Municipal Statistics within the System of Official Statistics

The Situation in Germany

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Legal Foundations

➔ Municipal self-government is the basis of municipal statistics

The organisation of official statistics in Germany resembles the structure of the federal state and the way it is embedded in the European Union. In Germany there are three levels of government, central (federal), state and local government.

German municipalities can decide whether or not and to what extent they want to operate their own municipal statistics. They have to comply with legal requirements to guarantee the same protection of individual data as statistical bureaus of the state.
Municipal statistics is part of the system of official statistics of the German federal state

On each level of government there is a more or less independent level of official statistics:

- the Federal Statistical Office - Statistisches Bundesamt – for the federal government,
- the Statistical Office of the individual state - Statistisches Landesamt – for the state's government,
- the Municipal Statistical Office - Städtestatistisches Amt – for the municipality.

There is no state law regulating municipal statistics only. But municipalities are requested by state laws to pass legal statutes for their official statistics in accordance with legal requirements for official statistics on state level.
Three Levels of Government = Three Levels of Official Statistics in Germany (+ EUROSTAT)

European

Commission
The International Network for Urban and Regional Statistics
Standing Committee of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS)

▲ = Flow of collected data  △ = Flow of statistical results

- **Statistical Office of the European Union**: EU-Statistics
  - ▲ ▼
  - ▲

- **Federal Statistical Office**: Federal Statistics
  - ▲ ▼
  - ▲

- **State Statistical Office**: State Statist.
  - ▲ ▼
  - ▲

- **Municipal Statistical Office**: Municipal Statistics
  - ▲ ▼
  - ▲

- **EU Commission**
- **National Parliament**
- **State Parliament**
- **Municipal Council**
Whenever municipal statistical bureaus are involved in the collection of data for the state, their duties and responsibilities are regulated by the state in great detail. In this function municipal statistical bureaus have no organisational freedom. Storing or evaluating the data at this stage is strictly prohibited.

Exceptionally, a law for a specific field of statistics (e.g. statistics on housing and construction) grants municipal statistical bureaus the right to use the individual statistical data. Here, municipal statistical bureaus are involved in the collection of the data.
Institutional organisation

Municipal statistics is generally centralised in a statistical bureau. In practise this office is sometimes a department of a greater organisational unit together with a department for comprehensive planning, for the population register or for the organisation of elections.

Partners and Clients of the Municipal Statistical Bureau

- Federal and State Statistical Bureaus
- Municipal Council
- Municipal Administration
- Municipal Statistical Bureau
  - Information Centre
  - Survey Institute
  - Organisation of Elections
- Citizens
- Public + Private Institutions, Business Cos.
- Other Cities, Union of German Municipalities
In relation to the State Statistical Offices, there are no fields of statistics reserved to municipal statistical offices only. But the State Statistical Offices generally respect the exclusive right of municipal statistics to produce and distribute data for territorial units below the municipal level.

Most municipalities are building up statistical information systems. Here, a standardised system of regional referencing down to the building block and to the individual building is one of its most important instruments.

Contrary to State Statistics, Municipal Statistical Offices conduct opinion and perception surveys.
Sources of **Individual** Data for Municipal Statistics

- **State Statistics**
  - e.g.
  - Census
  - Construction
  - Tourism

- **Municipal Statist. Registers**
  - e.g.
  - Buildings & Dwellings,
  - Infrastructure

- **Municipal Administrative Registers**
  - e.g.
  - Population
  - Motor Vehicles
  - Social Benefits

- **Municipal Surveys**
  - e.g.
  - Households
  - Business Enterprises
  - Users

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Territorial Reference System – e. g. City of Nuremberg

1. Inner city „building blocks“

2. Hierarchical Key of building blocks

3. Streets in inner city by type

4. building blocks by type

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Municipal Statistical Information System

Being the central statistical institution of the municipality the statistical bureau should cover the complete range of municipal life and activities. It collects data from all departments and provides the official statistical data they need.
Inter-city Co-operation

The *Union of German Municipal Statisticians* - founded in 1879 - is closely affiliated with the Union of German Cities („Deutscher Städtetag“).

The *Union of (mainly) municipalities for the Development of the Statistical Information System* - *KOSIS-Verbund* - organises projects on a co-operative basis.
Co-operation in Municipal Statistics in Germany

1879
Conference of the Directors of Municipal Statistical Bureaux

1904
Verband Deutscher Städtestatistiker e.V. (VDSt)

1982
VDSt + KOSIS-Verbund

1999
KOSTAT-DST GmbH

Products | Tools | Methods

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http://www.bbr.bund.de
Network for Urban and Regional Statistics in Germany

**Municipal Statistics**
- Union of German Municipalities
  - o VDSt
  - o KOSIS
  - o KOSTAT-DST GmbH

**Official Statistics of the State**
- Federal Statistical Office
- The Provincial Statistical Offices

**Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning** **BBR**

**Federal Labour Bureau** **BA**
with its Institute for Labour Market Research **IAB**
Thank you for listening!

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