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**Working Paper**

## Ten years Data Observer - A service for empirical researchers in economics

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# RatSWD Working Paper Series

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German Data Forum

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## Ten Years Data Observer – A service for empirical researchers in economics

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Joachim Wagner

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# RatSWD Working Papers

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# Ten Years Data Observer – A service for empirical researchers in economics

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## Abstract

Since 2016 the Journal of Economics and Statistics publishes the Data Observer section with descriptions of data that can be used in empirical research in economics (and in the social sciences in general), This note gives a short overview of the contributions published in the first ten years.

**JEL classification:** C81

**Keywords:** Data Observer, economic micro data, economic macro data, research data centers

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# 1. Data Observer – A service for empirical economic researchers

Starting in issue 1 of volume 236 (2016), the *Jahrbücher für Nationalökonomie und Statistik / Journal of Economics and Statistics* publish a special section entitled Data Observer.<sup>1</sup> Contributions to this series describe data that can be used in empirical research in economics, and in the social sciences in general. Usually, access to these data is free or available at a nominal fee. While most of these data sets are micro data at the level of individuals, households, or firms (including linked employer-employee data sets), cross section and time series data at an aggregate level are covered as well. The purpose of the contributions to this 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 this data for their own research. The contributions are written by experts who often oversaw collecting or building 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.

This note gives a short tabular overview of the contributions to the Data Observer series that were published between 2016 and 2025.<sup>2</sup> Table 1 lists all contributions by the broad categories.

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1 This section continues the European Data Watch series that was published in *Schmollers Jahrbuch / Journal of Applied Social Science Studies* from 2000 to 2015. For a survey of the 111 contributions to this series see Wagner (2015).

2 For an overview (in German) of the contributions published during the first five years see Wagner (2020b), for a survey of the first 50 contributions see Wagner (2022).

**Table 1: Contributions to the Data Observer Series in the Journal of Economics and Statistics**

RESEARCH DATA CENTERS AND DATA SERVICE CENTERS	
The Research Data Center PIAAC at GESIS	Perry und Ramstedt (2016)
The Research Data Centre of the Halle Institute for Economic Research (FDZ-IWH)	Lang und Kuttig (2017)
German Record Linkage Center (GRLC)	Antoni und Schnell (2019)
Austrian Micro Data Center (AMDC)	Fuchs et al (2024)
DATA ON INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS	
National Education Panel Study (NEPS)	Fuß et al. (2016)
Register Data on Voluntary Unemployment Insurance	Hofmann et al. (2016)
German Doctoral Candidates and Doctoral Holders Study (ProFile)	Lange et al. (2017)
Panel Data on Training Activities – Voucher Recipients and Eligible Employees of the Program Bildungsprämie	Görlitz und Tamm (2017)
Financial Incentives on Weight Loss (RWI-Obesity)	Eilers und Pilny (2018)
The Administrative Wage and Labor Market Flow Panel	Stüber und Seth (2019)
The German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)	Goebel et al. (2019)
PASS-ADIAB – Linked Survey and Administrative Data for Research on Unemployment and Poverty	Antoni und Bethmann (2019)
Early Childhood Education and Care Quality in the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) – the K <sup>2</sup> ID-SOEP Study	Spieß et al. (2020)
SHARE-RV: Linked Data to Study Aging in Germany	Börsch-Supan et al. (2020)
Statutory Pension Insurance Accounts and Divorce: A New Scientific Use File	Keck et al. (2020)
The German Twin Family Panel (TwinLife)	Lang et al. (2020)
HILDA: Australian Household Panel Data	Watson and Wooden (2021)
BAuA Working Time Survey	Wöhrmann et al. (2021)
Green-SÖP: The Socio-ecological Panel Survey: 2012–2016	Klick et al. (2021)
Data for Migration Research from the German Socio-Economic Panel	Jacobsen et al. (2021)

SOEP-RV: Linking German SOEP Data to Pension Records	Lüthen et al. (2022)
The Swiss Household Panel (SHP)	Tillmann et al. (aop)
The Social Sustainability Barometer 2027–2019	Matjeko and Sommer (aop)
Data on Digital Transformation in the German SOEP	Fedorets et al. (aop)
The DeZIM panel on migrants in Germany	Dollmann et al. (aop)
Supervisory and Managerial Status in German Administrative Records	Collischon (2023)
Corona Monitoring Nationwide (RKI-SOEP-2)	Bartig et al. (2023)
Ifo Education Survey 2014–2021	Freundl et al. (2023)
Green SOEP Extended 2020 and 2022	Frondel et al. (2023)
The Occupational Panel for Germany	Grienberger, Janser, Lehmer (2023)
IABSE-ADIAB – IAB Job Vacancy Survey Data	Lochner (2024)
Data for Reduced Earnings Capacity-Pensioners in Germany	Werhan (2023)
IAB-SMART Mobility Module	Zimmermann et al (2024)
CILS4NEPS – Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Survey	Dollmann, Arnold and Horr (2025)
Harmonized BIBB/BAuA Employment Survey 2006, 2012, 2018	van Berk and Friedrich (2025)
TRANMIT Surveys of Syrian Nationals (2019–2023)	Gundacker et al. (aop)
Factorial Survey on Sickness Presenteeism	Gerich et al. (aop)
RWI Climate-Mobility-Panel	Andor et al. (aop)
<b>DATA ON FIRMS (ESTABLISHMENTS AND ENTERPRISES)</b>	
The Establishment History Panel	Eberle und Schmucker (2017)
The ZEW ICT Survey	Bertschek (2018)
The German Management and Organizational Practices (GMOP) Survey	Laible und Görg (2019)
The Micro Data Linking-Panel: A Combined Firm Dataset	Leppert (2020)
Transaction Data for Germany's Exports and Imports of Goods	Wagner (2020a)
Marmonization of the ifo Business Survey's Micro Data	Link (2020)

Data for Mittelstand Companies in Germany at the IfM Bonn	Schlömer-Laufen and Schneck (2020)
The Top 100 Companies Panel Database	Buchwald et al. (2021)
Establishments in the COVID-19 crisis in Germany	Bellmann et al. (2022)
A Dataset for Blockholders in US-Listed Firms	Harries (2022)
Combined Business Tax Statistics for Germany	Buchner et al. (2023)
Supplementary questions in the ifo Business Survey	Demmelhuber et al. (2023)
Micro Data on Robots from iAB Establishment Panel	Plümpe and Stegmaier (2023)
The High-Frequency Firm Survey "Bundesbank Online Panel – Firms"	Boddin and Köhler (2024)
FamData: Data Base for Family Business Companies in Germany	Garnitz, v.Maltzan, Wohlrabe (2025)
Combined International Trade and Investment Data "CITID"	Boddin et al. (2025)
The ifo Human Resources Survey	Schaller, Hennrich, Wohlrabe (aop)
The IAB/ZEW Start-Up Panel	Rodepeter, Hottenrott, Gottschalk (aop)
<b>LINKED EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE DATA</b>	
The Linked Employer-Employee Study of the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP-LEE)	Weinhardt et al. (2017)
The Linked Personnel Panel (LPP)	Ruf et al. (2020)
AKM Effects for German Labor Market Data from 1985 to 2021	Lochner, Wolter and Seth (2024)
SOEP-LEE2: Linking Surveys on Employees to Employers in Germany	Matiaska et al. (2024)
LEE Data fro XING and Mannheim Enterprise Panel	Breithaupt et al. (2025)
<b>DATA FOR REGIONS UND COUNTRIES</b>	
The German Time Series Dataset, 1934–2012	Rahlf (2016)
Exporter and Importer Dynamics Database for Germany	Wagner (2016)
RWI-GEO-GRID: Socio-economic data on grid level	Breidenbach und Eilers (2018)
Ifo World Economic Survey (WES)	Boumans und Garnitz (2017)

Population Projection for Germany 2015–2050 on Grid Level (RWI-GEO-GRID-POP-Forecast)	Breidenbach et al. (2019)
The KOF Globalization Index	Haelg (2020)
Regional Real Estate Price Indices for Germany, 2008–2019: RWI-GEO-REDEX	Klick und Schaffner (2021)
Business Concentration Data for Germany	Heidorn und Weche (2021)
IOER Monitor: Data on Settlement and Open Space in Germany	Meinel et al. (2022)
German local Population Database, 1871 to 2019	Roesel (2023)
Patent Data of the German Democratic Republic 1949–1990	Hipp et al. (2024)
The IWH Forecasting Dashboard: Macroeconomic Forecast Data for Germany	Heinisch et al. (2024)
Industrial Monuments in Germany: Data Basis and Overview	Fritsch et al. (aop)
<b>OTHER DATA</b>	
Survey Data in the Role of Universities in the German Regional Innovation System	Warnecke (2018)
Industry Conversion Tables for German Firm-Level Data	Dierks et al. (2020)
Tracking the Rise of Robots: The IFR Database	Jurkat, Klump and Schneider (aop)
The ZEW Financial Market Survey Panel	Brückbauer and Schröder (2023)
Historical DIW-Wochenbericht, 1928–1968	Schöps et al (2025)
The IZA/Fable Swipe Consumption Index	Askitas, Martnez, Cereda (2025)
Repeated Offerings in German Housing Market	Breidenbach, Hoernig, Wiebe (2025)
HOP – Occupations for Working from Home	Bruns, Matthes, Stops (aop)

**Remark:** All contributions are available free of charge at

<https://www.degruyter.com/journal/key/jbnst/html?lang=en> (aop) refers to contributions that are available “ahead of print” before inclusion in a printed issue.

Note that while some of the data sets described in the Data Observer papers are somewhat dated, in some cases there are updates available that cover more recent periods – see the webpages that cover information on the data (or contact the authors of the papers directly).

Note further that in some cases it might be possible to link various data sets directly using an identifier that is available in each data set, or via a matching approach. This can lead to linked (panel) data with a much larger potential for causal analysis. The easiest way to link micro data from various sources is offered to users of the Austrian Micro Data Center (AMDC) where all microdata can be linked deterministically to each other via unique pseudonymized identifiers among data sets of Statistics Austria, administrative registers, and also to microdata brought in by the researchers themselves (see Fuchs et al. 2024).

## 2. Concluding remarks

All contributions to the *Data Observer* section are available free of charge from the website of the *Jahrbücher für Nationalökonomie und Statistik / Journal of Economics and Statistics*: <https://www.degruyter.com/journal/key/jbnst/html?lang=en>. Newly accepted papers that are available “ahead of print” can be found at <https://www.degruyter.com/journal/key/jbnst/0/0/html>.

Those who are interested in contributing to this series are encouraged to contact the editor-in-charge, Joachim Wagner, by sending a mail to [joachim.wagner@leuphana.de](mailto:joachim.wagner@leuphana.de).

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