

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
- 1995 <http://www.ssb.no/>
- 2001 The most recent population census

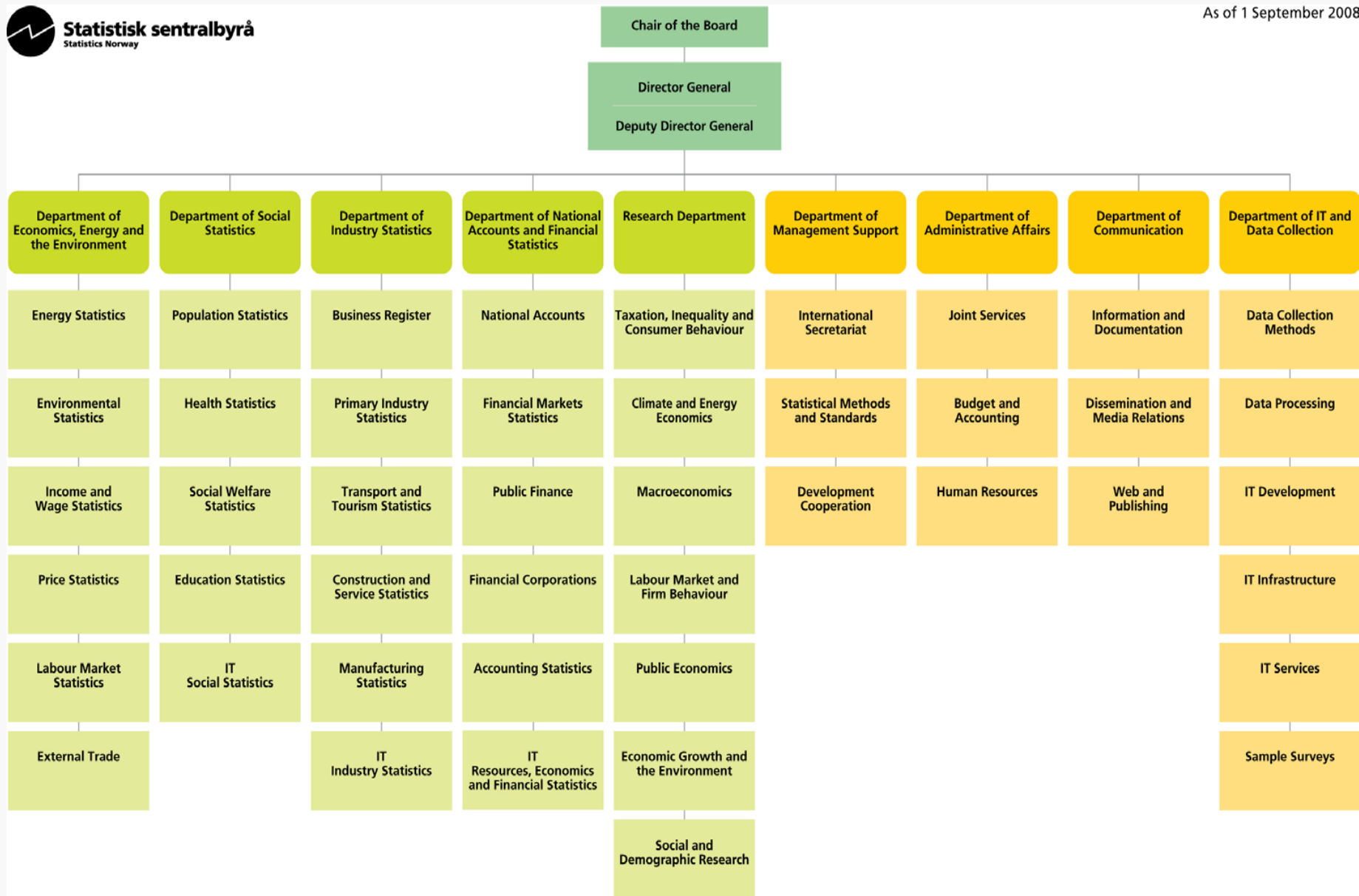
Vision and main objectives

- 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 market and wage statistics
- Censuses and population statistics
- Public sector statistics