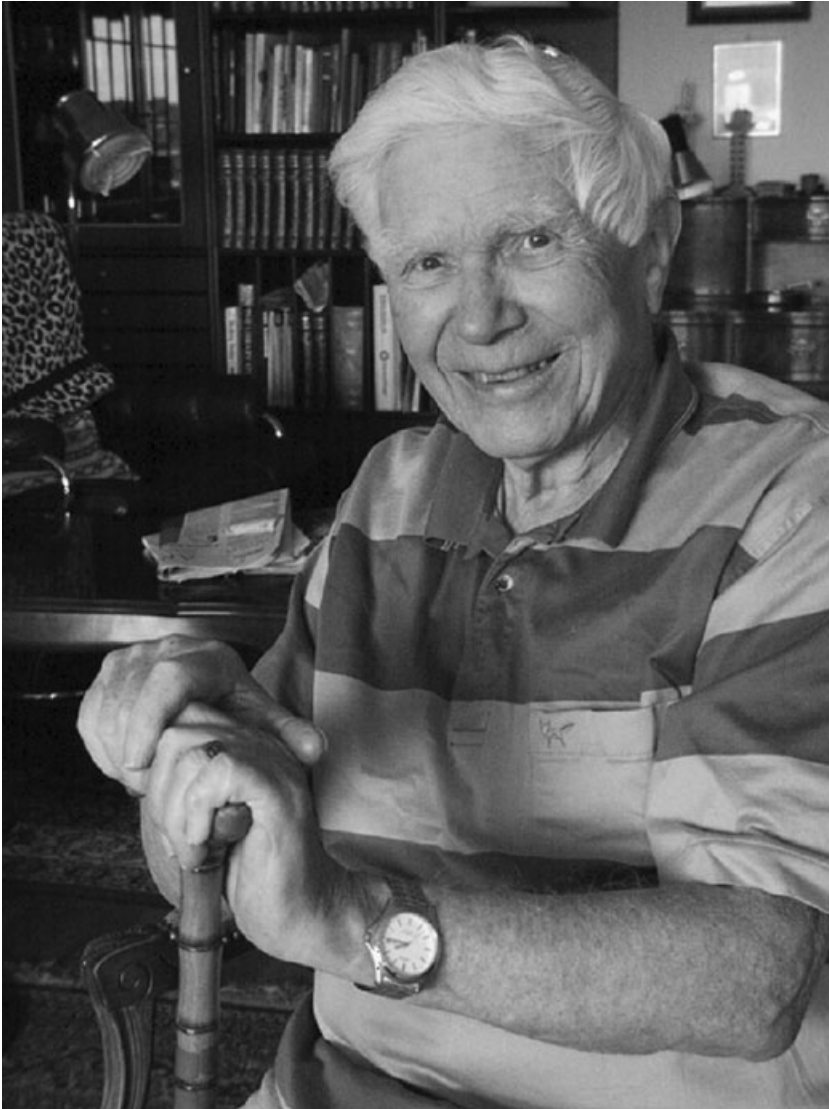


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IN MEMORIAM: ODD AUKRUST (1916–2008)

Dr Odd Aukrust, former chairman (1963–65) of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) and first editor of the *Review of Income and Wealth*, passed away on June 22, 2008, at the age of 92.

Odd Aukrust worked for Statistics Norway for most of his professional career from 1946 until he retired in 1984. He took on the responsibility for Statistics Norway's national accounts project in 1946 and was one of the pioneers in developing national accounts in Norway and internationally.

Dr Aukrust completed a theoretical discussion of the principles underlying the national accounts estimates in the early 1950s. His work became an important milestone in the development of national accounts and culminated in a PhD at the University of Oslo in 1956. In his memory, the following pages include a reprint of a publication in the *Review of Income and Wealth* that is based on the insights he developed in his PhD.

For 30 years and until he retired in 1984, Odd Aukrust was Director of Research at Statistics Norway. He recognized the importance of bringing together the producers and main users of national accounts. The national accounts with input–output tables played an important analytical role in the economic models from the 1960s, both as an empirical basis for use in national budgets and in macro-economic planning as a whole. Under Odd Aukrust's leadership, the Research Department became the leading institution for applied economic research in Norway.

Dr Aukrust made an important contribution to international national accounts standards and methodology. He was a member of the UN Expert Group on the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1968 and an expert adviser on the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993.

During his whole professional career, Dr Aukrust was also at the forefront of discussions in the macroeconomic field. He was the head of the Norwegian Technical Committee for Wage Settlements from the start in 1967 until he retired in 1984. This committee played an important role as part of the Norwegian income policy, in creating consensus on the factual basis for the wage negotiations. Here he could draw on his own research on the functioning of the Norwegian economy in general and wage determination in particular—the Scandinavian inflation model.

Odd Aukrust participated at the first IARIW conference in Cambridge in 1949. From the outset, he was an active member of the IARIW, which provided a unique meeting place for producers and consumers of national accounts statistics. The articles in the Income and Wealth Series from the 1950s illustrate the association's contribution to the development of national accounts. In 1965, the association decided to publish a journal at regular intervals, and Odd Aukrust was appointed editor of the new journal, the *Review of Income and Wealth*. The *Review* was aimed at economists with an interest in national accounts, either as producers or consumers. He remained editor of the *Review* until 1971. As chairman of the IARIW, Dr Aukrust also organized the IARIW conference in Lom in Norway.

Odd Aukrust retired in 1984, but continued working for several years, sharing an office at Statistics Norway with his friend, the late Director General Petter Jacob Bjerve.

Dr Aukrust presented his last conference paper at the IARIW conference in Flims, Switzerland in 1992 and also participated at the IARIW conference in Lillehammer, Norway in 1996.

Odd Aukrust was for 30 years well known as Statistics Norway's Director of Research and had a unique ability to explain economic relations in an understandable way and give advice to both experts and laymen. Everyone who had the pleasure of working with Odd Aukrust will remember him as an enthusiastic leader and a source of inspiration.

Odd Aukrust is survived by his wife Bjørg to whom he was married for 64 years, their son Lars Espen, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

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