Introduction to Statistics
Norway
Short historical overview

1769  The first population census
1876  Statistics Norway established as a separate institution
1907  The (first) Statistics Act
1950  The Research Department/National Accounts
1953  The Business Register
1964  The central register of persons
1980  Environment statistics and accounts
1989  The (second) Statistics Act
1993  Part of the EU statistical system through the EEA agreement
2001  The most recent population census
Vision and main objectives

• Official statistics as a basis for democracy and development
• Official statistics have to be produced on an independent basis, be of high quality and be widely spread as a public good for the benefit of society as a whole
• User orientation and efficiency

An institution that counts!
The Statistics Act of 1989

• Main duties
  – Mapping the need for official statistics
  – Collection, processing and dissemination of official statistics
  – Analysis and research
  – Coordinate official statistics produced by public bodies
  – Responsibility for international statistical cooperation

• Rights and responsibilities
  – An independent institution
  – Right to impose upon any person, firm or government institution an obligation to provide information necessary for the production of official statistics
  – Access to administrative registers
  – Choose the statistical methods
  – Data on individuals are to be treated confidentially
Confidentiality and data security

• A one way traffic of individual data, only to and never from Statistics Norway

• The Data Inspectorate approves procedures for treatment of individual data

• Researchers have access to individual data on special conditions
An important research institution

- Analyses and research in Statistics Norway have long traditions
- A separate Research Department established in 1950
- Main fields
  - Economic forecasting and policy analysis
  - Taxes and public economics
  - Energy and environmental analysis
  - Demography and social science
Some key numbers (2007)

• 967 employees in total
  – 578 in Oslo
  – 389 in Kongsvinger
  – 187 interviewers
  – 2/3 have higher education
  – The women are in majority (55 per cent)
    ✶ but not among the leaders
Areas of high priority

• Data collection and electronic cooperation
  – Recycling and development of administrative register
  – Further development of ssb.no

• Response burden
  – Systematic coordination of samples

• Management of statistical units

• National accounts and developing economic statistics
  – Price indices
  – Further development of national accounts
  – Statistics on external sector transactions/positions
  – Labour marked and wage statistics

• Censuses and population statistics

• Public sector statistics