

3. The Main Tasks and Their Financial Basis

3.1 Income

<i>Types of Income</i>	<p>Statistics Denmark carries out its activities within the economic framework provided for in the annual state budget. We have 4 principal types of income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The basic grant for statistics• Revenue from publications• Financial contributions• User charges
<i>The Basic Grant for Statistics</i>	<p>The basic grant for statistics is the greatest source of income, just as in other countries. Statistics are primarily considered by all democracies as a collective good and an indispensable part of the infrastructure of the society. Without public statistics the economy and democracy is unable to function. As far as EU countries are concerned an ever increasing part of their statistical production is affected by EU legislation.</p> <p>In principle, the basic grant for statistics covers the costs of the most important statistics on social and economic conditions as well as statistics demanded by legislation. The sum to be received is proposed in the state budget by the Danish Minister of Economic Affairs and is agreed to by Parliament.</p>
<i>Own Income</i>	<p>In an international context Statistics Denmark's own income is an unusually high percentage of the total income, see appendix 4, fact 2. This income is generated, e.g. via publications, financial contributions and user charges.</p>

3.2 The Statistical Programme

<i>Main Tasks</i>	<p>As mentioned in section 2.1 Statistics Denmark has three main tasks. The first is "to collect, process, and publish statistical information" and the second is "to further international statistical cooperation". These two main tasks are called the statistical programme.</p>
<i>Financing</i>	<p>The statistical programme is financed chiefly by the basic statistical grant. In addition to this, income is generated through the sales of publications and from financial contributions.</p>
<i>Prioritising Activities Covered by the Statistical Grant</i>	<p>The statistical programme should include the most relevant statistics on social and economic conditions in the Danish society – as well as those required by EU legislation and other international cooperation. However, the limitations of the statistical grants mean there is a need to prioritise. The following considerations are given high priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To fulfil legal statistical requirements in relation to the EU and nationally.• To give a full picture of the national economy, business life and the environment, via integrated statistical systems such as the national accounts.• To give comprehensive statistical information on short-term economic trends.• To give a full picture of the population and general living conditions via integrated statistical systems.• To ensure that the dissemination of statistics is user-oriented.• To ensure that the production of statistics runs efficiently, with the help of information technology and the development of new methods.

Income from Publications The role of income from publications in the statistical programme is that of contributing to finance the dissemination of statistics, partly covering printing costs and distribution.

Financial Contributions The basic statistical grant cannot finance the production of all statistics relevant to society. In some areas, users of statistics agree to make financial contributions when the statistics are of common interest. Financial contributions go towards the production of current statistics, the development of new statistics and the improvement of methods. Financial contributions cover an agreed part of the costs incurred on specific tasks.

By far the largest amount of financial contribution comes from the Danish ministries and the EU. Danish financial contributions are often part of a long-term working agreement, while EU contributions are more short-term, and are allocated for the harmonisation of statistics between members states.

3.3 Service Activities and User Charges

Main Task Statistics Denmark's third main task is "to carry out statistical tasks for private and public customers for a fee". The fees charged for commissioned work are called user charges. These service activities are governed by the national legislation for user charges.

User Charges Following legislation for commissioned work, income should cover the total costs of the development and provision of service activities. The total costs include both direct and indirect costs for service functions, management, administration, etc.

The user charges should as a minimum remain economically sustainable. There must be no deficit when aggregating the 4 latest years' running costs. In those areas where Statistics Denmark does not experience direct competition from others with a similar product, income and costs should balance. In those areas where there is competition, the income may be greater than the costs.

Types of Service Activities Service activities encompass the following types of tasks for individual customers:

- Tailor-made statistics and analyses on individual population groups, industry, geographical areas, types of enterprises and types of household spending.
- Research services
- The Law Model
- Interviewing tasks
- International consulting
- Standardised systems of service – for example, foreign trade, small-area statistics and statistics by sub-areas of the municipality.

Objectives The service activities of Statistics Denmark are based on the statistical programme, and the services should have the same high standards of quality. This is the starting point for the objectives set for the development and improvement of our service activities. These objectives are:

7. Statistics Denmark will subject the most important standard service activities to a *quality control*. The aim is to improve quality, where finances allow, and generally expand the services offered.
8. Opportunities for the ordering, reporting and delivery of statistics *electronically* will also be expanded.
9. The service activities should meet with *customer satisfaction*. Customer satisfaction surveys should also document that requirements are being met *at the time agreed*.

3.4 Pricing policy

The pricing policy differs depending on whether it is applied to the statistical programme or commissioned work.

Statistical Programme In a democratic society fundamental statistics should be accessible to the public. Statistics Denmark therefore provides a number of free services. Some examples are:

- Free access to key economic figures, municipal statistics, a number of publications as well as *News from Statistics Denmark* (daily bulletin of statistical news). The range of free services are under continual expansion.
- Free access to figures in *Statbank Denmark* on the Internet. All official statistics will gradually be stored in *Statbank Denmark*.
- Free copies of publications are sent to the central libraries, the media and the Danish Parliament.
- Statistics Denmark's library lends out publications and allows free access to statistical information.
- A telephone service for people who need quick access to readily available statistical information.
- International organisations receive a great volume of statistical information according to Statistics Denmark's international obligations.

The production of Statistics Denmark's publications entails costs such as editing and printing. Only part of these costs are covered by the price of the publications as we believe that it is important that these statistical publications should be available at a low price.

User Charges The pricing policy for service activities is based on the principle that all costs should be covered. The following principles apply:

- According to rules laid down by the Danish Ministry of Finance each customer should pay the same price for the same service. However, the volume-based discounts are given, for example, for educational purposes. In addition, there are certain grants available for specific statistical purposes and this may mean that customers interested in those areas may receive the services at a subsidised rate.
- The prices should be transparent. To this end Statistics Denmark has fixed prices and issues price lists for standard tasks. For tailor-made tasks the costs are calculated using an hourly rate.
- Prices should be visible. Whether the prices are set or are calculated on the basis of tailor-made tasks, the customer should be informed of the total cost before the task is undertaken.

- Prices should reflect the work and the investments put in the production of the service activity by Statistics Denmark. The greater the effort and work, the higher the price. The greater the input by the customer, the lower the price.
- For customised statistical tasks over a specific sum, Statistics Denmark's standard contracts are to be used.

Objectives The pricing policy has the following objectives:

10. The prices for the service activities are set in accordance with the rules for commissioned work. Statistics Denmark aims to achieve a balance between income and costs. Because commissioned work must not run at a loss, a profit of a maximum of 3% of turnover is allowed when the previous 4 years' running costs are calculated. If the profit is any greater, either the prices for the services will be lowered or the extra income will be used to improve the quality of the services at the same price.
11. Each main product category should balance financially to ensure that cross-subsidising does not occur to the disadvantage of specific customers. In order to monitor our achievements in light of the objectives set, financial analyses are occasionally carried out on each service area.
12. A *publication* is produced (both in print and electronically) which describes Statistics Denmark's pricing policy and contains regular updates of prices in all areas.

