

## Social Statistics

### Population and living conditions

Social Statistics are concerned with the population and their living conditions. The basic data for these statistics is provided by the classic *demographic statistics*: Total population by age, sex, and geographic area, supplemented by *vital statistics* showing the trends (births, deaths, migrations, etc.). These basic statistics have been expanded to include income distribution and consumption, education, employment, unemployment and labour market policy schemes, wages and labour costs, health, use of public services and receipt of social benefits.

As a result of a traditional division of labour, Statistics Denmark is mostly concerned with the production of statistics based on objective indicators of welfare and living conditions, rather than on perceived levels of welfare or health which are taken care of by other institutions.

### Focus on administrative registers

A characteristic trait of Danish social statistics is that they are largely based on the administrative registers of other agencies. Data collected directly from the relevant persons and households by means of interview or postal inquiry are limited to the collection of supplementary information in cases where register data are not available or the survey methodology is decided by the contractor, i.e. EUROSTAT. The most important surveys are the Labour Force Survey, with around 60,000 interviews per year, and the Household Budget Survey, with 1,000 intensive interviews per year.



Danish administrative registers are particularly well suited as the basis for the compilation of statistics. The Central Population Register, CPR, operated by the Ministry of the Interior in co-operation with the municipal authorities, contains basic data used by every Danish public authority, including a unique and unambiguous identifier, the *person number*. This makes it possible to link data from many different administrative registers. Statistics Denmark makes use of the CPR register, tax registers, wage registers, social benefits registers, the Central Register of Buildings and Dwellings, and many more.

### One coherent system

The statistics covers a broad spectrum of subjects, but together they constitute a single coherent system. Most of the statistics are produced on a yearly basis, some of them more frequently.



**Register-based census**

The use of a single, coherent system of statistics means that, since 1981, even Denmark's population and housing census has been based solely on administrative registers, with no questionnaires to citizens. This means that new and detailed census statistics are available every year.

**Labour Accounts**

Labour market statistics describes the labour force, its qualifications, earnings etc. Furthermore its task is to describe inefficiencies in form as unemployment, participation in labour market policy schemes etc. But labour market statistics have also links to economic and business statistics when it describes labour as a factor in the production process or employment in different industries.

In order to enhance the integration of labour market statistics across topics Statistics Denmark have established Labour Accounts within a conceptual framework based on a uniform use of ILO and SNA concepts. Labour Time Account is the first result of this work. In this system data from statistics on persons is linked to data in national accounts based on integration of a number of data sources: the register based labour force statistics, wage statistics, the labour force survey and various other data sources.

**Business Statistics**

Business statistics is concerned with the description of business units and their characteristics. The statistics gives a comprehensive picture of a series of different aspects of business structure and its development. The statistics comprises e.g. production; commodity; accounts; employment and payroll statistics.



**Sector-based business statistics**

**Information directly from enterprises**

Information contained in sector-based business statistics predominantly relates to four main areas - agriculture, industry, transport and tourism - and covers a wide range of independent data collected by questionnaire directly from enterprises.

**Compilation frequency**

The frequency with which sector-based statistics are compiled is determined by how up-to-date the information has to be. Economic trends are illuminated by monthly statistics of e.g. industrial orders and sales, and by quarterly statistics, such as economic barometers for industry, selected service activities and construction. The structural statistics are based on counts conducted at yearly or longer intervals.

A steady transition is under way towards the replacement of independent data collection by increased use of information from administrative registers.

