

Referencias

- Bird, P. J. (1982).** The Demand for League Football. *Applied Economics*, 14, 1: 637-649.
- Cairns, J. (1990).** The Demand for Professional Team Sports. *British Review of Economic Issues*, 12, 28: 1-20.
- Downward, P. y Dawson, A. (2000).** The Economics of Professional Team Sports. Routledge, Londres.
- García, J. y Rodríguez, P. (2002).** The Determinants of Football Match Attendance Revisited: Empirical Evidence from the Spanish Football League. *Journal of SportsEconomics*, 3, 1: 18-38.
- García, J. y Rodríguez, P. (2003).** Análisis empírico de la demanda en los deportes profesionales: un panorama. *Revista Asturiana de Economía*, 26: 23-60.
- Jennett, N. (1984).** Attendances, Uncertainty

of Outcome and Policy in Scottish League Football. *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, 31, 2: 176-198.

Neale, W. C. (1964). The Peculiar Economics of Professional Sports. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 78, 1: 1-14.

Agradecimientos

El autor quiere agradecer la cuidadosa revisión del editor asociado, las sugerencias y comentarios de Isabel Molina y Andrés Alonso (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid) y la ayuda prestada por Jaume García (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) y Plácido Rodríguez (Universidad de Oviedo) en la obtención de algunos de los datos utilizados en este trabajo.

4. ESTUDIOS MONOGRÁFICOS Y OPINIONES SOBRE LA PROFESIÓN

WIRTSCHAFTSUNIVERSITÄT WIEN MEETS STATISTICS AUSTRIA

Peter Hackl
DG-Statistics at Statistics Austria
(Presidente del Instituto Nacional de Estadística de Austria)



After 35 years of work in the field of statistics at the Wirtschaftsuniversität (University of Economics and Business Administration, WU), I became appointed as the Director General–Statistics of Statistics Austria, the national statistical institute in Austria. My relations to official statistics were rather limited up to this date. As the president of the Austrian Statistical Association, I have played a (minor) role in the discussion and actions that led to a new federal statistics law that went into force by

Jan 1, 2000. From 2000 until 2004, I was member and deputy chair of the Statistikrat, an external and independent advisory committee that observes and comments the work of Statistics Austria; during these years, I also have been chair of the Working Group on Quality Assurance, a gremium that supports Statistics Austria by giving feedback and discussing quality issues in a wider sense, e.g., by helping to develop a standard quality reporting system. During the summer 2004 it became clear that the position of the DG statistics will become vacant by end of that year. The question to me was whether I would be ready to apply for this job, a decision that took me quite a time and many talks and reflections.

Jesus thought that my insights into the two different statistical professions might be of interest to the readers of his Spanish Statistical Society Newsletter. After nearly a year in office, I can try to give a sketch of some of my experiences in my new job and to comment on some aspects of the differences between and communalities of academic and official statistics.

To start with facts: The number of people in my department (for business statistics) at the WU was never greater than five, whereas Statistics Austria has 830 employees; a similar relation applies to the budgets of the two institutions. The WU was part of the public administration, whereas Statistics Austria is (since 2000) a Federal Institution under Public Law with the budget, accounting and control system and the employee management similar to that of a corporate. The WU like other universities in Vienna have a management system that marginally affects the department level, whereas Statistics Austria has the usual management structure of a corporate with some special features like the above mentioned Statistikrat and the Wirtschaftsrat, a body that has the financial control similar to the supervisory board to which the CEO of a corporate reports.

As you can imagine, these differences in dimension and management structure are quite a challenge for a university person. The same is true and even more visible for the subject matter side of my new job. The agencies of official statistics produce a lot of numbers that are of highest relevance for policy making and far-reaching decisions in all areas of our lives. We academic statisticians tend to oversee this fact: The dominating impression is that official statistics does hardly make use of all the sophisticated methods that we proudly work on. This prejudice and others are well known to us; other prejudices can be found on the side of official statisticians. These prejudices certainly are a serious obstacle to an open discussion of common interests. And such common interests are easy to find.

The agencies of official statistics possess a huge amount of data from various areas like business, finance, social life, ecology, agriculture etc. This wealth of data allows tackling a practically infinite range of research questions. Many of these questions are subject matter related; but also methodological issues can easily be identified in great number. Research in official statistics is interested, e.g., in small area data analysis, model-based survey designs and imputation methods; IT-related research topics in data analysis are, e.g., disclosure control methods and data integration procedures. Complexity

of survey designs and of the range of data often makes the statistical analysis complicated and interesting: Official statistics has to offer attractive and unique areas for research. In some countries like Canada, United States and Denmark, collaboration both in methodological and subject matter areas have already been developed to a substantial degree. Such collaboration is for the benefit of both partners: Academic researchers get access to the great wealth of data and get acquainted with problems and questions that otherwise would be unknown to them; the agency of official statistics gets partners to discuss problems in a wider scope and to get solutions which are hardly reachable otherwise.

My insights from being nearly a year with Statistics Austria concern mainly the differences between the lives of academic and official statisticians and what I had and have to learn to make up for these differences. However, I consider it as one of the main messages what I have learned about the relation between the official statistics and academic research: Both have to be more open for talks about potential collaborations, common interests and the mutual benefits they can offer each other.

I am sure that each of you who are in academic knows people from the other group. I suggest that you take the chance in the near future to have a talk about methodological or subject matter issues and find out whether I am right.