receivables			
Receivables from clients	8	6 626 225	4 745 479
Earned income not invoiced	9	12 547 848	13 290 146
Other receivables	10	16 919 600	13 798 129
<i>Total receivables</i>		36 093 673	31 833 755
III Bank deposits, cash and similar			
Total current assets		36 093 673	31 833 755
Total operating assets		110 569 337	113 336 556
IV Receivables regarding collection activity and other transfers			
Total assets		110 569 337	113 336 556

Central government capital and liabilities

	Note	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
C. Central government capital			
I Business assets			
II Settlements			
Settled with the Treasury (gross budgeted)	7	-79 920 333	-80 524 819
<i>Total settlements</i>		<i>-79 920 333</i>	<i>-80 524 819</i>
Total central government capital		-79 920 333	-80 524 819
D. Liabilities			
I Provision for long-term liabilities			
II Other long-term liabilities			
III Current liabilities			
Accounts payable		4 138 579	17 011 855
Tax owed		21 104 265	22 758 830
Government fees owed		25 273 353	18 512 365
Provisions for holiday pay		57 240 568	57 136 552
Pre-paid revenue, not earned	9	40 748 723	32 747 433
Other current liabilities	11	41 984 183	45 694 340
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		<i>190 489 671</i>	<i>193 861 375</i>
Total liabilities		190 489 671	193 861 375
Total central government capital and liabilities		110 569 337	113 336 556

Note 1 Operating income		
	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Income from appropriations *		
Income from appropriations	645 461 207	669 825 470
<i>Total income from appropriations</i>	<i>645 461 207</i>	<i>669 825 470</i>
Income from grants and transfers		
Grants from the Research Council of Norway	34 456 967	26 224 167
Grants from other government agencies	44 326 702	59 754 592
Grants from the EU	17 041 745	11 249 286
Other grants and transfers	6 954 910	-2 718 653
<i>Total income from grants and transfers</i>	<i>102 780 324</i>	<i>94 509 392</i>
Income from fees		
<i>Total income from fees</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Sales and rental income		
Sales income, liable to VAT	125 575 507	147 647 781
Sales income, not liable to VAT	2 763 321	523 498
Sales income, exempt from VAT	0	418 187
Rental income	0	-300 484
<i>Total sales and rental income</i>	<i>128 338 828</i>	<i>148 288 983</i>
Other operating income		
Other operating income	1 541 559	1 886 081
<i>Total other operating income</i>	<i>1 541 559</i>	<i>1 886 081</i>
Total operating income	878 121 919	914 509 926

* According to the central government accounting standards, the income from appropriations for gross-budgeted agencies is calculated as the difference between the costs for the period and earned transaction-based income, plus income from grants and transfers, if any, to the agency. One consequence of this is that the financial result of the activities in the period amounts to zero.

For information on received appropriations, see the statement on the reporting of central government appropriations.

The income from appropriations has fallen by NOK 24.4 million from 2019. This is due to a change in accounting principles in SRS 10, according to which Statistics Norway no longer recognises appropriations used for investments and provisions linked to fixed assets (depreciation) as income

Income from grants and transfers and sales and rental incomes has fallen by a total of NOK 11.7 million from 2019. This is due to the pandemic, which has led to a significant reduction in international activities and a general fall in external assignments. This particularly applies to grants from other government agencies and sales incomes liable to VAT. Sales income exempt from VAT in 2019 includes income from the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP), an area which was also affected by the pandemic in 2020.

Assignments from the EU vary from one year to the next, in terms of both number and scope of projects for which Statistics Norway receives grants. Similar variations are seen for grants from the Research Council of Norway and other grants and transfers, which are mainly research projects.

Assignments that were initiated and paid for in 2020 and are continuing in 2021 account for NOK 8 million more in advance payments than in 2019, cf. Note 9. This has a major effect on sales income that is liable to VAT and on other grants and transfers.

Rental income from the subletting of premises was incorrectly itemised in 2019, and should have been recognised as a cost reduction. This makes for a discrepancy between 2020 and 2019.

Note 2 Labour costs		
	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Wages	474 121 943	478 745 275
Holiday pay	59 189 220	56 580 974
Employer's contribution	74 646 335	75 483 371
Pension cost*	61 691 102	61 420 596
Sick pay and other reimbursements (-)	-18 503 089	-15 594 656
Other benefits	7 809 271	9 427 339
Total labour costs	658 954 781	666 062 899

Number of FTEs worked (excl. interviewers)	757,7	760
Number of FTEs worked, interviewers	40,1	39

Labour costs fell by a total of NOK 7.1 million. The reimbursements item increased from 2019 to 2020. This is due to an increase in parental benefit and care benefit. The reimbursement of sick pay declined due to a lower sickness absence rate. In addition, NOK 0.9 million was deducted from labour costs associated with a debit authorisation from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation. In total, the reimbursements are NOK 2.9 million higher than in 2019, of which debit authorisations account for NOK 0.3 million. The amount of overtime and travel time is lower in 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

Pensions are charged as an expense in the profit and loss statement based on the actual premiums accrued for the financial year. The premium rate for 2020 was 12 per cent, unchanged from the previous year.

Recruitment to a number of posts has been postponed, causing the labour costs to be lower than expected. Other reimbursements are also higher, further reducing the costs.

Note 3 Intangible assets

	Software and similar rights	Intangible assets under production	Total
Original cost as of 01.01.	132 104 529	0	132 104 529
Additions over the year	0	0	0
Disposal cost over the year (-)	0	0	0
From intangible assets under production to another group over the year	0	0	0
<i>Original cost</i>	132 104 529	0	132 104 529
Accumulated write-downs as of 01.01.	0	0	0
Write-downs over the year	0	0	0
Accumulated depreciation as of 01.01.	78 808 955	0	78 808 955
Ordinary depreciation over the year	8 328 508	0	8 328 508
Accumulated depreciation, disposal cost over the year (-)	0	0	0
Value recognised in the balance sheet 31.12.2020	44 967 065	0	44 967 065

Software and similar rights include software and licences to the tune of NOK 2.7 million and software developed by Statistics Norway with a value of NOK 42.2 million.

Note 4 Tangible fixed assets

	Machinery and vehicles	Movables, furnishings, tools etc.	Total
Original cost as of 01.01.	10 294 655	97 086 896	107 381 551
Additions over the year	0	11 923 419	11 923 419
Disposal cost over the year (-)	0	0	0
From assets under production to another group over the year	0	0	0
<i>Original cost</i>	10 294 655	109 010 315	119 304 970
Accumulated write-downs 01.01	0	0	0
Write-downs over the year	0	0	0
Accumulated depreciation as of 01.01.	8 672 861	70 501 462	79 174 323
Regular depreciation over the year	1 064 812	9 558 054	10 622 866
Accumulated depreciation, disposal cost over the year (-)	0	0	0
Value recognised in the balance sheet 31.12.2020	556 983	28 950 799	29 507 781

Depreciation is linear, and the rate of depreciation is 3 to 15 years.

Machinery and vehicles mainly include video equipment totalling NOK 0.5 million. The addition of NOK 11.9 million mainly relates to the procurement of equipment for staff working from home because of the pandemic.

Note 5 Other operating costs

	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Lease of premises	59 065 520	57 102 353
Maintenance and refurbishing of leased premises	935 663	1 630 844
Other costs for operation of property and premises	4 686 316	6 362 089
Lease of machinery, furnishings and similar	29 488 746	31 368 362
Minor procurements of equipment	4 145 734	2 674 591
Repair and maintenance of machinery, equipment etc.	2 341 203	3 856 706
Procurement of consultancy services	21 889 799	37 521 666
Procurement of other external services	25 996 903	21 309 349
Travel and per diem	9 017 725	24 696 473
Other operating costs	42 882 735	40 377 999
Total other operating costs	200 450 343	226 900 433

Lease of premises and other costs for operation of property and premises

The increased rental costs of NOK 2 million are due to general inflation. Lower electricity charges in 2020 reduced other costs for operation of property and premises. In addition, Statistics Norway incurred an extra cost for the maintenance of computer rooms in 2019, which reduced the costs for the maintenance of leased premises in 2020 compared to 2019.

Lease of machinery, furnishings and similar

The lower costs when compared to 2019 are mainly due to a reduction of NOK 1.9 million in leased computer equipment and licences as a result of contractual changes.

Minor procurements of equipment

Computers and related equipment have been procured for staff working from home because of the pandemic.

Procurement of consultancy services and other external services

	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Consultancy services, financial and auditing	-	2 259 264
Consultancy services, development of software and IT solutions	21 812 799	33 861 949
Consultancy services, organisational development etc.	-	926 465
Consultancy services, recruitment etc.	77 000	297 693
Other consultancy services	-	176 295
Temporary manpower	505 820	1 073 150
Procurement of services for ongoing operations, IT	673 834	8 807 370
Procurement of payroll and accounting services	806 184	135 779
Procurement of other external services	24 011 065	11 293 050
<i>Total procurement of consultancy and other external services</i>	<i>47 886 701</i>	<i>58 831 015</i>

Financial and auditing consultancy services must be viewed in conjunction with the procurement of payroll and accounting services. The costs mostly relate to temporary external assistance in periods with multiple unfilled vacancies.

The consultancy services for the development of software and IT were mainly related to the MOD-Sirius project in 2020. In 2019, Statistics Norway incurred major costs linked to the development of the Modern IT platform. This project was completed in the spring of 2020, and this reduces the cost by NOK 12.1 million compared to the preceding year.

The costs for ongoing operations, IT (infrastructure) and procurement of external services must also be considered in conjunction with each other. The largest projects are the new publication solution at ssb.no and the Modern IT platform and KLASS projects and the Big Insight collaboration project. The total reduction of NOK 4.5 million from 2019 is largely related to the operation of IT solutions.

Travel and per diem

Total travel costs have fallen by NOK 15.7 million from 2019, mainly due to the pandemic.

Other operating costs

The EEA fee has increased from NOK 16.5 million in 2019 to NOK 21.7 million in 2020. As a result of travel restrictions, the costs for meetings, seminars and training courses were reduced by NOK 4.7 million compared to 2019. The costs of operating the Altinn portal increased in 2020.

Additional information on operational lease agreements

Remaining duration	Type of asset			Total
	Intangible assets	Land, buildings and other real property	Movables, furnishings, tools and similar	
Duration up to 1 year				0
Duration 1-5 years	28 263 479		1 223 816	29 487 295
Duration of more than 5 years		59 065 520		59 065 520
Lease costs for the period	28 263 479	59 065 520	1 223 816	88 552 815

Intangible assets mainly include licences that are used in Statistics Norway's daily operations. The contracts with the licensors normally have a duration of three years, with an option for a one-year extension.

Statistics Norway's lease agreements for premises have a duration of four and eight years for the premises in Kongsvinger and Oslo respectively.

The category movables etc. includes the leasing of printers and photocopiers, as well as coffee machines, CO₂ cylinders and water dispensers.

Note 6 Financial income and financial costs

	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Financial income		
Foreign exchange gain (agio)	496 912	11 835
Total financial income	496 912	11 835
Financial costs		
Interest paid	9 385	12 042
Foreign exchange loss (disagio)	252 947	61 554
Total financial costs	262 332	73 596

Foreign exchange gains (agio) and foreign exchange losses (disagio) have both increased compared to 2019. This is due to the large exchange rate fluctuations that started in March and lasted throughout the year in 2020.

Note 7 Correlation between accounts settled with the Treasury and outstanding accounts with the Treasury

A) Explanation of why the result for the period differs from the change in the amounts settled with the Treasury in the balance sheet (congruence discrepancy)

	31.12.2020	31.12.2019	Endring*
Settled with the Treasury in the balance sheet	-79 920 333	-80 524 819	604 485
Change in the accounts settled with the Treasury			
<i>Group accounts in Norges Bank</i>			
Group account outgoing payments			-912 614 766
Group account incoming payments			306 168 275
Net withdrawal from the group account			-606 446 490
<i>Incoming and outgoing payments that are not included in the agency's operations (capital flow items)</i>			
- Incoming payments, collection activity and other transfers			0
+ Outgoing payments, grant management and other transfers			0
<i>Items that do not go via a bank account, but directly to settlement with the Treasury</i>			
+ Recognised as income from appropriation (sub-account 1991)			645 461 207
- Group life insurance/employer's contribution (sub-accounts 1985 and 1986)			-75 808 561
+ Net scheme for government paid VAT, (sub-account 1987)			36 189 360
<i>Other reconciliation items</i>			
Specification of other reconciliation items			
Difference between amount recognised as income and the net withdrawal from the group account			-604 485
Result of the period's activities before settlement with the Treasury			0
Total change in the accounts settled with the Treasury*			-604 485

Note 7B Correlation between amounts settled with the Treasury and outstanding accounts with the Treasury

B) Difference between amounts settled with the Treasury and outstanding accounts with the Treasury

	31.12.2020	31.12.2020	Difference
	Specification of recognised settlement with the Treasury	Specification of the reported outstanding accounts with the Treasury	
Intangible assets and tangible fixed assets			
Intangible assets	44 967 065		44 967 065
Tangible fixed assets	29 508 599		29 508 599
<i>Total</i>	<i>74 475 664</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>74 475 664</i>
Financial assets			
<i>Total</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Current assets			
Stock of goods and materials	0	0	0
Accounts receivable	6 626 225	0	6 626 225
Earned income, not invoiced	12 547 848	0	12 547 848
Other receivables	16 919 600	460 836	16 458 764
Bank deposits, cash and similar	0	0	0
Receivables related to collection activity and other transfers to the central government	0		
<i>Total</i>	<i>36 093 673</i>	<i>460 836</i>	<i>35 632 837</i>
Long-term liabilities and debts			
<i>Total</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable	-4 138 579	0	-4 138 579
Tax owed and other deductions	-21 104 265	-21 104 265	0
Government fees owed	-25 273 353	-14 359 765	-10 913 589
Provisions for holiday pay	-57 240 568	0	-57 240 568
Pre-paid revenue, not earned	-40 748 723	0	-40 748 723
Other current liabilities	-41 984 183	-7 777 218	-34 206 965
<i>Total</i>	<i>-190 489 671</i>	<i>-43 241 248</i>	<i>-147 248 423</i>
Total	-79 920 333	-42 780 412	-37 139 922

Note 8 Accounts receivable

	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Accounts receivable at face value	6 626 225	4 745 479
Total accounts receivable	6 626 225	4 745 479

Accounts receivable consists of a number of invoices, and the balance of this account will vary from one year to the next. Four invoices amount to a total of NOK 5.8 million.

Note 9 Earned income, not invoiced / Pre-paid revenue not earned

Earned income, not invoiced (receivable)		
	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Financial statistics	6 630 629	5 576 527
Personal and social statistics	946 035	130 000
Business and environmental statistics	189 734	4 656 467
Research department	1 244 833	1 791 652
Shared functions	3 536 617	1 135 500
Total earned income, not invoiced	12 547 848	13 290 146

For externally funded assignments for which we have performed work this year and invoicing is agreed for the next year, provisions are made for earned income on the basis of the reported degree of completion.

Pre-paid revenue, not earned (liability)		
	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Financial statistics	-8 528 490	-13 573 962
Personal and social statistics	-7 575 205	-3 261 889
Business and environmental statistics	-3 289 131	-235 000
Research department	-17 261 257	-14 543 681
Shared functions	-4 094 640	-1 132 901
Total pre-paid revenue, not earned	-40 748 723	-32 747 433

Pre-paid revenue also relates to externally funded assignments and has increased by NOK 8 million in 2020. This mainly includes obligations to complete assignments that were initiated and paid for in 2020 and are continuing in 2021.

Note 10 Other current receivables

	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Travel advances	0	66 787
Loans to employees	460 836	353 366
Pre-paid rent	0	60 819
Other pre-paid costs	14 356 669	11 273 476
Other receivables	2 102 095	2 043 682
Total other current receivables	16 919 600	13 798 129

In 2020, the total number of loans to employees increased from 7 to 10. Three loans were redeemed in 2020, and six new loans were granted.

Other pre-paid costs mainly include periodisation of licences, repair and maintenance of computer equipment and external computer capacity. The balance for 2020 includes an invoice for SAS licences for the period December 2020–December 2021 for a total of NOK 4 million.

Other receivables mainly consist of sick pay, care benefit and parental benefit.

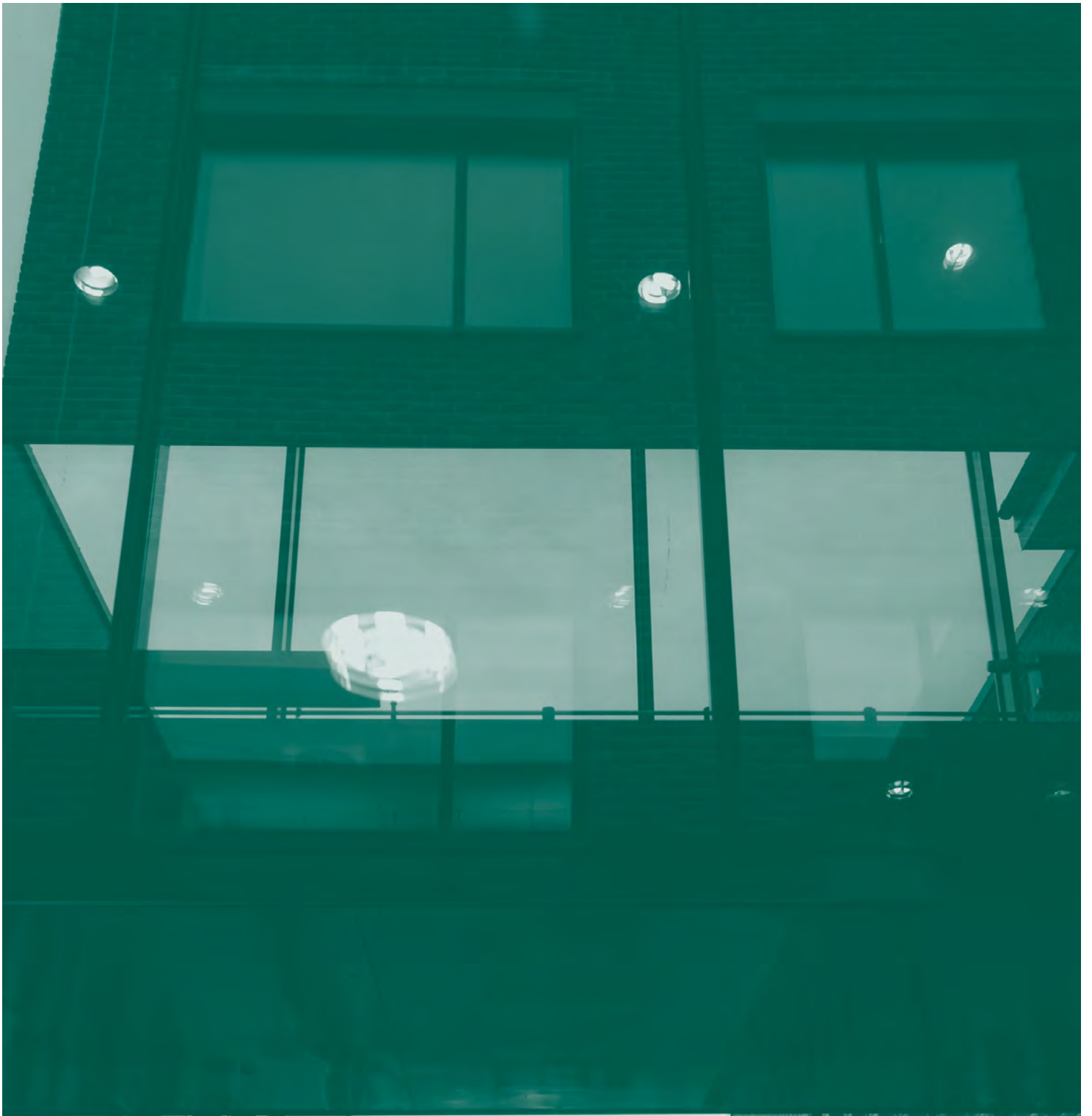
Note 11 Other current liabilities

	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Wages owed	-976	-23 604
Other debts to employees	29 828 391	29 428 161
Incurred costs	2 415 528	7 865 412
Reconciliation difference in reporting to the central government accounts	378 269	0
Other current liabilities	9 362 970	8 424 371
Total other current liabilities	41 984 183	45 694 340

Other debts to employees consist of provisions for flexitime, overtime and travel time, for time in lieu and wages due.

Incurred costs mainly include provisions for consultancy services for the development of software and IT, services for ongoing operations and other external services. See the explanation for the reduced provision in Note 10 and the correlation between other pre-paid costs.

Other current liabilities mainly include a payment of NOK 8.5 million from Norad in 2019, intended to cover the costs of the project participants in 2020. Because of the pandemic, the project is delayed and the funds have been transferred to 2021.



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