

## Country focus

### Austria

#### Results from the time use survey 1992

The Austrian Central Statistical Office has carried out in 1992, a second survey on time use. Persons of 10 years and older were asked to fill in a “diary” for one day. Fixed time intervals of 15 minutes were used for reporting the *primary* activity (described in respondent’s own wording), the place of performance (“at home” or “outside”), and the presence and/or help of other persons (six groups, according to the relationship). It had to be indicated also whether this activity had been done (only or also) for another household. A possible secondary activity at the same time should be indicated.

More than 200 different activities – besides travel time – have been distinguished in the statistical evaluation.

The analysis started with a comparative exercise, comparing the 1992 outcomes with the analogous results of the 1981 survey. These data have been edited in the publication “Zeitverwendung 1992/1981”, No. 1.171 of the regular “Beiträge zur österreichischen Statistik”.

The results of the survey 1992 are published continually in the monthly bulletin (“Statistische Nachrichten”). A comprehensive presentation of the main outcomes was organized in November 1995, together with the Federal Ministry of Youth and the Family, with a special brochure (“Wo kommt unsere Zeit hin?”).

The time use survey 1992 also provides information on time used for unpaid productive activities by women and men in private households, the respective classification referring to the so-called “third-person criterion”.

As there exist no internationally standardized methods for the valuation of such time use, several variants have been calculated, e.g., with minimum wages of certain suitable occupations or the average income by gender (derived from NA).

The next step was the combination of the official SNA and the NON-SNA-production to get an “Enlarged SNA aggregate”. For this purpose, the Personal Factor Incomes have been referred to, which are available for women and men, respectively. Corresponding to the different valuations of NON-SNA work, the “Enlarged Aggregate” varies from 2.058 to 3.315 billion Austrian schillings and the percentage for women from 45 to 55%.

### Germany

#### Establishment of a Health Information System (HIS) of the Federation

Since 1992, the Federal Statistical Office is charged with establishing a Health Information System of the Federation (HIS) in Germany. With this research project, an information system is to be developed which provides answers to

the essential questions concerning the health situation of the population and risks incurred from particular life-styles and environments, as well as access to health care. The use of statistics can thus help respond to the continuously growing interest of the public in questions relevant to health matters.

A preceding analysis of information requirements had shown that the prospective users of a Health Information System belong to various target groups which can only be reached by different forms of presentation. A basic health report addresses the general public and reports regularly on important aspects of the health situation and the health care of the population. A table addendum supplements the mainly verbal description by a systematic presentation of the data used. Special reports address specific target groups and present complex or scientifically controversially discussed facts in a comprehensive manner.

The project will be completed at the end of 1997. Then the first health report as well as two special pilot reports would be published. There will exist also a functioning information and documentation centre "Health Data" which will be accessible to all. In the following routine process, two special reports shall be published annually and one health report every three years. The IDH can then be reached via tele-transmission of data and network services. Moreover, it is planned to market regularly selected data sets for individual inquiries on CD-ROM.

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## **Kyrgyzstan**

The National Statistical Committee (NSC) of Kyrgyzstan was created according to the President's decree adopted on 30 May 1994, with the aim of establishing an independent statistical service, responsible for collecting, processing and analyzing data on socio-economic and other events taking place in the Republic.

Mr. Jumakadyr Akeneyev was nominated Chairman of the National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyzstan in 1993 and is still occupying this position.

The Terms of Reference and functions of the state statistical agencies, their organization and state registration system management and the legal relationship in statistics are regulated by the "Law of State Statistics", which was adopted on 12 January 1994. On 23 June 1995, amendments were made to the existing statistical law. Thus, more complete legislative regulations have extended the rights of statistical agencies and have increased the responsibility of accountable subjects.

The NSC is the main component of the state information system, which is responsible for collection and dissemination of objective and authentic information. In recent years the status of statistics has increased in the Republic and the government has established a holiday for statisticians – every last Sunday of April.

The status of the NSC as the main source of reliable information has been raised not only within the country, but also in the international arena. The NSC is working in close cooperation with international organizations and institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, Eurostat, UN/ECE, ILO and many others. All these organizations have at their disposal publications on the socio-economic situ-

ation in Kyrgyzstan as listed below:

1. 1994 Statistical Yearbook of the Kyrgyz Republic,
2. Kyrgyzstan in figures 1994 (annual),
3. 1994 Demographic yearbook,
4. 1989 All-union Census Results for Kyrgyz SSR,
5. Summary Volume with some Results of Post-war Population Censuses,
6. Kyrgyz Republic's Finance (annual), etc.

In 1999, Kyrgyzstan is planning to carry out, for the first time since its independence, a population census of its own. The NSC is charged with this important mission. Necessary arrangements for carrying out the forthcoming census have been planned and supported by appropriate legal regulations. The National Statistical Committee has started the preparatory work.

Following the IMF recommendations, the NSC is planning to carry out another important government task: re-evaluation of fixed assets. More than 11,000 state and commercial enterprises, organizations and establishments would be involved in this process. Methodological and organizational management of this activity will be provided by the NSC.

## Poland

### New legislation

On 1 November 1995, the new Law on Official Statistics passed by the Polish Parliament came into force. The new law introduced several changes into the organisation of the Polish system of official statistics.

The major legal changes introduced by

the new law refer in particular to the following:

1. Role of statistics in the country with the market-oriented economy and democratic society;
2. Professional independence of the statistical services of official statistics in conducting statistical surveys;
3. Protection of individual and personal data collected in statistical surveys.

The professional independence of statistics and official statistics services is guaranteed especially by:

1. The establishment of the Statistical Council as an opinion-making body with the mandate to pronounce opinions on the scope and subject-matter of the programme of statistical surveys and other issues relevant to the development of Polish statistics, including the recommendation of candidates for the position of the CSO President;
2. Giving the Central Statistical Office the status of a central administrative body without an indication of the supervising organ, despite the fact that in the Polish legal practice such bodies are supervised by ministers;
3. Establishing the principle of the term of service for the CSO President for 6 years from the date of the appointment, specifying at the same time that he could be re-appointed only in cases strictly specified under the law;
4. A clear statement that the CSO has the mandate to take a decision on the methodology of statistical surveys.

The protection of individual data covers all aspects of handling such data. The

following provisions in this respect are worth mentioning:

1. The staff of the official statistics services and other persons involved in the activities for or on behalf of statistics who have direct access to individual and personal data are strictly obliged to observe the principles of statistical data confidentiality and can be involved in the activities only when they take summons in the written form that they will perform those duties in accordance with the professional ethics of the statisticians and keeping secret the individual data which they have learnt during the performance of those tasks;
2. The individual and personal data collected and stored within the statistical surveys are confidential and are subject to special protection; the data could be used exclusively for the preparation of statistical compilations and analyses and for establishing by the statistical staff of sampling frames for statistical surveys run by those services;
3. The unit data or statistical information obtained in statistical surveys cannot be published or disseminated if unintentional disclosure could occur, i.e. they can be matched with a concrete natural person or they describe economic activities of businesses, especially if the aggregation is composed of less than three units or the share of one unit is higher than three fourths of the total.