

DIW Berlin
www.diw.de/english/

DIW Berlin



DIW-Newsletter No. 15
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Dear Readers,

We are pleased to send you the DIW-Newsletter, which contains up-to-date information on activities at DIW Berlin, news about staff members, events, employment opportunities, press coverage and much more. In the current issue, we are focussing on the following topics:

Since the beginning of 2005 we offer the Weekly Report as DIW Berlin's new online publication. Every month, four articles of the Wochenbericht are published in English.

Against the background of the dramatic labor market situation in Germany, a three-point-program to improve the growth conditions of the German national economy was put forward by Prof. Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann, President of DIW Berlin, in cooperation with Professors Michael Huether and Thomas Straubhaar.

DIW Berlin successfully started the year with a new type of event: "Is the sick man of Europe recovering?" was the topic discussed by top representatives from politics, business and science within the frame of the first Joint Debate organized by DIW Berlin, The Economist and the Alfred Herrhausen Society.

We are offering high-quality services to members of the Society of Friends of DIW Berlin (VdF), rewarding friends and supporters of our Institute with the opportunity to join in exclusive discussions like the "Friedensburg Talks" or the "President's Dinner".

Since January 2005, many of our products can be conveniently purchased in electronic form at our online shop. Currently, you can download the Weekly Report essays as well as, from April 2005, the Quarterly Journal of Economic Research as pdf files.

With kind regards,

Sabrina Ortmann (sortmann@diw.de)

Service Department Information and Organization

This newsletter is available free of charge by e-mail. Subscriptions may be **cancelled** easily and at any time.



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News from DIW Berlin

New Online Publication in English: Weekly Report

The Weekly Report is DIW Berlin's new online publication. Every month, four articles of the Wochenbericht are published in English. The Weekly Report presents compact information on current results of economic research on highest level. The articles are available for EUR 10 each. The yearly subscription rate is EUR 300.

Previously Released Weekly Reports of DIW Berlin:

Current Weekly Report No. 9/2005

Carbon Dioxide Emissions in Germany: Stagnating in 2004.

From Hans-Joachim Ziesing.

No. 8/2005

Minijob-Reform: No Effect on Unemployment, Losses in Income Tax and Social Security Contributions.

From Viktor Steiner.

No. 7/2005

Consumer Demand Stable at Year End: Preliminary Data From the German National Accounts for the Fourth Quarter of 2004.

From Andreas Cors.

No. 6/2005

Demand for Pharmaceuticals: Impacts on Production and Employment in Nearly Every Sector of the Economy.

From Joerg-Peter Weiss, Stephan Raab and Joachim Schintke.

No. 5/2005

Above-Average Rise in Immigrant Poverty: Poverty Often Concomitant with Other Types of Deprivation.

From Ingrid Tucci and Gert G. Wagner.

No. 4/2005

Women Managers: Enormous Deficit in Large Companies and Employer's Associations.

From Elke Holst.

No. 3/2005

Unjust Divergence in Earnings in Germany?

From Stefan Liebig and Juergen Schupp.

No. 2/2005

The Economic Costs of Climate Change. From Claudia Kemfert.

No. 1/2005

Economic Trends 2005/2006.

Research Group of the Department of Macro Analysis and Forecasting.



- Previously released Weekly Reports:
<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/weeklyreport/jahrgang05/index.jsp>



Joint Proposal by German Research Institute Directors to Stimulate Economic Growth

The dramatic labor market situation clearly shows that economic revival is still urgently needed in Germany. However, large-scale structural reforms can not take place overnight. For this reason, Professors Michael Huether (Institute for Economic Policy at the University of Cologne), Thomas Straubhaar (Institute for Economic Research in Hamburg) and Klaus F. Zimmermann (German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin and Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn), submitted a three-point-program with a view to improving the growth conditions of the German economy, which could already be implemented on July 1, 2005.

Prof. Dr. [Michael Hüther](#) Prof. Dr. [Klaus F. Zimmermann](#)

Prof. Dr. [Thomas Straubhaar](#)



- The appeal as PDF-Document (in German only):
http://www.diw.de/deutsch/dasinstitut/info/2005/2005-02_gemeinsames-positionspapier.pdf
- Press Release of DIW Berlin from March 12, 2005:



Is The Sick Man of Europe Recovering? First Joint Debate of DIW Berlin, The Economist and the Alfred Herrhausen Society

Germany was branded as "The sick man of Europe" by the British magazine "The Economist" in 1999. Today, Germany may be export world's champion, yet growth rates are falling and even economic forecasts are anything but positive. What are the reasons and where is Germany headed was the subject of the discussion held on February 24, 2005 on the occasion of the first Joint Debate of DIW Berlin, The Economist and the Alfred Herrhausen Society, between top representatives from politics, industry and science. Wolfgang Clement, Federal Minister of Economics and Labor, Dr. Alexander Dibelius, Germany boss of Goldman Sachs, Martin Kannegiesser, President of the German Metal and Electrical Industry Employers Association and Prof. Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann, President of DIW Berlin, gave a review on the topic "Is the sick man of Europe recovering?". Edward Lucas, Britain Correspondent of The Economist, welcomed approximately 260 guests in the atrium at Deutsche Bank in Berlin.



Joint Debate at Deutsche Bank in Berlin
Photo: Marc Darchingner

- Further information:
http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/2004_jointdebate.html



Exclusive Service for Members of the Society of Friends of DIW Berlin (VdF)

DIW Berlin has a high-quality range of services and events on offer for its friends and supporters. More attractions have now been added: exclusive events like the Friedensburg Talks or the President's Dinner were brought into being and the Society of Friends' website has been redesigned.

The Friedensburg Talks, held for the first time in October 2004, were specifically designed for Members of the Society of Friends. Within the

frame of a small informal gathering, six members used the opportunity to discuss economic policy topics with former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The President's Dinner, another exclusive discussion group, will be initiated this year. In this respect, members of the Society of Friends will have the opportunity to discuss current economic policy issues and developments with Professor Klaus F. Zimmermann, President of DIW Berlin, in an informal round. The web pages of the Society of Friends were also given new contents and a new look. The new website has been online since March 2005 and provides current information on the services offered by the Institute to its supporters, the Executive Committee of the Society of Friends or membership. The Society of Friends of DIW Berlin (VdF) has been supporting the research activities of DIW Berlin both financially and intellectually for over 50 years.



Helmut Schmidt at the Friedensburg Talk in October 2004
Photo: Jan Hillnhütter

- Society of Friends of DIW Berlin online:
<http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/vdf/index.html>



Our Hotline Service for Policy Makers

From now on we provide policy makers an exclusive hotline. Our staff member Renate Bogdanovic will help you to answer your questions, for instance looking for qualified advisors from our research departments or searching for publications of DIW Berlin. The hotline number is +49 30 897 89-249.



Personnel



Prof. Dr. Gert G. Wagner was appointed to the working group "Chances and Problems of an Aging Society - The World of Labour and Lifelong Learning" by the German Academy of Natural Scientists Leopoldina (Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher) and acatech - Council for Engineering Sciences at the Union of the German Academies of Science and Humanities (Konvent für Technikwissenschaften der Union der deutschen Akademien der Wissenschaften).



On February 19, 2005 the Technische Universität Berlin conferred on **Dr. C. Katharina Spiess** the post-doctoral qualification of Habilitation in the Department of Economics and Management.

- Further information:
http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/20050216_spiess_habil.html



New Research Professors



Prof. Dr. Martin Diewald, University of Bielefeld, Germany, was appointed to a Research Professor for the next three years upon recommendation of the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) at DIW Berlin up to March 1, 2005.



Prof. Dr. Harald Trabold from the Department of Economics at the

University of Applied Sciences of Osnabrueck, Germany, was appointed to the position of Research Professor at DIW Berlin up to March 1, 2005.



Prof. Dr. Christian von Hirschhausen was also appointed to a Research Professor at DIW Berlin up to March 1, 2005 upon recommendation of the Department of International Economics. He is Professor at the DREWAG - Chair of Energy Economics, Technical University in Dresden, Germany.

The co-operation with **Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kamecke**, Humboldt-Universitaet zu Berlin, **Prof. Dennis C. Mueller, Ph.D.**, University of Vienna, and **Prof. Bart van Ark, Ph.D.**, University of Groningen, have been extended for another three years.



New Research Affiliates



Dr. Ralf Maiterth from the Department of Business Taxation at the University of Hannover, Germany, was appointed to a Research Affiliate at DIW Berlin up to February 1, 2005.



PD Dr. Johannes Juetting, Senior Economist at the OECD Development Center in Paris, France, was also appointed to a Research Affiliate up to March 1, 2005.

- Further research co-operations of DIW Berlin:
<http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/kooperationen/index.html>



Publications

Online Shop of DIW Berlin

We are pleased to introduce our new online shop. Many of DIW Berlin's publications can be bought there as electronic versions. The following products of DIW Berlin are offered at our online shop: Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin (in German), Weekly Report (in English) and Quarterly Journal of Economic Research (in German, starting in April 2005). To offer you the highest possible security standard we co-operate with the leading online shop provider Firstgate Internet AG with whom all payment can be easily handled.

- Further information on the online shop:
<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/onlineshop/>
- Further information on payment:
http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/zahlsystem_info.html



Current Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin No. 12-13/2005

Worldwide Climate Protection: High Cost Savings Through Immediate Action

Industrial countries need to initiate urgent measures to immediately reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. According to the latest Weekly Report of DIW Berlin 12-13/2005, without political measures with respect to climate protection, global climatic damage of up to 20 bn US dollars can be expected by the year 2100. If those measures are only initiated in 20 to 30 years, the permissible temperature limit of 2°C or more may be exceeded, which can no longer be prevented. This temperature rise would cause irreversible climatic damage. What is more, the costs of implementing a climate protection policy as from today should be lower than taking drastic measures in 20 years. The costs for an active climate protection policy beginning today would amount to approx. 430 bn US dollars in 2050, and approx. 3 bn US dollars in 2100. A climate protection policy only initiated in 2025 would entail additional costs of up to 50 bn US dollar in 2050 and 340 bn US dollar in 2100. Global climatic damage amounting to 12 bn US dollar could be prevented in 2100 by initiating an active climate protection policy as quickly as possible.

In Germany, an effective climate protection policy already enforced today would cost 5.7 bn US dollar in 2050 and 40 bn US dollar in 2100. At the same time, climatic damage amounting to 33 bn US dollar in 2050 and 160 bn US dollar in 2100 could be prevented.

Regulation of New Telecommunications Markets: Making Use of Powers of Discretion

According to the latest Weekly Report 12-13/2005, the regulation of telecommunications markets must take specific network investment risks into account, and may only allow interventions if there is a permanent market power risk, as it is the exploitation of market power in this area which creates necessary incentives for high-risk investments. The new telecommunications legal framework provides considerable powers of discretion, which should be used to enforce a

dynamic and efficient regulation.

In order to create investment incentives, a multi-stage regulation procedure for new telecommunications markets was proposed. In an early stage, innovative markets should not be subject to regulation, even if this means acceptance of short-term monopoly positions. After an adequate market introduction phase, the new market should then be delimited and its development checked at regular intervals. The new market should only be subject to sector-specific regulation if no trend towards effective competition structures can be recognized. This procedure presents certain similarities with the protection of innovations through patents, yet also counters possible displacement strategies of market-dominating companies.



- Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin No. 12-13/2005 (only in German):
<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/wochenberichte/aktuell/>



Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin No. 11/2005

Strong rejection of EU Enlargement in Germany

According to the Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin No. 11/2005, there is currently very little acceptance of the EU Enlargement among the German population. Among the countries of EU-15, Germany, with only 36%, has one of the lowest acceptance rates. In this respect, contrary to popular opinion, the population's concerns about the consequences of the EU Enlargement are not related to fears regarding their own economic situation. On the basis of Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) data, it transpires that individuals with a precarious employment situation and the unemployed do not view the EU Enlargement more critically than the rest of the population. Concerns about the EU Enlargement are particularly low among the under 25, East Germans, and people with a low income. In addition, people's long-term party affiliation and media use influence their opinion on the EU Enlargement. The population's concerns about the effects of the EU Enlargement are thus more strongly based on a general skepticism towards the EU as on economic considerations. The most important motive in this respect, however, are fears in connection with immigration.

Capital and income allocation: strong differences according to gender and age

The proportion of income from capital to the income earned on the market by private households increased to 4.6% until 2003.

Accordingly, the structure of private households' available income has become increasingly influenced by capital and its resulting interests and returns, as demonstrated in the Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin on the basis of a survey carried out by the Socio-Economic Panel. With a percentage of 94% of market incomes in 2003, income from employment may still by far build the largest source of income in private households. However, more than three thirds of the population can mainly fall back upon smaller existing assets in the form of monetary capital, life insurance policies, real estate, tangible or operating assets. A per-capita observation of existing assets in households revealed that net assets are much less unequally distributed than income weighted by demand. Income position and existing assets may differ according to life stage or family situation. Especially single parents, for the most part women, often have fewer assets.

- Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin No. 11/2005 (only in German):
<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/wochenberichte/aktuell/>



Quarterly Journal of Economic Research 4/2004

Alternatives for the German Health Care System: New Results of Theoretical and Empirical Research

A year after the enactment of the health reform, it appears necessary to implement further changes in the health system. The current Quarterly Journal of Economic Research published by DIW Berlin presents the latest research findings on health policy issues and an evaluation of those results by expert practitioners. The journal analyzes competition between health insurance funds, remuneration of suppliers and regulation of prescription drug prices. Individual topics dealt within the current issue are the effects of competition between health insurance funds, the remuneration of suppliers and regulation of prescription drug prices.

The first issue of 2005 will be published in April. Additionally to the printed version, the complete journal or the single issues can be ordered as an online version (PDF) at our online shop.



- Quarterly Journal of Economic Research 2004-4:
http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/vierteljahrshefte/jahrgang04/content_4.html
- Publications of DIW Berlin on Health Care Reform/Health Policy:



New Publication List "Household Income" (Years of Publication 2003-2005)

At our website you can find numerous publication lists, which provide you with a selection of articles of DIW Berlin's economists about current economic policy issues. At the moment we offer lists on: "Women's Employment", "Media and Culture", "Child Care/Housing", "Health Care Reform/Health Policy", "Berlin-Brandenburg", "Information Society", "EU Eastern Enlargement", "Sustainability", and "Stability and Growth".

- Publication List "Household Income":
[http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/service/
themenlisten/medienliste_einkommen.html](http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/service/themenlisten/medienliste_einkommen.html)
- All available lists:
<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/service/themenlisten/index.html>



New Discussion Papers of DIW Berlin

The discussion papers are published sporadically. The papers contain results of economic research shortly before their publication. Opinions expressed in these papers are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect views of the Institute.

No. 474:

The Geographic Mobility of Dual-Earner Couples: Does Gender Ideology Matter?
From Hendrik Juerges.

No. 473:

Wer bleibt kinderlos? Sozialstrukturelle Daten zur Kinderlosigkeit von Frauen und Männern.
From Christian Schmitt and Ulrike Winkelmann.

No. 472:

Labor Market Effects of the German Tax Reform 2000.
From Peter Haan and Viktor Steiner.

No. 471:

Estimating and Forecasting Aggregate Productivity Growth Trends in the US and Germany.
From Georg Erber and Ulrich Fritsche.

No. 470:

The Excess Demand for Subsidized Child Care in Germany.
From Katharina Wrohlich.

- Current discussion papers of DIW Berlin:
<http://www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/diskussionspapiere/jahrgang05/index.jsp>



New Issue of DIW@school

The third issue of DIW@school has been published by DIW Berlin. It includes an explanation of the working of statistics, the key data of the economic forecast for Germany, an article on unemployment in Germany, an outside view on the German economy entitled "Shopping in Berlin and in Podgorica" and a discussion on the continuity of labor time in Germany. DIW@school has been published online twice a year since the beginning of 2004. It is made available free of charge to schools and can be downloaded from DIW Berlin's website. This publication contains topical and practice-oriented teaching materials on the economy and economic policy. All articles are written in an easy-to-read style by researchers of DIW Berlin. The publication aims primarily at students and teachers of economics in general secondary and vocational schools.



- You can download the latest issue of DIW@school here (only in German):
<http://www.diw.de/atschool>



Articles by DIW Berlin Staff Members in Refereed Journals (December 21, 2004 to March 15, 2005)

Wer erbt mehr? Erbschaften, Sozialstruktur und Alterssicherung.
 Marc Szydlík; Juergen Schupp
 In: Koelner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie 56 (2004)
 issue 4, p. 609-629

The Incentives for Takeover in Oligopoly.
 Roman Inderst; Christian Wey
 In: International Journal of Industrial Organization 22 (2004) issues 8-9,
 p. 1067-1089

Der Einfluss des Einkommens der Eltern auf die Schulwahl.
 Thorsten Schneider

In: Zeitschrift für Soziologie 33 (2004) issue 6, p. 471-492

Landing on All Fours? Communist Elites in Post-Soviet Russia.

Ingo Geishecker; John P. Haisken-DeNew

In: Journal of Comparative Economics 32 (2004) issue 4, p. 700-719

Implementing the Kyoto Protocol without Russia.

Erik Haites; Farhana Yamin; Odile Blanchard; Claudia Kemfert

In: Climate Policy 4 (2004) issue 2, p. 143-152

Prediction of Business Cycle Turning Points in Germany.

Ulrich Fritsche; Vladimir Kouzine

In: Jahrbuecher fuer Nationaloekonomie und Statistik 225 (2005) issue 1, p. 22-43

How to Turn an Industry Green: Taxes versus Subsidies.

Susanne Droege; Philipp J. H. Schroeder

In: Journal of Regulatory Economics 27 (2005) issue 2, p. 177-202

- Further publications (only in German):

<http://www.diw.de/deutsch/dasinstitut/info/>

[nl_publikationen_20030822.html](http://www.diw.de/deutsch/dasinstitut/info/nl_publikationen_20030822.html)



Events of DIW Berlin

Upcoming Events

The staff members of DIW Berlin present and discuss their research results in the frame of various events that are organized by the DIW Berlin or in co-operation with the Institute.

Annual General Meeting of the Society of Friends of DIW Berlin (VdF)

Date: May 11, 2005

In addition to important information about the development of the VdF, the President of DIW Berlin, Prof. Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann, will hold an economic policy keynote speech not to be published in the Wochenbericht of DIW Berlin and the media until the following day.

Location: dbb forum berlin, Friedrichstrasse 169/170, 10117 Berlin

Contact: VdF-Agency, Simone Schlitt, Phone: +49 30 897 89-210, Fax: +49 30 897 89-100, Email: vdF@diw.de, Internet: <http://www.diw.de/vdF/>

Workshop "E-business in Manufacturing Industries: A Source of Competitive Advantage?"

Date: May 11, 2005, 2 to 6 pm

On behalf of the European e-Business Market Watch, European Commission, DG Enterprise & Industry

Location: DIW Berlin, Englerallee 40, 14195 Berlin, Room E05

Contact: Philipp Koellinger, Phone: +49 30 897 89-618, Email:

pkoellinger@diw.de

- Further information on the program (PDF):
http://www.diw.de/deutsch/produkte/veranstaltungen/workshop/workshops_2005/20050302_ebusiness_programm.pdf

Spring Meeting of the Industrial Conference

Date: May 12 and 13, 2005

The **Industrial Conference (Industrietagung)** is the traditional institutionalized forum for exchange between DIW Berlin and the business sector. Since October 1960, the forum has met twice a year - May and November. The conference understands itself to be a platform for dialogs on different viewpoints and opinions. Main topic of the next Industrial Conference will be the current debate on optimal labor times. The next Industrial Conference takes place in Berlin on May 12 and 13, 2005.

Contact and Registration: Ralf Messer, DIW Berlin, Phone: +49 30 897 89-569, E-Mail: rmesser@diw.de

Workshop "Methodology and Measurement of Subjective Variables"

Date: May 12 and 13, 2005

The Workshop takes place in co-operation with Andrew Clark (DELTA, Paris).

Location: DIW Berlin, Englerallee 40, 14195 Berlin, Room E05

Contact: Dr. Martin Kroh, Phone: +49 30 897 89-678, E-Mail: mkroh@diw.de

Banking Conference

Date: June 3 and 4, 2005

The German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin), the Journal of Financial Intermediation (JFI) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia are pleased to announce that they will host a conference "**Bank Relationships, Credit Extension and the Macroeconomy**" on Friday, 3 June and Saturday, 4 June 2005 in Berlin, Germany.

Location: dbb forum berlin, Friedrichstrasse 169/170, 10117 Berlin

Contact: Dr. Dorothea Schaefer, DIW Berlin, Phone: +49 30 897 89-162, Email: dschaefer@diw.de

European Law and Economics Seminar (EALE & GA 2005) "Risk Classification and Public Policy"

Date: June 16 and 17, 2005

The 11th Joint Seminar of the International Association for the Study of Insurance Economics (Geneva Association) and the European Association of Law and Economics (EALE) will take place at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) on Thursday, 16 and Friday, 17 June, 2005.

Please send in the registration form by latest May 31, 2005.

Location: DIW Berlin, Englerallee 40, 14195 Berlin, Room E 05

Contact: Dr. Raimund Schwarze, DIW Berlin, Phone: +49 30 897 89-297, E-Mail: rschwarze@diw.de



Previous Events

Berlin Lunchtime Meeting

„Making Trade Agreements More Supportive of Development“

One third of developing and newly industrialized countries does not take advantage of world trade. This is why Bernhard M. Hoekman demanded more flexibility towards these countries with regard to trade within WTO in his lecture entitled "Making Trade Agreements More Supportive of Development". Bernhard M. Hoekman has been Senior Advisor of the World Bank's Development Research Group since 2000. In his previous position there, he headed the International Economics Department. Until 1993, Hoekman worked as an economist for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Switzerland. Prof. Dr. Georg Meran, Vice-President of DIW Berlin, welcomed Bernhard Hoekman within the frame of the Berlin Lunchtime Meeting jointly organized by DIW Berlin, IZA and CEPR on March 2, 2005 in the dbb forum in Berlin.

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Further information:

http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/20050302_ttm_hoekman.html



Trends and Perspectives for the American Pension System: 2nd Joint Lecture held by DIW Berlin and Watson Wyatt

Private pension plans have gradually been replacing the state retirement system in the USA, a process which Prof. Alicia H. Munnell, a lecturer participating in the second Joint Lecture held by DIW Berlin and Watson Wyatt Worldwide was most critical of. In her lecture „Coming Up Short: Lessons from U.S. Private Pensions for Germany“, she explored the development of pension costs in the USA, drew comparisons between German and American pension systems, and assessed the impact of future developments on both countries' pension policies. Alicia Munnell holds the Peter F. Drucker Chair at the Boston College Carroll School of Management and is Director of the Center for Retirement Research.



Prof. Alicia H. Munnell at the Joint Lecture of DIW Berlin and Watson Wyatt Worldwide

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Further information:

Debt Reduction Through Structural Reforms Berlin Lunchtime Meeting on January 26, 2005

Oswald Metzger started his lecture on "The Pernicious Toxic Effects of Public Debt - Ways out the Financial Crisis in Public Budgets" with the following thesis: „The Stability Pact failed due to the corrective price adjustment financial policy followed by the Federal Government.“ Oswald Metzger is the First Distinguished Fellow of DIW Berlin and was Spokesman and Chairman of the Green Party for budget policy in the Financial Committee of the German Bundestag from 1994 to 2002. Beside a detailed analysis of the Federal government budgetary situation, Oswald Metzger presented solutions for consolidation. In doing so, he drew comparisons with the UK that has already completed this reform process. Prof. Dr. Georg Meran, Vice-President of DIW Berlin, welcomed Oswald Metzger within the frame of the Berlin Lunchtime Meeting organized by DIW Berlin, IZA and CEPR on January 26, 2005 in the dbb-forum in Berlin.



Prof. Dr. Georg Meran and Oswald Metzger at Berlin Lunchtime Meeting

- Further information:
http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/20050127_report_ltm.html

German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP)



The **SOEP** is a wide-ranging representative longitudinal study of private households. It provides information on all household members, consisting of Germans living in the old and new German states, foreigners, and recent immigrants to Germany. The Panel was started in 1984. In 2003, there were more than 12.000 households, and nearly 24.000 persons sampled.

DIW Berlin Research Director named Advisor to the European ESFRI Steering Group

The German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung) has appointed DIW Berlin Research Director Prof. Gert G. Wagner as the German representative to the ESFRI Steering Group on Social Sciences and Humanities. The Steering Group drafts resolutions in the humanities and economic and social sciences for the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), a body convoked by the EU Commission. The German Federal Ministry for Education and Research elected Prof. Wagner to serve on the Steering Group in his capacity as Chairman of the German Council for Social and Economic Data. Prof. Wagner is also a member of the German Science Council (Wissenschaftsrat).



Leading American Economists use SOEP Data for a Comparative Study on Self-Employment

According to a recent study by Prof. Harvey S. Rosen, Ph.D., the newly designated Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors to the President of the United States, and Prof. Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Ph.D., Director of the US Congressional Budget Office, the rate of self-employment is higher in the US than in Germany, due mainly to the fact that American business start-ups receive credit faster and more easily than German start-ups. They conducted this study based on Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) data collected at DIW Berlin. The study has recently been published under the title "Cash Constraints and Business Start-Ups: Deutschmarks Versus Dollars". Prof. Dr. Gert Wagner, head of the SOEP study and Professor of Economics at the Technische Universität Berlin, comments: "This shows how highly respected the SOEP is as an infrastructure for the social and economic sciences, not just in Germany but worldwide."

- Rosen and Holtz-Eakin's study can be viewed at the website of The Berkeley Electronic Press:
<http://www.bepress.com/bejeap/contributions/vol4/iss1/art1/>
- Further information:
http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/2005/20050309_soepdaten.html



DIW Berlin – A Brief Introduction

The German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) is one of the leading research institutes in Germany. It is an independent, non-profit academic institute which is involved in basic research and policy advice. DIW Berlin was originally founded in 1925 as Institute for Business Cycle Research and was later renamed in German Institute for Economic Research.

- Further information:
<http://www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/>



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