Statistics Netherlands

2005 Annual Report and Financial Statements

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Central Commission for Statistics

The Central Commission for Statistics (CCS) is responsible for setting the statistical work programme of Statistics Netherlands. In addition, it shares the responsibility for adopting the budget and annual accounts of Statistics Netherlands, approving the report of Statistics Netherlands and exercising a number of supervisory tasks.

The CCS prepares an annual report in which it accounts for its tasks to the Minister of Economic Affairs. This report is published on the website of Statistics Netherlands under 'About Statistics Netherlands – Organisation – Central Commission for Statistics'.

The Minister of Economic Affairs appointed two new members, namely J.M.A. van Huut with effect from 1 January 2005, and Professor C.G.M. Sterks with effect from 1 July 2005. They are filling the vacancies following the departure of Professor F. den Butter and Dr. J.J. Kamp. Dr. R. Gerritse and Dr. P. Korteweg, chairman, stood down with effect from 31 December 2005. They were replaced with effect from 1 January 2006 by J.N. van Lunteren as chairman and M.B.G.M. Oostendorp as a member. G.J. Hogeweg was reappointed as a member as of that date.

The membership of the CCS at the start of 2006 is accordingly as follows:
J.N. van Lunteren, chairman
Professor A. van Doorne-Huiskes
Dr. J.J. van Duijn
G.J. Hogeweg
J.M.A. van Huut
M.B.G.M. Oostendorp
Dr. P.C. Plooij-Van Gorsel
Professor C.G.M. Sterks

Approval of the annual report by the CCS

In conformity with articles 53 and 70 of the Statistical Netherlands Act, this annual report, including the full financial statements, was submitted for approval to the Central Commission for Statistics.

Statement by the Central Commission for Statistics

The Central Commission for Statistics has taken cognisance of the 2005 annual report and financial statements of Statistics Netherlands.
Based on its authority laid down in the Statistics Netherlands Act 2003 (Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 516) it hereby approves the 2005 Annual Report of Statistics Netherlands.
Likewise based on its statutory authority, it agrees with the adoption of the Financial Statements of Statistics Netherlands by the Director General of statistics.
In its annual report for 2005, the Commission reports on the exercise of its tasks in the year under review (www.cbs.nl/over het CBS/organisatie/CCS).

Voorburg, 24 March 2006

J.N. van Lunteren, chairman
P. Spannenburg, secretary

Expansion of statistics in the European context

The following European regulations came into force in 2005:

- → Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 January 2005 on Community statistics concerning balance of payments, international trade in services and foreign direct investment.
- → Regulation (EC) No 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 july 2005 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics.
- → Regulation (EC) No 1161/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2005 on the compilation of quarterly non-financial accounts by institutional sector.
- → Regulation (EC) No 1552/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on statistics relating to vocational training in enterprises.
- → Council Regulation (EC) No 2103/2005 of 12 December 2005 amending Regulation (EC) No 3605/93 as regards the quality of statistical data in the context of the excessive deficit procedure.

Code of Practice to enhance confidence in European statistics

In 2005, initiatives were taken to develop and introduce the European Code of Practice for the statistics in the countries of the European Union and at Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European communities. The introduction of the European Code of Practice was prompted by reports of significant adjustments to the Greek EMU balance and the Greek EMU debt, and the doubts that existed regarding the correctness of the EMU figures of Italy, Portugal and Hungary.

The European Code of Practice serves a dual purpose: enhance confidence in the statistical agencies and improve the quality of the statistics produced. The ECOFIN Council agreed with the proposal to introduce the European Code of Practice.

The Code of Practice consists of fifteen principles divided over three areas: the institutional framework, the statistical processes and the statistical output. In addition, the code provides for a peer review based on indicators. The bureaus of statistics of EU member states and Eurostat met the deadline of 31 December 2005 for completion of the code regarding their national situations. Based on this information, the European Commission will prepare a report with conclusions and recommendations. This report is to be submitted to ECOFIN and the European Parliament in mid-2006.

Optimal utilisation of statistical expertise in the European Union

The demand for European statistics continues to grow. The policy of the European Commission and the European Central Bank (ECB) calls for ever more and increasingly speedy information for European policy, and frequently for new statistics as well. An obvious answer to the problem of complying with the new European requirements would be for methodological capacity to be consolidated. A number of statistical offices have already worked out a proposal for the organisation of centres and networks of excellence (Cenex). Through Cenex, a number of countries in the form of a consortium could carry out development projects. The proposals for the formation of Cenex were agreed to in February 2005. It was decided that a trial with Cenex would be undertaken in two fields, namely in statistical disclosure control (SDC), and in prices. Statistics Netherlands took the lead to carry out the first trial. Together with the statistical offices of Italy, Germany, the UK, Slovenia, Estonia, Sweden and Austria, it submitted a proposal, which has been approved. Cenex was launched on 1 January 2006. Statistics Netherlands is also taking part in the second trial, which will be headed by Destatis, the statistical office of Germany. Eurostat will be taking a definite decision on this project in early 2006.

Once the two Cenex trials have been completed, the experiment is to be evaluated and if successful, the Cenex concept could be applied more widely. Statistics Netherlands regards this as a project of considerable importance to strengthen the function of statistical knowledge in the European Union.

Meeting Eurostat deadlines

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
PUNCTUALITY IN SUPPLYING STATISTICS
PERCENTAGE OF PUNCTUAL SUPPLIES TO EUROSTAT

TARGET VALUE:
GROWTH OF ONE PERCENTAGE POINT PER YEAR, BASED ON 80% IN 2003

ACTUAL:
PUNCTUALITY OF 86% IN 2005 (2004 VALUE: PUNCTUALITY OF 90%)

International

Statistics Netherlands assists countries in developing their statistics

In 2005, Statistics Netherlands provided assistance to the statistical offices in Lithuania, Turkey and Surinam. A group of Lithuanian experts came to Statistics Netherlands on five occasions for a study visit lasting several days. They exchanged knowledge on labour statistics and wage structure surveys, business registers and profiling, strategic planning and programming, quality review and reporting, and on specific subjects of national accounts. Director General Van der Veen was in Lithuania to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the collaboration agreed between the Lithuanian office and Statistics Netherlands. A number of Statistics Netherlands staff members went there to present a course on national accounts for statisticians not working in that specific field.

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding with our Turkish colleagues, which was signed earlier this year, Turkish experts visited Statistics Netherlands on three occasions this year. With Statistics Netherlands staff they discussed the survey dealing with goods transport by road, the dissemination of StatLine tables and statistics on vocational training in enterprises.

Statistics Netherlands assists the General Bureau of Statistics of Surinam (GBS) in developing quarterly accounts. Users, such as the Central Bank of Surinam and the Surinam Planning Bureau have a great need for this. This project should be producing results in 2006.

Renewed contacts with Finland and Germany

Statistics Netherlands attaches great value to good contacts with foreign sister institutions, witness the reciprocal visits that take place each year. In April 2005, a Statistics Netherlands delegation led by Director General Gosse van der Veen visited Statistics Finland. The object of this visit was to exchange ideas on the management of a statistics bureau, the organisation of the statistical process and the use of administrative sources. By the time the visit ended, follow-up arrangements had been made on more than ten topics. Van der Veen invited our Finnish colleagues for a return visit to Statistics Netherlands in 2006.

In November 2005, the president of Destatis (Germany) and colleagues paid a visit to Statistics Netherlands during which a great deal of attention was devoted to the international agenda and the decision taken to join forces in a number of different fields. Results followed soon after, with the EU setting to work on a revision of the legal framework for statistics. The German delegation showed much interest in the Centre for Policy Statistics, microdata for scientific research and the development of the Social Statistics Database. The deputy president of Destatis treated the staff of Statistics Netherlands to a presentation dealing with the German statistical system. This visit, too, resulted in a considerable list of follow-up arrangements.

A number of Statistics Netherlands staff of the Technology and Methodology Division (TNM) paid a visit to Statistics Canada and Statistics Sweden and discussed with them the organisation of ICT and methodology and the design of the statistical process.

The OECD and the United Nations

Statistics Netherlands took an active part in the meetings at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Contacts with the OECD are very important because they fulfil a bridging role between the European Union and the non-European OECD countries. OECD meetings provide an excellent opportunity to achieve better comparability of international statistics.

At the United Nations, it is above all the annual meetings of the Statistical Commission, of which the Netherlands is a member, which are important. Consensus is reached there on global statistical standards, such as the system of national accounts and international classifications. The Statistical Commission also plays a key role in the development of the statistical basis, particularly in developing countries, for the Millennium development goals.

Report of the Director General of Statistics

G. VAN DER VEEN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF STATISTICS, VOORBURG/ HEERLEN, 24 MARCH 2006

The policy intentions and accountability of Statistics Netherlands are included in the budget of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. In addition to the fairly general wording of the objectives in this policy budget, Statistics Netherlands describes annually the output to be produced more comprehensively in a year plan. The present annual report accounts for what was achieved in the field of statistics in 2005. The financial statements at the back of this report deal with financial matters.

Supervision of Statistics Netherlands is the responsibility of the Central Commission for Statistics (CCS). The financial statements were adopted in agreement with the CCS and it approved the annual report.

Implementation of the statistics programme as planned

Statistics Netherlands had a productive year. The statistics programme was implemented in 2005 virtually as planned. The planned output was achieved. Owing to unfilled vacancies, a few development projects were delayed, however.The fully renewed Statistical Yearbook 2005 was published in may 2005. The revision of the National Accounts was completed in August and the 2004 figures based on this revision were published. An integrated description of the economy as a whole was published in *De Nederlandse Economie 2004* (The Economy of the Netherlands in 2004). November saw the launch of the *Conjunctuurklok*: The Business Cycle Tracer, and a new publication: *Gezondheid en zorg in cijfers 2005* (Health and Care in figures), saw the light of day.
The products referred to are but a random selection of the past year. The website, which was entirely renewed in September, and the online database StatLine provide access to all statistical information of Statistics Netherlands. In the section 'Implementation of the 2005 Year Plan', there is more information on what has been produced in the way of statistics in the past year. Some notable statistics have been highlighted elswhere in this report.

Renewal of the statistics programme speeded up

The *Meerjarenprogramma* (Long-term programme) 2004–2008, which addresses developments in the area of statistics production in a long-term context, provides for a comprehensive renewal of the statistics programme. Statistics of which the relevance has declined over the years have been or will be terminated. Based on the need of users of statistical information, new statistics are being developed. In 2005, capacity proved to be on hand for certain activities to be moved forward. This means that extra capacity will become available in 2006 for spear-point activities named in the Long-term programme.

Drastic process renewal is taking shape

The organisation of the statistical process, too, is to be drastically revised in the coming years. Much preparatory work was done in 2005, with a Master Plan being drawn up which constitutes the framework for the process renewal of Statistics Netherlands in the years to come.

A further shift from the use of surveys to administrative sources and registers (register databases) and further standardisation of working methods and ICT infrastructure are the basic principles underlying this Master Plan. The maximum use of register databases is a condition for the reduction in pressure caused by surveys. Where direct surveys continue to be essential, they will be conducted electronically as much as possible. Re-organisation of the processes and standardisation of the infrastructure should ultimately result in a single uniform Statistics Netherlands-wide business architecture. This will contribute to more quality, transparency and efficiency in business processes and to reduced vulnerability and maintenance of the systems in use. In the past year, a significant portion of ICT and methodological capacity was spent on projects and sub-projects in this context, and this will be the case in the coming years as well. Additional budgetary resources are available for these projects and part of the projects will be able to be completed by means of external capacity.

Higher response, lower survey pressure

At the same time as the new Statistics Netherlands Act came into force in 2004, the Economic Statistics Act 1936 was repealed. The criminal enforcement of the obligation to respond to business surveys was accordingly replaced by a statutory administrative enforcement by Statistics Netherlands itself. This statutory administrative enforcement was given concrete shape in the past year. Of the businesses which did not comply with their response obligation and that were sued in this respect, more than 90 per cent responded by supplying the information requested. The enforcement policy accordingly seems to contribute to an increase in the response to business surveys.
Statistics Netherlands has committed itself to reducing the administrative and survey burdens, as the case may be, by four per cent per year. An important instrument in this respect is the use of data from administrative files and registers. Owing to the growing use of registers, the survey burden in 2004 diminished by 14 per cent when compared to 2002. No definite figures are known for 2005 yet, but a preliminary count shows a total reduction of almost 22 per cent when compared to 2002.

More emphasis in quality assurance on end-products

In the field of quality assurance, the emphasis in recent years has been above all on the description and safeguarding of the processes, among other things in the context of the Central Government Information Security Regulation (*Voorschrift Informatiebeveiliging Rijksdienst* (VIR)). Internal audits are used to monitor the quality of internal processes, to verify the actual implementation of the processes as described, and to test whether they produce the desired result. In 2005, six audits were carried out as agreed. The audit reports were discussed with the management concerned and plans of approach were drawn up to improve on the bottlenecks that are found.
In the coming years, quality assurance will be more emphatically focused on the result, notably on the quality of the statistical end-products. This conclusion was drawn in part following a risk analysis of the statistical production. The desired quality of the output will ultimately be recorded in a framework of statistics standards.

Number of internal audits

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- QUALITY ASSURANCE
- NUMBER OF PROCESS AUDITS CARRIED OUT

TARGET VALUE:
- SIX

ACTUAL:
- SIX (2004 VALUE: SIX)

Further staffing reduction foreseen

The envisaged process renewal and reprioritisation of the statistics programme make it essential to adapt the internal organisation on an ongoing basis. This is also necessary due to the savings that were imposed when Statistics Netherlands became autonomous and the improvement in efficiency this necessitated. In 2005, this led to some 200 staff becoming redundant. This redundancy was greater than required by the shrinking of the organisation in that year, and was attributable for a major part to the so-called 'Remkes Regulation'. Partly because of this, Statistics Netherlands was put in a position to start attracting new, highly qualified staff. A recruitment campaign will be launched to this end in the first months of 2006.
The mix of Statistics Netherlands' staffing levels is set to change and a further reduction in these levels is on the cards in the years to come. In order to stay within the financial confines agreed in the Master Plan, staffing levels will have to be cut to about 1,900 FTE in 2012. On balance, the reduction in staffing levels in the period 2000–2012 will mean doing away with hundreds of jobs. New European regulations, on the other hand, are causing more work, and hence a rise in the number of staff required. For this reason, dozens of FTE positions have been added for 2004 and 2005.

Strengthening of operational processes and ICT function

Based on a number of investigations and audits in 2004, the quality of the operational processes and of ICT was found to be in need of substantial improvement. The organisational structure of Operational Management Department senior staff was accordingly adapted by means of a reorganisation in 2005, the planning & control and financial management processes were improved and staff quality was enhanced. A reorganisation involving Personnel & Organisation senior staff has also been prepared, which will be implemented in the coming year.
At the Technology and Methodology division, a comprehensive upgrading and change process was started in 2005. It is likewise an upshot of the Master Plan. The attendant standardisation of processes and ICT infrastructure will affect the organisation of the ICT function.

Housing

Due to ageing and arrear maintenance, the Voorburg and Heerlen premises no longer meet today's business accommodation requirements. As regards both locations, Statistics Netherlands was faced with the choice of undertaking large-scale maintenance and renovation, or relocating. As far as the Voorburg premises are concerned, the definite decision was taken to move to a new building in Leidschenveen, The Hague Municipality. Agreements were concluded with this municipality and with the project developer. Relocation is planned for the first half of 2008.
For the Heerlen premises, an analysis was made of both the possibilities and financial consequences of renovating the existing building and of moving to a new location. Also as far as Heerlen is concerned, the choice has fallen on relocation. Statistics Netherlands is now looking for alternative housing in the region.

Positive financial result for 2005

The total revenue of Statistics Netherlands, that is to say the total contributions received from the state and the income from work for third parties, amounted to more than 173.9 million euro in 2005, of which 9.5 million euro was generated through work done for third parties. A reorganisation provision was formed for the social costs of staff designated as re-employment candidates or who avail themselves of the 'Remkes Regulation' in the context of the task-setting and ongoing re-organisations. The result before the movement in the reorganisation provision and contribution from the Ministry of Economic Affairs amounted to 6.9 million euro; the net result amounted to 4.0 million euro. In 2006, the reorganisation provision is to be further boosted to cater for the reorganisation plans that will then be decided upon.

The positive result is of a sporadic nature and is attributable for a large part to once-off contributions from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, more revenue from work for third parties and general cost control measures. In addition, by restructuring the ICT function and by redefining a number of significant projects with a substantial ICT constituent, less computer capacity was hired last year than had been foreseen.

Statistics Netherlands' own funds, consisting of the cumulative results for 2004 and 2005, were in deficit by 4.9 million euro at the end of December 2005. This deficit in Statistics Netherlands' own funds does not cast any doubt on its status as a going concern. Taking into account the financing arrangements agreed with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, cash flow forecasts indicate that no liquidity problems will occur in the coming years.

The financial statements and the notes thereto are included in this annual report as from page 38. The financial statements have been audited by KPMG Accountants N.V., who issued an unqualified audit report on them which is included behind the financial statements in this report

Operating result

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- EFFICIENCY
- OPERATING RESULT

TARGET VALUE:
- AN OPERATING RESULT OF AT LEAST € 0

ACTUAL:
- € 6.9 MILLION (2004 VALUE: € 0.7 MILLION);
- (NET RESULT € 4.0 MILLION; 2004: € 8.9 MILLION (NEGATIVE))

Financial future detailed in 2005

The Master Plan 2005–2012 was drawn up in 2005. Based on it, new arrangements were agreed with the Ministry of Economic Affairs on the financing of Statistics Netherlands. In order further to improve the efficiency of the organisation, enhance the quality of the statistics production and realise the task setting reduction in staffing levels, Statistics Netherlands attaches great importance to further digitising data streams. At the same time, it was found that the ICT function needs strengthening. To this end, arrangements on additional financing for extra capital expenditure on IT have been agreed. A key element in the arrangements with the Ministry is the financing of the redundancy obligations that may arise as a result of the comprehensive reorganisation based on the arrangements agreed in 2003, and the consequent outflow of staff.

For Statistics Netherlands, the basic agreement of the current Balkenende Cabinet meant retrenchments of 5.1 million euro, with a subsequent further cost cutting exercise rising to 7.4 million euro in 2007. In view of the efficiency measures already provided for until 2012, such savings in costs would have to result in the dropping of statistics. In 2005, the Cabinet decided to suspend the retrenchments and to look for an alternative way out in the field of a State-wide shared service in the area of statistics and cost savings in the field of the State-

wide sourcing of data and data collection (Professional Sourcing and Tendering or PST). It has since become clear that this type of measure will yield insufficient cost savings to make up for the retrenchments that have been imposed. The expectation of the Ministry of Economic Affairs is that this will ultimately not result in the dropping of statistics but that an alternative approach will be decided upon within the framework of the Interim Budget Report in 2006.

Major ambitions require a tight organisation

With the substantive ambitions in the area of programme renewal and the efficiency tasks set until 2012, the bar has been raised high. Extensive process renewals will have to help achieve all these objectives. In this respect, Statistics Netherlands is heavily committed to the digitisation possibilities of data streams between citizens and businesses on the one hand, and the public sector on the other. In this respect, in many cases Statistics Netherlands falls in line with public sector-wide initiatives, such as the basic register of businesses, otherwise known as *Walvis*. Statistics Netherlands also uses the administrative files and registers of third parties, such as those of the Tax and Customs Administration. This has made Statistics Netherlands vulnerable, however, to any setbacks occurring outside of its sphere of influence. Regular consultations with our partners ensure that these risks are restricted as much as possible. In this respect, efficient operational processes and tightly organised planning and control are important to be able to take adequate preventive action in the event of unforeseen external developments.

Mission statement

STATISTICS NETHERLANDS WAS FOUNDED IN 1899 AND WAS ASSIGNED THE TASK OF COLLECTING, PROCESSING AND PUBLISHING STATISTICS FOR PRACTICAL, POLICY AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES. IN STATISTICS NETHERLANDS' CURRENT STATUTORY PRINCIPLES - THE ACT OF 20 NOVEMBER 2003 ENACTING A LAW GOVERNING STATISTICS NETHERLANDS - THIS STILL CONSTITUTES THE CORE OF STATISTICS NETHERLANDS' ASSIGNMENT. IN DUTCH SOCIETY, SUCCEEDING COALITIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRESSURE GROUPS STRIVE TO ACHIEVE THEIR OWN VIEWS AND IDEAS. IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE IMPORTANCE OF FACTUALLY UNBIASED INFORMATION WHICH IS ACCEPTED BY ALL CONCERNED AS A BASIC PRINCIPLE IS SIGNIFICANT. THE QUALITY OF THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION MUST BE UNQUESTIONED. STATISTICS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE SWIFTLY AND MAKE VISIBLE THE CONTEXTUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALL KINDS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

STATISTICS NETHERLANDS' MISSION THEREFORE IS:
THE DRAWING UP AND PUBLISHING OF UNDISPUTED, COHERENT, UP-TO-DATE STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR PRACTICAL, POLICY AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

G. van der Veen
Director General of Statistics

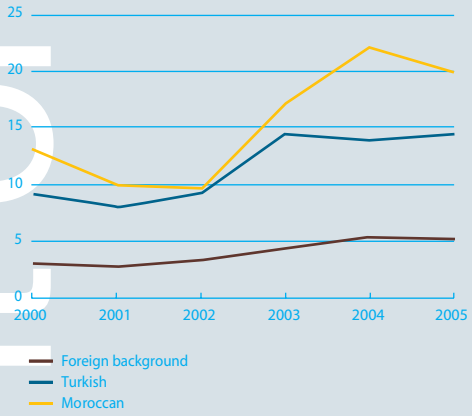
Voorburg/Heerlen, 24 March 2006

Focus on social cohesion

In late 2005, Statistics Netherlands organised a symposium entitled *Sociale samenhang in beeld: het Sociaal Statistisch Bestand nu en straks* (Focus on social cohesion: the Social Statistics Database now and in the future). At this well-attended symposium, the development of the Social Statistics Database (SSB), and especially its expansion in the past two years was outlined.

The database consists of a core and so-called SSB Satellites. The core is made up of integral database containing the key demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population. The SSB Satellites each address a specific theme. The databases provide a basis for research in the field of safety, integration of persons with a foreign background, labour market dynamics and the large-city problems.

Unemployment by ethnic origin
In % of labour force



Labour market dynamics in 2003
Distribution of people in jobs and people changing jobs by age

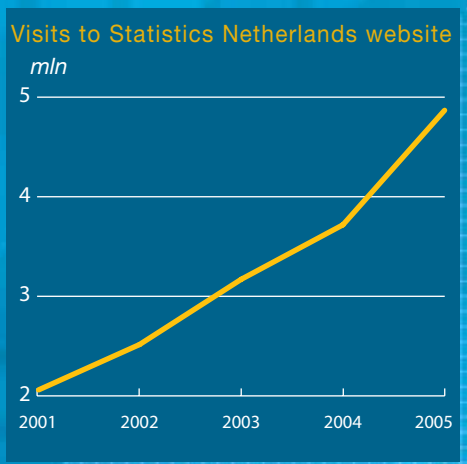
The symposium provided the opportunity to delve into recent developments. New aspects included the determination of the educational level of the Dutch population based on the combination of registers and surveys, and the opportunity to do intergenerational research by using the linking between parents' and children's data.

Recently, Professor J. Latten used the SSB for his inaugural lecture *Zwanger van segregatie* (Engrossed in segregation). With this address on the partitioning into education, jobs, income, the choice of a partner and the spatial consequences of segregation, Statistics Netherlands staff member Latten acceded to his professorship in demography at the University of Amsterdam.

Digital

Statistics Netherlands' website and StatLine

Statistics Netherlands launched its renewed website (www.cbs.nl) on 1 September 2005. The site is theme-based and its design has been improved.
The site attracted 30% more visitors than in 2004. Its content has been expanded and now includes the Business Cycle Tracer, a monthly services monitor, the topics Population Census and Historic Series and the Environment & Nature Compendium. A website for the Youth Monitor was built in the period September to November, including the underlying StatLine database.



StatLine The size and use of the StatLine database have also increased in 2005. In December 2005, StatLine consisted of 1,520 tables, as against 1,380 in 2004. The size of the database grew from 3.5 to 5.8 gigabytes, an increase of 66%.
StatLine is the basis for two performance indicators. The target punctuality of 100% for meeting StatLine deadlines proved to be unattainable in practice. In 2005, 85% punctuality was achieved. The target value for the second performance indicator, namely 2.88 million hits in StatLine, was achieved, however, with 3.4 million tables being requested.
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Use of StatLine

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- EXTENT OF USING STATISTICAL INFORMATION
- USE OF STATLINE

TARGET VALUE:
- 20% GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS PER YEAR (BASED ON 2 MILLION REQUESTS IN 2003)

ACTUAL:
- IN 2005, THERE WERE 70% MORE REQUESTS THAN IN 2003 (IN 2004, THERE WERE 66% MORE VISITS THAN IN 2003)

StatLine punctuality

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- PUNCTUAL SUPPLY OF STATISTICS
- PERCENTAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGENDA OF SUPPLIED PUBLICATIONS IN STATLINE

TARGET VALUE:
- 100% SUPPLIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANNING

ACTUAL:
- 85% IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANNING IN 2005 (2004 VALUE: 86% IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANNING)

Statistics about society

Statistics Netherlands publishes on all kinds of aspects of society. To this end, the Bureau has a broad range of statistics and statistical information on quality of life and socio-economic and socio-demographic developments in the Dutch population.

Dynamics in society

In 2005, more information was published on dynamics in society. This could be done because Statistics Netherlands was given access to more registrations and fully utilised the potential to link up with these databases. In this way, more information relevant in terms of policy was compiled on the course of people's lives.

The Social Statistics Database (SSB) is pivotal in this respect. In the SSB, Statistics Netherlands brings together the interrelationship of all relevant social information from diverse sources. The SSB contains data on all the inhabitants of the Netherlands according to a large number of characteristics such as gender, age, marital status, nationality and country of birth, position in the labour market and whether they receive transfer payments or not. The quality of the SSB information was further improved in 2005. Improved recording of the educational level of the population was made possible thanks to a combination of registers and surveys. A number of characteristics about the composition of households were added. These included the number of adults, the number of children, cohabitation, and the number of single parents. In the project 'Tracking parents: the parent-child-database' (*Speuren naar ouders: het ouder-kind-bestand*) Statistics Netherlands endeavoured to link data of persons living in the Netherlands with those of their parents. The new database is meant to produce statistics enabling research to be conducted into intergenerational behaviour, such as between the premature death of parents and children, the distance between the places of residence of parents and children and socio-economic differences between parents and children.

Less progress was made than was planned with the addition of education number databases to the SSB. It took all the parties concerned more time to generate these databases. Success was achieved, however, in properly recording the policy information needs of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the allocation of tasks in this field between Statistics Netherlands, the Ministry and the implementation agencies.

Safety and the integration of minorities

In 2005, information from the SSB formed the basis for the Integration Monitor (*Integratiekaart*), a publication Statistics Netherlands has been preparing every year since 2004 in collaboration with the Research and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Justice (WODC). The publication gives an overview of the degree of foreign background population groups based on their position in Dutch society and the changes in their position.

The 'Integration Annual Report' (*Jaarrapport Integratie*) was published as planned. This publication, which is a joint product of Statistics Netherlands, the Social and Cultural Planning Office of the Netherlands (SCP) and the WODC, describes

the social position of ethnic minorities in the Netherlands. The report was commissioned by the Minister of Aliens Affairs and Integration.
The report 'Suspected of crime: a closer look at the foreign background and native Dutch populations' (*Verdacht van criminaliteit: Allochtonen en autochtonen nader bekeken*), which Statistics Netherlands and the WODC were commissioned to prepare by the Criminal Investigations Policy and Youth and Crime Prevention Departments of the Ministry of Justice, attracted a great deal of attention in 2005. This report describes the foreign background and native population groups' contributions to persons suspected of crime and registered as such with the police. For the first time, statistical data on a national level dealing with the backgrounds of persons suspected of crimes and registered as such by the police have been merged by linking up police registrations with Statistics Netherlands data. The investigation showed the significant involvement of minorities in crime. This involvement has been interpreted as reflecting a weak bond with society and poor integration.
By means of the publication 'Investigative survey among people of foreign background: problems and solutions' (*Enquêteonderzoek onder allochtonen: Problemen en oplossingen*) Statistics Netherlands reported on the numerous facets of the investigative survey among people of foreign background. They take part in surveys less than native Dutch people. The main reasons for this are that they are more difficult to reach at home than native Dutch people are, and that they live mostly in the big cities, where the response is usually lower. A targeted approach to people of foreign background proved to be beneficial to their participation in the survey.

New developments

The development of the Health Statistics Database meant a step forward in 2005 towards the use of medical registrations for statistical purposes. This database was used in 2005 to describe and explain the socio-economic differences in health. One of the conclusions that may be drawn even at this early stage is that data on the income of people and their housing characteristics are paramount in explaining the differences in health. Another conclusion is that register data are useful for recording socio-economic differences in health, but that survey data continue to be indispensable.
At the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs & Kingdom Relations and the Ministry of Justice, and in consultation with municipalities and police corps, a start was made in 2005 with the Nationwide Crime and Safety Survey. This new State Safety Monitor (*Veiligheidsmonitor Rijk*) may be regarded as the follow-up to the legal protection and safety module from Statistics Netherlands' Permanent quality of life survey (POLS). The outcomes of the new Safety Monitor have been compared with the outcomes of the Police Population Monitor (*Politiemonitor bevolking*) used until now. This comparison brought to light that the new Safety Monitor guarantees continuity in the supply of figures on safety.
As agreed, Statistics Netherlands started in 2005 with the Statistics on Re-integration of Municipalities (*Statistiek reïntegratie door gemeenten*). A first publication was issued in late 2005 on the efforts of municipalities to re-integrate transfer payment recipients into the labour market. This information is particularly important for the periodic reporting on the implementation of the Work and Social Assistance Act to the House of Representatives.

The production by the municipalities of income support statistics and data on sickness absence experienced some delays in 2005 owing to problems with the quality of the data supplied and the implementation of new processing systems.
As planned, a new edition of Poverty Monitor (*Armoedemonitor*) was published in 2005 containing the most recent data on poverty in the Netherlands. It is published jointly by Statistics Netherlands and the SCP. In mid-2005, Statistics Netherlands started with new statistics on income and quality of life of the population. It is based on the European regulation of 16 june 2003 on the Community statistics dealing with income and living conditions (EU-SILC) and provides essential information on income distribution and social inclusion for the purpose of European social policy and measuring the efforts of the various member states of the European Union in combating poverty and social exclusion. Most European Union member states set up an entirely new, autonomous database for the purpose of this study. The Dutch design of this study could be based on a combination of administrative sources on households' income and living conditions available at Statistics Netherlands, and a limited telephonic survey.
The annual Budget Survey was conducted in 2005 on the basis of a new design. Data from registrations were used, for instance, and the actual survey was conducted largely by telephone.

Spatial statistical information

Apart from national figures, Statistics Netherlands also publishes data in respect of regions, urban areas, districts and neighbourhoods. This information is broadly used for local and regional policy purposes and for market research, and forms the basis for the allocation of state funds to local authorities. The statistics on real estate provide information on the expected building production, the number of completed houses and the stock of houses. These data are important for social housing policy purposes and the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis's forecasts.
Publications on districts and neighbourhoods were more frequent in 2005. The key figures in StatLine are now updated every year. The publication 'Bespoke Municipality' (*Gemeente op Maat*) was expanded in 2005 and now includes more information on districts and neighbourhoods than the previous editions. It will in future be published yearly. The publication of 'Postal Code Areas: Key Figures 2004' (*Kerncijfers postcodegebieden 2004*) for the first time made available statistical data for the more than 400,000 six-digit postal code areas in the Netherlands.

Use of registers

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- INCREASING USE OF REGISTERS
- GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF PROCESSES USING REGISTERS

TARGET VALUE:
- 1 PERCENTAGE POINT PER YEAR, BASED ON 30% IN 2003

ACTUAL:
- IN 2005, 61% OF THE PROCESSES MADE USE OF REGISTERS. (2004 VALUE: 43%)

Response to Labour Force Survey

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- ACHIEVE NORM RESPONSE
- RESPONSE TO LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

TARGET VALUE:
- 58%

ACTUAL:
- 65% RESPONSE IN 2005. (2004 VALUE: 60%)

Spotlight on statistics

Asymmetry Project

In late 2004, Statistics Netherlands started on the analysis of so-called asymmetries in trade flows between the Netherlands and the fifteen member states of the European Union. In theory, the value of exports from the Netherlands to Germany, as measured in the Netherlands, should be equal to the value recorded by Germany of imports to Germany from the Netherlands. In practice, this is not the case. In 2004, Dutch exports to Germany amounted to more than 72 billion euro, while Germany imported 67 billion euro from the Netherlands.

The total intra-EU exports have for years been more than 5% higher than the total intra-EU imports. This amounts to an average difference in assessment of 80 billion euro per year.

The object of the Asymmetry Project is to analyse existing asymmetries and investigate and apply reduction possibilities.

The study makes systematic use of VAT Information and Exchange System data (VIES). Based on this information it is possible to link the trade returns of the Dutch reporting entities to the returns of trading partners in the other member states. In this way, asymmetries originating from such sources as triangular trade, misclassifications or differences in interpretation on the ownership of goods can be detected and solved.

In order to reduce asymmetries, it is necessary for the information at the level of the reporting entities to be analysed. For the purpose of the study, Statistics Netherlands, the National Bank of Belgium and Statistics Denmark entered into a contract in June 2005 on the exchange of detailed information. As in the case of the systematic use of VIES information, the collaboration has since borne fruit. Notably with Belgium, the largest differences in trade flows have since been eliminated.

the media

Statistics Netherlands announcements are in great demand with the media and its figures are used as a source in many articles.

Statistics Netherlands spokespersons were regularly interviewed in the news broadcasts of RTL and NOS television in 2005. They were also invited by various regional stations, KRO's Dolce Vita, the *Wereldomroep*, Teleac, BNR *Nieuwsradio* and the news bulletin of Radio 1. In May, a special *Zembla* broadcast devoted attention to the effects of the introduction of the euro. In this programme, Michiel Vergeer also explained how Statistics Netherlands determines the consumer price index.

RTL interviewed Jan Latten at length on the occasion of his inaugural lecture *Zwanger van segregatie* (Engrossed in segregation). In the studio, Gerda Verburg (CDA) reacted to the contents of the interview. The German ARD programme 'Plus Minus' recorded an interview with division director Frans Hendrikx on Statistics Netherlands' reduced response burden.

Statistics Netherlands organised four press conferences in 2005 dealing with the Dutch Economy in 2004, the Revision of National Accounts, The Economy of the Netherlands 2004 and Health and Care in Figures 2005. The press conference on The Economy of the Netherlands was attended by Mr Gerrit Zalm, the Dutch Minister of Finance. During the meeting on Health and Care, Mr Van Rijn, director general Health Care at the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, received on behalf of Minister Hogervorst the first copy of Health and Care in Figures 2005.

In order to help journalists find their way in the huge amount of information found on the website, Statistics Netherlands organised a meeting with the motto 'A figure by itself is meaningless; it is the interrelationship between different figures that makes them newsworthy'. Statistics Netherlands organised presentations on the economy, demography, its website and StatLine. The Business Cycle Tracer was introduced at this meeting. There was considerable interest: 40 journalists attended the meeting.

Coverage of press releases

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- EXTENT OF USING STATISTICAL INFORMATION
- COVERAGE OF PRESS RELEASES

TARGET VALUE:
- MAINTAINING A COVERAGE OF AT LEAST 70%

ACTUAL:
- IN 2005, COVERAGE WAS 62% (2004 VALUE: 71% COVERAGE))

Punctuality of press releases

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- PUNCTUAL SUPPLY OF STATISTICS
- PERCENTAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGENDA OF SUPPLIED PRESS RELEASES

TARGET VALUE:
- GROWTH OF ONE PERCENTAGE POINT PER YEAR BASED ON 75% IN 2003

ACTUAL:
- 95% IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANNING IN 2005 (2004 VALUE: 91% IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANNING)

Contacts with the press

		2004	2005
Number of press releases issued		149	147
News coverage	%	71	62
Number of questions from the media		3,748	4,877
of which			
Press releases and publications	%	41	35
Free news gathering		59	65
Frequently asked categories			
Population and society	%	42	45
Macro-economy, money and capital		16	22
Trade and industry		13	11
Labour, income and social security		22	16

Statistics on trade and industry

Statistics Netherlands describes the turnover, revenues and expenses of Dutch trade and industry. Also information is revealed on products, energy consumption, environmental costs, use of IT, degree of innovation and transportation flows.

The basis: more and more registers

The basis for the statistics on trade and industry is the General Business Register (*Algemeen Bedrijfsregister* or (ABR)). This register includes all businesses in the Netherlands, classified according to size and business sector and distinguished by legal and business entities. The random sampling for surveys held among businesses is drawn from the ABR.

More work was done in 2005 on linking up the ABR with the Chambers of Commerce Basic Register of Businesses. This establishes a link, which also covers sole traders, with the data of the Tax and Customs Administration and the Municipal Population Registers.

The link-up with these sources results in a lesser need for Statistics Netherlands surveys, and further improves the quality of the figures. The actual link-up of the ABR with the Basic Register of Businesses will take place in mid-2006.

Preparations to link up the ABR with the new policy records of the UWV (Dutch Social Security Agency) were also made in 2005. This link-up is a sequel to the *Walvis* Act. The policy records contain much data on persons employed useful to Statistics Netherlands. For business statistics, this link-up is of importance since the size category of businesses will be drawn from these data. This link-up, too, will be completed in 2006.

The use of registers is still a fairly recent phenomenon. The usefulness of new external sources is examined on a continuous basis and, if found appropriate existing Statistics Netherlands surveys are being discontinued. In this way, the use of energy companies' customer databases has been further developed in 2005. These databases are used to produce statistics on the consumption of energy. All grid companies have now supplied their data for 2004. The first statistics based on customer databases are expected to be published in 2006.

How electronic environmental reports by businesses can be used in the production of environmental statistics was also examined. Meanwhile, businesses are making full use of the possibilities of filing their (compulsory) environmental reports electronically. The number of hard copy environmental reports Statistical Netherlands still receives has significantly decreased. Together with TNO, Statistics Netherlands has developed a format for the computation of air pollution figures. TNO completes this format using the environmental reports and supplies the data to Statistics Netherlands. For water and waste statistics, Statistic Netherlands itself developed an application which filters and makes available the required data from the environmental reports.

According to plan, in 2005 the possibilities were investigated to compile statistics on the performance of road traffic and the emission of noxious road traffic gasses based on the registration of the National Vehicle Pass. These involve data on the kilometres travelled according to model and fuel of motor vehicles (cars, motorcycles and buses).

The first results of this analysis were published at the end of 2005. The definite figures for the various categories of passenger transport vehicles will be published in March 2006.

Databases were received from the Central Administrative Agency for Exceptional Medical Expenses (*Centraal Administratie Kantoor Bijzondere Ziektekosten*) in

2005 with data on persons who received AWBZ (Exceptional Medical Expenses Act) care in 2003 and 2004. These databases will be used to replace the existing sources (including surveys), to improve on the figures Statistics Netherlands publishes and to measure price and volume in the provision of AWBZ care.

External information

A start was made in 2005 on the implementation of the Data Contact Centre. For Statistics Netherlands, this is to become the portal from where all digital data is sent and received. An unambiguous method is to be agreed with customers for sending digital data to Statistics Netherlands. The implementation will entail the organisation of generic production processes as well as the actual downloading of concrete electronic data streams.
For the sourcing of electronic data and the accompanying logistics, Statistics Netherlands entered into agreements with external parties in 2005. An example of this type of co-operation is the development of a Public Sector Transaction Portal (OTP). This is a project forming part of the programme 'ICT and Alleviation of the Administrative Burden' (ICTAL). The OTP is set to become the front office for all communications to government organisations. Statistics Netherlands contributed to the development of the OTP by providing two statistics as pilots for the supply of data via the OTP. Together with ICTAL, these pilots are being implemented. The actual management of the OTP is in the hands of the Public Sector Joint Management Organisation (Public Sector GBO). Statistics Netherlands is also affiliated to the Routing Institute for National and International Information Streams (RINIS) network. Affiliated government organisations can exchange information across this network safely and reliably. The future scenario for the collection of electronic data by Statistics Netherlands will accordingly provide for the data supplied by government organisations to come in via the RINIS network. The RINIS network is to become an integral part of the Public Sector GBO.

Easing of survey burden

By using VAT information, the production statistics required 17,000 (19%) fewer questionnaires to be mailed. This reduction was mostly achieved by involving fewer small businesses in the survey.
An adapted EU Regulation on Intrastat dealing with the trade between member states entered into force in 2005. Some six thousand businesses no longer have to be surveyed on their international trade. This exemption is estimated to have eased the survey burden by 8%.

Faster supply of figures

To enable short-term statistics to be published quicker the so-called data wave model was developed in 2005. In accordance with this model, outcomes based on a limited survey are first compiled on a high aggregation level. These outcomes are then adjusted based on data from the Tax and Customs Administration. The limited survey enables figures to be supplied quicker. Since fewer questionnaires are mailed, it also results in alleviating the administrative burden. The first results of the project are expected in 2006.
As regards international trade statistics, an improved response rate combined with accelerated planning has resulted in highly aggregated figures being pub-

Reduction in response burden

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES
- RESPONSE BURDEN

TARGET VALUE:
- 4% REDUCTION PER YEAR, BASED ON € 23.5 MILLION IN 2002

ACTUAL:
- IN 2004, THE RESPONSE BURDEN WAS 14% LOWER THAN IN 2002 (IN 2003, THE RESPONSE BURDEN WAS 11% LOWER THAN IN 2002) (THE MEASUREMENT COVERS THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND IS MADE ONCE A YEAR; THE MEASUREMENT FOR 2005 IS THEREFORE INCLUDED IN THE 2006 ANNUAL REPORT)

lished quicker without loss of quality. Lastly, Statistics Netherlands managed to supply the figures on international trade in services so much faster that *De Nederlandsche Bank* (the Dutch Central Bank) was able to publish these figures on its website one quarter sooner.

New statistics

Computerisation and the use of external registers also make it possible for figures to be produced on topics about which Statistics Netherlands has not previously published. In 2005 for instance, the first results of the new general practitioner statistics became available. These statistics are fully compiled from data already available or collected by third parties.

A study was also carried out into performance indicators for the health care sector. The topics covered were concentration in the health care sector and the expenditure on health related research and development. For the first study, all mergers between large health care institutions in the period 1995–2004 were recorded. A report on this was published in *Gezondheid en zorg in cijfers* (Health and care in figures). The study into health related R&D showed that existing survey data are adequate to describe the health related R&D, with only few extra surveys at institutions and businesses.

As planned, a prototype of the Safety Care Accounts was completed in 2005. This survey was evaluated with the Group of Safety Experts in December 2005. The advice of this group will be processed in the first quarter of 2006.

Effective 1 January 2005, EU countries are required to supply quarterly data for the finances statistics of non-financial businesses. Statistics Netherlands' swift and complete supplies of quarterly data enabled it to meet its international obligations easily.

The monthly statistics of stocks in manufacturing announced earlier was developed in 2005. A number of different methods were worked out and evaluated. The most suitable method was then selected. The first statistics are expected to be produced in 2006.

The strategic project *De nieuwe economie* (The New Economy) was finalised in late 2005. In collaboration with the Vrije Universiteit (Amsterdam University) and Technische Universiteit Delft (Delft Technical University) trial surveys were carried out on process changes at businesses as a result of introducing e-business and on collaborative relationships and ICT. The results of the strategic programme will be discussed at a seminar in January 2006.

For the first time the *Innovatie-enquête 2002–2004* (Innovation Survey 2002–2004) contained questions on non-technological innovation. The first figures dealing with this topic are expected in early 2006.

De digitale economie (The Digital Economy) has been expanded and now includes data on the telecom sector. It enabled a more complete picture to be drawn of the ICT infrastructure and its use. More attention was also devoted to the ICT position of the Netherlands in relation to a number of other countries. It made the publication more authoritative. An English translation of the publication is due to appear for the first time in the spring of 2006.

Steady progress was made in 2005 on the first publication of the corporate climate statistics. This publication was commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and will see the light of day in early 2006.

Response to international trade survey

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- ACHIEVE NORM RESPONSE
- RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE SURVEY

TARGET VALUE:
- 65%

ACTUAL:
- 73% RESPONSE IN 2005 (2004 VALUE: 69%)

Less progress was achieved on the development of the Economic Statistics Database than had been planned. A basic version of this database is not yet available. However, a linked dataset for key variables in the fields of sales, capital expenditure, personnel and labour costs was completed.

European obligations

In 2005, Statistics Netherlands was able for the first time to supply in full the so-called Euro Indicators. The Euro Indicators are figures about mineral oil and mineral oil products, electricity and natural gas, that have to be supplied within a month. For the monthly retail trade statistics, VAT adjusted outcomes have become available.
In 2005, a start was made on the collection of data for the first publication of the EU Waste Substances Regulation (2004 reporting year). Figures are obtained from existing statistics on municipal waste, industrial waste and vehicle wrecks, and partly from third party figures. The first supply of data to Eurostat will be in mid-2006.

Collaboration

Statistics Netherlands does not make its statistics alone. A number of specific instances of collaboration can be mentioned for 2005 as well. In February 2005, for example, the Director General of Statistics Netherlands and the Director of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP) signed a collaboration agreement which sealed the co-operation on emission registration that has existed for some time. Working together in the context of this project were MNP, Statistics Netherlands, RIZA, LEI-WUR, Alterra, TNO-MEP and SenterNovem for the purpose of determining the emission figures for air, water and soil. The project has been headed by MNP since April 2005.
On 20 December 2005, Minister Donner submitted the publication *Criminaliteit en rechtshandhaving 2004* (Crime and law enforcement 2004) to the President of the House of Representatives, Mr Weisglas. The publication is a joint production by Statistics Netherlands and the WODC.
Statistics Netherlands works together with the Maastricht School of Management and Nyenrode Business Universiteit in what is known as the China Project, a pilot study into offshoring by manufacturing companies.

Quality improvement

The quality of statistics is monitored on a continuous basis. The outcomes of the monthly retail trade statistics are adjusted for the combinations of shopping days. This makes it easier for users to compare the monthly outcomes for two succeeding years.
A study was carried out in 2005 into the quality of the product statistics (*Prodcom*). The main problems and avenues for a solution have been included in a report. Follow-up actions have been outlined.
The chain quality working group has come up with concrete proposals for improvements in the working method in the entire production chain of statistics on trade and industry. They include process monitoring, quality control and communication.

International trade validity

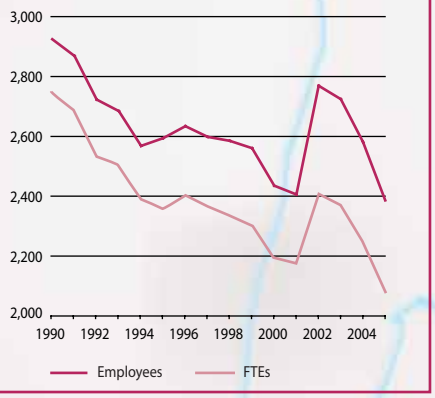
PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- VALIDITY
- VARIANCE BETWEEN PROVISIONAL AND DEFINITE INTERNATIONAL TRADE FIGURES (MONTHLY EU IMPORT AND EXPORT AND NON-EU IMPORT AND EXPORT; IN TOTAL IT THEREFORE CONCERNS 48 VARIANCE PERCENTAGES)

TARGET VALUE:
- NOT MORE THAN 20% OF THE VARIANCES MAY BE MORE THAN 4%

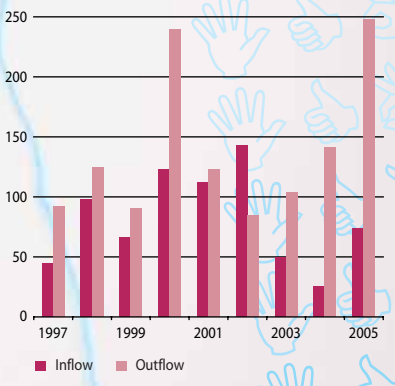
ACTUAL:
- 4% OVERRUNS OF THE TOLERATED VARIANCE IN 2004 (12.5 % OVERRUNS IN 2003) (THE DEFINITE FIGURES BECOME AVAILABLE MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AFTER THE REPORTING YEAR.)

Personnel

Staffing levels (as at 31 December)



Inflow and outflow (in FTEs)



NB: This chart shows that in 2002, the field survey staff was counted as part of the staffing levels, whereas they have not been regarded as 'inflow' in the chart below.

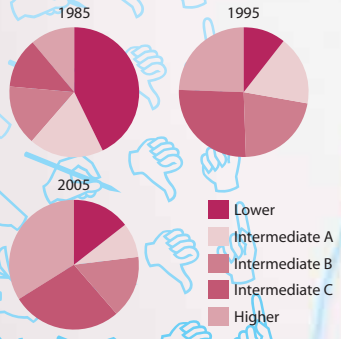
Staffing levels

● In accordance with the reorganisation plans, the number of Statistics Netherlands staff went down significantly from 2,577 at the end of 2004 to 2,382 at the end of 2005; 167 staff availed themselves of the Remkes Regulation. ● The number of women in higher positions was 174, as against 108 in 2000 and 69 in 1995. ● The opening and closing balances of the number of ftes were 2,241 and 2,075 respectively, but there were vacancies as well. ● 61 Per cent of staff worked in scale 9 or higher. This percentage was just as high as in 2004. It follows that staff upgrading did not continue in 2005. One of the reasons for this is that a relatively large number of staff members in the higher scales left in 2005, having availed themselves of the Remkes Regulation. ● The average age of Statistics Netherlands staff was 47.1 years, which is slightly lower than in 2004 (47.2 years). ● Sickness absence decreased for the fourth successive year; it was 6.7 percent in 2004 en 6.2 percent in 2005. This percentage is still above the standard set for Statistics Netherlands, however, which was 4.9 percent for 2005. At 1.8, reporting frequency remained virtually the same. ● A suitable solution was found for 47 of the 85 staff members who were designated as candidates for re-employment in 2004.

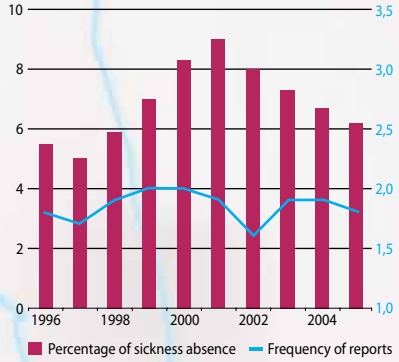
HR-policy

● Using the instrument known as the Management Carousel, more than 25 staff members were placed in another managerial function. New management profiles were also developed. ● Various actions were undertaken to increase the average educational level of Statistical Netherlands staff. A number of staff followed an accelerated higher vocational course. A number of staff members who had been earmarked as re-employment candidates completed a training course to upgrade them to MEAO level. ● The Technology and Methodology division and the Statistics Netherlands Academy developed new statistical training courses known as the Statistics Tree. This training includes a short starters' course, in which participants are familiarised with the full width of the statistical process, and a series of follow-up modules in which participants deal more in-depth with the subject matter of the starting course. ● The idea of a flex pool for university trained staff was given further shape. This instrument enables a flexible approach to address the need for personnel capacity in the organisation. ● The information regarding occupational health and safety and absence policies of Statistics Netherlands was consolidated into the *Guideline for the prevention, curtailment and aid regarding sickness absence.*

Staff percentages by salary scale



Sickness absence rates



Co-determination

● Significant topics dealt with in the meetings between management and the Employees Council in 2005 were: ● The *Long-term plan* and *Long-term vision* of Statistics Netherlands ● Various reorganisations and changes ● The ICT master plan and the vision document of the Technology and Methodology division ● Renewed management development policy ● The diploma policy of Statistics Netherlands ● The evaluation of the fieldwork organisation ● The design of the outflow organisation ● The revision of the jobs structure ● The *Contact Centre Outbound.*

Subjects that figured prominently on the agenda for the consultations with the Occupational Health and Safety Commission included the following: ● The relocation of Statistics Netherlands to new premises (both offices) ● The Occupational Health and Safety Care plan of approach 2004–2005 ● The rules of conduct for sickness absence ● The absence reporting by Arbo Unie (the occupational health and safety service that works for Statistics Netherlands) ● The putting in place of the occupational health and safety and care think-tank ● The internal employment satisfaction survey ● The air quality of the building in Voorburg.

Economic statistics

Statistics Netherlands publishes an integrated description of the economy as a whole in *De Nederlandse Economie* (The Economy of the Netherlands), of which a further edition was published in 2005. *De Digitale Economie* (The Digital Economy) gives an integrated description of households, trade and industry, the labour market and the share of the ICT sector in the economy as a whole. More general and focused on recent economic developments is the description in quarterly publications such as *De Nederlandse Conjunctuur* (The Dutch Economy). *Het Elektronisch Conjunctuurbericht* (The Economic Monitor) is updated on all days that new information becomes available.

Integrated information on the effects of the ageing population

In 2005, the emphasis on developing the new information on the effects of an ageing population was on setting up statistics on the pension benefits of individuals. Pension benefits were divided into three layers: AOW (state pension) benefits, employment-related group benefits, and pension benefits accumulated individually. Together with the Income Panel Survey (*Inkomenspanelonderzoek*) these data provide a complete picture, not only of the present but also of the future income levels and wealth positions of individuals and households. The first publication of the figures dealing with AOW benefits was planned for the end of the year under review. Because this layer was started later than planned, the publication was postponed until mid-February 2006. Also investigated in 2005 was how the second and third layer of pension benefits could best be recorded, which led at the end of 2005 to the start of a pilot for the second layer in collaboration with a number of pension funds.

Integrated accounts

In line with planning, the revision of the National Accounts for the 2001 reporting year was completed in 2005 and the concomitant annual data for 2002–2004 were published. The data are calibrated against the new production statistics and the new statistics on the imports and exports of services. In addition, new international arrangements were applied, including those regarding the registration of financial mediation and on the introduction of special financial institutions. Following this revision, the macroeconomic totals were adjusted upwards substantially. The gross domestic product (GDP) was increased in 2001 from 429.3 billion euro to 447.7 billion euro. Moreover, GDP growth figures, disposable income, unemployment and unencumbered savings were all adjusted for the period 1995–2001. The economic development picture accordingly changed. The revision of National Accounts also calls for the publication of time-series which are compatible with the new level figures. An immediate start was made on compiling the time-series in 2005. The result was that the first time-series data for 1995–2001 were finalised at the end of 2005. The first results will be published in march or april 2006.

In 2005, the Environmental Accounts, a module of the National Accounts, were further refined. The Environmental Accounts reflect the correlation between economic indicators and the environment. Figures were published in 2005 on air emissions, nutrient balance sheets, water emissions and environmental

burdens. Accounts for waste solids and energy have been newly developed and added to the existing system of environmental accounts.
As commissioned by the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA), Statistics Netherlands compiles the Water Accounts annually. In 2005, new emission balance sheets were compiled, traffic air emissions recalculated, and a number of new substances, such carbon monoxide and fine dust, added to the air emission accounts. The results of these projects will be published in StatLine in the course of 2006.
The first regular results of the Satellite Tourism Account (SRT) became available in 2005. This module provides an integral picture of the significance of tourism and recreation for the Dutch economy.
The production of the Sector Accounts quarterly figures went according to plan in 2005. As per deadline, the first data were supplied to the European Central Bank on 4 November 2005. The figures concerned dealt with the financial accounts and balance sheets as from 1998 up to the second quarter of 2005. The first official supply to Eurostat of the current account and capital account data, including a time series retrospective to 1999, took place on 30 December 2005.
The obligation to compile and publish quarterly reports on financial accounts and balance sheets for institutional sectors has resulted in closer co-operation between the Dutch Central Bank and Statistics Netherlands. The new task allocation has been recorded in a collaboration agreement.

Local Authorities European Union Reporting Quality Drive (KREDO)

Further progress was made in 2005 in obtaining quarterly financial data from provinces, municipalities and water boards. The quality of the data is tested quarterly. To this end, Statistics Netherlands developed five plausibility checks. Data quality is still improving every quarter. In respect of the second quarter of 2005, one third of the local authorities did not supply any data or supplied data of insufficient quality. The reporting parties will nonetheless have to continue their endeavours to lift the quality of source data to the required level, so that reliable estimates can be made of the EMU balance and other key variables.

Labour productivity and multi-factor productivity

Statistics Netherlands has made new labour productivity calculations based on the number of hours worked. The object of these calculations is improved international comparability of productivity figures.
By way of supplement to the labour productivity figures already published, multi-factor productivity statistics at the business sector level and at the macro level will be compiled in the future. The denominator of these productivity indexes includes a full analysis of production process inputs (CLEMS: Capital, Labour, Energy, Material, Services). This requires the compilation of a system of so-called growth accounts, or CLEMS database.
A trial supply of this database was made to EUCLEMS in mid-November 2005. The object of this project, which is financed by the European Commission, is to compile comparable multi-factor productivity statistics at the business sector

level for all EU member states in 2006. The Dutch CLEMS database required for this purpose is being compiled by Statistics Netherlands in co-operation with the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis.

Redesign of consumer price index

The first phase of the redesign of the consumer price index calculation was completed in 2005. Phase two, which has since been started, focuses on the improvement in random sampling of the reporting parties as well as of the articles. The object of the redesign is to put greater emphasis on the dynamic of businesses, of articles and of the spending pattern of consumers.

Short-term Statistics (STS)

In 2005, Statistics Netherlands developed new methods to be able, without any additional surveys, to meet the requirements, which the new European Regulation imposes on all national statistics bureaus, in the field of short-term statistics. This new Regulation calls, among other things, for a distinction between Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and non-EMU. The first figures on the split between EMU and non-EMU are to be supplied to Eurostat in early 2006.
The STS Regulation also makes producer price indices (PPI) obligatory for a number of sectors of industry. Since these indices still have to be set up in many countries, this obligation only has to be met in full in a few years' time. As planned, Statistics Netherlands this year introduced new indices for three groups within the business services sector and for two communication services. These are PPIs for legal services, services by accountants, services by engineers, mail and courier services and telephony services (fixed and mobile) to businesses. Statistics Netherlands now publishes PPIs on eight of the twenty sectors named in the STS.

Volume movements in foreign goods trade

In 2005, Statistics Netherlands started the monthly publication of weekday-adjusted volume figures for the imports and exports of goods, because more trading takes place, or more returns are filed on some days than on others. If a certain month happens to have more of such days, a comparison with the same month of a year earlier becomes problematic.

Business Cycle Tracer

On 29 November 2005, Statistics Netherlands introduced the Business Cycle Tracer. This Business Cycle Tracer forms part of the Economic Monitor. Fifteen selected indicators are pictured together providing a coherent overview of the state of the economy at any particular time, for which real-time data are used. It is also possible to show movements over time.

Validity of economic growth estimates

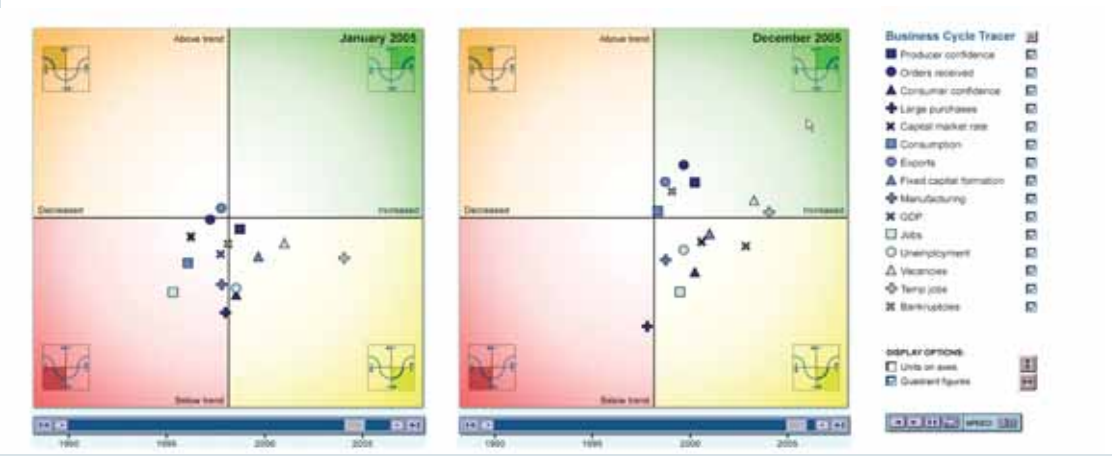
PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- VALIDITY
- VARIANCE BETWEEN PROVISIONAL AND DEFINITE ECONOMIC GROWTH FIGURES (EXPRESSED AS PERCENTAGE MOVEMENT IN VOLUME OF THE GDP AT MARKET PRICES COMPARED TO THE CORRESPONDING QUARTER OF A YEAR EARLIER)

TARGET VALUE:
- ONLY ONE QUARTER IN A YEAR MAY HAVE A VARIANCE BETWEEN PROVISIONAL AND DEFINITE FIGURES OF MORE THAN 0.75 PERCENTAGE POINT

ACTUAL:
- FOR NONE OF THE QUARTERS OF 2002 THE VARIANCE EXCEEDED 0.75 PERCENTAGE POINT. (IN ONE QUARTER IN 2001, THE VARIANCE EXCEEDED 0.75 PERCENTAGE POINT)
  DEFINITE FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE MORE THAN TWO AND A HALF YEARS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING YEAR

The Business Cycle Tracer

The Business Cycle Tracer showed a recovery in the economy on a broad front in the course of 2005. The Business Cycle Tracer was introduced at the end of 2005 and in a short space of time it has claimed a central position in the reports on the economy of the Netherlands. This product shows the key strengths of Statistics Netherlands: cohesion, innovation, new technology and geared to output. Using fifteen carefully selected indicators, a single illustration and interrelationships show whether the economy is doing 'well' or 'poorly' (above or below the trend over a long



period) and whether it is doing 'better' or 'worse' (rise or fall in relation to the previous period). By viewing the snapshots of all the months in succession, a film is shown of the movements in the economic cycle. The Business Cycle Tracer can be viewed on the website of Statistics Netherlands. It provides different interactive options to carry out various analyses. This is why the Business Cycle Tracer is a very suitable tool for educational purposes. The improvement in the business cycle in the course of 2005 can be demonstrated by comparing the tracer for January with that for December.

Infoservice

Customers can all on the Infoservice for general questions about Statistics Netherlands and its products. In 2005, the Infoservice handled 35,569 information enquiries from customers, of which 21,599 telephonically, 12,254 by e-mail and 392 by letter or by fax. The number of enquiries dealt with by telephone fell by 30% in relation to 2004. An explanation for this decrease is that a growing number of customers use the website of Statistics Netherlands and of StatLine. Statistics Netherlands also supplies information on the figures and publications of Eurostat. In 2005, 1,017 information enquiries were handled, of which 467 telephonically and 550 by e-mail.

Customer satisfaction

Customer satisfaction is one of the control variables for non-departmental public bodies (NDPB). A customer satisfaction survey was carried out in 2005 among suppliers of information to Statistics Netherlands, as well as users of its statistical information. Among the questions asked of the respondents was to give an overall mark to indicate the performance of Statistics Netherlands. The survey among the providers of information focused on the respondents to the Labour Force Survey and the production survey. A survey was also held among the Infoservice customers on Statistics Netherlands' information; the Infoservice is first in line to receive requests for statistical information. Statistics Netherlands' overall performance mark was 7.13. This meant that the targeted value had been satisfied, which was set as a 'positive opinion'.

Customer satisfaction

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
- USER SURVEY

TARGET VALUE:
- POSITIVE OPINION BASED ON SURVEY AMONG USERS

ACTUAL:
- CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDEX: 7.13 IN 2005. (2004 VALUE: POSITIVE OPINION ON CCS; OTHER INDICATOR)

Centre for Policy Statistics

The Ministries of Finance, Social Affairs and Employment, Economic Affairs, of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, and the Council for Work and Income commissioned Statistics Netherlands to carry out studies and provide other products in the past year. The outcomes of the studies, whose emphasis was in the field of social security, were published on the website of Statistics Netherlands. The studies and other products were used chiefly to carry out evaluations and monitoring actions.

Microdata and onsite facilities

The onsite facilities for external researchers to carry out analyses using microdata have been improved. To this end, the services of the Centre for Policy Statistics (CEREM) and the TNM division were merged. The users of onsite facilities now have only a single point of contact. At the end of 2005, the physical onsite space and a significant part of the reservation and administrative system have been completed.

In the autumn of 2005, a pilot project was started with NETSPAR for carrying out remote access research. Tilburg University researchers were able from that time onwards, from their own work space and under secured conditions to carry out analyses on Statistics Netherlands micro databases. The first part of the pilot was satisfactory. Several academic medical centres and research institutes in the field of health care, such as the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, the Institute for Social Health Care in Rotterdam, the Dutch Cardiac Foundation, The Netherlands Perinatal Registry, the Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research and the Trimbos Institute, use the microdata of the Health Statistics Database. Via the integrated public use microdata series, Statistics Netherlands made available anonymous samples from the 1960, 1971 and 2001 Population Censuses to researchers of Minnesota University in the United States.

The onsite work required more than 1,900 sessions (mornings or afternoons) for 106 research projects. In addition, via the Scientific Statistics Agency (WSA/DANS), more than 120 datasets were made available to various research institutes in 2005.

Statistics Netherlands in Parliamentary documents

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR:
- EXTENT OF USING STATISTICAL INFORMATION
- NUMBER OF TIMES STATISTICS NETHERLANDS WAS QUOTED IN PARLIAMENTARY DOCUMENTS

TARGET VALUE:
- GROWTH OF 1% PER YEAR (BASED ON 693 TIMES IN 2004)

ACTUAL:
- 3% GROWTH IN 2005 (QUOTED 784 TIMES) (2004 VALUE: POSITIVE OPINION ON CCS; OTHER INDICATOR)

The China project

There is a widespread interest at the moment in the Chinese economy. Hardly a day goes by without media reports on the latest spectacular economic growth rates in China.

A large number of organisations are conducting studies on economic development in China. Statistics Netherlands' data could be a valuable input for discussions on the relocation of production from the Netherlands to low-wage countries like China, and the resulting loss of jobs in the Netherlands (off-shoring). A feasibility study was carried out in November 2005 to see if information from Statistics Netherlands would actually contribute to this. Not all question and policy issues can be answered in the short-term. Therefore Statistics Netherlands has decided to focus its study on the statistical measurability of the phenomenon of off-shoring to China.

By linking various statistics at micro-level, it turns out that a lot of valuable information can be compiled about the phenomenon of off-shoring.

With the aid of data on long-term shifts in world trade, analysts examined whether the economic positions of the richer industrialised regions deteriorated with the emergence of economies such as that of China. They also looked at whether vulnerable European sectors could be identified from the international trade figures, and if so, whether this vulnerability was connected with the emergence of sectors that are developing strongly in China.

Following this analysis, developments (1999–2004) in domestic production and international trade in the EU and in the Netherlands were examined to see if an overview could be made of sectors for which both domestic production as well as exports are lagging, while imports from China are increasing.

With data for a large number of companies, analysts further attempted to identify clusters of companies where decreasing production, decreasing employment, and increasing imports correspond with increasing activity in China. With the policy issue in mind that off-shoring may lead to job losses, clusters were sought where international activity was combined with significant job losses in recent years.

This explorative study will culminate in proposals to develop indicators in 2006 with the purpose of providing a broad overview of off-shoring. Examples of indicators are domestic production and growth in sectors involved in trade with countries where offshoring takes place. The performance of the Netherlands will be compared with that of the EU, and some types of company will be specified.

Statistics Netherlands

2005 Financial Statements

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2005
(before proposed profit appropriation)

In thousands of euro	31 December 2005		31 December 2004	
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets				
IT-equipment	5,296		7,905	
Machines and equipment	1,148		1,034	
Other fixed assets	731		816	
		7,175		9,755
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stocks				
Work in progress	-135		-552	
		-135		-552
Accounts receivable				
Ministry of Economic Affairs	23,190		24,707	
Receivables	1,342		1,042	
Other receivables	1,005		1,347	
		25,537		27,096
Cash at bank and in hand				
Cash at bank and in hand		52,953		38,998
Total assets		**85,530**		**75,297**
Equity				
Equalisation reserve	-8,906		0	
Profits/loss current year	3,960		-8,906	
		-4,946		-8,906
Provisions				
Reorganisation 2005	11,260		0	
Reorganisation 2004	18,651		28,577	
Reorganisation 2000	4,959		5,747	
Unemployment benefits	2,100		1,386	
Liability own risk assurance	1,375		678	
Other	265		0	
		38,610		36,388
Current liabilities				
ICT-enhancement	24,143		24,600	
Taxes and social insurance contributions	5,411		4,902	
Other current liabilities	22,312		18,313	
		51,866		47,815
Total equity and liabilities		**85,530**		**75,297**

Profit and Loss Account 2005

In thousands of euro		Actual 2005		Budget 2005		Actual 2004
REVENUES						
Net turnover						
Ministry of Economic Affairs	164,467		164,135		159,130	
Revenues from third parties	9,478		8,000		8,424	
		173,945		172,135		167,554
Change in work in progress		417		0		-836
Other revenues		854		0		424
Total revenues		175,216		172,135		167,142
OPERATING COSTS						
Wages and salaries	105,432		123,127[1)]		112,096	
Social security charges	22,126		0[1)]		21,157	
Depreciation tangible fixed assets	4,583		3,308		6,339	
Other operating costs	40,370		45,700		36,826	
Total operating costs		172,511		172,135		176,418
Result operating		**2,705**		**0**		**-9,276**
Interest and other income and costs						
Interest income		1,255		0		370
Result for the financial year		**3,960**		**0**		**-8,906**

[1)] The wages and salaries in the budget include social security costs.

Cash Flow Statement 2005

In thousands of euro		2005
Result for the financial year	3,960	
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	4,583	
Provisions	2,222	
Change in working capital, excluding cash at bank and in hand	5,193	
Cash flow from operating activities		15,958
Investments	-2,003	
Cash flow from investment activities		-2,003
Cash flow from financing activities		0
Net movement in cash at bank and in hand		**13,955**

The increase of some € 14 million in cash and cash equivalents is due, among other things, to the postponement of the capital expenditure on ICT in connection with Statistics Netherlands' planned relocation. The increase in cash and cash equivalents was further due to the receipt of the amount due by EZ (the Ministry of Economic Affairs) and the increase in liabilities.

General

With effect from 2004, Statistics Netherlands, with registered office in Voorburg, has become an autonomous agency. The Statistics Netherlands Act lays down tasks, powers and operating method.
Statistics Netherlands has two management structures, namely the Director General (DG) and the Central Commission for Statistics (CCS). The CCS is accountable to the Minister of Economic Affairs on the performance of its tasks and the policies it pursues.
The financial statements of Statistics Netherlands are drawn up in accordance with the Statistics Netherlands Act and the other arrangements agreed with the Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ) concerning the financial statements, (including those laid down in what are known as the controlling guidelines), (*sturingsafspraken*). Allowing for the above framework, Statistics Netherlands' financial statements are drawn up as much as possible in accordance with Title 9, Book 2 of the Netherlands Civil Code. The accounting policies applied for the recognition of assets and liabilities and the results are based on the historical cost convention.
Unless stated otherwise, the assets and liabilities are recognised at face value. Revenue and expenses are allocated in accordance with the matching principle. All accounts are in thousands of euro, unless stated otherwise.

Financial terms

Following consultations with EZ, it has been decided that EZ would settle the financial obligations of staff dismissed before 3 January 2004, and that Statistics Netherlands would be responsible for the financial settlements relating to staff who, in the context of the 2000 reorganisation had been designated as candidates for re-employment, but who had not been dismissed prior to 3 January 2004, since this staff was still employed by Statistics Netherlands at 3 January 2004.
EZ made available an amount of some € 10.8 million to Statistics Netherlands based on the actual costs of the staff that were designated as candidates qualifying for re-employment in the context of the 2000 reorganisation and who had not yet been dismissed at 3 January 2004, and on the actual costs of using temporary computer capacity, in conformity with the arrangements agreed with EZ. Since the actual disbursements of Statistics Netherlands are financed by EZ based on subsequent calculation, both the obligations of Statistics Netherlands to its staff and an amount receivable from EZ have been recognised in the balance sheet in conformity with the Guidelines of the Council for Annual Reporting in the Netherlands, (*Richtlijnen voor de Jaarverslaggeving*).

The equity of Statistics Netherlands, consisting of the results for 2004 and 2005 was in deficit by € 4.9 million at 31 December 2005. This deficit, mostly the result of redundancy pay obligations after 3 January 2004, does not call into question the status of Statistics Netherlands as a going concern because EZ has made available an interest-free credit of € 50 million for the time being in connection with the social security costs incurred and still to be incurred as a result of tasks imposed by the first Balkenende Cabinet, the Future ICT Budget and what is known as the Reprioritisation. If the need for credit were to exceed € 50 million,

it would be the subject of consultation between Statistics Netherlands on the one hand, and the Ministries of Economic Affairs (EZ) and Finance on the other. The risk arrangements agreed between Statistics Netherlands and EZ stipulate that Statistics Netherlands' relocation may not be the subject of a budgetary problem for it. It has been arranged with EZ in this context that any structural costs of Statistics Netherlands' new location that exceed the standard budget would be covered.

Accounting principles

Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are recognised at cost less straight-line depreciation based on expected useful life. Owing to the CBS's planned relocation, accelerated depreciation is being applied to certain assets because of their shorter useful lives.
The table at the side shows the depreciation rates per asset category.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	DEPRECIATION PERIOD
MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT	10 YEARS
IT-EQUIPMENT	3 YEARS
OTHER FIXED OPERATING ASSETS	5 YEARS

Current assets

Work in progress

The cost of work in progress is recognised at cost of production plus a profit surcharge based on the percentage of completion method. A provision for expected losses and invoiced instalments are deducted from work in progress.

Accounts receivable

A provision for bad debt is deducted from the receivables.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand is carried at face value. Unless stated otherwise, it is at the free disposal of Statistics Netherlands.

Provisions

Reorganisation 2000, 2004 and 2005

A provision is formed to cover the costs of current reorganisations. The provisions are formed based on estimated and foreseeable obligations to staff.
In addition to the regular costs of salaries during the re-employment period, the obligations consist of agreed future benefits to former Statistics Netherlands staff.

Liability unemployment benefits

The provision for Unemployment Insurance Act benefits is formed to cover benefits to former staff of Statistics Netherlands.

Own risk assurance

The controlling guidelines agreed between the Minister of Economic Affairs, the DG and the CCS stipulate that Statistics Netherlands may form an insurance excess provision. The risk analysis stipulates that this provision may be formed to cover damage to office contents and for public liability.

Accounting principles for the determination of profit (loss)

Business revenue is understood to mean the total of:

- the budgetary contribution from EZ;
- the revenue from work for third parties;
- the movement in work in progress.

The EZ contribution concerns its budgetary contribution. Statistics Netherlands receives this contribution based on a 2004–2008 plan. Statistics Netherlands ought to have completed the work programme at the end of this period. It is therefore possible for Statistics Netherlands to transfer the contribution for any one year to the next year for any part of the programme that has not been realised. (It is noted that if less work is performed than was contracted, the contribution is ultimately repaid to EZ).

Revenues from work for third parties include the invoiced amounts for work carried out. This also includes orders to which the Central Government provides a specific financial contribution.

Cash Flow Statement

The cash flow statement is drawn up in accordance with the indirect method, which means that in order to reflect the cash flows, the result for the financial year is adjusted for items which do not result in any receipts or outlay in the financial year, and for movements in provisions and working capital.

Notes to the balance sheet at 31 December 2005

Tangible fixed assets

In thousands of euro	IT-equipment	Machines and equipment	Other tangible fixed assets	Total
Situation as at 31-12-2004				
Purchase value	25,645	2,117	1,761	29,523
Depreciation	-17,740	-1,083	-945	-19,768
Accounting as at 31-12-2004	**7,905**	**1,034**	**816**	**9,755**
Changes in book value				
Investments	1,761	330	257	2,348
Disposals	-238	-46	-61	-345
Reclassification	-100	0	100	0
Depreciation	-4,032	-170	-381	-4,583
	-2,609	**114**	**-85**	**-2,580**
Situation as at 31-12-2005				
Cost	21,636	2,401	2,057	26,094
Accumulated depreciation	-16,340	-1,253	-1,326	-18,919
Accounting value as at 31-12-2005	**5,296**	**1,148**	**731**	**7,175**

Other tangible fixed assets mainly consist of office furniture and equipment (some € 0.5 million).

Stock

Work in progress

In thousands of euro	31-12-2005	31-12-2004
Work in progress	1,337	887
Invoiced intalments	-1,422	-1,398
Provision for expected losses	-50	-41
Total	**-135**	**-552**

Accounts receivable

Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ)

The amount receivable from EZ is made up of the following:

In thousands of euro	31-12-2005	31-12-2004
Reorganisation 2004	18,000	19,000
Reorganisation 2000	5,190	5,707
Total	**23,190**	**24,707**

Reorganisation 2004

The amount receivable of € 19 million concerning the 2004 reorganisation, relates to the commitment of EZ as part of the Future ICT Budget.
A more detailed commitment has since been agreed with EZ. It has now been agreed that a once-off supplement of € 2 million will be part of the amount receivable concerning the reorganisation in 2004. EZ is to pay the new amount receivable of € 21 million in seven yearly instalments (2005–2011) of € 3 million.
Statistics Netherlands earmarked the € 21 million as ICT enhancement. Together with the € 24.6 million (see current liabilities) there was a total of € 45.6 million available for ICT enhancement. In view of the arrangements agreed with EZ, if ICT enhancement costs were to exceed the amount of € 24.6 million, they would be chargeable to the result.

Reorganisation 2000

As stipulated in the financial arrangements, Statistics Netherlands receives an annual amount to cover the costs of the 2000 reorganisation. The amounts receivable include the earmarked contribution from EZ in the context of the 2000 reorganisation and serves to cover the provision recognised in the balance sheet for the social costs resulting from the 2000 reorganisation. The amount receivable is expected to decrease by € 1.3 million in 2006, whereas more than € 3.6 million has a term of more than one year.

Receivables

In thousands of euro	**31-12-2005**	**31-12-2004**
Receivables	1,701	1,474
Bad debt provision	-359	-432
Total	**1,342**	**1,042**

Other receivables

In thousands of euro	**31-12-2005**	**31-12-2004**
Prepayments	372	1,164
Receivables regarding the IKAP regulation	10	65
Advances paid to employees	73	55
Other receivables	550	63
Total	**1,005**	**1,347**

The prepaid expenses are related to various maintenance contracts. Other receivables include an advance of € 205,000 to KPN, and interest receivable of € 210,000.

Cash at bank and in hand

In thousands of euro	31-12-2005	31-12-2004
Bank balances	52,928	38,975
Cash and cash equivalents	25	23
Total	**52,953**	**38,998**

Equity

In thousands of euro	Equalisation reserve	Retained earnings	Total
Balance as at 3-1-2004	0	0	0
Result for 2004	0	-8,906	-8,906
Balance as at 31-12-2004	0	-8,906	-8,906
Allocation of result for 2004	-8,906	8,906	0
Result for 2005	0	3,960	3,960
Balance as at 31-12-2005	**-8,906**	**3,960**	**-4,946**

At 31 December 2005, the equity of Statistics Netherlands was in deficit by € 4.9 million, consisting of the results for 2004 and 2005. This deficit does not call into question the status of Statistics Netherlands as a going concern because EZ has made available an interest-free credit of € 50 million for the time being in connection with the social security costs incurred and still to be incurred as a result of tasks imposed by the first Balkenende Cabinet, the Future ICT Budget and what is known as the Reprioritisation. If the need for credit were to exceed € 50 million, it would be the subject of consultation between Statistics Netherlands on the one hand, and the Ministries of Economic Affairs (EZ) and Finance on the other.

Provisions

In thousands of euro	Reorganisation 2005	Reorganisation 2004	Reorganisation 2000	Liability unemployment benefits	Assurance own risk	Other	Total
Balance as at 31-12-2004	0	28,577	5,747	1,386	678	0	36,388
Additions in 2005	11,290	0	0	1,010	700	265	13,265
Charged in 2005	-30	-2,716	-788	-130	-3	0	-3,667
Released in 2005	0	-7,210	0	-166	0	0	-7,376
Balance as at 31-12-2005	**11,260**	**18,651**	**4,959**	**2,100**	**1,375**	**265**	**38,610**

Reorganisation 2004 and 2005

The provisions have been formed to cover the social costs of staff who have been designated as re-employment candidates or who make use of the Remkes regulation in terms of the task assignments imposed by the first Balkenende Cabinet, the reprioritisation of statistics, efficiency enhancement projects and the Future ICT Budget, as well as to cover other reorganisation projects that have been put in motion. The provisions have been measured assuming an estimated and foreseeable obligation to staff. Apart form the regular costs of salaries during the re-employment period, the obligations consist of agreed future benefits to former Statistics Netherlands staff. The table below shows the expected terms of obligations.

In thousands of euro	2006	2007–2010	2011 onwards	Total
Reorganisation 2005	4,126	3,246	3,888	11,260
Reorganisation 2004	3,426	9,551	5,674	18,651
Total	**7,552**	**12,797**	**9,562**	**29,911**

Reorganisation 2000

The provision has been formed to cover the social costs of staff designated as re-employment candidates in the context of the 2000 Reorganisation but who had not been dismissed before 3 January 2004. The amount of the social costs is the total of the staff costs during the re-employment period of eighteen months and the subsequent redundancy and other supplementary benefits to be paid by Statistics Netherlands.
The table below shows the expected terms of the obligations.

In thousands of euro	2006	2007–2010	2011 onwards	Total
Reorganisation 2000	1,279	1,245	2,435	4,959
Total	**1,279**	**1,245**	**2,435**	**4,959**

The above social costs are compensated by EZ, resulting in the recognition of an amount receivable.

Liability unemployment benefits

The provision for Unemployment Insurance Act benefits has been formed to cover payments under this Act to former Statistics Netherlands staff.
The table below shows the expected terms of the obligations.

In thousands of euro	2006	2007–2010	2011 onwards	Total
Liability unemployment benefits	413	747	940	2,100
Total	**413**	**747**	**940**	**2,100**

Assurance own risk

Based on the risk analysis, the maximum amount of € 0.7 million was added to the provision.

Other

This provision has been formed for a possible claim by Eurostat relating to final settlements submitted which are not in line with the conditions to which they are subject.

Current liabilities

ICT enhancement

As part of the resolution of the long-term issues facing Statistics Netherlands, an advance contribution payment of € 24.6 million was received from EZ for the ICT enhancement project.
The table below shows how this amount is made up.

In thousands of euro	**ICT enhancement**
Balance as at 31-12-2004	24,600
Withdrawn	-457
Balance as at 31-12-2005	**24,143**

The amount withdrawn in 2005 relates to costs as included in the ICT Master Plan.

Taxes and social insurance contributions

In thousands of euro	**31-12-2005**	**31-12-2004**
Income tax payable	3,231	2,670
Pension premiums	1,680	1,625
Social insurance contributions	500	607
Total	**5,411**	**4,902**

The increase in payroll tax and social security premiums to be remitted at year-end is the result of the December settlement with employees of the employer's own three-month contribution to the medical expenses insurance.

Other current liabilities

In thousands of euro	**31-12-2005**	**31-12-2004**
Expenses payable	5,211	2,387
Holiday allowances payable	4,281	4,772
Creditors	3,124	4,283
Advances received	2,637	1,858
Holidays not used	2,435	2,685
Pre-invoiced turnover	1,372	357
IT-capacity to be set in	1,110	632
Yearly bonus	739	0
Other payables	1,233	175
Health insurance premiums payable	170	1,164
Total	**22,312**	**18,313**

Expenses payable were up compared to 2004 largely because of ICT related costs and housing expenses.
The contribution received in advance was paid by EZ for work to be carried out only in 2006. Since the agreement with EZ concerns a long-term programme covering the period 2004–2008, this payment has been recognised as a contribution received in advance. Turnover invoiced in advance includes an amount of € 0.7 million concerning Blaise.
The IT capacity not yet utilised relates to the portion of the contribution received from EZ, under-spent in 2004 and 2005 on the utilisation costs of temporary IT capacity provided by the Technology and Methodology Division, in the context of the 2000 reorganisation.
The year-end gratuity is to be paid in 2006 in accordance with Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations.
The medical expenses insurance premiums payable at 2004 year-end refer to the three-month employer's own contribution which is paid in arrears. Owing to the implementation of the new Health Care system, this contribution has ceased to apply and was settled in December 2005.
The other amounts payable include a Eurostat claim of € 0.8 million relating to the period that Statistics Netherlands was still part of EZ. Eurostat claims that the final accounts submitted are not in line with the conditions to which they are subject. Statistics Netherlands is of the opinion that this claim ought not to be charged to the costs of its operations and has accordingly passed it onto EZ. Based on the prudence principle, the claim has not been recognised as a receivable from EZ.

Notes on the Profit and loss account 2005

Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ)

In thousands of euro	Actual 2005	Budget 2005	Actual 2004
Budgeted contribution	168,724	164,135	186,220
Repayment of payable to EZ regarding reorganization 2004	-3,000		0
Contribution to ICT-enhancement	0		-24,600
Funds to be spent	-779		-1,858
Funds to be spent regarding IT-capacity	-478		-632
Total	**164,467**	**164,135**	**159,130**

The contributions not yet spent have been recognised as liabilities.

Revenues from third parties

The table below provides information on the revenues from jobs for third parties according to region.

In thousands of euro	2005	2004
Netherlands	5,458	4,726
EU-countries	2,415	2,711
Other countries	1,605	987
Total	**9,478**	**8,424**

The revenue from third parties is allocated by customer as follows:

In thousands of euro	2005	2004
Central government	4,531	3,598
Statistical bureaus of other countries	2,238	1,542
Research institutes	1,071	666
European Union and Eurostat	1,453	1,721
Other	185	897
Total	**9,478**	**8,424**

Other revenues

The other operating revenues consist mainly of revenues of maintenance and publications.

Operating costs

Wages, salaries and social security costs

In thousands of euro	Actual 2005	Budget 2005	Actual 2004
Wages and salaries	97,498	123,127	97,985
Pension premiums	13,354	0	11,954
Social security premiums	8,772	0	9,203
Personnel on loan	8,674	0	3,148
Change in provisions	-740	0	10,963
Total	**127,558**	**123,127**	**133,253**

The budgeted social costs are included in wages and salaries.
Total staff costs include an amount of € 522,000 for the utilisation of extra temporary IT capacity in the context of the 2000 reorganisation.
The higher pension charges are due to the increase in pension contributions.

The movement in provisions is the balance between the amounts added to provisions or of provisions formed in 2005 and the amount released in respect of candidates qualifying for re-employment who left the service or were placed in another position. The EZ contribution of € 2 million to the 2004 reorganisation is also included in this balance.

Number of FTE	2005	2004
At year-end	2,075	2,241

Emoluments of the Executive Board and the Central Commission for Statistics

The emoluments of the Executive Board consisting of gross salaries, employer's charges, pension contributions and expense allowances amounted to € 687,000 in 2005 (2004: € 428,000).

The increase when compared to 2004 is due to a different composition of the Board and an interim member who joined the Board for the whole of 2005.
Total emoluments, including VAT, of the Central Commission for Statistics amounted to € 93,000 in 2005 (2004: € 96,000).

Other operating expenses

In thousands of euro	Actual 2005	Budget 2005	Actual 2004
Housing	15,328	15,987	14,766
Other personnel	6,545	7,056	6,170
Office expenses	5,533	5,048	5,148
Travel	3,304	3,880	3,398
Consulting services	4,072	4,294	3,176
IT	3,055	1,860	1,535
Change in provisions	965	700	700
Other expenses	1,568	6,875	1,933
Total	**40,370**	**45,700**	**36,826**

Apart from rent, housing expenses include energy and premises related costs such as security, cleaning and canteen operation.
The other personnel costs mainly comprise training costs, occupational health and safety services, childcare and recruitment and selection.
Office expenses consist of postage, copying machines and telephony. The increase when compared to 2004 is attributable to increased copying costs and internal communications.
Consulting services are up on 2004 as a result of outsourcing payroll accounting.
The addition to provisions concerns the insurance excess provision and the other provision concerning Eurostat. The other operating expenses are made up largely of the costs of statistical ground material.

Assets and liabilities not shown on the face of the balance sheet

Long-term financial obligations

In thousands of euro	2006	2007–2010	2011 onwards
Voorburg and Heerlen offices rent	9,120	21,233	36,040
Utilities and security services	7,200	111	0
IT	2,890	1,688	0
Personnel	610	156	0
Total	**19,820**	**23,188**	**36,040**

The rental contracts for the Voorburg and Heerlen premises end at the time of the actual moving to the new location.
For the relocation, three contracts were concluded in January 2006, namely a collaboration agreement with the developer, a rental agreement for the building and a rental agreement for the canteen.

Assets

Further to the finalisation of the opening balance sheet, EZ has undertaken to pay € 1.5 million of the non-recurring costs related to the future relocation of Statistics Netherlands.
The Hague Municipality has conditionally committed € 1 million as a maximum contribution to the furnishing costs of the new office complex to be built. The project developer has also committed itself to a once-off contribution of € 1.7 million to the relocation. A condition for the above commitments is that the new accommodation of Statistics Netherlands is to be situated at Leidschenveen.

Claims

Claims filed:
Statistics Netherlands developed software, under the name of Blaise, for the purpose of carrying out its core task. A party is of the opinion that Statistics Netherlands should not be allowed to market this software and has filed a complaint with the NMA (Nederlandse Mededingingsauthoriteit or the Netherlands Competition Authority). The complaint has been rejected by the NMA, but the party concerned has filed an objection to the ruling of the NMA.

Voorburg/Heerlen, 24 March 2006

Director General of Statistics:
G. van der Veen

Central Commission for Statistics:
J.N. van Lunteren, chairman
Prof. dr. A. van Doorne-Huiskes
Dr. J.J. van Duijn
G.J. Hogeweg
J.M.A. van Huut
M.B.G.M. Oostendorp
Dr. P.C. Plooij-Van Gorsel
Prof. dr. C.G.M. Sterks

Other Information

Treatment of the loss

The proposal is to charge the loss to equity.

Report of the Auditors

Introduction

We have audited the financial statements of Statistics Netherlands, Voorburg, for the year 2005 as set out on pages 33 to 47 of this report. These financial statements are the responsibility of the entity's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Scope

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the Netherlands. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the entity's financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the entity's financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting policies used and significant estimates made by the management of Statistics Netherlands, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the entity's financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the entity's financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity as at 31 December 2005 and of the result for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the Netherlands and also comply with the financial reporting requirements included in the Statistics Netherlands Act and the agreements made with the Ministry of Economic Affairs.
Furthermore we have established to the extent of our competence that the annual report is consistent with the entity's financial statements.

The Hague, 24 March 2006

KPMG ACCOUNTANTS N.V.

M.L.M. Brabers (RA)
J.A.A.M. Vermeeren (RA)

organisation chart

Executive Board

Director General: G. van der Veen

Deputy Director General (until 1-4-2006): prof. J. van Sinderen

Member (ad interim until 1-2-2006): A.J. Speelman[2)]

Support staff (staffing level[1)] at 2005 year-end: approx. 240 FTE)

POLICY-MAKING

Head: M. Renaud

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Interim director (until 1-2-2006): J.A.J. Hijzelendoorn[3)]

PERSONNEL & ORGANISATION

Director: J.M.F. Thomas

FACILITY SERVICES

Head: R.H.J. Beumer

Business Statistics

Director:
F.W.M. Hendrikx
Deputy director:
Dr. C. Zeelenberg

The Business Statistics division produces statistical information on businesses, institutions, and enterprises. This information deals with economic conditions and structures and in all sectors of trade and industry, as well as such aspects as the environment, transport, knowledge and technology. (Staffing level[1)] at 2005 year-end: approx. 630 FTE)

Social and Spatial Statistics

Director:
W. van Nunspeet

The objective of the Social and Spatial Statistics division is to compile statistical information on characteristics of the population, real estate and spatial units. The division garners the required data by making use of administrations and registrations, where necessary supplemented by personal surveys. (Staffing level[1)] at 2005 year-end: approx. 480 FTE)

Macro-economic statistics and Dissemination

Director:
G. Bruinooge

The Macroeconomic Statistics and Dissemination division is responsible for macroeconomic key data (inflation, economic growth, and so forth). In collaboration with the other divisions, the electronic and hard-copy Statistics Netherlands publications see the light of day in this division.
(Staffing level[1)] at 2005 year-end: approx. 410 FTE)

Technology en methodology

Interim director:
C. van der Kaa

The Technology and Methodology division contributes to enhancing the quality and efficiency of the statistical processes and products by the use of state-of-the-art information technology and statistical methodology. The division also provides support in the development and management of the other business processes. (Staffing level[1)] at 2005 year-end: approx. 390 FTE)

Staff: Advisory Boards

To advise Statistics Netherlands on the details of the statistical programme, a new advisory structure was put in place in 2004. Six advisory boards were installed each of which casts their expertise on a thematic theme or field. The chairmen of the six advisory boards and the directors of the four planning bureaus together constitute a body to advise the Director General.

Composition of central advisory board

Prof. B. van Ark, chairman of the Macroeconomic statistics advisory board
Prof. W. Derksen, director, the Netherlands Institute for Spatial Research (RPB)
Dr. F.J.H. Don, director, the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB)
Prof. N.D. van Egmond, director, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNPB/RIVM)
Prof. P. Ester, chairman of the advisory council on Society and the Economy
Prof. L.H. Hoogduin, chairman of the Prices advisory board
Prof. C.J. Jepma, Economics Statistics advisory board
Prof. P. Schnabel, director, Social and Cultural Planning Office of the Netherlands (SCP)
L. Smits, chairman, ICT and Methodology advisory board
Prof. J.J.M. Theeuwes, chairman, Social Statistics advisory board

G. van der Veen, chairman
W.J. Schoeman, secretary (wsmn@cbs.nl)

1) Excluding temporary staff (interim staff, agency staff, work-placement staff, etc.).
2) As from 1-2-2006 J.E.J. van Angelen.
3) As from 1-2-2006 L.A. Werkhoven-Verhey.

publications

Hard-copy publications

Arbeidsgehandicapten monitor 2004 * (Occupationally Handicapped monitor 2004)
Armoedemonitor 2004/2005 * (Poverty monitor 2004/2005)
Assurantie jaarboek 2005 * (Assurance yearbook 2005)
Atlas van plantengemeenschappen in Nederland, deel 4. * (Atlas of plant communities in the Netherlands, part 4)
Barometer Horeca t/m 2005-3 * (Hotel, Restaurant and Café Barometer up to 2005-3)
Bevolkingstrends 2005-1 t/m 4 (Population trends 2005-1 up to 4)
Brandweer statistiek 2004 * (Fire brigade statistics 2004)
Criminaliteit en rechtshandhaving 2004 * (Crime and law enforcement 2004)
De Digitale economie 2004 * (The Digital economy 2004)
De Nederlandse conjunctuur 2005-1 t/m 4 (The Dutch economy 2005-1 up to 4)
De Nederlandse economie 2004 * (The Economy of the Netherlands)
Demografische kerncijfers per gemeente 2005 (Demographic key figures by municipality 2005)
Duurzame energie in Nederland 2004 * (Renewable energy in the Netherlands 2004)
Enquêteonderzoek onder allochtonen. Problemen en oplossingen 2004 (Survey among people of foreign background; problems and solutions 2004)
Gezondheid en zorg in cijfers 2005 * (Health and care in figures 2005)
Integratiekaart 2005 * (Integration Monitor 2005)
Jaarboek onderwijs in cijfers 2006 (Education yearbook in figures 2006)
Jaarrapport integratie 2005 * (Integration annual report 2005)
Kennis en economie 2003/2004 (Knowledge and economy 2003/2004)
Kunstzinnige vorming 2003 * (Artistic training 2003)
Kwartaalbericht Detailhandel 2005-1 t/m 4 * (Quarterly retail trade report 2005-1 up to 4)
Land- en tuinbouwcijfers 2004 * (Agricultural and horticultural figures 2004)
Landelijke natuurmeetnetten van het NEM in 2004 (National NEM nature measurement nets 2004)
Milieu- en natuurcompendium t/m 2004 * (Environment and nature compendium up to 2004)
Nationale rekeningen 2004 (National accounts of the Netherlands 2004)
Ontwikkeling en toepassing van indicatoren van sociaal-economische status binnen het Gezondheidsstatistisch Bestand * (Development and application of socio-economic status indicators within the Health Statistics Database)
Rechtspraak in Nederland 2003 * (Administration of justice in the Netherlands 2003)
Revisie Nationale Rekeningen 2000–2004 (Revision of National Accounts 2000–2004)
Sociaal-economische trends 2005-1 t/m 4 (Socioeconomic trends 2005-1 up to 4)
Statistisch jaarboek 2004 (Statistical Yearbook 2004)
The EU-15's New Economy - A Statistical Portrait
Toerisme en recreatie in cijfers 2005 (Tourism and recreation in figures 2005)
Toerisme in Nederland - het gebruik van logiesaccommodaties 2004 * (Tourism in the Netherlands – the use of guest house accommodation 2004)
Trendrapport Toerisme, recreatie en vrije tijd 2004 * (Trend report on tourism, recreation and leisure time 2004)
Vakanties van Nederlanders 2004 * (Holidays of the Dutch 2004)
Van de schaduw des doods tot een licht ten leven * (From death's shadow to life's ray of light)
Verdacht van criminaliteit * (Suspected of crime)
Verzekerd van cijfers * (Assured of figures)
Watervogels in Nederland 2002–2003 * (Waterbirds in the Netherlands)

Centre for Policy Statistics reports

Uitstroom naar werk (Outflow to work)
Een nieuwe start, of niet? Cijferonderzoek sluitende aanpak 2004 (A new start, or not? Examination of figures New Deal 2004)
Betalen of ontvangen: verdeling van collectieve middelen (Pay or receive: allocation of public resources)
Langs de zijlijn, hoe verder? Cijferonderzoek sluitende aanpak 2003 (On the side line, where to now? Examination of figures New Deal 2003)
A comparison on the company level of Manufacturing Business Sentiment Survey data and Realised Turnover

Digital

Conjunctuurbericht (Business Cycle monitor)
Industriemonitor * (Manufacturing monitor)
Arbeidsmarkt in vogelvlucht (Labour market; a helicopter view)
Dienstenmonitor 2005-3 * (Services monitor 2005-3)
Horecamonitor (Hotel, Restaurant, and Café monitor)
Gemeente op maat (Bespoke municipality)
Milieu- en natuurcompendium t/m 2004 * (Environment and nature compendium up to 2004)
Webmagazine (diverse onderwerpen) * (Webmagazine (various topics)

Publications with an * were made in collaboration with third parties.
Details of some of the publications are set out below.

Survey among persons with a foreign background

The participation in Statistics Netherlands surveys by persons with a foreign background is not as good as that of native Dutch people. The worst response is by persons with a non-western foreign background born abroad, such as Turks, Moroccans and Surinamese. The main reason for their lower participation in Statistics Netherlands surveys is that they are more difficult to reach at home than native Dutch people. The lower response of people of a foreign background is attributable above all to the fact that they live in highly urbanised areas, such as the big cities, where the response of native Dutch people is usually low as well. The poorer average employment position of people of a foreign background is an additional explanation for their lower participation in surveys.

The book describes a number of measures that have been studied to improve the participation of groups of people with a foreign background. The measure, introduced in March 2004, to expand the number of contact attempts from three to six, resulted in a response increase of ten per cent among most groups of people with a foreign background. With native Dutch people and people with a western foreign background born in the Netherlands, the increase was limited to two per cent. If participation is paid for – an experiment was conducted with a voucher of ten euro as payment – it resulted in a better response among young Moroccans born in the Netherlands, but the offer of a payment did not induce a better response from young Turks. Surveying people with a foreign background by telephone is to be strongly discouraged.

Health and care in figures 2005

In the past few years, Statistics Netherlands developed new statistics on the use of health care. The use of various registrations has made it possible for the first time for new national health and care indicators to be traced, such as trends in hospital admissions and deaths after first admissions for all hospital patients and diagnoses. These indicators enable the monitoring of illnesses and the use of care. The new figures became available by the linking of the National Medical Registration (LMR) of hospital admissions with the data about individuals available at Statistics Netherlands. This linking makes it possible for the first time to record the number of persons treated in hospitals.

With *Health and care in figures*, Statistics Netherlands wants above all to reflect the relationships between figures. The linking of health surveys to tax data has provided a better understanding of social-economic differences in health. People with a relatively low income often have a lower perception of their state of health than people with a relatively high income. If account was to be taken of living conditions (inexpensive or expensive rented home) as well, the variation in health assessment would be even greater. By linking health surveys to income data and house values, Statistics Netherlands is better able than in the past to monitor social-economic health differences. The publication also presents new figures on general practitioner practices, based on data from administrative sources. For these new statistics, too, no additional surveys were conducted. Lastly, a new method has been developed to split the costs of hospital care into a price component and a volume component and new figures have been published on mergers and acquisitions in the care sector in the past ten years.

Integration Monitor 2005

As the name indicates, the *Integration Monitor* is a monitoring instrument. It was developed to be able to follow the integration of people with a foreign background over time. The publication is a joint effort by the WODC of the Ministry of Justice and Statistics Netherlands.

The instrument is meant to provide an understanding of the manner in and pace at which the various groups (cohorts) of people of foreign background succeed in claiming their place in Dutch society. To this end, so-called integration indicators covering different fields are developed, such as in the field of education (pass rates, diplomas obtained), labour market position (extent and pace of participation, use of social benefits), social contacts (mixed marriages) and crime (police suspects).

A few outcomes: people with a non-western foreign background qualify (obtain their diplomas) less often than do native Dutch people. But when they have obtained their *havo* or *vwo* (secondary education) diplomas, they go on directly to pursue a higher education more often than do native Dutch people. The labour participation of Turks and Moroccans is lower than that of native Dutch people, although the second generation is doing better than the first. Other groups, such as Cape Verdeans and Ghanaians often have paid employment. The increase in the number of self-employed among various groups of immigrants is striking. Turks and Moroccans still often marry a partner from their country of origin. Almost two-thirds of the marriages of Turks and Moroccans are so-called migration marriages. The share of migration marriages has also decreased among second generation Moroccan women, however, while the (small) number of marriages with a native Dutch partner grew.

Guide

Statistics Netherlands collects data from persons, businesses and institutions and processes it into statistical information about groups of people, their environment and about businesses. Statistics Netherlands make the results available to everyone as soon as possible. This is done in many different ways.

Statistics Netherlands' website (www.cbs.nl)

Offers free access to the results of Statistics Netherlands research: all published Statistics Netherlands figures in the StatLine databank, key figures about the Netherlands, press releases, the weekly Webmagazine, web articles and other new publications, products catalogues, policy information and a collection of links to national statistical offices and relevant international organisations.

Press office

The press information desk can be contacted by phone +31 70 337 44 44 or e-mail: persdienst@cbs.nl.

NOS-teletext

Page 506 provides information on a number of significant economic indicators, and page 507 contains recently published data.

Infoservice

The central information desk for general questions about Statistics Netherlands and its products can be reached via telephone 0900 0227 (50 euro cent per minute), fax +31 70 337 59 94 or the web form on the Statistics Netherlands site (www.cbs.nl/contact/contactinformatie).

Contact Centre

The central information desk for businesses, institutions and individuals which/who have questions about Statistics Netherlands questionnaires or other survey material. The contact desk may be reached by telephone on +31 45 570 64 00 (on weekdays from 9.00–17.00 hours), e-mail: contactcenter@cbs.nl or the website: www.cbs.nl/contactcenter.

Statistics Netherlands products

Sold via its Salesdepartment, P.O. Box 4481, 6401 CZ Heerlen, Netherlands via fax +31 45 570 62 68, or e-mail: verkoop@cbs.nl.

European Statistical Data Support Voorburg

Via Statistics Netherlands data shop in Voorburg, users may request statistical information about Europe by telephone on 0900 0227 (50 euro cent per minute) or by e-mail via a standard web form on the website of Statistics Netherlands (www.cbs.nl). The information comes from Eurostat.

Centre for Economic Micro Data Research (Cerem)

Enables researchers to carry out scientific research with microdata of Dutch businesses. Owing to security considerations this can only be done at the Voorburg or Heerlen offices of Statistics Netherlands. More information on the conditions and rules applicable to microdata research can be obtained by phoning +31 70 337 42 28 or via e-mail: cerem@cbs.nl.

Centre for Policy Statistics

Helps departments and planning bureaus in finding, using and compiling the necessary information for policy preparation and its evaluation. The services of the Centre for Policy Statistics are subject to costs. More information can be obtained by phoning + 31 70 337 47 71 or via e-mail: cvb@cbs.nl.