

All Along the Data Watch Tower. 15 Years of *European Data Watch* in Schmollers Jahrbuch

By Joachim Wagner*

1. A Look Back

Starting in issue 1 of volume 120 (2000), *Schmollers Jahrbuch/Journal of Applied Social Science Studies* has a special section entitled *European Data Watch*. Contributions to this series describe data that can be used in empirical research in economics, and in the social sciences in general. Most of the data sets described are micro data at the level of individuals, households, or firms (including linked employer-employee data sets), and some of them cover units from more than one country. The purpose of the contributions to the Data Watch section is to describe the information that is available in the data sets, to give examples of topics investigated with the data, and to inform readers how to access these data for their own research. The contributions are written by experts who often were in charge of collecting or constructing the data sets. Furthermore, papers in the series portray the research data centers and data service centers of data producing institutions that allow academic researchers to work with (mostly confidential) micro data for individuals and firms.

From 2000 until 2014 111 papers were published in the Data Watch section, 43 of them on data for individuals and households, 36 on firm level data, and 7 on linked employer-employee data. 12 contributions deal with research data centers and data service centers, and the other papers cover special topics (including macro data, micro data for teaching purposes, and methodological topics like anonymisation of business micro data). Papers that were published before 2013 can be downloaded free of charge from the web at <http://www.ratswd.de/publikationen/european-data-watch>. Table 1 is a survey of the contributions to the series.

* Many thanks to all authors that contributed to the European Data Watch series over the years and to the German Data Forum (Rat für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsdaten) for financial support that makes it possible to offer open access at <http://www.ratswd.de/publikationen/european-data-watch> to all papers in the series published before 2013. Thanks to Bob Dylan for his inspiration for the title of this paper.

Table 1
Contributions to the European Data Watch Series

Research Data Centers and Data Service Centers			
The German Microdata Lab at ZUMA: Services Provided to the Scientific Community	Lüttinger, P. et al.		2004–3
The research data centres of the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the <i>Länder</i>	Zühlke, S. et al.		2004–4
The Research Data Centre of the Federal Employment Service in the Institute for Employment Research	Kohlmann, A.		2005–3
The Research Data Centre of the German Statutory Pension Insurance (FZ-RV)	Rehfeld, U. G., Mika, T.		2006–1
New Data and Services for Vocational Education and Training Research – Research Data Centre of the Federal Institute of Vocational Education and Training (BIBB-FDZ)	Alda, H., Rohrbach-Schmidt, D.		2010–2
The Research Data Center (RDC) of the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)	Frick, J. R. et al.		2010–3
PISA, PIRLS, and more – The Research Data Centre at the Institute for Educational Progress (FDZ-IQB)	Knigge, M. et al.		2011–3
The Data Sets of the LMU-ifo Economics and Business Data Center – A Guide for Researchers	Seiler, C.		2012–4
The German Data Service Center for Business and Organizational Data (DSC-BO)	Edler, S. et al.		2012–4
The Research Data Centre for Education (FDZ Bildung): Qualitative Data in the Context of a Social Science Triangulation of Methods	Bamberg, D.		2012–4
The Research Data Center RUHR at the RWI (FDZ Ruhr im RWI)	Bauer, T., Budde, R., Schaffner, S.		2013–3
The Research Data Centre of the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW-FDZ)	Gottschalk, S.		2013–4
Data for Individuals and Households			
<i>Germany</i>			
ALLBUS: A German General Social Survey	Terwey, M.		2000–2
The IAB Employment Subsample 1975 – 1995	Bender, S., Haas, A., Klose, C.		2000–3

Micro Data on Entrepreneurship: Munich and Leipzig Founder Studies	Brüderl, J., Hinz, T., Ziegler, R.	2001–3
Individual tax statistics data and their evaluation possibilities for the scientific community	Zwick, M.	2001–4
The German Microcensus	Schwarz, N.	2001–4
Consumer Panel Data: A ZUMA research service	Papastefanou, G.	2002–4
The 1991/92 German Time Use Microdata	Holz, E.	2003–2
The Employment Panel of the German Federal Employment Agency	Koch, I., Meinken, H.	2004–2
The 14 th “Shell Jugendstudie”	Albert, M. et al.	2004–3
German <i>Media-Analyse</i> (MA): A Large Scale Commercial Data Source Available for Secondary Analyses on Media Use and Social Change	Hagenah, J., Meulemann, H., Akinci, H.	2006–1
De Facto Anonymised Microdata File on Income Tax Statistics 1998	Merz, J., Vorgrimler, D., Zwick, M.	2006–2
Retirement Pension Provision Schemes in Germany 1996 and 2005	Frommert, D., Heien, T.	2006–2
Health Data in Germany	Böhm, K.	2006–3
The German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) – Scope, Evolution and Enhancements	Wagner, G. G., Frick, J. R., Schupp, J.	2007–1
The German Integrated Employment Biographies Sample IEBS	Jakobebbinghaus, P., Seth, S.	2007–2
The German Taxpayer-Panel	Kriete-Dodds, S., Vorgrimler, D.	2007–3
New Possibilities for Socio-Economic Research through Longitudinal Data from the Research Data Centre of the German Federal Pension Insurance (FDZ-RV)	Himmelreicher, R. K., Stegmann, M.	2008–4
BIBB/BAuA-Employment Survey 2005/06	Zapf, S., Tiemann, M.	2010–3
The Sample of Integrated Labour Market Biographies	Dorner, M. et al.	2010–4
PASS – A Household Panel Survey for Research on Unemployment and Poverty	Trappmann, M. et al.	2010–4
ALWA – New Life Course Data for Germany	Kleinert, C. et al.	2011–4
National Health Data from the Robert Koch Institute	Stolzenberg, H., Dölle, R., Kurth, B.-M.	2012–1
ALWA-ADIAB – Linked Individual Survey and Administrative Data for Substantive and Methodological Research	Antoni, M., Seth, S.	2012–1
The GESIS Microcensus-Trendfile – A New Database for the Study of Social Change	Lengener, A. et al.	2012–3

The IfM Bonn Founder Panel – Design and Research Potential	Kay, R., Kranzisch, P.	2012–3
Biographical Data of Social Insurance Agencies in Germany – Improving the Content of Administrative Data	Hochföhlner, D., Müller, D., Wurdack, A.	2012–3
DemoDiff: A Dataset for the Study of Family Change in Eastern (and Western) Germany	Kreyenfeld, M. et al.	2012–4
The German Ageing Survey (IDEAS) – A Longitudinal and Time-Series Study of People in the Second Half of Life	Engstler, H., Schmiade, N.	2013–1
Saving and Old Age Provision in Germany (SAVE): Design and Enhancements	Coppola, M., Lamla, B.	2013–1
“Familien in Deutschland” – FiD	Schröder, M., Siegers, R., Spieß, C.K.	2013–4
New Register Data from the German Public Employment Service on Counseling and Monitoring the Unemployed	Hofmann, B., Köhler, M.	2014–1
Trends in Civil Society: The German Survey on Volunteering 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014 (Deutscher Freiwilligensurvey – FWS)	Schmiade, N. et al.	2014–2
<i>Austria</i>		
Longitudinal Data from Social Security Records in Austria	Hofer, H., Winter-Ebmer, R.	2003–4
<i>Switzerland</i>		
“Living in Switzerland” Swiss Household Panel 1999 – 2003 (SHP)	Budowski, M. et al.	2002–2
The Swiss Environmental Survey 1994	Franzen, A.	2002–4
The Swiss Labor Market Survey 1998 (SLMS 98)	Jann, B.	2003–2
Swiss Unemployment Insurance Micro Data	Gast, J., Lechner, M., Steiger, H.	2004–1
<i>International</i>		
The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)	Uher, R.	2000–3
The European Community Household Panel (ECHP)	Wirtz, C., Mejer, L.	2002–1
The LIS/LES Project Databank: Introduction and Overview	Smeeding, T., Jesuit, D. K., Alkemade, P.	2002–3
Quality of Life in Europe	Litske, H.	2006–3

The Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF) and its Member Country Household Panel Studies	Frick, J. R. et al.	2007–4
The European Social Survey: Contents, Design, and Research Potential	Schnaudt, C. et al.	2014–4
Data for Firms (Establishments and Enterprises)		
<i>Germany</i>		
Firm Panel Data from German Official Statistics	Wagner, J.	2000–1
The IAB-Establishment Panel	Kölling, A.	2000–2
The ZEW Foundation Panels and the Mannheim Enterprise Panel (MUP) of the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW)	Almus, M., Engel, D., Prantl, S.	2000–2
The Mannheim Innovation Panels (MIP and MIP-S) of the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW)	Janz, N. et al.	2001–1
Deutsche Bundesbank's Corporate Balance Sheet Statistics and Areas of Application	Stöss, E.	2001–1
The German Mechanical Engineering Industry and the NIFA-Panel	Widmaier, U.	2001–2
The RWI Data Base on the Globalisation of German Companies	Döhm, R.	2001–3
The 'Service Sector Business Survey' (SSBS) collected by the Centre for European Economic Research and Creditreform	Kaiser, U.	2002–2
The EPOC Survey	Pekruhl, U.	2003–3
The Hannover Firm Panel (HFP)	Gerlach, K., Hübler, O., Meyer, W.	2003–3
The Deutsche Bundesbank's FDI micro database	Lipponer, A.	2003–4
The Establishment File of the German Social Insurance Statistics	Fritsch, M., Brixy, U.	2004–1
Cost Structure Surveys for Germany	Fritsch, M. et al.	2004–4
New Possibilities for Economic Research through Integration of Establishment-level Panel Data of German Official Statistics	Konold, M.	2007–2
Micro Data at the Ifo Institute for Economic Research – The "Ifo Business Survey" Usage and Access		

Becker, S. O., Wohlrabe, K.	2008–2
The Establishment History Panel	Spengler, A. 2008–3
The German Turnover Tax Statistics Panel	Vogel, A., Dittrich, S. 2008–4
The IAB Establishment Panel – Things Users Should Know	Fischer, G. et al. 2009–1
Official Firm Data in Germany	Malchin, A., Voshage, R. 2009–3
The German Business Services Statistics Panel	Vogel, A. 2009–3
The KfW /ZEW Start-up Panel: Design and Research Potential	Fryges, H., Gottschalk, S., Kohn, K. 2010–1
The Research Potential of New Types of Enterprise Data based on Surveys from Official Statistics in Germany	Wagner, J. 2010–1
The R&D Survey of the German Business Enterprise Sector	Grenzmann, C. et al. 2010–3
Estimated Capital Stock Values for German Manufacturing Enterprises Covered by the Cost Structure Surveys	Wagner, J. 2010–3
The AFID-Panel Agriculture: New Potential for Agricultural Research	Heinze, S., Vogel, A. 2010–4
Linkage of Ifo Survey and Balance-Sheet Data: The EBDC Business Expectations Panel & the EBCD Business Investment Panel	Höing, A. 2010–4
A Comprehensive Data Set on German Supervisory Boards	Bermig, A. 2011–1
An Introduction to the IWH FDI Micro Database	Günther, J. et al. 2011–3
Ownership Patterns and Enterprise Groups in German Structural Business Statistics	Weche Gelibcke, J. P. 2011–4
The BIBB Training Panel – An Establishment Panel on Training and Competence Development	Gerhards, C., Mohr, S., Troltsch, K. 2012–4
The Ifo Investment Database	Strobel, T., Sauer, S., Wohlrabe, K. 2013–3
New Data from Official Statistics for Imports and Exports of Goods by German Enterprises	Wagner, J. 2014–3
Deutsche Bundesbank's Statistics on International Trade in Services. The Dataset and its Potential	Biewen, E., Schultz, S. 2014–4
<i>Switzerland</i>	
Firm Panel Data from the Swiss Innovation Survey	Arvanitis, S., Hollenstein, H. 2004–2

<i>Other countries/International</i>		
Ifo World Economic Survey Micro Data	Stangl, A.	2007–3
A Survey of Commercial Cattle Farmers in Semi-arid Rangelands of Namibia on Risk, Management and Sustainability	Olbrich, R., Quaas, M.F., Baumgärtner, S.	2012–3
<hr/>		
Linked Employer-Employee Data		
<i>Germany</i>		
The Lower Saxonian Salary and Wage Structure Survey – Linked Employer-Employee Data from Official Statistics	Stephan, G.	2001–2
The linked employer-employee dataset created from the IAB establishment panel and the process-produced data of the IAB (LLAB)	Alda, H., Bender, S., Gartner, H.	2005–2
The German Structure of Earnings Survey: Methodology, Data Access and Research Potential	Hafner, H.-P., Lenz, R.	2008–3
WeLL – Unique Linked Employer-Employee Data on Further Training In Germany	Bender, S. et al.	2009–4
An Overview on the Linked Employer-Employee Data of the Institute for Employment Research (IAB)	Heining, J., Klosterhuber, W., Seth, S.	2014–1
Linked Employer-Employee Data on Firms' Training Costs: Enriching Register Based LEE Data with Firm Level Data on Apprenticeship Training	Dietrich, H. et al.	2014–2
The SFB882-B3 Linked Employer-Employee Panel Survey (LEEP-B3)	Diewald, M. et al.	2014–3
<hr/>		
Other Data		
A Real-Time Data Set for German Macroeconomic Variables	Gerberding, C. et al.	2005–2
The Deutsche Bundesbank's Large Credit Database (<i>BAKIS-M and MiMiK</i>)	Schmieder, C.	2006–4
The Deutsche Bundesbank's Prudential Database (BAKIS)	Memmel, C., Stein, I.	2008–2
The Bundesbank's Macroeconomic Real-time Database for the German Economy (Gerda)	Knetsch, T. A.	2010–2
Multilinks Database on Intergenerational Policy Indicators	Keck, W., Saraceno, C.	2012–1

Data for Teaching Purposes

CAMPUS Files – Free Public Use Files for Teaching Purposes	Zwick, M.	2007–4
CAMPUS-File AF1D-Panel Industrial Enterprises	Klumpke, M., Rößner, M.	2014–4

Special Topics

Anonymising Business Micro Data – Results of a German Project	Lenz, R. et al.	2006–4
Computation of Standard Values for Physical and Mental Health Scale Scores Using the SOEP Version of SF-12v2	Andersen, H. H. et al.	2007–1
Assessing Cognitive Capacities in Computer-Assisted Survey Research: Two Ultra-Short Tests of Intellectual Ability in the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)	Lang, F. R. et al.	2007–1
The German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) as Reference Data Set	Siedler, T. et al.	2009–2
Business Microdata in Germany: Linkage and Anonymisation	Lenz, R., Zwick, M.	2009–4
PanelWhiz: Efficient Data Extraction of Complex Panel Data Sets – An Example using the German SOEP	Haisken-DeNew, J. P., Hahn, M. H.	2010–4

Note: In each topic the contributions are listed by country and in chronological order; 2000–1 refers to issue 1 published in 2000 etc. of *Schmollers Jahrbuch/ Journal of Applied Social Science Studies*. Articles published before 2013 are open access and can be downloaded free of charge from the web at <http://www.raiswd.de/publikationen/european-data-watch>.

2. A Look Ahead

This is the last and final contribution to the Data Watch section in Schmollers Jahrbuch. From 2016 onwards the journal will change its aims and scope. However, while this paper is a look back on the history of the Data Watch series, it is not an obituary. The series will migrate. From 2016 on there will be the *Data Observer* section in the *Jahrbücher für Nationalökonomie und Statistik/Journal of Economics and Statistics* that will publish papers on data sets and data providers. Those who are interested in contributing to this new series are encouraged to contact me by sending a mail to wagner@leuphana.de.