



Statistical Office of Denmark

I. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Mission of the NSI:

Mission: "Statistics Denmark produces impartial statistics on society as the basis for democracy and the national economy."

Vision: "We will enhance Statistics Denmark's value to society by continuously improving user-friendliness and quality."

Status of the NSI in public administration system of the country:

SD is established as the central authority for Danish statistics. According to subsections 2-5 of the Act on Statistics Denmark and general administrative rules, the management of SD is divided among the Board, the Minister and the National Statistician.

SD is an independent institution, which is governed by a Board consisting of the National Statistician as Chairman and six other members with insight into social and economic conditions. The Board establishes its own order of business and has decided to appoint a Deputy Chairman among its members. The main tasks of the Board are:

- to approve SD's annual work programme and thus prioritise the tasks that are to be carried out.
- to decide to which extent and in which manner information is to be collected from the business community. Thereby, the Board is responsible for the response burden imposed on the business community by SD. However, some reductions can be determined by the Minister.
- to decide which information is to be reported by public authorities and institutions to SD.
- to determine the guidelines for coordinating the collection and processing of statistics between SD and other public and private producers of statistics.
- to make decisions on assigning tasks to the National Bank of Denmark concerning financial statistics.
- to approve SD's budget.
- to set up advisory committees.

The minister (Minister of Economic and Business Affairs):

- has the general parliamentary responsibility.
- appoints members of the Board (The National Statistician is ex officio Chairman).
- is responsible for SD's Finance Act appropriations and accounts.
- is responsible for the personnel.

The National Statistician is the professional and administrative manager of SD. This implies that the National Statistician:

- is responsible for producing statistics and carrying out service tasks on the basis of professional principles, including scientific methods.
- is responsible for how and when statistics are to be disseminated.
- is responsible for SD's international statistical cooperation.
- is responsible for finance and accounts, organisation, data security and other administrative and technological conditions.
- assumes responsibility for the personnel, which is delegated to the institution.

Procedure of appointment of Director-General of the NSI:

When the National Statistician is appointed there is a general announcement for qualified applicants, which is open to everybody. The Board will nominate a few candidates (2 or 3) for the Minister of Economic and Business Affairs, and the Minister will make a recommendation to the government's appointments committee. Subsequently, the National Statistician is appointed by the Queen/King. The National Statistician is appointed without a fixed term.

Location of seat of the NSI, regional offices:

SD is located in Copenhagen. There are no regional offices.

Organisational structure of the NSI:

The management of SD is divided among the Board, the Minister and the National Statistician. The Board has set up a number of advisory committees consisting of representatives for users and data suppliers. The institution is organised in five divisions: Social statistics, Business statistics, Economic statistics, Customer services and User services. Furthermore there are two staff units outside the divisions: the International secretariat and the Policy secretariat.

Main legal act(s):

Act on Statistics Denmark, latest revised in 2000.

Statistical programme(s):

Strategy 2010, which is SD's third strategic plan and it applies for five years. Strategy 2010 is carried out in yearly working programmes and statistical programmes.

II. SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN THE COUNTRY

SD is established as the central authority for Danish statistics (cf. the Act on Statistics Denmark), which means that:

- the greater part of the statistics on social and economic trends is produced by SD, thereby forming the basis for combing statistics into new enriched products,
- other public authorities must coordinate their efforts with SD if they intend to collect and process statistical information,
- SD must be in charge of, or assist in, the organisation of public registers which can be used for statistical purposes.

Other major players within the official statistical system are e.g.: the Danish Central Bank, the National Board of Health, the Danish Working Environment Authority, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency and the Danish Immigration Service.

III. ADVISORY BODY/STATISTICAL COUNCIL (or its equivalent)

In accordance with the Act on Statistics Denmark, the Board has set up a number of advisory committees consisting of representatives for users and data suppliers. The principal task of the committees is to give advice on the annual work programme and other important issues.

The macro-economic model ADAM has its own board chaired by the National Statistician and with representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs, the National Bank of Denmark and the research environment.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

The Internet (website, www.dst.dk, and StatBank Denmark, www.statistikbanken.dk) is the most important medium for disseminating statistics. StatBank Denmark and Statistics Denmark's website are well-developed and contain all published statistics, both in Danish and in English. A few paper publications are still issued, particularly thematic publications as well as the statistical yearbook and the statistical ten-year review which are both issued every year. Statistical release dates and times are pre-announced.

V. OTHER RELEVANT REMARKS (e.g. major policies)

For a more comprehensive introduction to Statistics Denmark cf. Strategy 2010 at SD's homepage:

<http://www.dst.dk/HomeUK>