Paths to New Growth
The Race in Europe – The Lisbon Strategy
2010

Norway: Open for Business !

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NHO

Structuring Norway successfully and in a sustainable manner in line with the Lisbon Strategy – Improve Norway's position in Europe

A business policy race is being run in Europe. Each EU member state has its own national strategy for improving its competitiveness, with individual performance measured in relation to the rest of the EU. At the same time, EU heads of government are formulating a joint business policy founded on social justice and sustainability. Norway remains outside this strategy. Although included to some extent in statistical comparisons, Norway is not part of the policy efforts that are laying the foundation for the economic progress that the EU's competition strategy is intended to generate.

The year 2002 has been dramatic for some sectors of Norwegian industry. The country's export-oriented companies have seen their profitability fall because its labour costs and interest rates are considerably above those of its trading partners. The historically strong Norwegian krone has further reduced profitability for many. The result: lay-offs, redundancies and the relocation of factories abroad. There is a danger that the manufacturing sector will shrink so rapidly that Norway will not manage in time to replace lost income with income from new internationally-oriented wealth creation. A focus on Norway's competitiveness is therefore more imperative than ever before.

Norway is lagging behind in the business policy race – a situation that cannot continue. An integrated business policy that emphasises companies' wealth creation must therefore be formulated, a policy that can set loose the forces of creativity and enterprise.

Much of the internationally oriented wealth creation in Norway centres on the exploitation of natural resources and the production of raw materials – not least the oil business. But when the income from oil and gas has levelled off, the need for other competitive businesses will grow. Growth in this area must occur in existing companies as well as in new ones. The challenge will be to boost wealth creation through the continuous development of knowledge and technology in Norwegian companies.

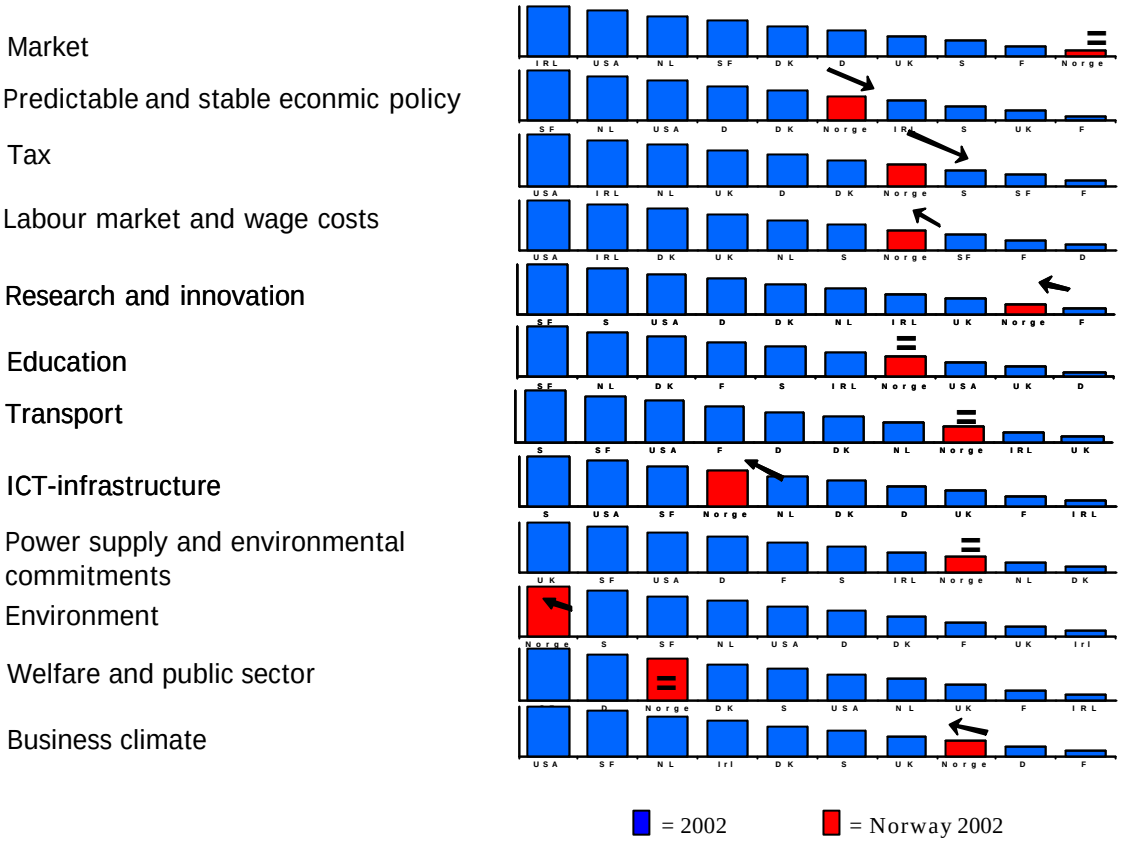
A small, open economy like Norway's is confronting the increasingly pressing challenges of globalisation. Rapid technological changes and increasing deregulation are pressing forward innovation in, and the transformation of, business and government alike.

Many different benchmark surveys have been done to compare tax rates, educational policy and public services between various countries. The EU member states make extensive use of comparisons in all the areas covered by the Lisbon Strategy.

The Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO) has compiled a barometer of competitiveness each year since 1997. Addressing 12 different areas of importance for competitiveness, the barometer is largely based on the EU's structural indicators. The purpose of the barometer is to illustrate which of our most important trading partners and competitors can offer the best conditions. It gives Norway something to aim for. For if Norway manages to improve its relative position, its status will be enhanced as a country where it is attractive for footloose companies to base their operations.

The barometer of competitiveness for 2002 shows that Norway is among the leaders in the competitiveness areas "environment", "welfare" and "public sector". Norway lies in the middle in the areas "education", "ICT infrastructure" and "economic stability and predictability". Norway is behind many of its most important competitors in the areas "research and innovation", "access to energy and climate obligations", and in "business climate". The challenge for Norway will be to retain its position in the areas where it is strong and to improve in the areas where it is weak.

NHOs Competitiveness Benchmarking Report 2002



In recent years, Norway has been losing ground. This is primarily due to the fact that other countries are making an all-out effort, while Norway has mostly stood still. And the same picture emerges if we compare figures from Norway with the EU's data.

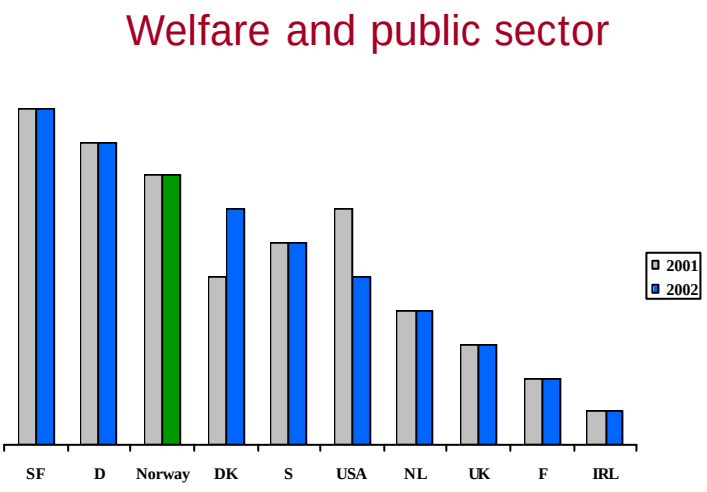
Norway must not lag behind! That is why the country needs an integrated business policy that will foster creativity and a tax and social security policy that will inspire every individual to do their part. We in NHO would like to invite the authorities as well as companies and other organisations to take up this challenge and to join us in a joint endeavour to set creative energies free.

Modernise the state – reduce public expenditure and streamline public administration

The economic basis for the public sector is the economic wealth creation that takes place in the private sector, supplemented with oil and gas revenues from the North Sea. Continuing calls for increased budgets for the municipal sector will naturally influence the tax rates on the private sector and thus have a detrimental effect on the competitiveness of Norwegian companies. This is one of the reasons for NHO's commitment to working for a more efficient and up-to-date public sector.

The demands for an efficient, highly productive public sector will intensify in the years to come. A large and growing petroleum fund has helped to raise the expectations of the Norwegian people with regard to their own welfare. The gap between ambition and reality is widening. Since population is greying, the labour market will be characterised to an even greater extent by a shortage of resources.

At the same time it is impossible to satisfy new and changing needs and wishes by constantly increasing public sector budgets, particularly at the municipal level. Merely coping with the need for public services resulting from the senior boom will cost tens of billions of Norwegian kroner in the years to come.



The competitive area "welfare and the public sector" contains indicators for living standards, safety and the public sector. In this area Norway is in third place after Sweden and Germany. Norway has a high standard of living and a level of safety that pull it upwards in this area. The reasons

for Norway not scoring highest are its high proportion of employees in the public sector and the strong growth in public expenditures.

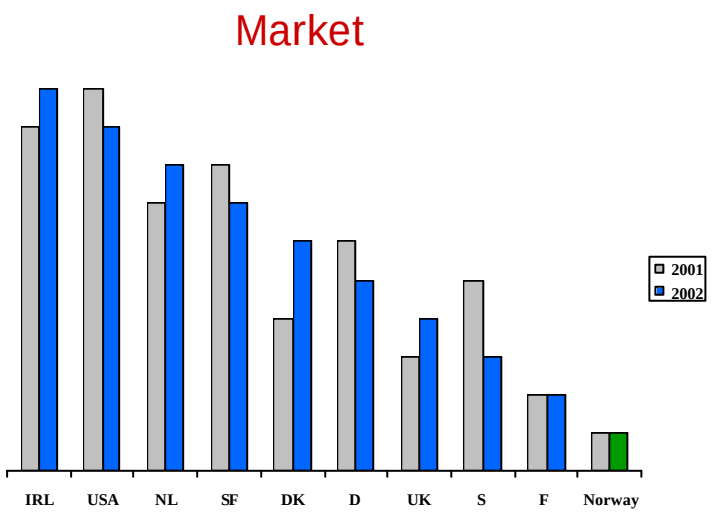
Important elements in improving Norway's position in this area are:

- Increasingly opening municipal services to competition. Introducing new incentives for the use of competition, including the right of private companies to submit tenders to perform municipal services and "user-choice" models.
- Guaranteeing real competition by removing distortions to competition between the public and private production of services. A significant source of distortions to competition is the VAT rules that effectively limit the extent of opening municipal services to competition.
- The increased use of different models that require greater public-private cooperation on public procurements.
- More binding inter-municipal collaboration and incentives to merge municipalities.
- Simplifying and coordinating rules and regulations that govern the business sector. Requiring impact assessments before regulations that impact upon business are adopted. In addition, the regulations should subsequently be subject to systematic review.
- Greater utilisation by the public sector of the opportunities afforded by new information technology to streamline its procedures and give its users better service.
- Improvements in the contact between users and municipalities. Service agreements should be made specifying what the users can expect from a service.
- The introduction of deadlines for municipal processing of applications for permits, licences etc.

The entrepreneurial challenge: complete the opening to the market, stimulate private initiatives and facilitate access to capital

Companies' and investors' subjective assessments of the business climate are vital for their choice of investment and company location. Such assessments are largely a synthesis of their overall perception of the various alternative locations. In a globally competitive economy, Norwegian values and distinctive features must evolve as they confront global forces. The general business climate plays a key role in determining the degree of innovation in business and industry.

NHO's believes that there are two areas in which to provide indicators. One is the perceptions of important elements related to business sector attitudes towards entrepreneurship, cultural aspects and new impulses, which are indicators of the country's attractiveness. The other is the public sector's attitude toward business and industry.



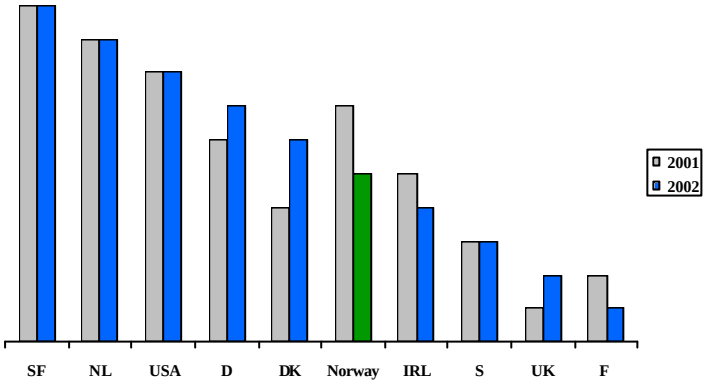
The ability of Norwegian companies to compete is affected by the fact that Norway is a small country with few inhabitants, situated on the fringe of Europe. Norway has a small domestic market and its main export and import markets are far away. These drawbacks are a fact of nature, and it is important to try to compensate for them through an active business policy.

The indicators in the competitiveness area "market" are intended to illustrate the size, access to capital and market integration. In Norway, business and industry believe that the access to risk capital is unsatisfactory. One important cause of this is the view that there is too

great a difference between Norwegian and foreign capital markets. The EU's Lisbon Strategy will increase the competitiveness of EU companies.

Sustained current account and national budget deficits indicate imbalances that may eventually cause economic instability and may impact on a country's competitiveness. Sooner or later deficits must be financed. Fluctuations in exchange rates and money market rates may affect the market's confidence in a country's ability to manage its economic and political affairs. Price increases may indicate an overheated economy and may be the result of wage growth and fiscal and monetary policies. All these aspects are important for a country's competitiveness. A more predictable fiscal and monetary policy will generate greater confidence in a country's political stability.

Predictability and stability in economic policy



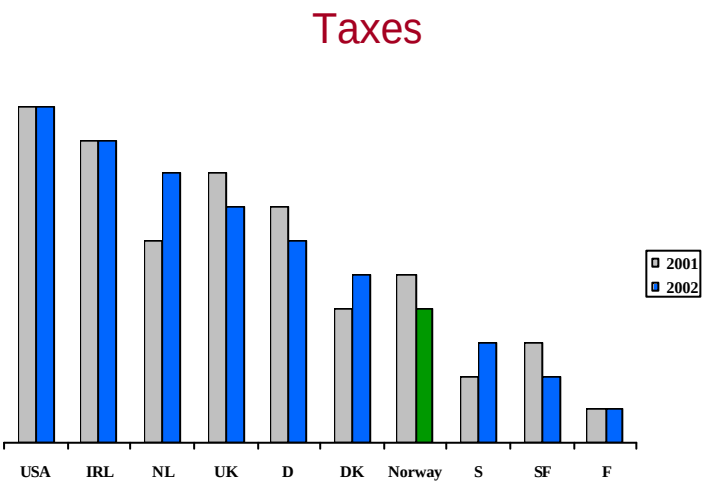
Important measures for improving Norway's competitiveness in this field are:

- To base the National Insurance scheme in part on privately managed funds. This will make long-range fiscal policy challenges clearer and may promote a long-term approach to fiscal policy and strengthen the capital market.
- To increase awareness of the fact that public investment and welfare reforms should be tailored to general business conditions.
- To ensure greater predictability and stability in economic policy.
- To strengthen the coordination of Norwegian participation in different EEA forums and give it higher priority.
- To promote Norwegian implementation of, and compliance with, EEA regulations.

Reduce the tax burden

For a small, open economy it is crucial that the tax system is internationally competitive. The total tax burden on the economy is of prime importance. The heavier the tax burden, the greater the loss of efficiency from further tax increases. This means that if the rate of tax is already high, a further increase will produce lower tax revenues than if the rate was low at the outset. The Norwegian tax system must reward work, competence, saving in financial assets and long-term investment in business and industry.

An already high rate of tax means an increased likelihood that further tax increases will yield little in the way of revenue due to losses of efficiency. Norway's position has deteriorated in this year's barometer of competitiveness. In 2002 the country dropped from sixth to seventh place compared with the 2001 barometer. Norway's high company tax relative to gross national product (GNP) must partly be ascribed to the special Norwegian tax on oil and gas activities. The US has the lowest total tax burden of the countries surveyed relative to GNP. Several countries in the barometer have high formal rates of tax but a low actual tax burden. The tax base in Norway is broad, and Norway still has lower rates of depreciation than the countries it usually compares itself with.



The EU had a benchmark survey conducted of company taxation and total taxation on investors in the 15 member countries. The same method was used at the request of NHO to calculate the tax burden in Norway. The survey pertained to manufacturing companies.

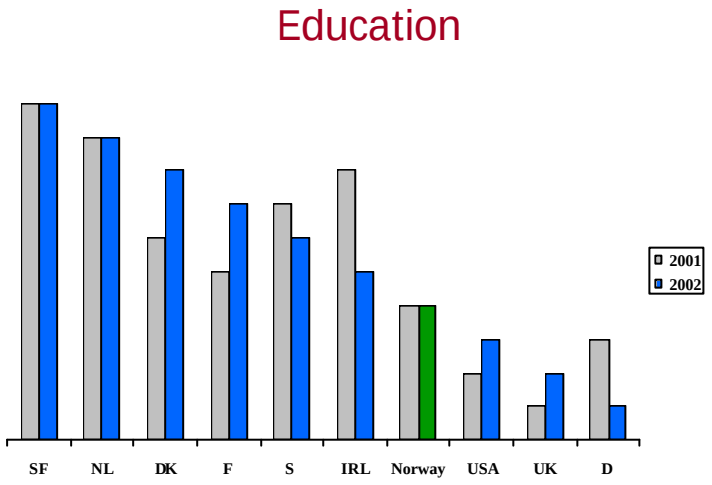
Most Norwegian companies ended up in the category of companies with low returns. The average tax on such companies is relatively high in Norway. Norway ranks thirteenth out of sixteen.

NHO believes that business and industry need a system of direct and indirect taxes that is more predictable, is internationally competitive and which gives incentives for training and labour recruitment. To achieve this, important elements will be:

- Abolition of the wealth tax to strengthen private ownership and promote innovation in business and industry.
- No increase in the ordinary tax rate of 28%.
- A reduction in the marginal rate of tax on wages and salaries.

Generate growth opportunities through quality education

As mentioned, knowledge and skills are important factors for competition and locating businesses in today's global society and key factors for increased wealth creation in Norway. At the same time, the system of education and training is one of the few business policy areas where national sovereignty still obtains. Norway is depicted as having a system of education and training where the use of resources is adequate on the whole but where the returns on the total use of these resources are questionable.



In the "education" competitiveness area, NHO seeks to provide indicators of both quantity and quality. Here an educational system's quality has been evaluated by comparing the results of international tests in mathematics and natural sciences. Indicators of business managers' opinions of how well the education is adapted to an economy subjected to competition are also included.

Norway comes eighth in the "education" area of competitiveness. As before, Norway scores high on quantity and low on quality. The country has many people involved in education and a large expenditure on education relative to GNP. On the other hand, once again Norway scores low on the indicators that measure quality. Finland and the Netherlands come out best in this year's barometer.

To strengthen Norway's position as a knowledge nation it is necessary:

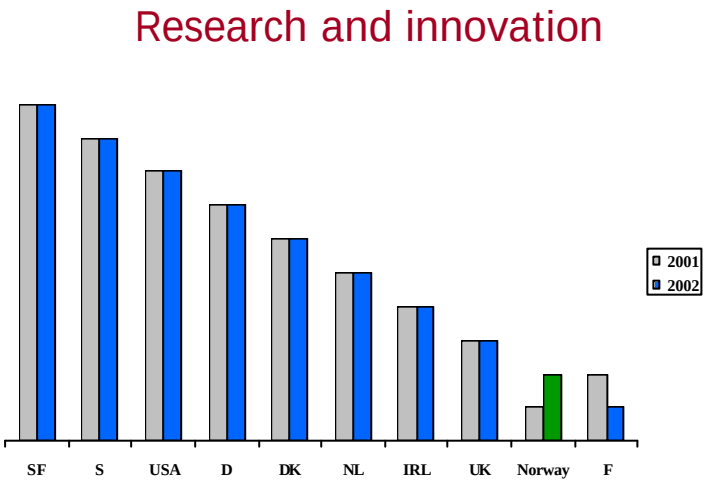
- To further develop its strong tradition of a tripartite collaboration in educational policy.

- To continue building on the best experience in enterprise-based training programmes and competence building.
- To develop better systems for measuring results and for assuring the quality of all education.
- To simplify the transition between educational levels, and to allow for a greater diversity of career opportunities.
- To create better incentive systems for young people who want to undertake all or part of their education abroad.
- To promote continuous competence building in an alternation between work and learning.
- To utilise pay systems which strengthen motivation for ongoing learning.
- To encourage entrepreneurship in all forms of education.

Stimulate innovation

Utilise research and development as an engine of innovation

The Nordic countries generally face the same challenges as other countries with regard to globalisation, the transition to a knowledge society and the evolution of technology. To meet the challenges of the future we must be successful in developing an innovative economy. Conditions must be created to facilitate the growth of new knowledge-based industry.



Ideally, different countries' research efforts would be measured by the results of those efforts on business sector wealth creation. As such results are difficult to compare, the efforts themselves are most often employed as a basis. These have also been chosen in NHO's barometer of competitiveness. The total investment in R&D relative to GNP along with the frequency of publication and the number of R&D personnel are used in our assessment of the "research and innovation" area. At the same time, measurements of the collaboration between business and research communities, the granting of patents, and innovation-friendly legislation all provide a basis for comparison that can tell us something about innovation.

Norway's weak position in the area is largely due to the fact that in Norway business and industry finance and carry out only around half of all R&D. The low proportion is a matter of concern as in-house R&D skills are becoming increasingly important for companies' competitiveness in a globalised market. It is therefore business sector research and development in particular that must grow in the years to come. Finland and Sweden are focusing on improving their competitiveness by increasing

their commitments to research and development. These two countries come first in this year's barometer of competitiveness.

In NHO's view, speeding up innovation in traditional industries as well as creating new businesses which make room for even more innovation are key challenges for Norway.

Innovation through putting knowledge to work

- Greater transfer of technology and dissemination of "best practices".
- More commercialisation, for example through measures to achieve increased cooperation between the universities and industry.
- Increase business sector R&D through better incentives.

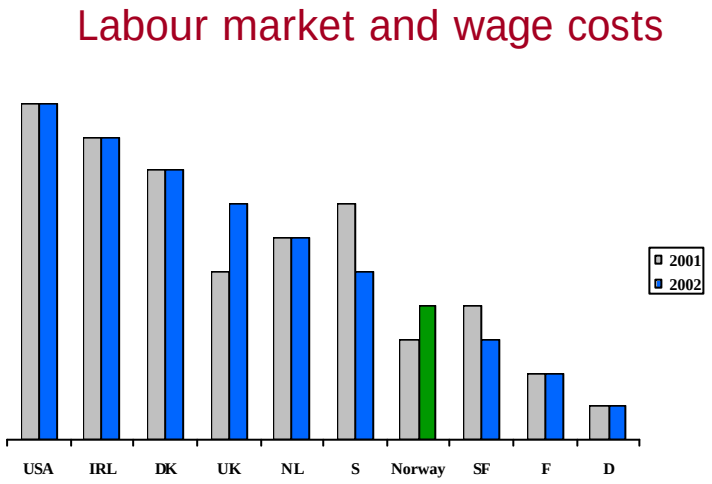
Innovation through creating new knowledge

- More business-oriented knowledge production and increased commercial success.
- More internationally oriented knowledge production.
- A higher rate of establishing new businesses by improving the current framework conditions and measures in order to spread the entrepreneurial culture throughout society.

Improve the labour market

We work less than before. This is due to more holidays and the fact that there are many part-time positions and increased sick-leave. The number of man-weeks worked has dropped in the last two years. Only a greater access to labour and increased productivity in both the public and private sectors can compensate for this.

The present situation in the Norwegian labour market shows some trends that the authorities, enterprises and employees must take seriously. This situation means a reduction in the supply of labour.



A major challenge in Norwegian working life is to reduce the all too early departures from the labour force. Absence due to illness has increased in Norway by more than 40 per cent since 1995 and is a significant reason for the rise in the number of those receiving disability pensions, which in the same period has risen by 22 per cent. Norway's labour force reserve is smaller than that in the other countries Norway can compare itself with. This is due to the country's already high rate of employment among both women and men.

The cost of labour is determined by pay for time worked, social security taxes and pay for time not worked. It is industrial workers' labour costs that serve as an indicator as this is most readily comparable between countries. Growth in the cost of wages per employee and unemployment constitute a combined indicator. Low growth in wages in a situation with low unemployment indicates that the labour market is functioning better in this regard than if unemployment is high.

The spirit of cooperation, labour peace guarantees in wage agreement periods and closeness between employees and management in a company can contribute positively to wealth creation. Access to qualified labour is crucial for choosing a place to locate a business. The length of the working day influences a country's total labour resources and economic performance. At the same time, working hours and rules for organising working hours affect the way the labour market functions.

Norway's ranking has improved from eighth to seventh place in the "labour market and wage costs" area of competitiveness. The level of Norwegian wage costs is high and indicates weakened competitiveness and a risk to Norwegian companies of losing market share. At the same time, the labour market is still tight, and there is a shortage of labour in important areas in Norway. The US and Ireland score highest in this area.

Key elements in NHO's policy to increase the availability of labour are summarised below:

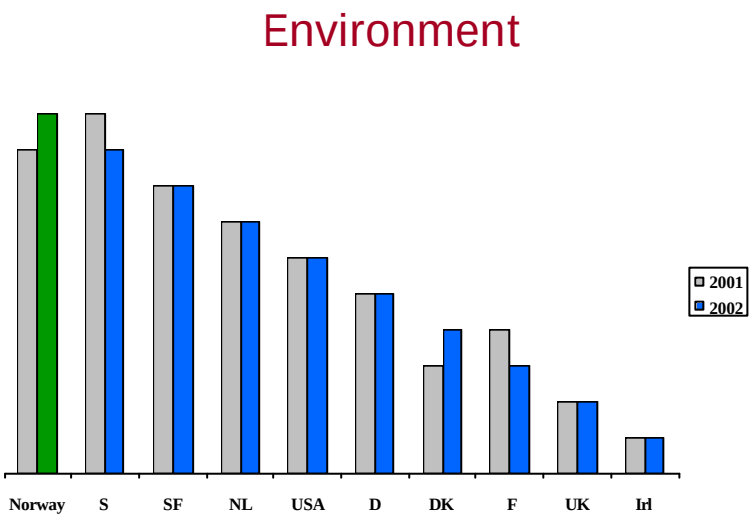
- Rules and agreements must enable labour to be better utilised.
- Wage developments must help Norwegian companies' become more competitive.
- It must always pay to work, and there must be a stronger connection between lifetime income and pension income.
- All parties must assume a clearer responsibility for finding solutions in the enterprise, and not through passive social security schemes. More of the resources of the welfare state must be channelled into activities in enterprises. All activities must start earlier.
- It must be cheaper for enterprises to retain elderly employees, for example through a reduced payroll tax.
- It must be easier to combine work and the various social security schemes.

The solution to several of the challenges can be found through endeavours to achieve a more inclusive working life. A country with a wealth of opportunities such as Norway must use these opportunities to find solutions rather than "parking" too many people in long-term social security schemes. This is of no benefit for the individual, the enterprise or society.

Reconcile sustainable development and competitiveness

Most business sector activity has environmental impacts in one form or another. Environment-related issues therefore affect the framework conditions for wealth-creating enterprises. In connection with expansion, modernisation and increases in productivity, a reduction in discharges or emissions in accordance with environmental targets will usually be required. These requirements stem from local, regional or global environmental obligations.

Business associates, customers and public opinion are also increasingly demanding environmental and energy efficiency with regard to production and products. These demands can go beyond the statutory emissions standards stated in licences and regulations. Consideration for the environment has thus become a significant competitive factor.



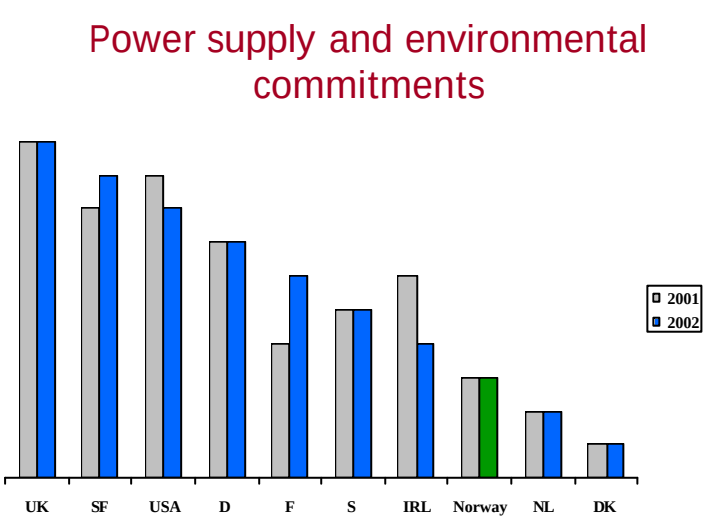
Factors providing indications of business sector environmental awareness and framework conditions are summarised under the “environment” competitiveness area and indicate how business and industry regard voluntary environmental obligations and international agreements to reduce emissions.

Access to energy and climate obligations

Both business sector performance and the energy markets will feel the impact of the obligations the industrial countries have assumed through ratification of the convention on climate change and the signing of the Kyoto Protocol. The costs of meeting the obligations and the pressure concerning the strictness of the terms in the various countries are affected by developments in the economy, the combination of energy

consumption and energy production, and by the formulation of climate policy in the various countries. For Norway the situation will be particularly critical when the country moves from meeting electricity needs solely based on hydropower to the further development of new power sources based on gas, with their associated emissions of greenhouse gases. It is also important to note that the obligations under the Kyoto Protocol vary considerably from country to country.

Norway is a major supplier of energy-intensive products on the world market and a key player with regard to oil and gas in Europe. The country's ability to continue to develop hydropower is limited. Increased power generation will have to be based on gas. In spite of Norway's substantial access to energy resources, there have problems in developing new power generation capacity. This means that in years of average precipitation Norway has become increasingly dependent on importing electricity.



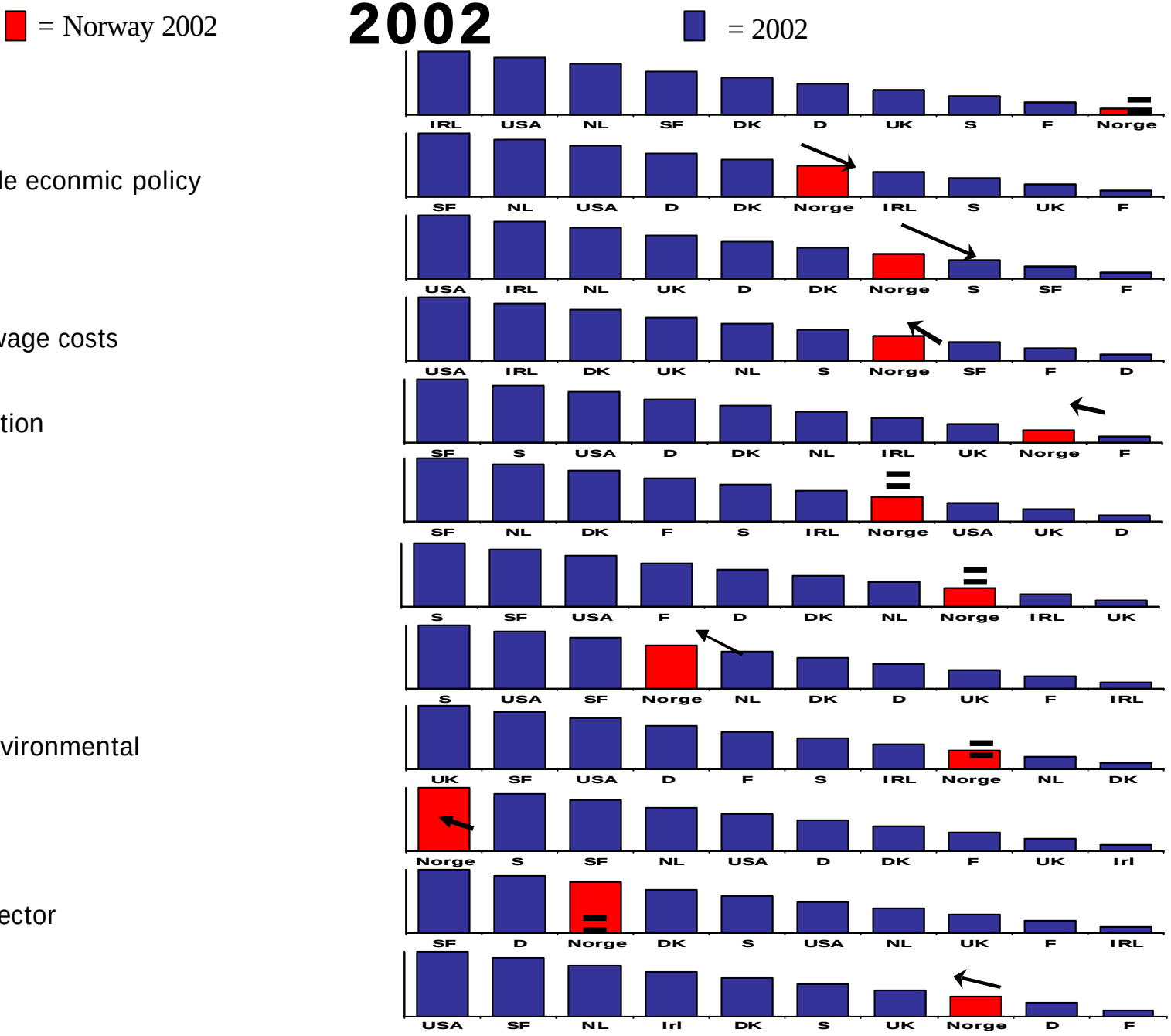
In the "power supply and environmental commitments" competitiveness area we have tried to find indicators that can show the situation in relation to framework conditions for greenhouse gas emissions and access to energy. Emissions of greenhouse gases compared to the baseline year and agreed obligations are important when measuring the business conditions. Norway comes eighth. Norway has ample access to energy, raising its position, but also extensive obligations in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol, which pulls its overall position downwards. The United Kingdom and Finland come out best.

Key elements in NHO's objectives concerning a sustainable environmental policy are summarised below:

- Public procurements must reward good environmental solutions.

- Norwegian business and industry must take their share of the responsibility for following up the Kyoto agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a quota scheme.
- The measures vis-à-vis Norwegian companies must correspond to those taken vis-à-vis companies in the EU member states.
- The policy for allocating offshore blocks for exploration must take into account fisheries as well as the offshore industry. Petroleum-free zones are not a suitable policy instrument.
- Agreements between the authorities and industry based on producer liability should be further developed and introduced in several areas.
- Taxes must be formulated so that less waste goes to landfills and more sent for recovery in the form of materials and energy.
- A ban should be introduced on depositing combustible materials in landfills.

NHOs Competitiveness Benchmarking Report 2002



	2001									
	Norge	S	DK	D	UK	IRL	NL	F	SF	USA
Marked										
Befolkningstall - markedsstørrelse, estimat 2001 i mill	4,49	8,87	5,34	81	59,76	3,8	15,91	59,35	5,19	275
Markedsvekst målt ved realvekst i BNP 2001	3,1	3,6	2,9	3,1	2,9	9,9	3,8	3,2	5,6	5
BNP 2001 mrd USD, vekst per cap.	162	228	161	1873	1415	94	363	1291	122	9965
BNP per cap 1000 usd (PPP) 2001 estimater	29,13	23,51	26,53	24,75	22,65	28,12	25,13	23,37	24,31	33,85
Kapitaltilgang (indeks)	35,38	41,85	40,82	41,49	38,36	40,24	42,00	35,62	42,70	40,86
Ratio inngående/utgående investeringer	1,43	3,04	0,87	0,53	0,42	3,52	0,79	0,36	0,70	1,83
Investeringsincentiver er tilstrekkelige for å tiltrekke utenlandske investorer	5	6,56	5,94	5,87	7,27	9,05	7,72	6,22	7,01	7,35
Integrasjon i regionale handelsblokker er tilstrekkelig tilå gi handelsadgang	5,18	8	8,48	8,57	6,76	8,82	8,47	7,57	9,04	7,21
Forutsigbarhet og stabilitet i den økonomiske politikken										
Nominelle tremåneders pengemarkedsrenter, gjennomsnitt over siste tre år	7,72	3,37	6,82	4,99	2,62	5,09	4,91	5,02	5,44	4,32
Nominell effektiv valutakurs, beregnet over siste tre år , standardavvik	0,86	1,16	0,64	0,68	1,38	0,89	0,55	0,60	0,75	1,74
Konsumprisindeks anslag 2003	2,20	1,80	1,80	2,00	2,60	3,30	2,50	1,70	2,10	2,40
Driftbalansen i % av BNP, snitt 1998-2002	4,42	2,46	0,54	-0,48	-0,40	0,78	3,60	1,96	4,98	-2,44
Underskudd på statsbudsjettet i % av BNP, snitt 1998 -2002	3,26	0,34	0,92	-1,24	-0,06	1,00	-0,18	-1,14	0,32	0,08
Styring av offentlige finanser har bedret seg over de siste fem år	5,54	7,09	5,44	6,55	6,43	7,82	7,39	4,90	7,95	6,82
Myndighetenes økonomisk politikk tilpasses effektivt til nye økonomiske realiteter	4,04	5,15	4,96	5,35	5,02	7,53	6,47	3,30	7,53	6,93
Det politiske system tilpasses effektivt til nye økonomiske realiteter	4,32	4,70	5,44	5,30	5,14	6,64	6,50	3,23	7,09	6,68
Skatte- og avgiftssystemet										
Totale skatteinntekter, direkte og indirekte skatter, inklusive arbeidsgiver og trygdeavgift i % av BNP 2000	43,55	50,96	48,79	37,25	36,98	37,52	41,13	45,37	46,00	28,05
Bedriftsbeskatning av overskudd og kapitalgevinster i % av BNP 2000	3,66	3,04	2,95	1,61	3,86	4,10	4,32	2,72	4,13	2,54
Personbeskatningen gir positive insentiver til arbeidsinnsats	3,01	2,49	2,14	4,00	5,36	7,39	5,44	2,60	3,88	5,82
Bedriftsbeskatningen gir positive insentiver til nyskaping og entreprenørskap	5,00	6,52	5,55	5,07	5,52	8,25	6,72	3,46	7,19	6,02
Arbeidsmarked og lønnskostnader										
Produktivitet pr. sysselsatt	72455	54957	66491	51612	51038	54903	46620	55717	52527	73888
Vekst i produktivitet pr. sysselsatt	1,60	1,50	2,10	0,16	1,36	6,81	0,49	1,58	3,89	2,59
Totale lønnskostnader 2000	100	90	92	104	72	56	85	73	85	89
arbeidsledighet 2001+ lønnsvekst est. 2002	7,9	7,8	8,5	9,2	10,2	11,7	6,6	11,3	13,6	9,3
Årlig arbeidstid, sist tilgjeng. år	1748	1780	1680	1592	1762	1802	1712	1771	1732	1904
Arbeidsrettslig regelverk er tilstrekkelig fleksibelt	3,89	3,79	7,24	3,04	6,60	6,36	4,94	2,13	4,96	7,26
Relasjonene mellom partene på arbeidsmarkedet er generelt sett produktive	7,20	8,00	7,52	6,55	6,89	6,93	7,53	3,91	7,43	6,64
Lett tilgang på kvalifisert arbeidskraft	5,89	7,12	7,30	6,83	5,61	6,11	6,36	6,67	7,04	7,16
Forskning og innovasjon										
Totale FoU-utg. i % av BNP sist tilgjengelige år, noe est.	1,7	3,8	2	2,44	1,87	1,39	1,95	2,17	3,19	2,64
Publiseringshyppighet pr. mill cap i 2000, alle fagfelt	1061	1625	1421	767	1154	694	1165	749	1378	904
Fou utført av næringslivet % av total, sist tilgj år, noe est.	56,0	75,1	62,3	69,4	67,8	73,1	54,2	63,1	71,1	75,7
Totale FoU-personell pr. 1000 arb.st. i sist tilgj år	10,9	15,2	12,0	11,6	9,5	7,8	11,0	11,9	19,5	12,2
Det er tilstrekkelig med teknologisk samarbeid fra universitet/forskningsintitusjoner og bedriftene.	4,11	5,58	5,07	5,14	4,22	5,89	5,56	3,87	7,68	6,65
Utvikling og anvendelse av teknologi har støtte i lovverket i landet	5,67	7,631	6,535	6,857	6,071	7,429	7,159	5,785	8,325	7,567
Finansielle ressurser begrenser ikke teknologisk utvikling	4,44	6,758	6,2	6,571	4,238	6,321	6,441	5,312	7,375	6,756
Det er vanlig med teknologisk samarbeid mellom bedrifter i landet	4,85	6,85	5,41	5,87	5,11	5,61	6,15	4,95	7,70	6,68
Patenter og copyright er tilstrekkelig beskyttet i landet	7,65	8,18	8,34	8,49	8,24	8,15	8,51	7,89	8,64	9,09
Andel patenter fra innbyggerne i landet pr 10 000 innbyggere, sist tilgj år	3,0	4,8	3,0	5,8	3,3	2,7	1,6	2,2	4,9	4,9
Utdanning										
Antall elever i videregående skole i % av befolkningen mellom 15-19 år 2000	86,1	86,2	80,4	88,3	72,5	79,8	87,7	88,3	87,2	78,1
Forventet år i høgskole/universitet år 2000	2,5	1,7	2,5	2,0	1,7	1,8	2,0	2,6	3,9	2,0
offentlige utdanningsutgifter % av BNP 1999	7,7	8,0	8,3	4,6	4,9	4,5	4,9	6,0	6,2	5,1
Utdanningssystemet møter behovene i en konkurranseutsatt økonomi	4,83	5,12	6,51	5,27	4,50	7,86	6,36	5,27	7,93	5,05
Universitetsutdanningen møter behovene i en konkurranseutsatt økonomi	5,22	5,97	6,71	5,45	5,38	8,11	6,75	5,29	8,18	7,43
Oppnådde resultater på realfagstester og matematikktester PISA 2000	515	527	490	520	517	532,5	542,5	518	527	508,5
Transport										
Investeringer i transportinfrastruktur i % av BNP	0,5	1,3	0,5	1	1	0,9	0,7	1,1	0,5	1,04
Flyplasser i forhold til areal og innbyggere	12,29	5,22	2,3	0,41	0,64	2,52	0,26	3,55	4,16	4,16
Infrastruktur vedlikehold og fremtidig utvikling er tilstrekkelig planlagt og finansiert	5,30	6,46	7,63	7,68	4,02	3,93	5,91	7,23	8,22	6,88
Distribusjonsinfrastrukturen av varer og tjenester er generelt effektiv	5,54	7,55	8,37	8,26	3,55	3,68	6,40	7,94	8,44	7,14
Maritim transport møter næringslivets behov	8,02	7,97	8,60	8,70	5,52	5,29	8,57	7,31	8,91	7,58
Skatter og avgifter på godsbil 40 tonn totalvekt 150 000 km pr år	100	71	70	79	151	65	67	73	61	82
Avgifter og mva på autodiesel	100	83	90	86	153	62	79	84	75	90

IKT infrastruktur										
ISDN kanaler per innbygger 2000	28,40	7,12	12,46	16,73	4,40	5,83	14,51	6,12	9,05	4,14
antall aksesser per 100 innbyggere kabelmodem, dsl og fiber	0,35	1,21	1,05	0,24	0,08		1,67	0,32	0,58	2,25
gjennomsnitlige priser for 20 timer internett tilgang (1995-2000)	49,47	40,00	61,58	70,53	55,53	89,21	52,11	58,16	31,84	33,95
Datamaskiner i bruk pr 1000 innb. 2001	571,7	576,1	560,5	372,6	442,4	408,6	468,3	369,4	573,3	580,5
Telefonkostnader i USD for 3 minutter til og fra USA 2002	0,29	0,27	0,60	0,28	0,86	0,42	0,20	0,53	1,09	0,36
IT of K investeringer som andel av BNP 2000	6,58	9,18	7,34	6,25	7,85	5,47	8,00	6,63	6,74	7,94
Internett brukere per 1000 innb 2001	489,98	496,05	486,89	245,41	281,12	289,47	345,69	151,64	462,43	488,18
Internett i næringslivet, andel av bedrifter >9 ansatte som har internett	5,20	7,40	6,10	5,70	6,50	4,80	6,60	6,10	6,00	5,90
Implementering av ny informasjonsteknologi er tilpasset næringslivets behov	7,67	8,76	7,75	7,71	6,88	7,57	7,51	6,75	9,26	8,31
Det er god tilgang på kvalifiserte IKT personell	5,48	7,76	6,06	4,68	5,60	6,68	5,97	5,63	6,99	7,31
Krafttilgang og klimaforpliketelser										
Utslipp av klimagassene karbondioksid (CO2), lystgass (N2O) om metan (NH4)sammenlignet med forpliktel	1,141	0,974	1,376	1,064	1,034	1,054	1,151	1,010	1,012	1,186
Andel prosess utslipp av CO2 i 1999	0,176	0,070	0,019	0,034	0,052	0,048	0,053	0,062	0,031	0,015
Import av energibærere er her målt mot primær energitilgang for alle energibærere (kilde: IEA)	0,253	0,557	0,764	0,684	0,328	0,934	1,631	0,619	0,684	0,293
Nettoimport av kraft målt i forhold til totalt innenlandsk forbruk av elektrisitet (kilde:IEA)	0,136	0,196	0,398	0,172	0,046	0,018	0,278	0,195	0,156	0,017
Miljø										
ISO14001 sertifikater/BNP	1,88	4,87	3,68	0,82	1,62	1,41	1,10	0,43	2,79	0,11
Mmerklictot/BNP	8,71	18,94	8,49	2,25	2,45	0,09	0,06	0,61	5,55	0,03
Eksisterende lover somskal beskytte miljøet er kompatibelt med næringsvirksomhet	6,32	7,42	6,23	5,71	5,83	5,95	7,14	6,11	7,75	6,23
Miljørelaterte skatte og avgifter, Skatteinntekt fra utslipp til luft+vann-avfallsbehandling % av BNP 2000 eller	3,60	2,80	4,50	2,50	3,60	2,90	3,10	3,00	3,00	1,00
Krav til reduksjon i utslipp av Sox, = 3 siste års utslipp/krav til utslipp i 2010	1,41	1,43	2,66	3,11	2,70	3,78	3,75	2,47	0,86	2,47
andel Sox-utslipp fra stasjonære kilder/ totalt utslipp av SOX	0,90	0,74	0,94	0,97	0,80	0,96	0,95	0,85	0,96	0,93
Krav til reduksjon i utslipp av NOX, 3 siste års utslipp/krav til utslipp i 2010	1,40	2,36	2,07	2,37	1,78	1,84	1,85	2,01	1,54	1,90
Andel NOx-utslipp fra stasjonære kilder/ totalt utslipp av NOX	0,25	0,20	0,48	0,29	0,36	0,41	0,50	0,24	0,36	0,50
Velferd og offentlig sektor										
Offentlig ansatte i % av sysselsatte 2000	27,9	30,1	33,1	15,6	13,5	13,4	10,6	23,5	22,4	14,0
Vekst i offentlig sektors konsum, snitt siste tre år, est 2001	2,17	0,50	1,30	1,63	3,67	4,90	2,53	2,00	1,17	1,93
Antall alvorlig kriminelle handlinger per 100 000 innbyggere	99,3	122,5	70,7	216,5	490,4	93,6	344,7	294,4	79	574,1
Det er en generell trygghet i befolkningen at deres eiendeler er trygge	8,26	7,64	8,11	8	6,1	7,57	7	5,66	8,98	8,02
Vold og trakassering er ikke et problem på arbeidsplassene i landet	7,83	8,52	8,77	8,39	7,19	8,32	8,11	7,2	8,96	7,59
Human development indeks 2000	0,93	0,93	0,91	0,91	0,92	0,91	0,93	0,92	0,92	0,93
Det er tilfredstillende livskvalitet i landet	9,01	8,45	8,45	8,86	7,07	8	8,63	8,34	8,89	8,68
sysselsettingsgrad menn 15-64 år	85	81	85	80	84	78	83	74	75	84
sysselsettingsgrad kvinner 15-64 år	76	76	76	62	68	54	64	61	71	71
Næringslivsklima										
Ledere har vanligvis en god entreprenørsånd	5,19	6,73	5,61	5,87	5,23	6,93	6,92	5,37	7,11	7,09
Landets image utenlands er av positiv verdi for foretningsdrift	6,11	7,49	7,78	7,18	6,21	8,36	8,03	5,27	8,32	8,02
Samfunnets verdigrunnlag, som hardt arbeid og innovasjon, støtter konkurranseevnen	6,24	6,88	6,39	6,81	6,38	7,43	7,39	5,36	8,27	8,38
Nasjonens kultur er åpen overfor påvirkning utenfra landet	5,81	7,48	6,48	6,52	7,00	7,43	8,44	5,53	6,84	6,58
Innbyggerne i landet er fleksible overfor nye utfordringer	5,18	7,09	6,17	5,48	6,00	7,39	7,55	4,84	7,63	7,44
Lovverket støtter konkurransesituasjonen i økonomien	7,54	7,97	8,20	7,14	7,43	7,61	7,94	5,01	8,23	6,50
Det politiske systemet i landet møter de økonomiske utfordringer landet står overfor	4,32	4,70	5,44	5,30	5,14	6,64	6,50	3,23	7,09	6,68
Byråkratiet hindrer ikke næringslivets utvikling	3,03	5,58	5,04	3,87	3,14	5,64	4,69	1,76	6,38	3,73

Norge	S	DK	D	UK	IRL	NL	F	SF	USA
4,49	8,90	5,40	82,00	59,50	3,80	15,90	58,90	5,20	284,80
1,40	1,10	1,30	0,60	2,30	5,00	1,10	2,00	0,40	1,20
0,77	0,99	1,21	0,56	2,39	4,50	0,85	2,05	0,55	0,54
30,14	24,51	27,97	25,29	24,00	31,00	26,00	25,00	25,00	33,85
35,98	41,60	40,86	39,55	38,79	39,48	42,72	36,39	43,88	43,07
0,72	0,55	3,49	3,63	0,50	5,72	0,72	0,25	0,37	1,89
4,41	6,16	6,18	5,48	6,96	8,60	7,87	5,83	6,21	7,27
5,18	7,67	8,05	8,26	6,69	8,49	8,41	7,68	8,96	6,96
6,64	4,03	4,22	3,72	5,71	3,72	3,72	3,72	3,72	4,32
4,05	3,76	2,10	0,36	2,32	0,36	0,36	0,36	0,36	0,67
2,50	2,80	2,20	1,60	2,30	3,10	2,40	1,70	1,80	2,40
9,46	3,48	1,36	-0,14	-1,64	-0,36	3,44	2,10	6,14	-3,80
10,68	2,80	2,36	-1,62	0,66	2,12	0,44	-1,82	3,66	0,46
5,02	5,21	5,14	4,86	4,64	4,95	5,69	3,83	6,13	5,46
5,02	4,52	5,82	5,00	4,92	5,55	5,69	3,00	6,53	6,17
6,01	4,98	5,23	5,19	5,36	6,36	6,38	3,28	7,19	6,58
40,21	52,94	50,01	37,90	37,27	31,64	41,19	45,39	46,70	28,32
6,12	3,66	2,42	1,83	3,65	3,86	4,17	3,05	5,45	2,36
4,42	2,73	3,41	3,12	5,97	6,63	5,44	2,63	3,27	6,50
5,50	6,20	6,03	4,70	5,57	6,96	6,81	3,60	6,10	6,44
72621	49912	59440	50433	50968	58876	53578	54885	51404	75386
1,13	-0,15	0,99	0,40	1,95	1,09	-0,69	0,96	-0,37	0,84
100	90	92	103	71	56	85	73	87	89
8,60	9,70	8,50	10,50	9,00	10,40	7,30	11,00	13,10	7,90
1710	1780	1680	1592	1762	1802	1712	1600	1732	1904
4,34	3,97	6,92	1,88	5,92	6,04	4,52	1,75	5,35	7,86
7,03	7,84	7,87	6,33	6,61	7,26	7,46	3,63	7,82	6,93
6,39	7,25	7,72	6,79	6,22	7,05	7,34	7,38	7,77	8,04
1,46	3,78	2,09	2,52	1,86	1,21	2,02	2,15	3,37	2,70
1054	1624	1416	767	1149	687	1157	750	1375	891
56,00	75,10	63,40	71,40	65,60	72,90	56,40	64,00	70,90	75,30
11,10	16,00	13,00	12,60	9,40	7,60	11,00	13,30	23,00	13,00
4,11	5,58	5,07	5,14	4,22	5,89	5,56	3,87	7,68	6,65
6,97	7,90	7,38	6,73	6,64	7,33	7,56	6,35	8,67	7,90
5,46	6,67	7,03	6,58	5,81	6,68	7,16	5,62	8,50	7,94
4,85	6,85	5,41	5,87	5,11	5,61	6,15	4,95	7,70	6,68
6,05	7,40	6,54	6,47	5,75	6,11	7,02	5,62	8,18	7,40
2,92	4,53	2,90	5,76	3,30	2,70	1,62	2,28	4,82	4,67
85,50	86,40	80,40	88,30	73,30	79,80	86,60	86,40	84,80	73,90
2,40	1,70	2,60	2,00	1,70	1,80	2,10	2,60	4,10	2,10
7,40	7,70	8,10	4,70	4,70	4,30	4,80	6,00	6,20	5,20
4,66	5,41	6,54	3,81	4,81	8,00	6,73	5,80	8,61	6,29
5,61	6,30	6,77	4,53	5,39	8,04	7,02	6,27	8,86	7,98
499,5	511,0	497,5	488,5	530,5	508,0	542,5	508,5	527,0	496,0
0,50	1,30	0,50	1,00	1,00	0,90	0,70	1,10	0,50	1,04
12,29	5,22	2,30	0,41	0,64	2,52	0,26	3,55	4,16	4,16
5,68	6,17	8,13	7,35	3,47	4,32	6,13	7,20	8,13	7,15
6,61	7,43	8,37	9,09	3,61	3,54	6,31	8,11	8,83	8,55
8,13	8,31	9,18	8,53	6,73	5,86	8,91	7,72	9,09	8,29
100	68	68	78	147	63	67	70	60	80
100	78	82	85	137	66	72	79	68	85

0,36	0,10	0,18	0,22	0,10	0,06	0,19	0,09	0,12	0,05
0,35	1,21	1,05	0,24	0,08		1,67	0,32	0,58	2,25
49,47	40,00	61,58	70,53	55,53	89,21	52,11	58,16	31,84	33,95
610,00	626,00	609,00	436,00	492,00	461,00	510,00	419,00	614,00	639,00
0,29	0,27	0,60	0,24	0,86	0,54	0,20	0,24	0,94	0,36
6,77	9,72	7,79	6,76	8,46	5,36	8,43	7,24	6,76	8,00
532,00	554,00	541,00	308,00	401,00	290,00	450,00	209,00	513,00	522,00
73,22	89,89	86,55	82,50	63,37	77,00	78,99	58,00	90,76	71,78
8,27	9,03	8,56	8,19	7,39	6,49	8,03	7,38	9,30	9,00
7,87	8,77	7,77	6,47	6,97	7,93	7,69	7,09	8,88	8,77
1,07	0,96	1,33	1,03	1,00	1,09	1,10	0,99	0,99	1,20
0,19	0,08	0,03	0,04	0,05	0,05	0,07	0,07	0,04	0,05
0,25	0,56	0,76	0,68	0,33	0,93	1,63	0,62	0,68	0,29
0,14	0,20	0,40	0,17	0,05	0,02	0,28	0,20	0,16	0,02
2,21	5,25	3,97	1,00	3,13	1,40	1,12	0,51	3,04	0,12
7,19	40,74	9,66	2,26	2,47	0,02	0,11	0,61	4,58	0,03
7,08	7,20	6,82	5,58	6,48	5,78	6,56	6,08	8,03	6,16
3,02	2,92	4,67	2,59	3,70	3,10	2,89	2,37	3,01	0,88
1,27	0,87	0,95	1,50	2,01	2,11	3,68	2,47	0,72	2,47
0,89	0,98	0,96	0,97	0,76	1,09	0,97	0,93	0,97	0,90
1,49	1,78	1,74	1,54	1,59	1,37	1,84	1,85	1,45	1,90
0,25	0,43	0,59	0,41	0,33	0,52	0,53	0,45	0,45	0,40
37,50	35,80	37,30	16,90	17,60	20,00	25,10	24,80	29,60	15,70
1,60	0,60	1,10	1,43	2,93	5,93	2,47	2,10	0,93	3,40
113,80	122,50	77,00	217,80	490,40	65,80	344,70	325,20	82,20	574,10
8,16	7,51	8,79	8,16	5,78	7,37	6,92	4,54	9,18	8,19
8,63	8,66	8,77	8,33	6,92	8,00	8,03	7,28	9,17	7,60
0,94	0,94	0,93	0,93	0,93	0,93	0,94	0,93	0,93	0,94
9,16	8,52	9,13	8,60	7,67	7,93	8,91	8,22	8,97	8,92
81,80	72,60	80,70	72,70	77,90	75,60	82,10	68,80	71,10	75,92
73,90	69,70	72,10	57,80	64,50	53,40	63,40	54,80	65,20	63,87
5,73	6,13	5,56	5,16	6,47	6,77	7,44	5,06	6,11	9,11
6,16	7,15	7,71	6,80	6,72	8,32	8,03	4,95	8,18	8,04
5,87	6,33	6,62	6,23	6,56	7,54	7,44	4,68	8,08	8,85
6,34	7,80	6,44	7,02	6,64	7,65	8,63	5,70	7,39	8,04
5,89	6,62	6,62	4,91	6,08	7,96	7,84	4,86	7,74	8,58
6,81	6,85	7,39	5,35	7,00	6,91	7,25	3,98	7,74	6,23
4,59	4,98	6,67	4,19	5,36	6,36	6,38	3,28	7,19	6,58
4,29	5,70	5,77	2,77	2,94	5,32	5,06	2,47	6,83	4,67