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DIW-Newsletter No. 7
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DIW-Newsletter-Archive

Dear readers,

We are pleased to send you the latest edition of the DIW-Newsletter.

Between 13 and 23 April 2004, Germany's six leading economic research institutes compiled their assessment of "The State of the World and the German economy in the Spring of 2004" at DIW Berlin. The results, presented at a press conference on 27 April 2004, attracted considerable public interest.

DIW Berlin has appointed three new Heads of Department. You will find further details both on change in personnel at DIW Berlin and on "The State of the World and the German Economy in the Spring 2004" in the first two articles below.

The monthly DIW-Newsletter informs on developments in and around DIW Berlin, such as news about staff members, events, calls for papers, employment opportunities, press coverage, and much more. The newsletter is available, free of charge, by e-mail; subscriptions may be cancelled easily and at any time.

We are always interested in your views. We would appreciate it if you could spare ten minutes to complete the questionnaire on DIW Berlin products. This will assist us in serving your requirements, and also in continuously improving the products on offer. The questionnaire can be found at:
www.diw.de/english/produkte/fragebogen.jsp

With kind regards,

Sabrina Ortmann (sortmann@diw.de)
"Information and Organisation" Service Department



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News from DIW Berlin

New Heads of Department

DIW Berlin has appointed three new Heads of Department. On 15 April 2004, **Professor Dr. Claudia Kemfert** took over as Director of “Energy, Transportation, Environment” Department. Since 1 May 2004, **Axel Werwatz, Ph.D.**, has been head of the “Innovation, Manufacturing, Service” Department, and **Dörte Höppner** the “Information and Organisation” Service Department. All three appointments are made due to retirement. DIW Berlin President **Professor Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann** notes: “We are delighted to have been able to achieve a well-balanced generational handover in each of these three important management positions. Claudia Kemfert and Axel Werwatz, as all our new research department heads, are firmly linked with universities through joint appointments, thereby enabling us to fulfil the highest scientific standards and requirements. These appointments permit DIW Berlin to further consolidate its reputation as a leading research institute and to strengthen the services it provides—both to public and to policy makers.”

Klaus F. Zimmermann expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to **Dr. Hans-Joachim Ziesing, Dr. Kurt Hornschild**, and **Dr. Bernhard Seidel**, the three retiring Heads of Department, for their long-standing commitment to the institute, as well as their close involvement in and valuable support of its activities. They will continue to support actively the work of DIW Berlin, and make the wealth of their experience available to their successors. Such continuing support cannot be taken for granted, and is highly valued by DIW Berlin.



Dr. Hans-Joachim Ziesing, Prof. Dr. Claudia Kemfert, Prof. Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann, Dörte Höppner, Dr. Bernhard Seidel, Dr. Kurt Hornschild und Axel Werwatz, Ph.D., (Foto: Jan Hillnhütter)



“The State of the World and the German Economy in the Spring of 2004”: Economic Profile and Forecast Compiled at DIW Berlin

Between 13 and 23 April 2004, the six leading German economic research institutes compiled their assessment of “The State of the World and the German Economy in the Spring of 2004”. The findings were presented at a press conference on 27 April, attracting considerable public interest. The expert report, also known as “Joint Economic Evaluation,” is published each spring and autumn on behalf of Germany’s Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour. The first part of the spring report contains a diagnosis and forecast of economic developments, both internationally and in Germany, while the second part provides economic policy recommendations based on those findings. DIW Berlin was the institute in charge of compiling and publishing this year’s spring edition. The other participating institutes involved were the Hamburgisches Welt-Wirtschafts-Archiv (HWWA), the ifo Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung in Munich, the Institut für Weltwirtschaft in Kiel (IfW), the Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung in Halle (IWH), and the Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung in Essen (RWI).



Dr. Udo Ludwig (IWH), Prof. Dr. Gebhard Flaig (ifo Munich), Dr. Roland Döhrn (RWI Essen), Prof. Dr. Joachim Scheide (IfW), Dr. Ulrich Fritsche (DIW Berlin), Dr. Eckhard Wohlers (HWWA), PD Dr. Gustav A. Horn (DIW Berlin), (Foto: Sabine Tober)



Personnel

-



Prof. Moshe Kim, Ph.D., of the University of Haifa, Israel, is new research professor in the “Innovation, Manufacturing, Service” Department. Main research areas: relationship banking, switching costs in banking. Curriculum Vitae:

www.diw.de/deutsch/produkte/veranstaltungen/docs/cv-moshe_kim.pdf



- On 1 April 2004, **Dr. Johannes Kremers** joined the “Energy, Transportation, Environment” Department as scientific researcher. His work focuses on the “Assessment of climate change based on coupled, globally integrated Economy-Biosphere-Climate models.”



Dominika Kalinowska started working in the "Energy, Transportation, Environment” Department on 15 April 2004. Her research concerns the “Analysis and modelling of the emergence of transportation and the integration of micro- and macro-data sets to illustrate demand for transportation”.

- **Ulrike Bohländer** is research and documentation assistant for the “InnoRegio” project located in the “Innovation, Manufacturing, Service” Department.



Statements

- **Statement by the President of DIW Berlin on Industrial Policy in Germany**

At the Special Conference of Ministers of Economics of the German Federal States, held on Friday, 26 March 2004, the President of DIW Berlin, Professor Dr. Klaus F. Zimmermann, gave a statement. He commented as follows on twelve points in German industrial policy.

Click here for further information:

www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/20040428_stellgnhm_indpo_praes.html

- **Hearing before the Federal Parliament on Proposals to Combat the Black Economy and Tax Evasion**

Statement on the public hearing of the Finance Committee of the Federal Parliament on 24 March 2004 on "Draft Act to Intensify Measures to Combat the Black Economy and Related Tax Evasion" presented by the Parliamentary Parties of the SPD and the Bündnis 90/Die Grünen on 2 March 2004.

PDF document in German, four pages, 90 KB:

www.diw.de/deutsch/dasinstitut/info/Stellungnahme_15_2573.pdf

Click here for further information:

www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/info/20040427_hearing_blackeconomy.html



Publications

- **Brief Portrait: The Vierteljahrsheft zur Wirtschaftsforschung (Economic Research Quarterly)**

Vierteljahrsheft zur Wirtschaftsforschung

The Vierteljahrshefte zur Wirtschaftsforschung have been published by DIW Berlin since 1926 and so they are the institute's oldest periodical. Each issue is devoted to a particular major theme.

The contents are current economic policy issues, background information and controversies in research. They are presented in compact form, in short manageable articles that are up to date and on a high level. The Vierteljahrshefte are not primarily to present the results of research carried out in DIW Berlin. Editor Dr. Bernhard Seidel says: "The aim is to let acknowledged experts speak on each subject. We want to present a broad spectrum of opinion."



Click here for further information:

www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/portraits/portrait_vjh.html

- **Weekly Report No 18/2004**

The State of the World Economy and the German Economy - Spring 2004

A global economic upturn is unfolding. Since mid-2003 production has been expanding rapidly in many countries and capacity utilisation has been rising. The upswing is centred in North America and in East Asia. Its robustness is evidenced by the marked increase in investment and in the fact that the optimistic mood in the stock market was not lastingly impaired either by the most recent terrorist acts or by the renewed worsening of the situation in Iraq. Investment was favourably affected by monetary policy: The U.S. Federal Reserve, the Bank of Japan and also the European Central Bank have maintained an expansionary stance for some time. Internationally the costs of external financing are low, in nominal as well as in real terms. All this has bolstered expected sales, not least in the information and communications industry. The latter was particularly hard hit in the recession in 2001 and product innovations have now given rise to higher demand. After a rapid expansion in the first half of this year the upswing in the international growth regions will become somewhat less strong.



Key forecast figures for Germany (PDF):

www.diw.de/deutsch/produkte/publikationen/wochenberichte/docs/04-18.pdf

Press Release DIW Berlin 27 April 2004

www.diw.de/programme/jsp/presse.jsp?pcode=290&language=en

- **Discussion Papers**

No. 416

Rating Companies with Support Vector Machines

W. Härdle, R. A. Moro, **Dorothea Schäfer**

No. 417

Are There Any Class Size Effects on Early Career Earnings in West Germany?

Hans J. Baumgartner

No. 418

Productivity Analysis of German Electricity Distribution Utilities

Christian von Hirschhausen, Andreas Kappeler



All discussion papers can be found on the DIW Berlin homepage:

www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/diskussionspapiere/

More publications of DIW Berlin:

www.diw.de/english/produkte/publikationen/



Upcoming Events

- **Industrial Conference**

(Conference on Short-term Developments in Industries in Germany and Other Main Industrial Countries)

13-14 May 2004

The Conference is an exclusive event organised by DIW Berlin for members of the **Society of Friends of the DIW Berlin**, which is regularly attended by some 100 representatives from enterprises, business associations, and economic sciences. The Conference focuses on short-term developments of the German economy and its economic sectors, in particular manufacturing.

Only members of the Society of Friends of DIW Berlin are eligible to participate free of charge; non-members may apply to attend the Conference, at a rate of 500 euros per person.

For further information, please contact: Angelika Dierkes, Tel.: (00 49) 30-897 89-326; e-mail: adierkes@diw.de



- **Conference: Inheritance and Gift Taxation**

4 June 2004

DIW Berlin, in cooperation with the Research Group on Aging and the Life Course (FALL) at Berlin's Freie Universität, will hold a conference on the subject of "Inheritance and Gift Taxation—The Argument For and Against."

The conference will take place at: DIW Berlin, Englerallee 40, 14195 Berlin. Room E 05.

For further information, please contact: Uta Rahmann, Fax: (00 49) 30-897-89-109; e-mail: urahmann@diw.de

- **2nd Symposium on Public Health Policy**

(organised by DIW Berlin in cooperation with the Hans-Böckler-Foundation)

10 -11 June 2004

In cooperation with the Hans-Böckler-Foundation, DIW Berlin is organising the Second Symposium on "Health: Economic Foundations for Health Care Policy" on 10 and 11 June 2004. The focus of the conference is on the formulation of health care policy alternatives based on theoretical and empirical research findings recently developed by health care economists.

For further information, please contact: Ralf Guthoff, Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, Hans-Böckler-Straße 39, 40476 Düsseldorf. Tel.: (00 49) 211-77 78-123; fax: (00 49) 221 77 78-41 23; e-mail: ralfguthoff@boeckler.de

- **DIW Berlin Institute Lecture**

21 June 2004, 2 p.m.

Professor Laurence Ball of Johns Hopkins University, one of the world's leading macro-economists, will be holding an Institute Lecture at DIW Berlin, at the invitation of the institute's "Macroanalysis and Forecasting" Department. Laurence Ball argues that monetary and financial policy can be utilised to systematically encourage real economic expansion. This places a certain cyclical responsibility on economic policy, something that is disputed by most economists in Germany.

The Lecture will take place at: DIW Berlin, Englerallee 40, 14195 Berlin. Room E 05. For further information, please contact: Renate Bogdanovic, DIW Berlin, Tel.: (00 49) 30 798-89-259; e-mail: rbogdanovic@diw.de

- **First GPRC Workshop**

1 July 2004

German Productivity Research Centre - GPRC

The GPRC integrates current research activities on productivity analysis at DIW Berlin and joint research activities with national and international research institutions. It is considered an important forum for information on productivity research in Germany. This workshop is the first in a series of regular events.

Registrations, before 15 June 2004, should be directed to: Dr. Georg Erber, Tel.: (00 49) 30 8 97 89-697; e-mail: gerber@diw.de

Click here for further information:

www.diw.de/deutsch/produkte/veranstaltungen/docs/20040406_gutachten_mid.pdf

- **IT Productivity and Value Chains**

4th Berlin Electronic Business Forum

July 2, 2004

Joint Conference of Humboldt-Universities Electronic Business Forum

and of the German Productivity Research Centre, DIW Berlin.
For further information, please contact: Ms. Petra Bulwahn, e-mail:
bulwahn@wiwi.hu-berlin.de

- **31st Conference of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics**

2 September 2004 (1p.m.) – 5 September 2004 (1.30p.m.)

On behalf of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics, DIW Berlin is organising the 31st EARIE Conference in association with the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, and the city's Humboldt-Universität and Freie Universität.

The conference will take place at: Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Academy of Sciences), Jägerstraße 22/23, 10117 Berlin.

For further information, please contact: Heike König, DIW Berlin, Tel.: (00 49) 30 897 89-660; e-mail: earie2004@diw.de

Click here for further information:

www.diw.de/english/produkte/veranstaltungen/earie2004/index.html



The German Socio-Economic Panel – SOEP



Basic research and scientific service are the main assignments of the department German **Socio-Economic Panel**. 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 2002, there were more than 12,000 households, and nearly 24,000 persons sampled.

- **New: SOEP-Monitor - Statistical series based on SOEP**

The SOEP group now publishes statistical series based on SOEP Data. We provide data series for the years 1984 to 2002 - disaggregated for East and West Germany since 1990 - for households and persons. The SOEP-Monitor Haushalt especially provides information about housing conditions; in SOEP-Monitor Personen you will find classification numbers for labor market, education, income and subjective indicators (documents in German).

For further questions please contact Joachim Frick (Tel.: (00 49) 30 897 89-279, jfrick@diw.de).

You can download the documents from our homepage:

<http://www.diw.de/english/sop/service/soepmonitor/>

- **Breaking News: New study confirms link between height and**

income in Germany

Tall people are more successful in the labour market. Thus, for example, tall men are more likely to occupy senior management positions than shorter men. These findings have so far been largely based on socio-psychological and socio-economic research data for the United States. **A new study** now shows that, in Germany, too, it is advantageous—at least for men—to be of a certain height. Based on data collected by DIW Berlin's Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), a representative longitudinal study of private households in the Federal Republic of Germany, information on height and weight was, for the first time, made available for 2002. This information enabled Guido Heineck, economist at University of Munich, to analyse whether differences in income were evident between employees of differing height. On 28 April 2004, the Süddeutsche Zeitung ran an extensive article ("**Die Großverdiener**") both on study's findings and on SOEP.

„Up in the skies? The relationship between body height and earnings in Germany" (PDF):

www.econhist.de/heineck/gh-Dateien/height-earn.pdf



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.

More information:

www.diw.de/english/dasinstitut/index.html



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