

European Data Watch

This section will offer descriptions as well as discussions of data sources that may be of interest to social scientists engaged in empirical research or teaching courses that include empirical investigations performed by students. The purpose is to describe the information in the data source, to give examples of questions tackled with the data and to tell how to access the data for research and teaching. We will start with data from German speaking countries that allow international comparative research. While most of the data will be at the micro level (individuals, households, or firms), more aggregate data and meta data (for regions, industries, or nations) will be included, too. Suggestions for data sources to be described in future columns (or comments on past columns) should be send to: Joachim Wagner, University of Lueneburg, Institute of Economics, Campus 4.210, 21332 Lueneburg, Germany, or e-mailed to <wagner@uni-lueneburg.de>.

The IAB-Establishment Panel

By Arnd Kölling

1. Introduction

Labour administration, labour market research and firms are equally interested in systematic information about the labour market's demand side. The lack of data about this resulted in an imbalance in our knowledge of the two sides of the labour market as Hamermesh (1993, p. 400) states. The IAB-Establishment Panel may is a survey that helps to restore a new balance in scientific research. In 1993 the Institute for Employment Research of the Federal Labour Services in Germany ("Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung der Bundesanstalt für Arbeit"/IAB) started the panel in western Germany. In 1996 also the eastern states joined the survey, allowing for representative regional outcomes. From this year on, some western states aim for a regionalized sample, too. We hope to provide regional results for all federal states in the near future. Additionally, we try to link the data with information on individuals from the employment statistics register.