



Annual Report 2009

Mission

Statistics Finland combines collected data with its expertise to produce statistics and information services for the needs of society, promotes the use of statistics and develops national official statistics.

Values

- † Co-operation and mutual appreciation
- † Respect for the principles of statistical ethics
- † Innovativeness, continuous improvement of activity and know-how
- † Service orientation
- † Productiveness of activity

Vision

Statistics Finland is a top organisation in its field, recognised nationally and internationally for its high-quality data production and expertise, and for its co-operative and service capacity.

Statistics Finland

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Director General's review

The international financial crisis and its strong reflection on Finland's national economy created a challenging operating environment also for the national statistical office in 2009. Diminished funding from the national budget necessitated cutting of costs and re-evaluation of activities. Several reforms of domestic public administration also demanded adaptation from the national statistical office. Throughout 2009, the working group of the Ministry of Finance continued to explore possibilities for the rationalisation and decentralisation of the national statistical service.

Confidence in national statistics remained high. The targets set for the timeliness and speed of statistics production were reached. High customer satisfaction, as well as data security, were sustained. The objectives set for the development of statistics were achieved reasonably well even though the tightened finances also required curtailing of resources for these tasks.

The number of personnel decreased by some four per cent from the previous year, and productivity targets were exceeded. The volume of production remained roughly on level with the year before. Income from charged activities went up despite the difficult market situation. Widened supply upheld the demand for free web-based services. Necessary updates and revisions were implemented in several statistics, and commitments under EU regulations could also be fulfilled.

The development of the digitised production process advanced according to plans. The coverage of statistics was also improved through the introduction of statistics on new phenomena. Nevertheless, the response burden of data providers could be contained, for instance by increasing the efficiency of exploitation of data in administrative registers.

The national statistical service must be capable of continuous renewal of its statistics and statistical production processes in order to raise its productiveness and quality. The tight financial situation and continuous cuts to the framework of funds could put this kind of necessary development work at risk. Uncertainty of future operating possibilities may eventually also affect the personnel's job satisfaction. Continuous cutting down of human resources and accelerating exit to retirement challenge the safeguarding of competence on the ever toughening labour market.

Although the past year was full of challenges, in many respects Statistics Finland achieved excellent results. This would not have been possible without the personnel's solid professionalism, willingness to develop and good job motivation.



Heli Jeskanen-Sundström





Commissioned surveys complement regular statistics production

Alongside its regular statistics production Statistics Finland conducted several surveys and extensive data collections during 2009.

Statistics Finland produces 200 statistics on topics covering most social phenomena in Finland. All these statistics have their own set of web pages on the agency's stat.fi website. Nearly 650 statistical releases of new data were published on the website during 2009.

The Statistical Office of the European Communities, Eurostat, evaluates regularly quality aspects, such as coverage and delivery timetables, of the statistics produced in the EU Member States. As in previous years, Finland located among the leading EU countries in these comparisons in 2009.

Extensive data collections

Statistics Finland receives the majority of the data it needs for its statistics from administrative registers. Nevertheless, for a considerable number of statistics data still have to be collected direct from individual persons, households and business enterprises. In 2009, Statistics Finland implemented a total of around one hundred data collection projects, some of them financed by customers.

Telephone interviews with individuals and households numbered some 230,000 while 9,000 interviews were made with them face-to-face, and around 20,000 mail inquiries and 36,000 web questionnaire inquiries were sent to them. A total of 230,000 inquiries were made to business enterprises. **In addition, 28,000 border interviews were conducted among foreign tourists and over 0.5 million items of price data were collected.**

Data were collected for the monthly Labour Force

Survey, the Income and Living Conditions Survey, the Consumer Survey, the Finnish Travel Survey, the Job Vacancy Survey and the Survey on ICT Use.

The largest data collections financed by customers were the Agricultural Crop and Farm Structure Survey for the Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the National Crime Victimization Survey conducted for a number of co-operative partners, the Survey of Welfare Services for the National Institute for Health and Welfare, the Eurostudent Survey for the Ministry of Education, and the Survey of Employment Services for the Ministry of Employment and the Economy.

Enterprises' response burden was measured

Statistics Finland aims to continuously develop its data collections and ease the response burden of its data providers. The vast majority of inquiries among enterprises are conducted electronically. In 2009, a measurement was made of the response burden of enterprises, in other words the time they used for responding to electronic data collections. In addition, enterprises were asked about their perceptions of responding to data collections. **In future these measurements will be made at regular intervals.**

Services for researchers were developed

Statistics Finland has a Research Laboratory where researchers can use data protected by data disclosure rules. During 2009, Statistics Finland implemented a project for building a system for remote access of such



data. The remote access system allows researchers to use data on Statistics Finland's server at their own workplace via a secure Internet connection.

The remote access has been tested by several researchers from various research institutes. The system will be developed further during 2010.

Data were collected on time use in Finland

In April 2009, Statistics Finland started an extensive interview survey about time use in Finland. The survey studies topics like the length of people's working day, and time spent on domestic work, studying or leisure activities.

The survey, for which Statistics Finland will interview 4,500 households, will run until May 2010. This is the fourth Time Use Survey conducted in Finland, the previous survey having been made in 1999–2000.

Households' consumption is changing

In June, Statistics Finland published a report examining changes in the consumption and financial conditions of households in Finland over the time period between 1985 and 2006.

The publication shows that in 2006 Finnish households spent good one-third more money than two decades earlier. However, consumption has not grown in the same way in all population groups. For instance, the households of unemployed persons or single supporters have lagged behind the general rise in the standard of living.

Equality of power under scrutiny

In August, Statistics Finland published a volume describing the equality of Finnish women and men in political decision-making, and in management positions in the public and private sectors.

According to the publication, more women are in supervisory positions in Finland than in other European countries on the average: 40 per cent of employees in Finland have a woman supervisor. Although there are a lot of women in supervisory positions, only under one-third of managers and top civil servants are women.

Researched data on changes in working life

In September, the agency published a compendium of articles about the evolution and development of the wage-work society in Finland over the period extending from 1959 to 2008. The articles discuss topics like changes in Finland's industrial structure, growth of atypical employment relationships, participation in paid work, geographic mobility, development of working conditions and productivity of work.

The articles show, for instance, that ever fewer employees in Finland do a normal working week of 35 to 40 hours. Whereas a couple of decades ago over 80 per cent of employees in Finland worked such normal weekly hours, in 2008 the same proportion was barely over 70 per cent.



Supply of web-based services was widened

Statistics Finland opened on its website new free services and increased its basic supply of statistical data.

A new, expanded model for the publishing of statistical data was introduced in 2009. A basic publication containing text, tables and figures is now automatically generated for the agency's website from every release of statistical data. These publications are available to the public free-of-charge in html or pdf format.

In the same context, the supply of data in the free StatFin database was extended. Some tables previously contained in printed publications were moved into the database and completely new tables were also added to it.

These renewals were connected with the introduction of the new publishing system. During 2009, over 100 of Statistics Finland's 200 sets of statistics adopted the new system and the remainder will do so by the end of 2010. These changes widen considerably the supply of freely available data on the web.

Indicators and international statistics

Statistics Finland and the Prime Minister's Office built jointly a free web-based service covering around one hundred indicators on various social phenomena. This *Indicator* service was launched in October. The service gives access to up-to-date statistics on the economy, health, education, labour market and the environment in Finland. The data derive from Statistics Finland as well as from many other Finnish producers

of statistics. At the OECD World Forum in October the service received an award as the best indicator service utilising new technology.

Statistics on economic trends were made more visible in the web service by compiling a new set of web pages specifically for all statistics on economic trends.

In December, Statistics Finland opened on its website a portal called *International statistics* giving access to statistical data from all countries of the world. Data sources of the most important and reliable international organisations and communities have been gathered into this portal to international statistics. For instance, the portal contains nearly 900 tables produced by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, as well as key statistics of international data producers, such as the OECD, IMF and UN.

In the early part of the year Statistics Finland launched on its website a statistical quiz with which especially schoolchildren and young people can test their statistical and social knowledge. The objective of the quiz is to spread statistical literacy and promote the use of statistics.

An annual measurement of the use of Statistics Finland's web-based services was made in November which showed that 155,000 persons per month visited the agency's webpages. This was about the same number as in the year before.



Topical publications were popular

Statistics Finland published approximately 90 printed titles in 2009. The number was lower than in the previous year. The total circulation of the publications was 29,000.

The best selling publications in the reviewed year were the Tieto&Tredit periodical focusing on economic and social issues, the Statistical Yearbook of Finland and the Hyvinvointikatsaus journal about social and living conditions in Finland.

Among Statistics Finland's charged services, special compilations and interview services, as well as the Register of Enterprises and Establishments, and statistics on economic trends attracted most interest.

Training in statistics

Statistics Finland provides training in statistics as charged customer courses. Twenty-two training events were organised in 2009. These were attended by some 420 persons and the training days amounted to good 500.

The course topics ranged from sources of statistical data to presentation of statistics, statistical graphics and statistics relating to topical phenomena.

Library of Statistics provides information service

Statistics Finland's Library of Statistics is a central statistical library open to everybody. Its main function is the provision of statistical information. In 2009, the information service of the Library received over 12,000 assignments, or about the same number as in the year before. The numbers of personal visitors and loans have been falling for some years now because statistics are increasingly available on the web.

The Library of Statistics also functions as the national service point of Eurostat's European Statistical Data Support (ESDS) service. In 2009, this free service handled 330 information service assignments relating to EU statistics.

Statistics Finland is trusted

Statistics Finland is familiar to 83 per cent of the population aged 15 to 79 in Finland. According to the business image survey commissioned from Taloustutkimus, Statistics Finland is the second best known public sector organisation in Finland. These results had not changed from previous surveys.

Statistics Finland's data are regarded as reliable by 87 per cent of the population in Finland. They also trust the impartiality of the statistics and think that Statistics Finland has an important role in society.

Finances remained tight

Statistics Finland’s finances remained tight in 2009. Costs went up slightly from the year before but available funding stayed unchanged.

Statistics Finland’s total operating costs amounted to EUR 59.2 million in 2009. The costs grew by EUR 0.6 million from the year before.

Compensation of employees accounted for 75 per cent of all expenditure. Compared to the previous year, expenditure on the compensation of employees increased by just under one per cent. Consumption expenditure and investments diminished slightly from the year before.

Funding

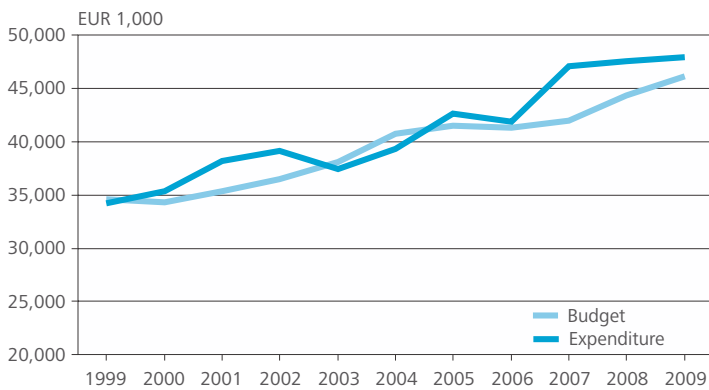
The total funding available to Statistics Finland was EUR 63.5 million, or about as much as in the previous year.

Statistics Finland’s operations are funded with appropriations from the national budget, revenues from

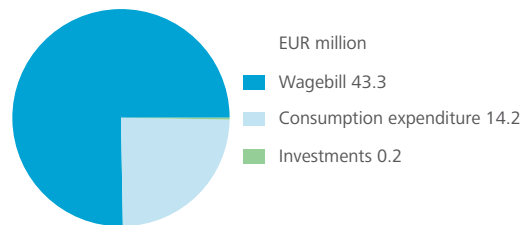
activities subject to charge, and with funding received from other government authorities and the EU. Seventy-three per cent of the funding came as appropriations for operating expenses from the national budget. Revenues from charged activities made up 15 per cent and external financing four per cent of the total funds available. Appropriations carried forward from previous years made up the rest of the total.

Revenues from charged activities grew slightly from the year before, and income from them totalled EUR 9.2 million. The activities showed a surplus of EUR 455,000. The share of the income received from the largest customer group of central government was 47 per cent. Business enterprises generated 19 per cent and the local government 16 per cent of the income.

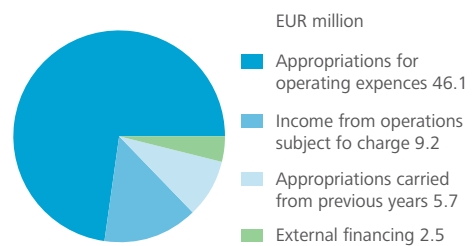
Budget funding and expenditure 1999–2009



Structure of expenditure 2009



Sources of funds 2009



Support for personnel's career planning

Statistics Finland aims to systematically develop the competence of its personnel. In 2009, it supported its employees especially in career planning.

At the end of 2009, Statistics Finland's personnel numbered 1,020, of whom 212 were statistical interviewers. Staff-years totalled 876, of which interviewers accounted for 121. The number of personnel decreased from the previous year. Exclusive of interviewers, the number of staff-years was 33 lower than in the year before.

Sixty-six per cent of the personnel were women and 65 per cent held at least lowest level tertiary or university qualification. At the end of the reviewed year, the average age of the personnel was 49 years.

Competence

Statistics Finland spent a total of EUR 605,000, in other words EUR 690 per staff-year, on personnel training. Both the expenditure on training and the time used for studying decreased from the year before.

During the year the broad-based training programme in statistical skills was continued and other training was organised in various subjects like supervisory and IT skills.

Statistics Finland continued to support the career planning of its personnel. In the early part of the year a joint project was launched with the University of Jyväskylä for "kick-starting expert career paths". A project on building career paths for professionals was also implemented in the reviewed year.

Occupational well-being

In the year under review, expenditure on occupational health care totalled EUR 637,000, equalling EUR 727 per staff-year. Total occupational health care expenditure increased from the previous year.

Statistics Finland conducts an annual personnel survey. The survey made in early 2010 showed that job satisfaction had remained unchanged from the previous year. Compared to other government organisations using the same job satisfaction barometer survey, the job satisfaction index for Statistics Finland was still slightly above the average. The index for Statistics Finland was 3.41 whereas the respective figure for state administration overall was 3.36.





Influential partner in international statistics

The emphasis in Statistics Finland's international activity was on the statistical development work undertaken within the European Union, and on technical co-operation.

Statistics Finland participated closely in the work of the working groups and committees of Eurostat. In co-operation with other national statistical authorities Statistics Finland formulated Finland's position statements on the statistical regulations tabled at the EU Council.

Statistics Finland's Director General Heli Jeskanen-Sundström was elected for a two-year term as member of the Partnership Group preparing matters for the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC).

Strong role in statistical organisations

Statistics Finland represented the National Statistical Service in numerous international co-operative organs in statistics. Director General of Statistics Finland was elected for her second two-year term as Chair of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau which operate under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

The United Nations Statistical Commission is the highest decision making body for international statistical activities. In 2009 Statistics Finland participated in the Statistical Commission's annual session as Commission member. Statistics Finland also attended the annual meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics, as well as organised the annual meeting of the heads of the Nordic statistical institutes.

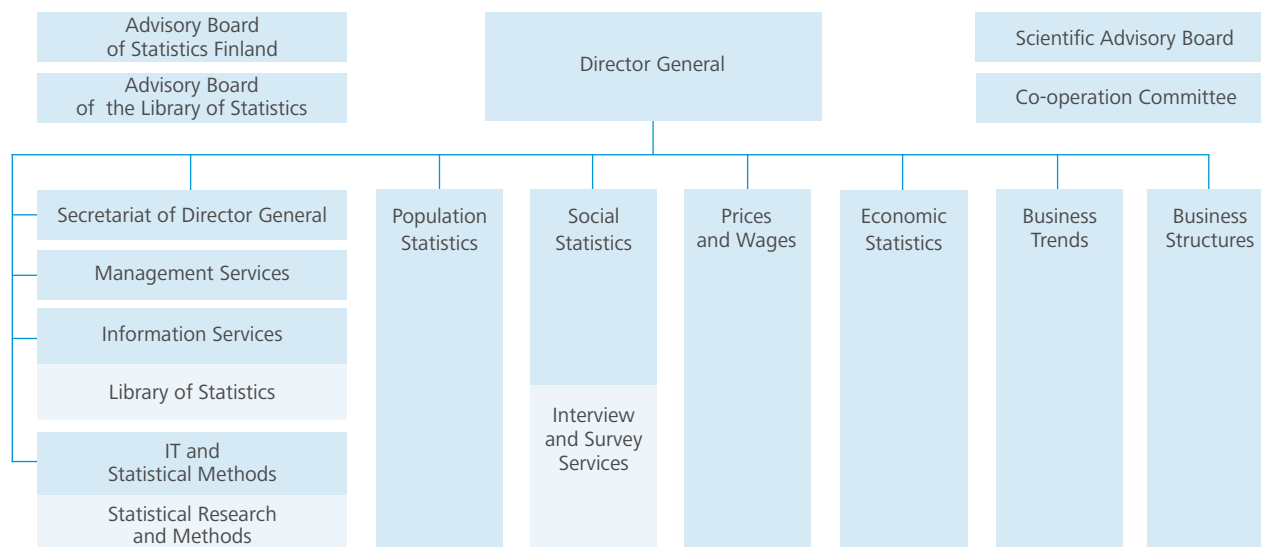
Active technical co-operation

In the reviewed year, Statistics Finland participated in 20 international technical co-operation projects.

Statistics Finland implemented EU Twinning projects which in Latvia concerned data protection and confidentiality and in Estonia the national greenhouse gas inventory. Several meetings relating to co-operation with neighbouring areas were organised with Russia. A project for the development of a poverty monitoring system was started in Ethiopia and one covering several aspects of statistics was launched in the Kyrgyz Republic, both with development aid appropriations from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

In Bulgaria, Croatia and Egypt, Statistics Finland also participated in projects managed by the national statistical institutes of other EU countries.

Organisation



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