Metadata portal in Statistics Norway

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Summary

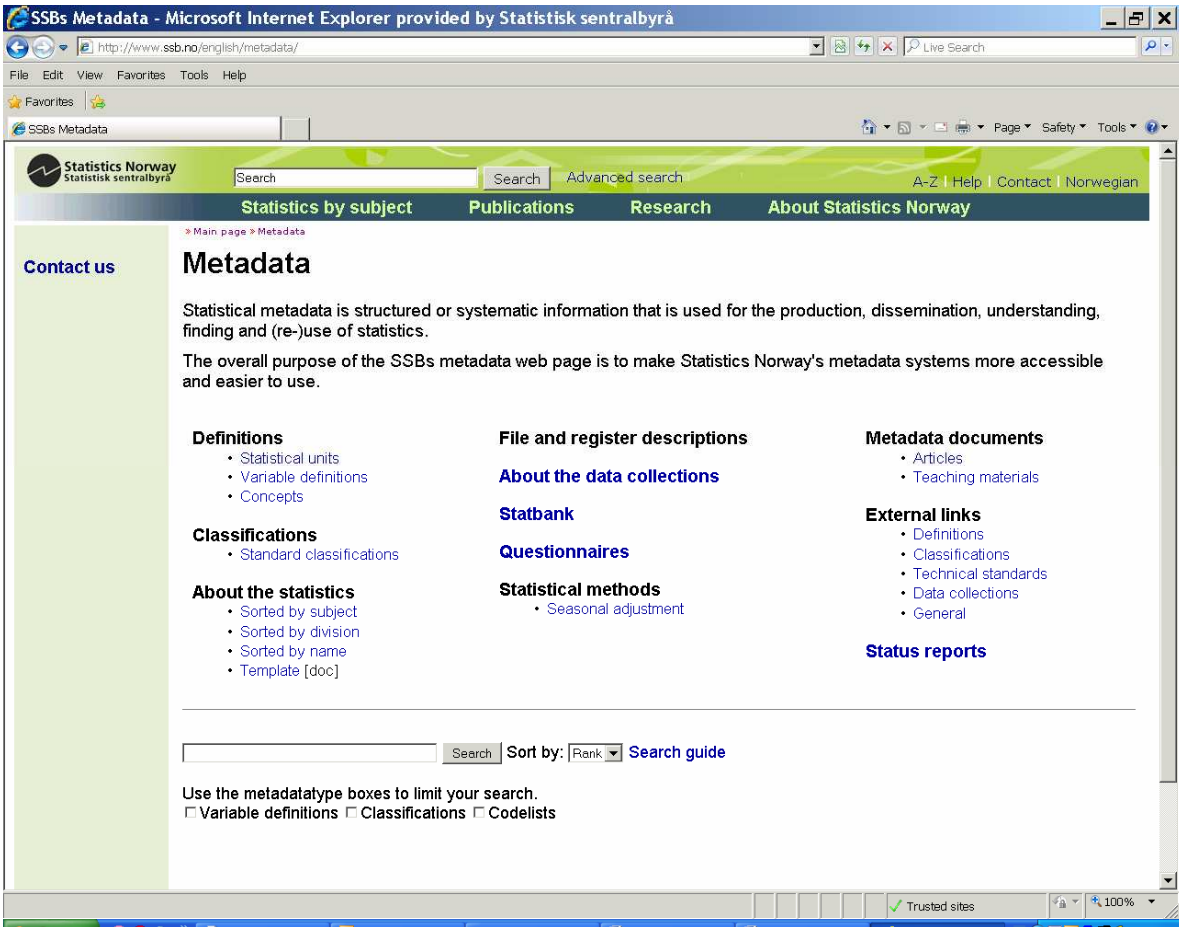
Statistics Norway's metadata strategy was approved in 2005. The strategy as such advocates for metadata (systems) in Statistics Norway , and several measures were recommended to support this, e.g. the development of a metadata portal.

Implementation of the metadata portal began late 2005, and the portal was released on the Internet in the spring of 2008. The portal now displays our key metadata concepts and the contents of our master metadata systems making them more accessible and easier to use both for researchers and external metadata experts, and for internal users. Metadata managers can use the portal to follow up the coverage and quality of the contents of the underlying metadata systems. The design is flexible so that the contents of other metadata systems, e.g. a questionnaire server, can be added as these become available.

2. Metadata portal

2.1 Purpose and content of the metadata portal

The home page of the Internet version of the metadata portal in English is shown below http://www.ssb.no/english/metadata/



Metadata

Statistical metadata is structured or systematic information that is used for the production, dissemination, understanding, finding and (re-)use of statistics.

The overall purpose of the SSBs metadata web page is to make Statistics Norway's metadata systems more accessible and easier to use.

Definitions
- Statistical units
- Variable definitions
- Concepts

Classifications
- Standard classifications

About the statistics
- Sorted by subject
- Sorted by division
- Sorted by name
- Template [doc]

File and register descriptions

About the data collections

Statbank

Questionnaires

Statistical methods
- Seasonal adjustment

Metadata documents
- Articles
- Teaching materials

External links
- Definitions
- Classifications
- Technical standards
- Data collections
- General

Status reports

Search Sort by: Rank Search guide

Use the metadatatype boxes to limit your search.
□ Variable definitions □ Classifications □ Codelists

Fig. 1 Metadata portal – home page

[1] The presentation will be given by Anne Gro Hustoft

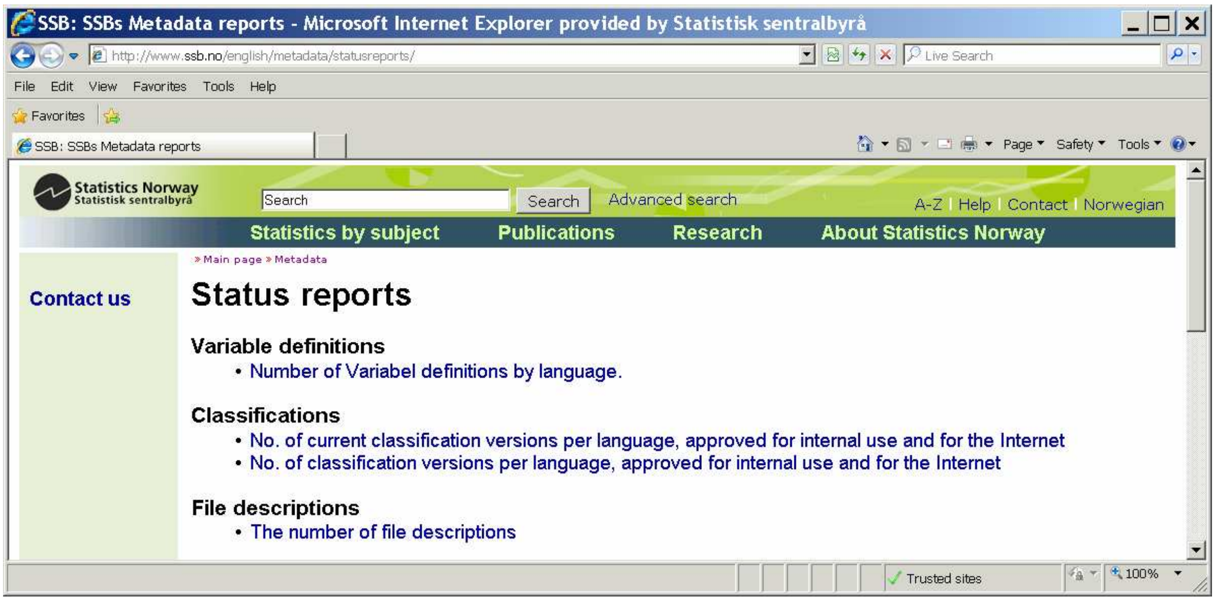
The overall purpose of the metadata portal is to make Statistics Norway's metadata systems more accessible and easier to use. Both internal and external users get easier access to the metadata by displaying the contents of these systems in a common web page. Our work within this area has been inspired by the corresponding web pages of Statistics Canada and Statistics New Zealand.

The main purpose of the metadata portal is to give access to information stored in the metadata systems and delivered by web services, but the page also contains links to other relevant metadata. At present the portal gives access to classifications, variable definitions, codelists, file descriptions, register descriptions and file variables collected from our different metadata systems. The file descriptions, register descriptions and file variables are only shown in the internal version, among other things because they contain sensitive information. In addition to making this information accessible for internal users, this version also gives the user a chance to check the quality of the file description. This is done by an automatic program that checks the metadata in the file descriptions with the data in the permanent files and gives messages like; "X records longer than expected", "Y records shorter than expected", ”The variable has values not listed in the code list", "Expected value range is not documented" etc.

The metadata portal also contains metadata that are not yet stored in metadata systems (e.g. definitions of statistical units), links to other relevant Statistics Norway web pages (e.g. About the statistics and Statbank) and external links to relevant international metadata web pages. Under Definitions/Concepts you will, amongst other things, find definitions of our key metadata concepts. The establishment and documentation of key concepts related to metadata was an important part of the implementation of our metadata strategy. The document was made in close contact with those working in statistical methods, IT, production and dissemination of statistics, and it was subject to a hearing round in all these departments. The document was also discussed in our metadata forum, in the steering group for our metadata strategy and in our standards committee. Finally, it was approved by the director general

2.2 Status reports

The metadata portal makes it possible for managers to check the progress of the metadata work. The status reports in fig. 3 are available on the Internet, while the internal version has several more status reports to satisfy the needs of internal users (e.g. Number of variable definitions by subject area, Number of variable definitions linked to file descriptions, Number of variable definitions linked to tables in Statbank and Classification versions approved for internal use, but not for external use – at present a total of 25 status reports).


SSB: SSBs Metadata reports - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Statistisk sentralbyrå
http://www.ssb.no/english/metadata/statusreports/
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Favorites
SSB: SSBs Metadata reports
Page Safety Tools
Statistics Norway
Statistisk sentralbyrå
Search
Search
Advanced search
A-Z | Help | Contact | Norwegian
Statistics by subject
Publications
Research
About Statistics Norway
» Main page » Metadata
Contact us
Trusted sites
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Status reports

Variable definitions

- Number of Variabel definitions by language.

Classifications

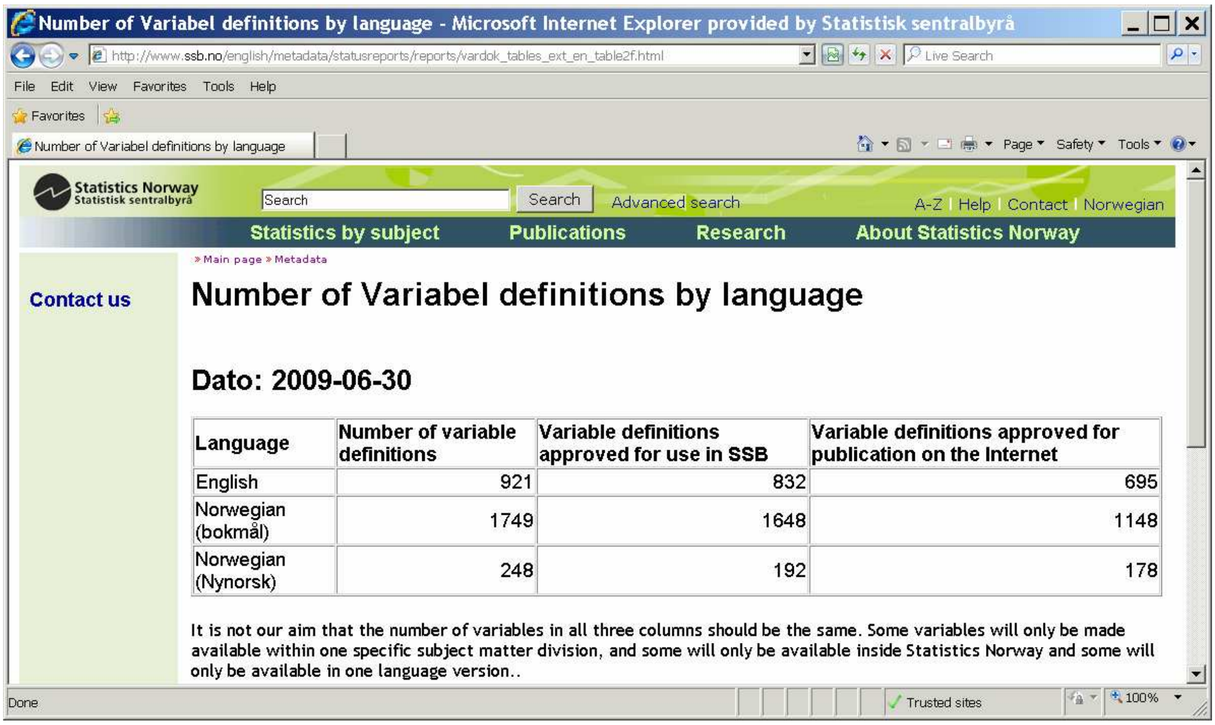
- No. of current classification versions per language, approved for internal use and for the Internet
- No. of classification versions per language, approved for internal use and for the Internet

File descriptions

- The number of file descriptions

Fig. 2 Available status reports

If we choose the status report for variables, we get the following information:


Number of Variabel definitions by language - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Statistisk sentralbyrå
http://www.ssb.no/english/metadata/statusreports/reports/vardok_tables_ext_en_table2f.html
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Favorites
Number of Variabel definitions by language
Page Safety Tools
Statistics Norway Statistisk sentralbyrå
Search
Search
Advanced search
A-Z | Help | Contact | Norwegian
Statistics by subject
Publications
Research
About Statistics Norway
» Main page » Metadata
Contact us
Done
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Number of Variabel definitions by language

Dato: 2009-06-30

Language	Number of variable definitions	Variable definitions approved for use in SSB	Variable definitions approved for publication on the Internet
English	921	832	695
Norwegian (bokmål)	1749	1648	1148
Norwegian (Nynorsk)	248	192	178

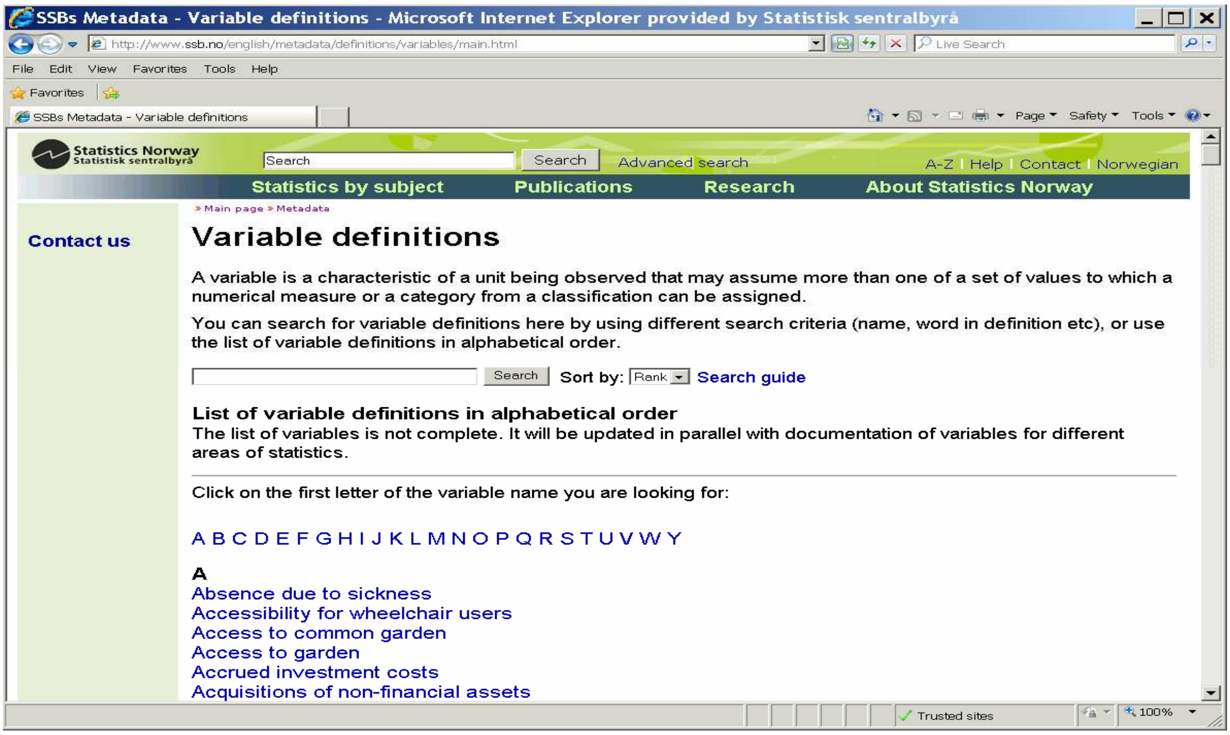
It is not our aim that the number of variables in all three columns should be the same. Some variables will only be made available within one specific subject matter division, and some will only be available inside Statistics Norway and some will only be available in one language version..

Fig. 3 Status for Variable definitions

As the table shows, there is still some translation work to be done. In the internal portal version the status for the different metadata systems is given per subject matter division which makes it a more relevant tool for the managers.

2.3 Variables

If the users are searching for a variable definition, they can click on the Variable definitions link, and they are then linked to the window below where they can search for a variable definition by using different search criteria (name, word in definition etc.), or use the list of variable definitions in alphabetical order.


SSBs Metadata - Variable definitions - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Statistisk sentralbyrå
http://www.ssb.no/english/metadata/definitions/variables/main.html
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Favorites
SSBs Metadata - Variable definitions
Page Safety Tools
Statistics Norway Statistisk sentralbyrå
Search
Search
Advanced search
A-Z | Help | Contact | Norwegian
Statistics by subject
Publications
Research
About Statistics Norway
» Main page » Metadata
Contact us
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Variable definitions

A variable is a characteristic of a unit being observed that may assume more than one of a set of values to which a numerical measure or a category from a classification can be assigned.

You can search for variable definitions here by using different search criteria (name, word in definition etc), or use the list of variable definitions in alphabetical order.

Search Sort by: Rank Search guide

List of variable definitions in alphabetical order
The list of variables is not complete. It will be updated in parallel with documentation of variables for different areas of statistics.

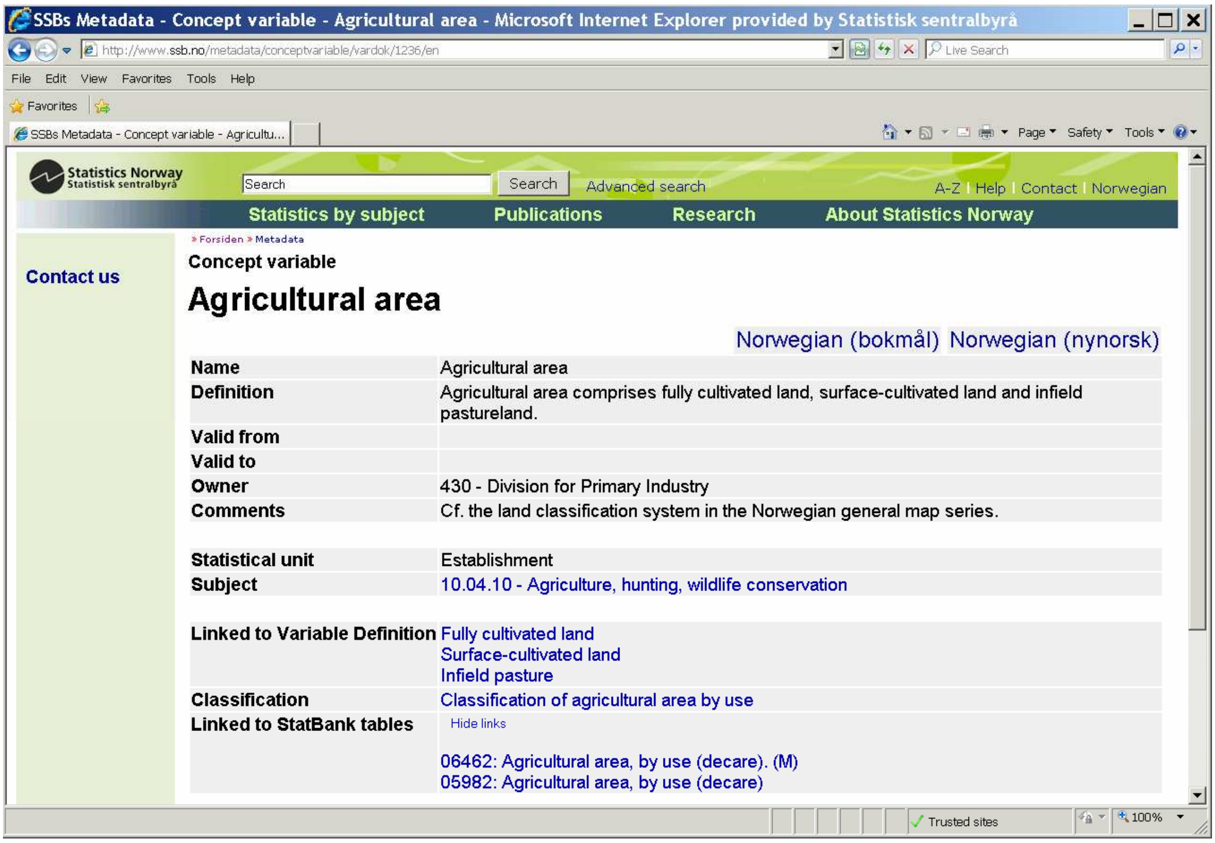
Click on the first letter of the variable name you are looking for:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y

A
Absence due to sickness
Accessibility for wheelchair users
Access to common garden
Access to garden
Accrued investment costs
Acquisitions of non-financial assets

Fig. 4 Variable definitions

If we choose agricultural area as our variable, we get the information in fig.5. By using the two clickable links at the top right in fig 5 the user can also get access to the variable documentation in both versions of Norwegian (Bokmål and Nynorsk).



SSBs Metadata - Concept variable - Agricultural area - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Statistisk sentralbyrå
http://www.ssb.no/metadata/conceptvariable/vardok/1236/en
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Favorites
SSBs Metadata - Concept variable - Agricultu...
Page Safety Tools
Statistics Norway Statistisk sentralbyrå
Search
Search
Advanced search
A-Z | Help | Contact | Norwegian
Statistics by subject
Publications
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Concept variable

Agricultural area

Norwegian (bokmål) Norwegian (nynorsk)

Name	Agricultural area
Definition	Agricultural area comprises fully cultivated land, surface-cultivated land and infield pastureland.
Valid from	
Valid to	
Owner	430 - Division for Primary Industry
Comments	Cf. the land classification system in the Norwegian general map series.
Statistical unit	Establishment
Subject	10.04.10 - Agriculture, hunting, wildlife conservation
Linked to Variable Definition	Fully cultivated land Surface-cultivated land Infield pasture
Classification	Classification of agricultural area by use
Linked to StatBank tables	Hide links 06462: Agricultural area, by use (decare). (M) 05982: Agricultural area, by use (decare)

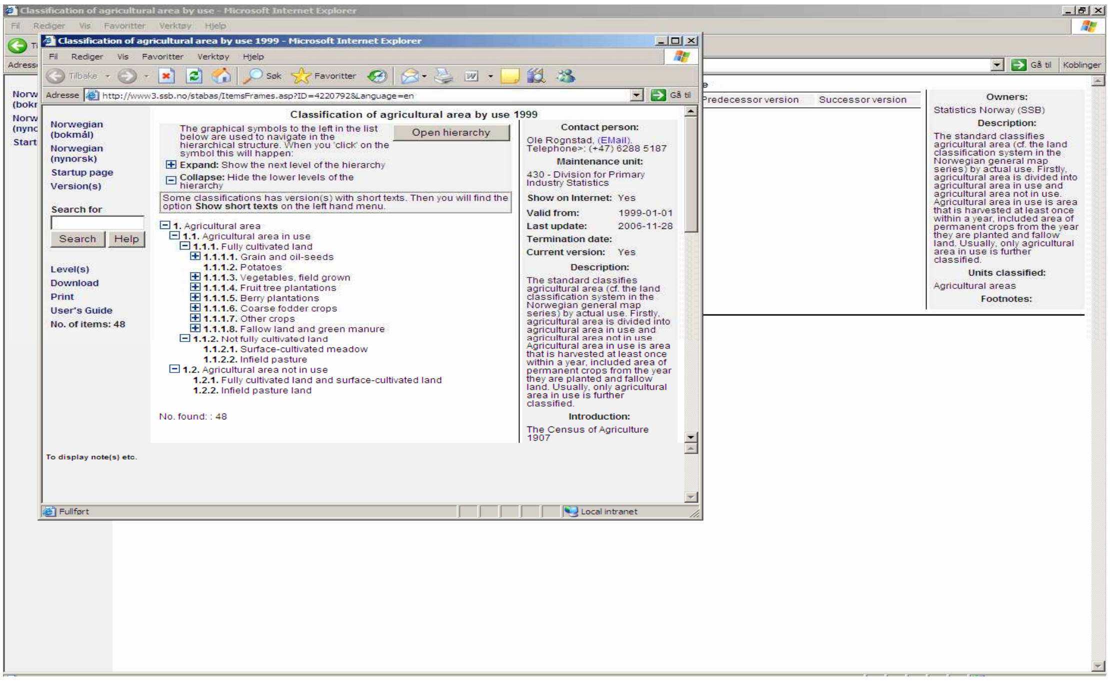
Fig. 5 Documentation of agricultural area

For this specific variable, there is no validity period because the definition has “always” been like this, but for most of the variables, we will have a “valid from”-date for the definition.

2.4 Links

Often a definition will contain other variables (fully cultivated land, surface-cultivated land and infield pasture land) and the definitions of these variables are linked in the “Linked to Variable Definition”-field. If the user clicks on the linked variables, he/she will be able to see the definition of the linked variables.

If the variable chosen is a categorical variable, it will be linked to the relevant classification or classification version in the Classification database, and by clicking on the link in the Classification field, the user will get access to this (see fig. 6).


Classification of agricultural area by use - Microsoft Internet Explorer
Classification of agricultural area by use 1999 - Microsoft Internet Explorer
Fil Rediger Vis Favoritter Verktøy Hjelp
Tilbake Søk Favoritter
Adresse http://www3.ssb.no/stabas/ItemsFrames.asp?ID=4220792&Language=en
Gå til Koblinger
Fullført Local intranet

Norwegian (bokmål)
Norwegian (nynorsk)
Startup page
Version(s)
Search for
Search Help
Level(s)
Download
Print
User's Guide
No. of items: 48

To display note(s) etc.

Classification of agricultural area by use 1999

The graphical symbols to the left in the list below are used to navigate in the hierarchical structure. When you 'click' on the symbol this will happen:

⊞ **Expand:** Show the next level of the hierarchy

⊟ **Collapse:** Hide the lower levels of the hierarchy

Open hierarchy

Some classifications has version(s) with short texts. Then you will find the option **Show short texts** on the left hand menu.

- ⊟ **1.** Agricultural area
  - ⊟ **1.1.** Agricultural area in use
    - ⊟ **1.1.1.** Fully cultivated land
      - ⊞ **1.1.1.1.** Grain and oil-seeds
      - **1.1.1.2.** Potatoes
      - ⊞ **1.1.1.3.** Vegetables, field grown
      - ⊞ **1.1.1.4.** Fruit tree plantations
      - ⊞ **1.1.1.5.** Berry plantations
      - ⊞ **1.1.1.6.** Coarse fodder crops
      - ⊞ **1.1.1.7.** Other crops
      - ⊞ **1.1.1.8.** Fallow land and green manure
    - ⊟ **1.1.2.** Not fully cultivated land
      - **1.1.2.1.** Surface-cultivated meadow
      - **1.1.2.2.** Infield pasture
  - ⊟ **1.2.** Agricultural area not in use
    - **1.2.1.** Fully cultivated land and surface-cultivated land
    - **1.2.2.** Infield pasture land

No. found: : 48

Contact person:

Ole Rognstad, (EMail).
Telephone>: (+47) 6288 5187

Maintenance unit:

430 - Division for Primary Industry Statistics

Show on Internet: Yes

Valid from: 1999-01-01

Last update: 2006-11-28

Termination date:

Current version: Yes

Description:

The standard classifies agricultural area (cf. the land classification system in the Norwegian general map series) by actual use. Firstly, agricultural area is divided into agricultural area in use and agricultural area not in use. Agricultural area in use is area that is harvested at least once within a year, included area of permanent crops from the year they are planted and fallow land. Usually, only agricultural area in use is further classified.

Introduction:

The Census of Agriculture 1907

Predecessor version Successor version

Owners:

Statistics Norway (SSB)

Description:

The standard classifies agricultural area (cf. the land classification system in the Norwegian general map series) by actual use. Firstly, agricultural area is divided into agricultural area in use and agricultural area not in use. Agricultural area in use is area that is harvested at least once within a year, included area of permanent crops from the year they are planted and fallow land. Usually, only agricultural area in use is further classified.

Units classified:

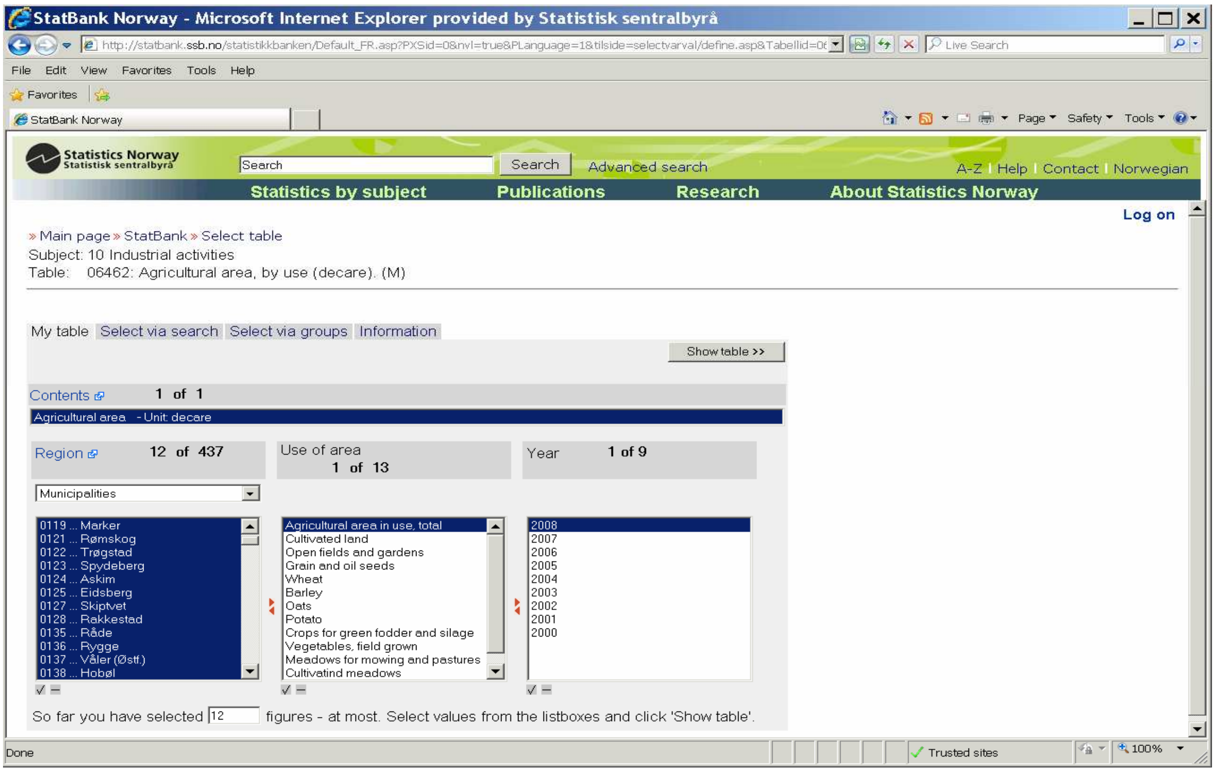
Agricultural areas

Footnotes:

Fig. 6 The classification linked to Agricultural area

It is useful to see the links between the metadata and the data. We link our variable definitions to our dissemination system (Statbank). The linking work is done within Statbank, but in the metadata portal we can see which Statbank-tables the different definitions are linked to (fig. 5). It is quite motivating for the owners of the variables to see that the variables are used on the Internet (also by other subject matter divisions), and it is also useful to know who uses their variables if the owner chooses to do some changes to the definitions (then the other users should be informed so they can consider if they still want to link this definition).

If the user clicks on one of the Statbank-tables, he/she will be linked to this table (as shown in fig. 7),


StatBank Norway - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Statistisk sentralbyrå
http://statbank.ssb.no/statistikkbanken/Default_FR.asp?PXSid=0&nvl=true&PLanguage=1&tilside=selectvarval/define.asp&Tabellid=0(
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Favorites
StatBank Norway
Page Safety Tools
Statistics Norway
Statistisk sentralbyrå
Search Search Advanced search
A-Z Help Contact Norwegian
Statistics by subject Publications Research About Statistics Norway
Log on
Done Trusted sites 100%

» Main page » StatBank » Select table

Subject: 10 Industrial activities

Table: 06462: Agricultural area, by use (decare). (M)

My table | Select via search | Select via groups | Information

Show table >>

Contents 1 of 1

Agricultural area - Unit: decare

Region 12 of 437

Municipalities

0119 ... Marker
0121 ... Rømskog
0122 ... Trøgstad
0123 ... Spydeberg
0124 ... Askim
0125 ... Eidsberg
0127 ... Skiptvet
0128 ... Rakkestad
0135 ... Råde
0136 ... Rygge
0137 ... Våler (Østf.)
0138 ... Hobøl

Use of area 1 of 13

Agricultural area in use, total
Cultivated land
Open fields and gardens
Grain and oil seeds
Wheat
Barley
Oats
Potato
Crops for green fodder and silage
Vegetables, field grown
Meadows for mowing and pastures
Cultivatind meadows

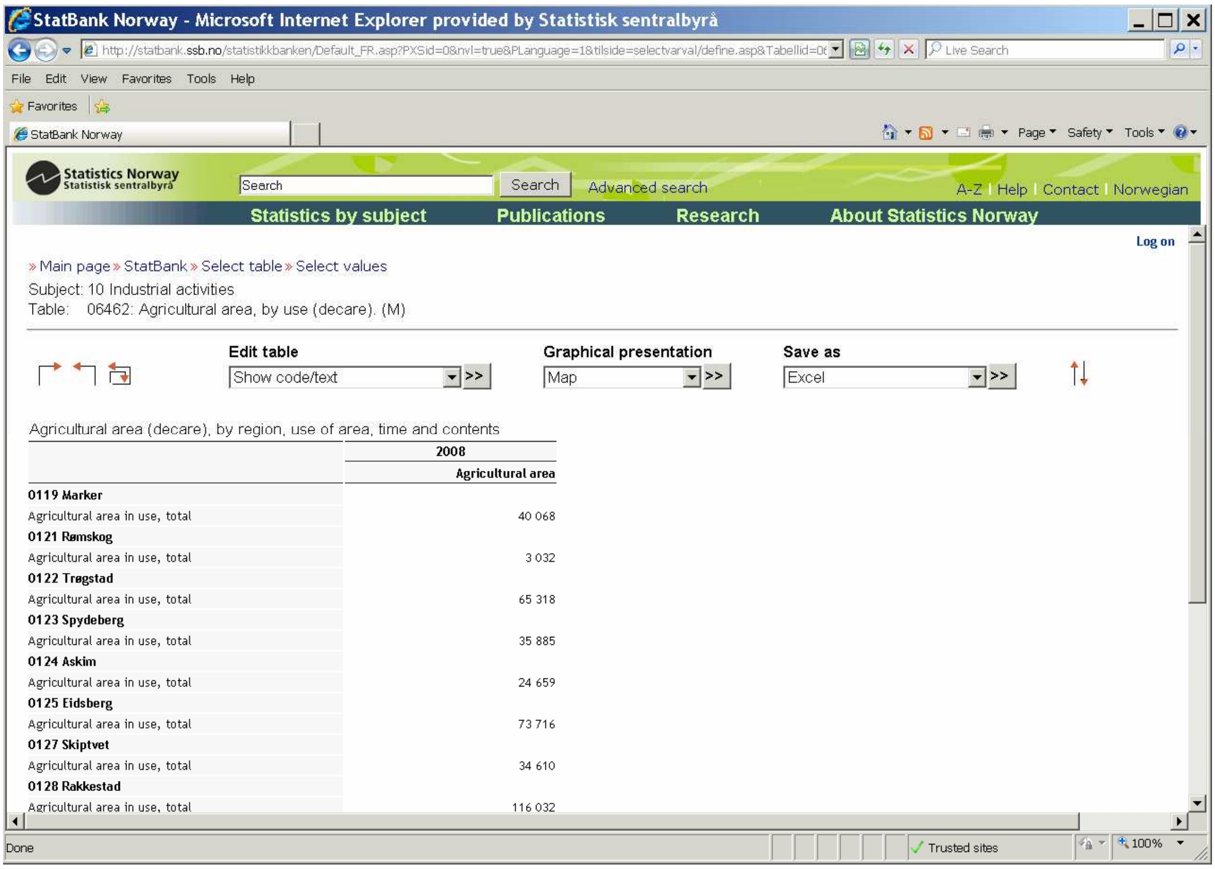
Year 1 of 9

2008
2007
2006
2005
2004
2003
2002
2001
2000

So far you have selected 12 figures - at most. Select values from the listboxes and click 'Show table'.

Fig. 7 Statbank-table with link to variable definition

and will be able to make a statistical table showing the relevant data (fig. 8).


StatBank Norway - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Statistisk sentralbyrå
http://statbank.ssb.no/statistikkbanken/Default_FR.asp?PXSid=0&nvl=true&PLanguage=1&tilside=selectvarval/define.asp&Tabellid=0
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Favorites
StatBank Norway
Page Safety Tools
Statistics Norway
Statistisk sentralbyrå
Search
Search
Advanced search
A-Z Help Contact Norwegian
Statistics by subject
Publications
Research
About Statistics Norway
Log on
Done
Trusted sites
100%

» Main page » StatBank » Select table » Select values

Subject: 10 Industrial activities

Table: 06462: Agricultural area, by use (decare). (M)

Edit table: Show code/text

Graphical presentation: Map

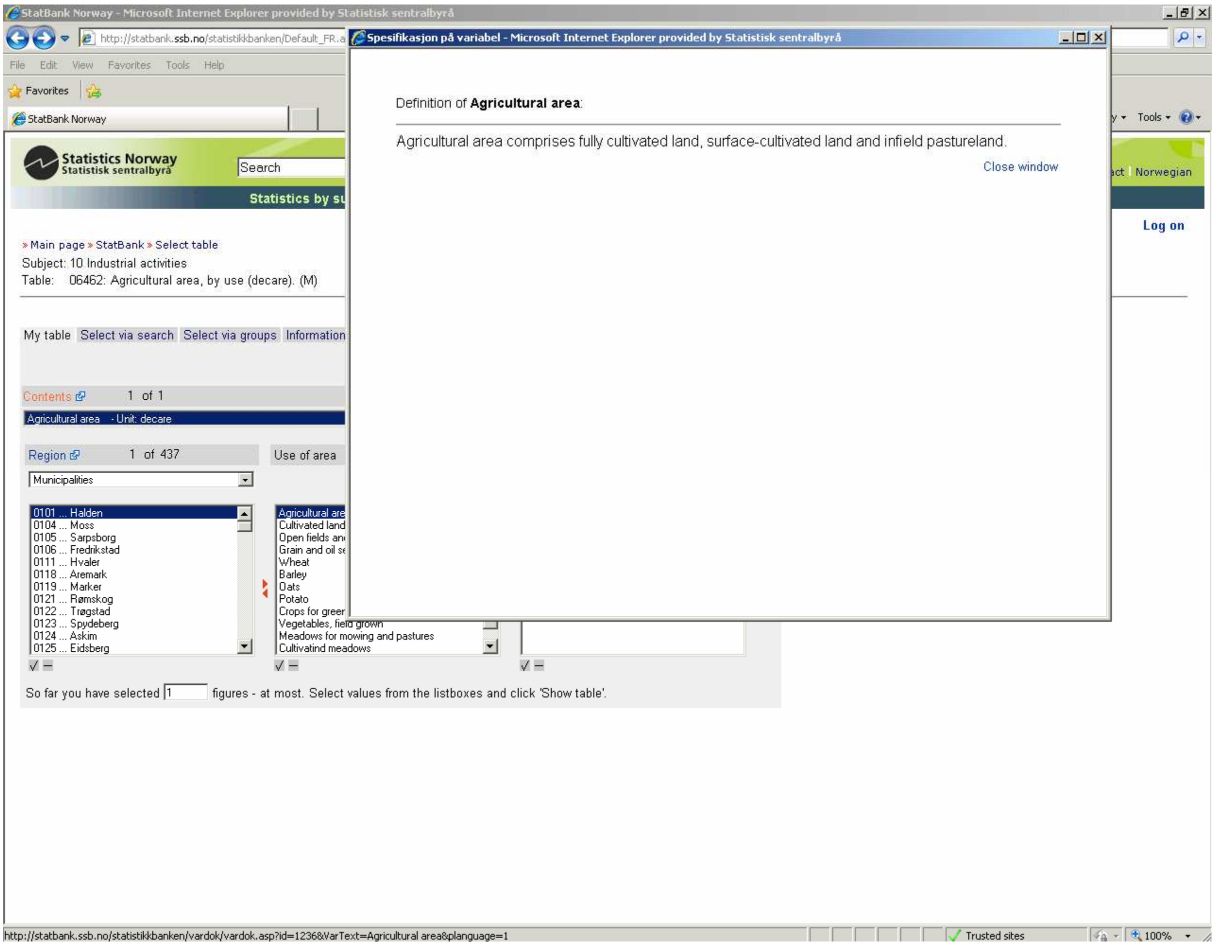
Save as: Excel

Agricultural area (decare), by region, use of area, time and contents

	2008
	Agricultural area
0119 Marker	
Agricultural area in use, total	40 068
0121 Rømskog	
Agricultural area in use, total	3 032
0122 Trøgstad	
Agricultural area in use, total	65 318
0123 Spydeberg	
Agricultural area in use, total	35 885
0124 Askim	
Agricultural area in use, total	24 659
0125 Eidsberg	
Agricultural area in use, total	73 716
0127 Skiptvet	
Agricultural area in use, total	34 610
0128 Rakkestad	
Agricultural area in use, total	116 032

Fig 8 One of the possible tables made from the selection criteria in fig. 7

A user who enters Statbank (with or without using the metadata portal), can click in the Contents-field, and get the linked variable definition shown in fig. 10.


StatBank Norway - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Statistisk sentralbyrå
http://statbank.ssb.no/statistikkbanken/Default_FR.a
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Favorites
StatBank Norway
Tools
Statistics Norway
Statistisk sentralbyrå
Search
Statistics by su
Norwegian
Log on
Spesifikasjon på variabel - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Statistisk sentralbyrå
Close window
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Definition of **Agricultural area**:

Agricultural area comprises fully cultivated land, surface-cultivated land and infield pastureland.

» Main page » StatBank » Select table

Subject: 10 Industrial activities

Table: 06462: Agricultural area, by use (decare). (M)

My table | Select via search | Select via groups | Information

Contents 1 of 1

Agricultural area - Unit: decare

Region 1 of 437

Use of area

Municipalities

0101 ... Halden
0104 ... Moss
0105 ... Sarpsborg
0106 ... Fredrikstad
0111 ... Hvaler
0118 ... Aremark
0119 ... Marker
0121 ... Rømskog
0122 ... Trøgstad
0123 ... Spydeberg
0124 ... Askim
0125 ... Eidsberg

Agricultural are
Cultivated land
Open fields an
Grain and oil se
Wheat
Barley
Oats
Potato
Crops for greer
Vegetables, field grown
Meadows for mowing and pastures
Cultivatind meadows

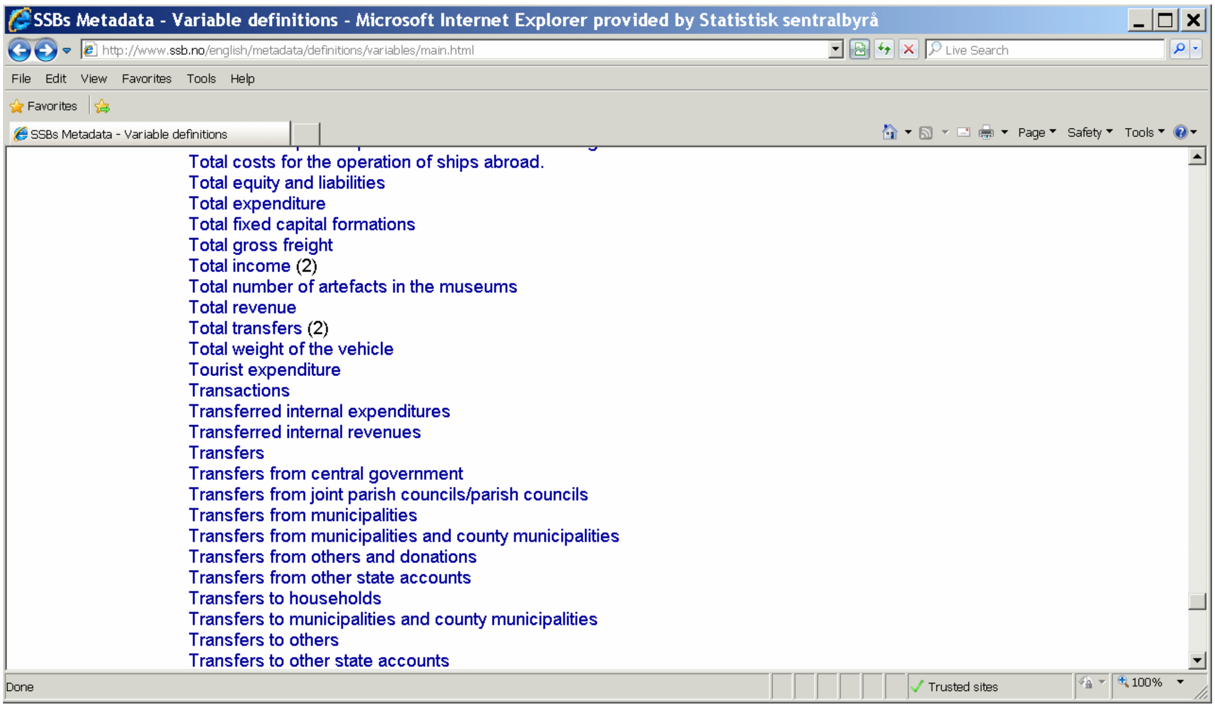
So far you have selected 1 figures - at most. Select values from the listboxes and click 'Show table'.

http://statbank.ssb.no/statistikkbanken/vardok/vardok.asp?id=1236&VarText=Agricultural area&planguage=1

Fig. 9 Variable definition linked to Statbank

2.5 Tool for harmonisation

Some variables have the same name, but are defined differently. This is visible in the alphabetical list where you can see the number of definitions belonging to the same variable name in parenthesis behind the variable (fig. 10). Most of the times that same name/different definition occurs, it is either because they are different versions of the same variable, or because different laws/regulations require the same variable name but define the variables differently according to different subject areas. Sometimes, however, these duplicates do not arise from real differences, but just from lack of coordination. Then we ask the relevant subject matter divisions to look into the variables in question, and see if they can harmonise their definitions and reduce them to one. This is one of the ways that we can use the portal as a tool for harmonisation.


SSBs Metadata - Variable definitions - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Statistisk sentralbyrå
http://www.ssb.no/english/metadata/definitions/variables/main.html
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Favorites
SSBs Metadata - Variable definitions
Page Safety Tools
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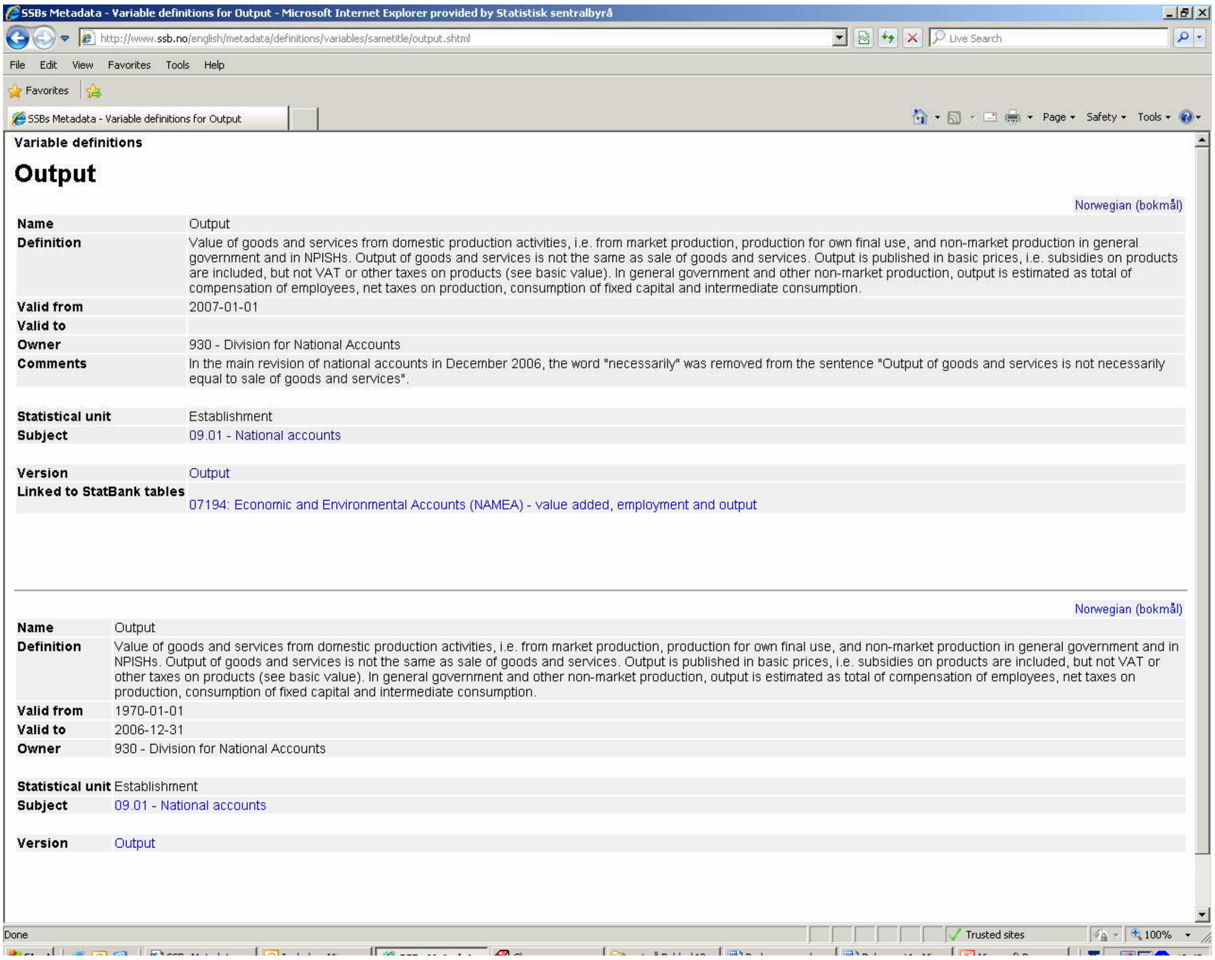
Total costs for the operation of ships abroad.
Total equity and liabilities
Total expenditure
Total fixed capital formations
Total gross freight
Total income (2)
Total number of artefacts in the museums
Total revenue
Total transfers (2)
Total weight of the vehicle
Tourist expenditure
Transactions
Transferred internal expenditures
Transferred internal revenues
Transfers
Transfers from central government
Transfers from joint parish councils/parish councils
Transfers from municipalities
Transfers from municipalities and county municipalities
Transfers from others and donations
Transfers from other state accounts
Transfers to households
Transfers to municipalities and county municipalities
Transfers to others
Transfers to other state accounts

Fig. 10 Same variable name, different definitions

If the two different definitions are due to two versions of the same variable, a click on the variable name will result in the following picture


SSBs Metadata - Variable definitions for Output - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Statistisk sentralbyrå
http://www.ssb.no/english/metadata/definitions/variables/sametitle/output.shtml
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Favorites
SSBs Metadata - Variable definitions for Output
Page Safety Tools
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Variable definitions

Output

Norwegian (bokmål)

Name	Output
Definition	Value of goods and services from domestic production activities, i.e. from market production, production for own final use, and non-market production in general government and in NPISHs. Output of goods and services is not the same as sale of goods and services. Output is published in basic prices, i.e. subsidies on products are included, but not VAT or other taxes on products (see basic value). In general government and other non-market production, output is estimated as total of compensation of employees, net taxes on production, consumption of fixed capital and intermediate consumption.
Valid from	2007-01-01
Valid to	
Owner	930 - Division for National Accounts
Comments	In the main revision of national accounts in December 2006, the word "necessarily" was removed from the sentence "Output of goods and services is not necessarily equal to sale of goods and services".
Statistical unit	Establishment
Subject	09.01 - National accounts
Version	Output
Linked to StatBank tables	07194: Economic and Environmental Accounts (NAMEA) - value added, employment and output

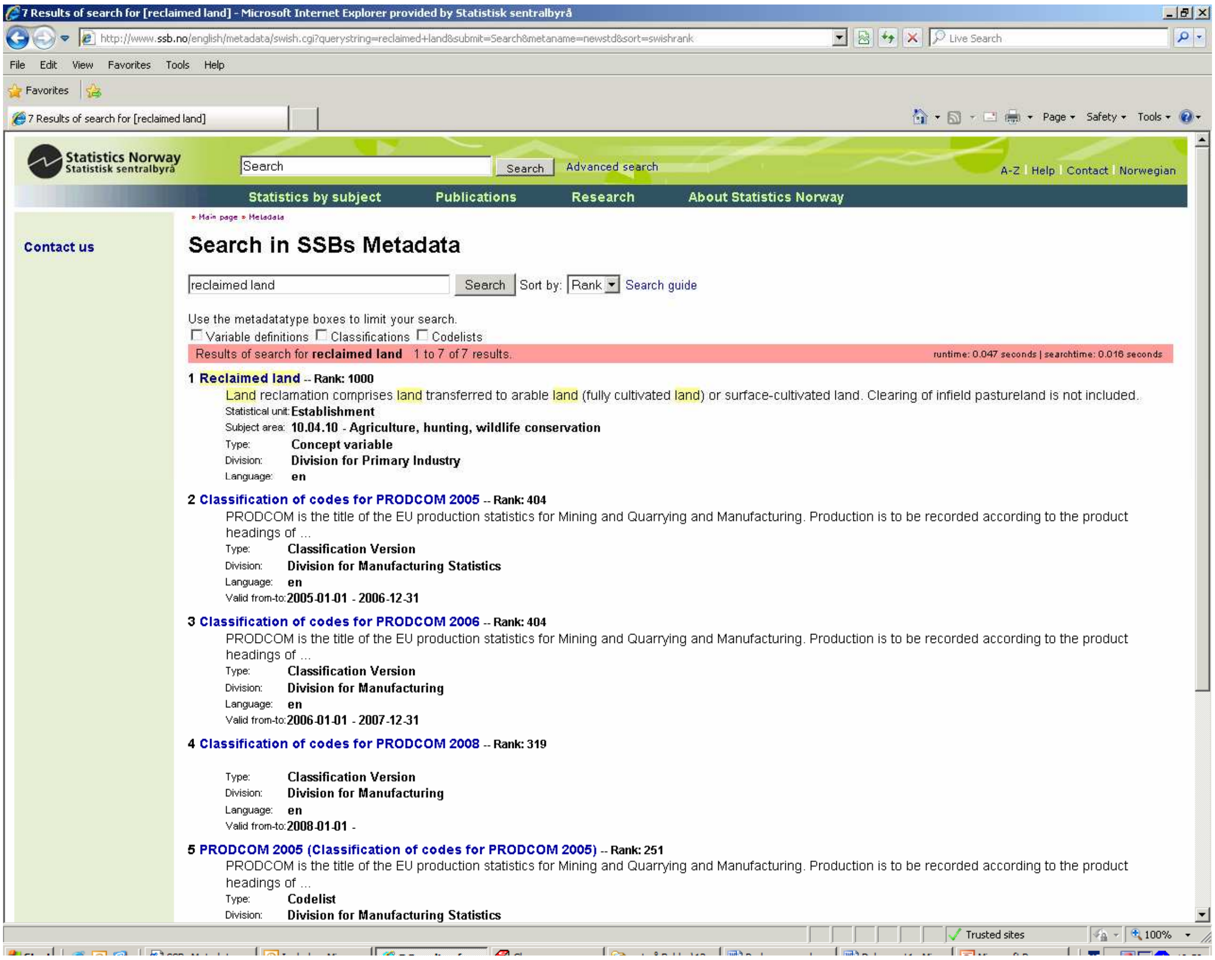
Norwegian (bokmål)

Name	Output
Definition	Value of goods and services from domestic production activities, i.e. from market production, production for own final use, and non-market production in general government and in NPISHs. Output of goods and services is not the same as sale of goods and services. Output is published in basic prices, i.e. subsidies on products are included, but not VAT or other taxes on products (see basic value). In general government and other non-market production, output is estimated as total of compensation of employees, net taxes on production, consumption of fixed capital and intermediate consumption.
Valid from	1970-01-01
Valid to	2006-12-31
Owner	930 - Division for National Accounts
Statistical unit	Establishment
Subject	09.01 - National accounts
Version	Output

Fig. 11 Different versions of the same variable

2.5 Searching across metadata types

We can also use the home page for searching across the different metadata types. If we search, e.g. for "reclaimed land", without ticking off any of the metadata type boxes, we will get hits among all metadata types (concept variable, classification version and codelist) where "reclaimed land" is found.



7 Results of search for [reclaimed land] - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Statistisk sentralbyrå
http://www.ssb.no/english/metadata/swish.cgi?querystring=reclaimed+land&submit=Search&metaname=newstd&sort=swishrank
Live Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Favorites
7 Results of search for [reclaimed land]
Page Safety Tools
Statistics Norway
Statistisk sentralbyrå
Search
Advanced search
A-Z | Help | Contact | Norwegian
Statistics by subject
Publications
Research
About Statistics Norway
» Main page » Metadata
Contact us
Trusted sites
100%

Search in SSBs Metadata

reclaimed land [Search] Sort by: Rank Search guide

Use the metadatatype boxes to limit your search.
☐ Variable definitions ☐ Classifications ☐ Codelists

Results of search for **reclaimed land** 1 to 7 of 7 results. runtime: 0.047 seconds | searchtime: 0.016 seconds

1 **Reclaimed land** -- Rank: 1000
Land reclamation comprises land transferred to arable land (fully cultivated land) or surface-cultivated land. Clearing of infield pastureland is not included.
Statistical unit: **Establishment**
Subject area: **10.04.10 - Agriculture, hunting, wildlife conservation**
Type: **Concept variable**
Division: **Division for Primary Industry**
Language: **en**

2 **Classification of codes for PRODCOM 2005** -- Rank: 404
PRODCOM is the title of the EU production statistics for Mining and Quarrying and Manufacturing. Production is to be recorded according to the product headings of ...
Type: **Classification Version**
Division: **Division for Manufacturing Statistics**
Language: **en**
Valid from-to: **2005-01-01 - 2006-12-31**

3 **Classification of codes for PRODCOM 2006** -- Rank: 404
PRODCOM is the title of the EU production statistics for Mining and Quarrying and Manufacturing. Production is to be recorded according to the product headings of ...
Type: **Classification Version**
Division: **Division for Manufacturing**
Language: **en**
Valid from-to: **2006-01-01 - 2007-12-31**

4 **Classification of codes for PRODCOM 2008** -- Rank: 319

Type: **Classification Version**
Division: **Division for Manufacturing**
Language: **en**
Valid from-to: **2008-01-01 -**

5 **PRODCOM 2005 (Classification of codes for PRODCOM 2005)** -- Rank: 251
PRODCOM is the title of the EU production statistics for Mining and Quarrying and Manufacturing. Production is to be recorded according to the product headings of ...
Type: **Codelist**
Division: **Division for Manufacturing Statistics**

Fig. 12 Search result for "reclaimed land"

2.6 Concluding remarks

Version 1 of the metadata portal was released both on the Intranet and the Internet in February 2008. There still remains some development work related to extended functionality (e.g. file descriptions), but due to lack of IT-resources, this work has been put on hold. As a consequence, much of the work related to the metadata portal in 2009 has been focused on improving the quality of the content in the underlying metadata systems that are being accessed through the portal.

Regarding the Internet version of the metadata portal, we hope that it can make a contribution to semantic interoperability at the national level. At the international level we hope it will make a contribution to fruitful discussions on standardisation and harmonisation of metadata.