

2003

A A S T A A R U A N N E

A N N U A L R E P O R T



STATISTIKAAMET
STATISTICAL OFFICE
OF ESTONIA



CONTENTS

Objectives and priorities	35
Milestones of the year 2003	37
Environment statistics	38
Population and social statistics	39
Price and wages and salaries statistics	42
Macroeconomic statistics	44
Enterprise statistics	46
Agricultural statistics	50
Regional statistics	52
Products and consumers	54
Classifications	59
Interviewers Set Section	60
Staff	60
Information technology and information systems	61
International co-operation	62
Structure of the Statistical Office	64

The year 2003 was not an easy one for the Statistical Office as it was the last year prior to the accession of Estonia to the European Union and efforts had to be made for achieving the conformity with the European statistical system. The situation was complicated due to unstable conditions in the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). There were also problems with Phare-financing of the events organised by Eurostat. Nevertheless, the Statistical Office managed to fulfil all the obligations before Eurostat and in conducting official statistical surveys.

Of most important works accomplished in 2003, the survey of the structure of agriculture should be mentioned. This survey was a logical continuation to the 2001 Agricultural Census and a basis for improving and advancing of the statistical register of agricultural holdings.

An essential accomplishment was issuing of the results of the 2000 Population Census and the 2001 Agricultural Census in addition to the public database also as electronic publications.

In the field of macroeconomic statistics, the Statistical Office participated in many pilot projects of Eurostat and worked hard for the development of the accounting system of government sector. At the same time it should be mentioned that creating of the new system Intrastat of foreign trade statistics has not been very effective, especially as concerns co-operation with the Finnish Customs.

The system of price indices was improved, the Statistical Office contributed in the field of Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices and in the framework of the European comparison programme. For the first time the survey of structure of earnings on employee-level was conducted for the production of wages and salaries statistics.

The data transmission system to Eurostat was introduced in enterprise statistics. Very important was also the publication of seasonally adjusted and working-day adjusted volume indices of industrial production for the first time.

For updating data collection, the Statistical Office started to create the system eSTAT — the system of collection and verification of electronic data.

The Statistical Office developed the public database and improved the metadatabase.

Implementation of the integrated system of bookkeeping and personnel accounting was completed.

The main efforts of the Statistical Office in the last years were focused on fulfilling the tasks related to the accession of Estonia to the European Union, it was clear that these tasks

had to be fulfilled “at any cost”. At the beginning of 2003, it was obvious that the costs of activities should be calculated, in fact optimising the costs. At the same time the strategic development plan that had been drawn up in 2000 had to be improved, therefore a working group was formed to fulfil this task. The working group worked efficiently in co-operation with divisions and departments.

The strategic development plan “Strategy 2007” sets new tasks to the Statistical Office for the development of the statistical system of Estonia and for the improvement of the work of the office. In November 2003, the working group presented the project of the new structure of the Statistical Office. In working out of the new structure, the need to centralise data collection and services of information technology were taken into account, as well as the need to establish a central methodological unit. On the other hand, it has been planned that the reorganised statistical departments should orientate to the production of statistics based on statistical analysis.

The working group prescribed gradual implementation of the new structure, whereas for solving specific problems (arranging of the technological process for the production of statistics, creating a new IT organisation, organising of the personnel and wages system, etc.), new working groups were formed that had specific tasks and deadlines for fulfilling them. An essential task of all working groups was to create a functioning system of horizontal connections and necessary preconditions for its formation.

In conclusion it could be stated that with the year 2003 another stage in the development of the Statistical Office ended, which created preconditions for the development of efficient work organisation. This difficult, but challenging task will be the main target for the year 2004.



Rein Veetõusme

Director General of the Statistical Office of Estonia

OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

The main objectives and priorities of the Statistical Office in 2003 were the following:

- to organise statistical surveys in 2003 on the basis of the list approved by the Government of the Republic;
- to publish statistical publications and news releases according to the timetable of the year 2003;
- to publish the results of the 2001 Agricultural Census;
- to publish the results of the 2000 Population and Housing Census;
- to work out the adjusted versions of international classifications;
- to prepare for implementing the EU harmonised survey Intrastat to collect data on external trade transactions between the EU Member States.

The main objectives and priority tasks of the Statistical Office were achieved.

Since 1998, one of the essential tasks of the Statistical Office has been to bring the official statistics into accordance with the requirements of the legislation of the European Union. The activity in this field was successful also in 2003, which is proved by the assessments of international experts and organisations. The meeting in Brussels on 11 July 2003 of the EU-Estonia Sub-Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Capital Movements and Statistics gave a good appraisal of the quality of Estonian statistics. The European Commission's monitoring report on Estonia of 5 November 2003 also gave a positive evaluation of Estonian statistics. Andreas Krüger, Eurostat Desk Officer in Estonia in the years 1998–2003 was on his last mission to the Statistical Office on 19–20 October. He gave a positive assessment of the activities of the Statistical Office.

In 2003 the integration into the statistical system of the European Union continued. In 2002, for the first time the statistical organisations of Candidate Countries had the possibility to express their opinion about the draft legislation and other documents to be discussed at the meetings of the Statistical Programme Committee. Since March 2003, the Acceding Countries participate in the meetings of the Statistical Programme Committee as observers. If other organisations of the Acceding Countries were entitled to participate in the EU working groups only after the Accession Agreement had been signed on 16 April 2003, then the statistical organisations were given this right already before signing the Agreement.

In close co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Statistical Office examined and adjusted the text in Estonian of the chapters on statistics of the Accession Agreement of the Republic of Cyprus, Malta, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic and Slovenia to the European Union, and of the Agreement on the participation of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and the Slovak Republic in the European Economic Area.

The Statistical Office improved and supplemented the public database that is available on the web site www.stat.ee.

The harmonisation of descriptions of the statistical surveys in the information system of the Statistical Office continued.

The working group of six members worked out the strategy of the Statistical Office until the year 2007. It was approved by the Directive of the Director General of the Statistical Office of 9 December 2003. The document serves as a basis for the development of the Office and for the enhancement of the efficiency of its activities. In November the working group submitted the draft new structure for discussion and proposals. In December the extended working group on structure was formed. The task of its sub-groups was to work out a new technological scheme for producing statistics, new official titles, main tasks of posts and central organisation of information technology.

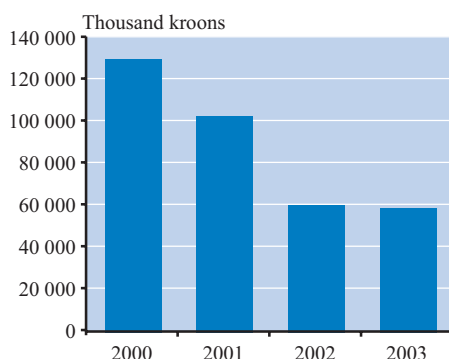
Expenditure of the Statistical Office from the State Budget, 2000–2003 (thousand kroons)

Type of expenditure	2000	2001	2002	2003
Operating expenses	129 345.9	102 092.1	59 376.3	58 260.4
personnel costs	87 455.3	67 461.9	38 945.6	41 076.3
administration costs	20 280.5	19 370.0	12 674.6	15 950.7
information technology	6 021.9	4 605.6	3 974.1	1 233.4
works and services	15 588.2	10 654.6	3 782.0	–
purchased by the State	–	–	–	–
Capital costs	1 619.3	2 800.0	1 100.0	–
major repairs	1 600.0	2 800.0	1 100.0	–
acquisitions	19.3	–	–	–

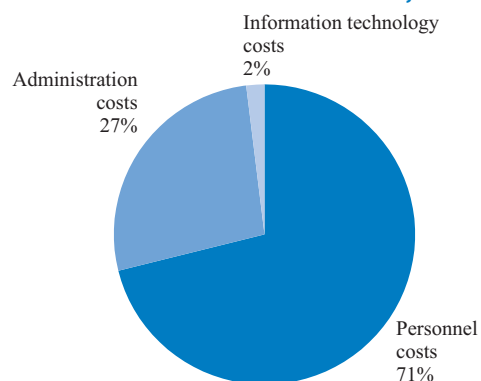
MILESTONES OF THE YEAR 2003

25 February	E-publication “2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. VII. Perekond. Pikaajaline haigus või puue. 2000 Population and Housing Census. VII. Family. Long-term Illness or Disability” appeared. The printed publication was issued in December
20 March	E-publication “2001. aasta põllumajandusloendus. III. Majapidamiste töäjõud. Sissetulek. 2001 Agricultural Census. III. Labour Force. Income of Holdings” appeared
16 April	E-publication “2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. VIII. Elatusallikad. Tööalane ja sotsiaal-majanduslik staatus. 2000 Population and Housing Census. VIII. Sources of Subsistence. Employment and Socio-Economic Status” appeared. The printed publication was issued in December
1 May	The Finnish Customs and the Statistical Office concluded the co-operation agreement for preparing the implementation of the EU harmonised survey Intrastat to collect data on external trade transactions between the EU states
17 June	E-publication “2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. IX. Majanduslikult aktiivne rahvastik. 2000 Population and Housing Census. IX. Economically Active Population” appeared
1 July	E-publication “2001. aasta põllumajandusloendus. IV. Metsamajandus. Kalandus. 2001 Agricultural Census. IV. Forestry. Fishing” appeared
1 July	Jorma Tuomainen from the Finnish Customs started to work as adviser in the Statistical Office to prepare the implementation of Intrastat
11 July	The meeting of the EU-Estonia Sub-committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Capital Movements and Statistics took place in Brussels, which gave a good appraisal of the quality of Estonian statistics
19 September	E-publication “2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. X. Eluruumid ja eluruumidega hooned. 2000 Population and Housing Census. X. Dwellings and Buildings Containing Dwellings” appeared
19–20 October	Andreas Krüger, Eurostat Desk Officer was on his last mission to the Statistical Office
5 November	The Regular Report of the Commission on Estonia's Progress Towards Accession appeared, giving a positive appraisal on the Estonian statistics
26 November	E-publication “2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. XI. Elamistingimused. 2000 Population and Housing Census. XI. Living Conditions” appeared
27 November	The Government of the Republic approved the list of official statistical surveys
9 December	The Directive of the Director General approved the strategy of the Statistical Office until the year 2007

**Operating expenses
of the Statistical Office, 2000–2003**



**Operating expenses
of the Statistical Office, 2003**



ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

The public database was supplemented with environment statistics

2003

In 2003, the Statistical Office conducted 17 official statistical surveys for the production of environment statistics. Environment statistics are provided in the public database (Statistical Database and Regional Development Database) (www.stat.ee). At the end of 2003, the public database contained 41 tables with environment data, which is over three times more than a year before. The following fields of environment were presented: environmental protection and supervision, state of environment, natural resources and their use, environmental pressure.

To characterise the impact of anthropogenic pressure on environment, the Statistical Office continued to use the three-dimensional matrix of environmental indicators also in 2003. These indicators highlight the following environmental problems caused by human activity: disappearance of biological diversity, waste, climate changes, urbanisation, depletion of the ozone layer, use of resources, toxic chemicals, water pollution, decreasing water resources, air pollution. The relevant statistics are published in the yearbook “*Keskkond. 2002. Environment*”.

To inform the public of the state of environment, indicators of air pollutants and pollutants in precipitation were published in the monthly *Eesti Statistika*. Estonian Statistics once a month.

Preparations were made for improving waste statistics

In 2003, the Statistical Office participated in the pilot project of waste statistics coordinated by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). As a result of the project, preconditions were created in Estonia for fulfilling the requirements of the European Union Waste Statistics regulation with the aim to develop the methodology for the estimation of waste generation. The study combined two data sources (waste and production data) and eventually provided two approaches for the filling of data gaps in waste statistics with the help of production statistics.

The Dashboard of Sustainability was prepared

In 2003, the Statistical Office prepared the graphical user interface — Dashboard of Sustainability. It presents indicators on environmental, economic, social and institutional sphere. The aim of sustainable development is to achieve the balance between the social sphere, economy and environment. The graphical user interface is based on the list of sustainable development indicators compiled by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and Eurostat, which has been modified according to the data availability and comparability. The graphical user interface enables comparison of Estonia with 15 Member States of the European Union and 10 new member states and 3 applicant countries. Counties and groups of counties of Estonia — 5 regions — can also be compared. Collection of data from international databases, translating, adapting and editing of the programme, and preparation of the instruction manual was a voluminous work. Since February 2004 the graphical user interface is available on the web site of the Statistical Office www.stat.ee/statistics/dashboard. The programme is manifold. It allows the user to select freely the indicators, look the ranking of the countries by each indicator in the distribution view or on the map and move between the indicators and background materials, analyse linkages, etc.

Publications of environment statistics in 2003

yearbooks

Keskkond. 2002. Environment

Keskkonnakaitsekulutused. 2001. Environment Protection Expenditures

pocket-sized reference book

Keskkond arvudes. 2002. Environment in Figures

POPULATION AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

2003

Continuous surveys continued

In 2003, the Statistical Office conducted 55 official statistical surveys, of which two continuous surveys, to produce population and social statistics. Population and social statistics have three data sources: the census, vital events' statistics and sample surveys. A person or a household and institution (enterprise) are the objects of survey.

The aim of the quarterly labour force survey is to provide the users with short-term unemployment and employment statistics. The main questionnaire of the labour force survey is in compliance with the requirements of the European Union legislation. Besides the main questionnaire of the labour force survey, the Member States of the European Union collect data also by the ad hoc module, the aim of which is to get more thorough information about the labour market. Such a module has also been included in the questionnaire of the Estonian Labour Force Survey. In 2001, the length of working time and organisation of work was surveyed, in 2002 the impact of long-term illness on people's capacity for work was under observation, in 2003 lifelong learning was surveyed.

The interviewers used laptop computers while collecting data. This enables data entry at the time of interviewing. The yearbook "Tööjõud. 2002. Labour Force" compiled on the basis of the survey provides the data for 2002, an analytical overview, time series of main indicators and a short description of methodology.

The aim of the household budget survey is to provide an overview of the expenditure and consumption of the population and living conditions of households. Since 2003 the household budget survey is an annual survey, that is the reason why the data are published once a year. On the basis of the survey an analytical publication "Leibkonna elujärg. 2002. Household Living Niveau" discussing poverty and inequality, was completed. At the end of 2003, a publication on the methodology of the household budget survey for 2002 was published. The publication also provides an overview of the history of the household budget survey in Estonia.

Preparations of the social survey

The object of the social survey is first of all the economic welfare, which is connected, on the one hand, with the person's family, education, working life and place of residence and, on the other hand, with his or her search for work, in-service training, employment and income, health and social contacts. The concept of welfare is wide and therefore, the questionnaire of the social survey includes an event-related part, which allows receiving data about the person's childhood home, education and working life as well as about migration. More detailed data are received by the system of ad hoc modules, which varies every year according to the needs of the state.

Expenditure of the Statistical Office on account of revenue from business and special-purpose expenditure, 2000–2003 (thousand kroons)

Type	2000	2001	2002	2003
Expenditure on account of revenue from business	1 253.8	1 421.4	1 301.8	945.4
Special-purpose expenditure	2 938.7	4 261.0	10 999.5	6 188.0
Phare, Eurostat	2 275.0	3 768.6	10 477.7	6 013.7
UNICEF	54.1	—	53.9	105.4
Surveys (Interviewers Set Section's works)	609.6	492.4	457.9	68.9

In 2003, the panel questionnaire (a questionnaire meant for permanent respondents) of social survey was tested and the results were analysed. Preparation of the questionnaire for the basic survey continued. In 2004, the fieldwork of the survey will start.

The social survey is based on the income and living conditions survey (EU-SILC) specified by the directives of the Council of Europe. Thus the results of the survey enable participation in international surveys and production of internationally comparable statistics.

Analytical publications give an insight into statistics

In 2003, four analytical publications on social statistics were issued.

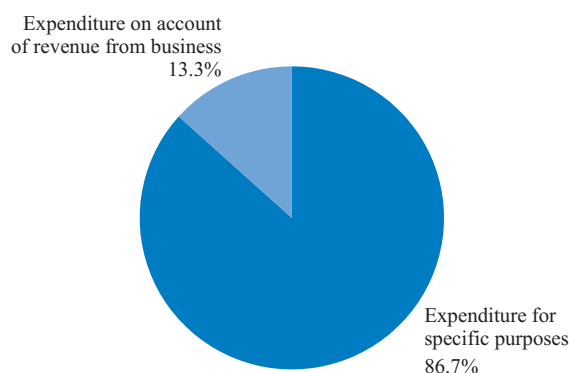
In co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Statistical Office completed the publication “*Sotsiaalne kaitse*. Social Protection”, which discusses the development of social protection in the last years. The expenditure on social protection and population covered by social protection are under observation.

In co-operation with the University of Tartu Institute of Geography, the Statistical Office completed the analytical publication “*Ränne üleminekuaja Eestis*” (“Migration in Estonia in Transition Period” — only in Estonian). The publication gives an overview of internal migration in the years 1989–2000. Migration trends have been analysed by age, sex, ethnic nationality and education of migrants. Migration trends in Tallinn agglomeration and relations between regional differences of internal migration and employment are discussed separately. Migration of local government units, of counties and migration in settlement system has been observed in order to analyse urbanisation, sub-urbanisation and counter-urbanisation.

The publication “*Eesti rahvastik uue aastatuhande künnisel*” (“Population of Estonia on the Threshold of the New Millennium” — only in Estonian) provides a short overview of the results of the 2000 Population and Housing Census and of more essential trends of population processes. Natural increase, migration, urbanisation, development of households and subsistence sources have been observed. Population composition by sex, age and ethnic nationality has also been analysed.

The publication “*Tasustamata töö Eestis*” (“Unpaid Work in Estonia” — only in Estonian) gives an overview of unpaid work and its parts in the years 1999–2000. Measuring of unpaid work has been studied and the quantitative analysis on the volume of unpaid work in time units and in monetary terms has been presented. Unpaid work of males and females by age groups, social status and composition of households has been discussed. The overview is given against the background of total time use of persons and of Estonia in the European context.

Statistical Office's expenditure on account of revenue from business and expenditure for specific purposes



Vital events statistics and results of the Population Census were published

Statistical publications and the public database provide statistics on population number, births, marriages, divorces and deaths. The database also presents information on vital events registered during the month.

The yearbook “*Rahvastik. 2002. Population*” was published, providing a short overview of the vital events in Estonia during the last years. Mortality by causes of death has been discussed more thoroughly. Population number and age composition up to the year 2050 has been presented on the basis of different developments. The CD-ROM is added to the publication, presenting longer time series of population data.

Publishing of the results of the 2000 Population and Housing Census as thematic publications continued. Five publications discussing families, population with long-term illness or disability, sources of subsistence, employment, dwellings and living conditions were published. The publications are available on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading “Products and Services”.

In co-operation with the statistical organisations of Latvia and Lithuania, the publication in English “2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania” reflecting the results of population censuses in the Baltic States was completed. In 2004 the publication will be available electronically in English and in Estonian on the web site of the Statistical Office.

In 2003, researchers expressed a great interest in the data of the Population Census. The Statistical Office satisfied several orders. Contracts of using the anonymous database of the Population and Housing Census were concluded with the researchers.

Population and social statistics are available in the public database (Statistical Database and Regional Development Database) (www.stat.ee). At the end of 2003, these databases included 126 tables on population statistics, which provide information on the main demographic indicators and vital statistics, and 401 tables on social statistics, including information on living conditions, education, income and expenditure, health, etc. 183 tables included the census data on ethnic nationality, mother tongue, citizenship, place of residence, education, age, religion, knowledge of languages, sources of subsistence, households, families, economically active population, etc.

Publications of population and social statistics in 2003

yearbooks

Haridus. 2002/2003. Education
Kultuur. 2002. Culture
Leibkonna elujärg. 2002. Household Living Niveau
Rahvastik. 2002. Population
Teadus- ja arendustegevus. 2001. Research and Development
Tööjõud. 2002. Labour Force

other publications

2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. VII. Perekond. Pikaajaline haigus või puue. 2000 Population and Housing Census. VII. Family. Long-term Illness or Disability. Printed and electronic publication
2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. VIII. Elatusallikad. Tööalane ja sotsiaal-majanduslik staatus. 2000 Population and Housing Census. VIII. Sources of Subsistence. Employment and Socio-Economic Status. Printed and electronic publication
2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. IX. Majanduslikult aktiivne rahvastik. 2000 Population and Housing Census. IX. Economically Active Population. Printed and electronic publication
2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. X. Eluruumid ja eluruumidega hooned. 2000 Population and Housing Census. X. Dwellings and Buildings Containing Dwellings. Printed and electronic publication
2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. XI. Elamistingimused. 2000 Population and Housing Census. XI. Living Conditions. Printed and electronic publication
Urve Kask. Tasustamata töö Eestis
Kaljo Laas. Eesti rahvastik uue aastatuhande künnisel
Leibkonna eelarve uuring 2002. Metoodika ülevaade. Household Budget Survey 2002. Methodological Report
Ränne üleminekuaja Eestis
Sotsiaalne kaitse. Social Protection

PRICE AND WAGES AND SALARIES STATISTICS

2003

Calculation of traditional price indices continued

In 2003, the Statistical Office continued publishing of the following price indices: consumer price index, producer price index of industrial output, export price index, import price index, construction price index, repair and reconstruction work price index, agricultural output price index and agricultural input price index.

The weights system of the consumer price index and the base prices, which the calculations are based on, are updated every year beginning from 2001. In 2003 necessary preparations were started to introduce a new weights system from January 2004, which would correspond to the average consumption structure of the population in 2003. Base prices of goods, which will be included in the consumer price index beginning from 2004, were collected. To allow comparisons with previous periods, the consumer price index continued to be published also on the base 1997 = 100.

Starting from January 2003, the calculation of the producer price index of industrial output was based on the sales structure of 2001. Calculations were made on the base December 2002 = 100. Beginning from 2002, the producer price index of industrial output is updated regularly every year. To allow comparisons with previous periods, the producer price index continued to be published also on the base 1995 = 100.

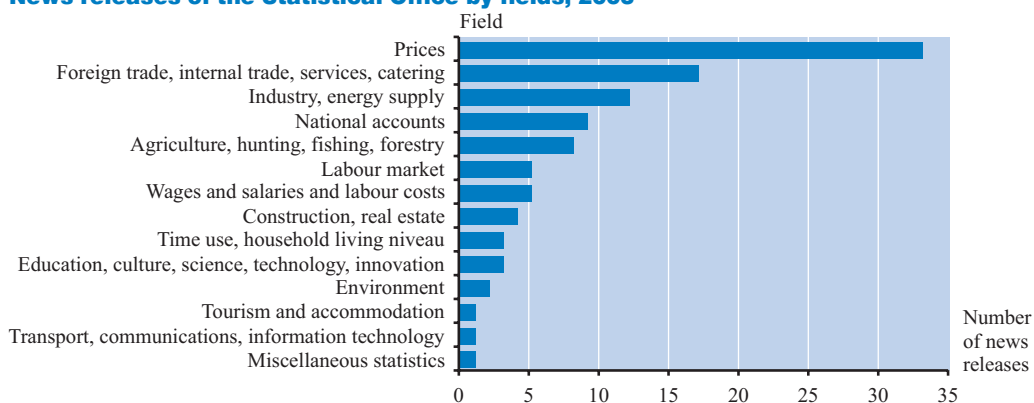
Starting from the 1st quarter of 2002, the construction price index, and the repair and reconstruction work price index are calculated on the base December 2001 = 100. Calculations are based on the structure of direct expenses at the building site in 2000. The proportions of groups of buildings correspond to the proportion of buildings completed in 2000. The base prices are the December prices of the year 2001. To allow comparisons with previous periods, the construction price index continued to be published on the base 1994 = 100, and the repair and reconstruction work price index continued to be published on the base 1997 = 100.

Starting from the 1st quarter of 2002, the agricultural output price index and the agricultural input price index are published on the base 2000 = 100.

The changes of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices were published in the monthly bulletin

In 2003, Estonia continued to forward the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) on equal basis with the Member States of the European Union. Different from the consumer price index where weighting system corresponds to the average consumption of inhabitants of Estonia, in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices the expenditure in the territory of Estonia is taken into account, i.e. private consumption expenditure of foreign visitors has been added. To receive the indices comparable between countries, the calculation of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices is strictly regulated by the legislation of the European Union.

News releases of the Statistical Office by fields, 2003



See about products and users of statistics also on pp 54–58.

Since the index of June 2003, the changes of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices in comparison with the previous month and the same month of the previous year have also been published in the monthly *Eesti Statistika*. Estonian Statistics.

The Statistical Office transmits the data on Estonia for the European Comparison Programme

The Statistical Office collects and transmits the necessary data to Eurostat for participation in the European Comparison Programme (ECP). The large-scale reform of the European Comparison Programme, which had started in 1999 continued also in 2003. Since the year 2001, for which Eurostat published the final results in December 2003, the results of the Candidate Countries and Member States are completely comparable. For several years already, the Member States of the European Union have been using a three-year cycle of collecting prices of consumer goods. Every year the actual prices of one third of consumer goods are collected, the prices of the remaining two thirds of goods are received by indexing the results of the previous cycle with the price indices. In addition to the prices of consumer goods, every year the Statistical Office submits in the framework of the Comparison Programme the following data compiled according to the strict rules: prices of investment goods, cost of construction projects, price indices, average wages and salaries, average rents and the detailed gross domestic product calculated by expenditure approach.

In 2003 all the required data were submitted according to the time schedule determined by Eurostat.

Price statistics are presented in the statistical database (www.stat.ee). At the end of 2003, it contained 14 tables with the data of price statistics.

The survey of structure of earnings was updated

In 2003, the Statistical Office continued publishing data for the following estimates by economic activity, county and kind of owner: average monthly gross wages (salaries), average monthly gross wages (salaries) in cash, average monthly net wages (salaries), average monthly labour costs per employee, average hourly gross wages (salaries), average hourly labour costs and hours worked per employee.

In 2003, the Statistical Office conducted according to the Regulation of the Council of the European Union the survey of the structure of earnings. The results of the pilot project 2002 and the questionnaire of the survey were adjusted. For the first time, the data on earnings were asked on employee-level. The data for October 2002 and the annual data on wages and salaries were collected about employees working full-time and part-time by age, sex, occupation, level of education, length of employment and type of contract.

Wages and salaries statistics are presented in the statistical database (www.stat.ee). At the end of 2003, it contained 43 tables with the data of wages statistics and labour costs statistics.

Publications of price and wages and salaries statistics in 2003

yearbook

Palk. 2002. Wages and Salaries

quarterly bulletin

Ehitushinnaindeks. Construction Price Index. Electronic publication

MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS

2003

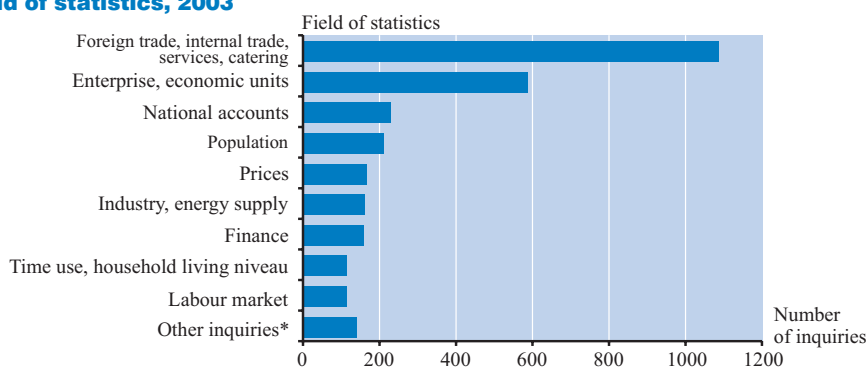
The table on government finance statistics was compiled for the first time

For the first time the Statistical Office of Estonia transmitted the table of government finance statistics on detailed tax and social contribution receipts by sector to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). The table contains data for the year 2002 on central government, local government and social security funds. The data on transactions include sub-transactions about taxes on production and imports, current taxes on income, wealth etc., capital transfers, and social contributions. The table was compiled according to the requirements of ESA 95 (the publication of rules and definitions of national accounts of the European Union "European System of Accounts. ESA 95"), i.e. on the basis of accrual principle. In the nearest future it is planned to compile the tables for backwards data starting from the year 1995.

Preparations of the Statistical Office for implementing pre-accession criteria

In 2003, the Statistical Office participated in several projects, co-ordinated by Eurostat. The results of the projects are the basis for implementing pre-accession criteria on gross fixed capital formation, consumption of fixed capital and dwellings. Time-series of this kind of statistics will be recalculated according to ESA 95 methodology by May 2004. The project of non-observed economy assured the coverage of Gross National Income with the statistics not directly observed. Preparations have been made for the integration of national accounts with the supply-use tables' framework, which describes the domestic production processes and the transactions in products of the national economy in great detail. According to the EU regulation, financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) have to be allocated by activities and institutional sectors. Preliminary calculations with that kind of methodology were made for the year 2001.

Within the Phare project in the field of government finance statistics, the transmission of the main aggregate data of general government by sub-sectors was dealt with. The aim is to guarantee the transmission to Eurostat of the methodologically correct data on schedule. For that purpose, the necessary data sources, revision policy and delimitation of general government were specified. Preliminary data have to be transmitted three months after the end of the reference period and the more detailed data should be transmitted eight months after the end of the period. General government expenditure by function should be published 12 months after the end of the reference period. In this context, the project covered first of all the consolidation issues. As the above-mentioned data have not been calculated previously, in 2003 the preliminary calculations were made.

Requests and orders for information submitted to the Statistical Office by field of statistics, 2003

* Work organisation, methodologies used, classifications, web site and public database of the Statistical Office, etc.
See about products and users of statistics also on pp 54–58.

For 2001 a simulation exercise was made for weighted average rate calculations of VAT in order to be ready for official calculations while becoming a Member State of the EU. During 2003 the statement was revised on the basis of the comments made by the European Commission.

Preparations for the implementation of Intrastat system continued. After joining the EU, customs borders will disappear and the data about foreign trade must be collected by surveys. Consequently, a need arises for a new system of data processing, collection, checking and dissemination as well as for an Intrastat enterprise register, which includes enterprises engaged in foreign trade. A pilot survey of such enterprises was conducted in the framework of Intrastat project.

Macroeconomic statistics are presented in the public database (Statistical Database and Regional Development Database) (www.stat.ee). At the end of 2003, these databases contained 73 tables with macroeconomic statistics. The following fields were included: national accounts, finance, foreign trade.

Publications of macroeconomic statistics in 2003

yearbooks

Eesti rahvamajanduse arvepidamine. 2001. National Accounts of Estonia

Eesti sisemajanduse koguprodukt. 1/93–2/03. Gross Domestic Product of Estonia

Väliskaubandus. 2002. Foreign Trade

Estonia. Latvia. Lithuania. Foreign Trade 2002

quarterly bulletin

Väliskaubandus. Foreign Trade. Electronic publication

Satisfied requests and orders for information of the Statistical Office, 1998–2003

Year	Order of foreign trade statistics from Estonia	Order of foreign trade statistics from foreign countries	Other requests and orders from Estonia	Other requests and orders from foreign countries	Total
1998	316	108	248	242	914
1999	456	232	287	288	1 263
2000	546	295	400	382	1 623
2001	648	209	679	392	1 928
2002	723	252	1 017	414	2 406
2003	753	261	965	1 015	2 994

See about products and users of statistics also on pp 54–58.

To produce enterprise statistics, in 2003 the Statistical Office arranged 66 official statistical surveys and carried out four projects in the following fields: enterprises' finance, trade, service activities, industry, energy, construction, real estate, transport, communications, tourism and accommodation. Short term enterprise statistics and annual statistics of industrial products started to be regularly transmitted to Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Communities) in the volume, form and terms prescribed by the regulations of the European Union. This was one of the most essential accomplishments in the field of enterprise statistics in 2003. Two voluminous questionnaires of enterprise statistics have been introduced effectively — the complex questionnaire EKOMAR and “Industrial products”. Now the respondents can fill in a lot of questionnaires electronically and return them encrypted. Enterprises are eager to use this possibility.

At the end of 2003, the public database (Statistical Database and Regional Development Database) (www.stat.ee) contained 284 tables on enterprise statistics. All the fields of enterprise statistics were included.

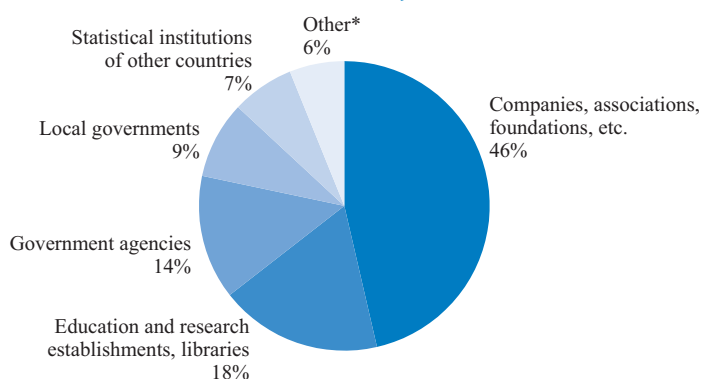
Data transmission is on a new level now

Quarterly and monthly enterprise statistics are transmitted to Eurostat in Gesmes format. In 2003 the Statistical Office created programmes that take extracts from the databases for a selected period and form data files, taking into consideration Eurostat classifications and structures. The data files are suitable for using in the programme Genedi which transforms the data files into Gesmesformat. The data are transmitted by the data exchange software Stadium developed in Eurostat. This is a good result, taking into consideration the fact that not all Member States of the European Union have reached this far in data transmission.

More information available on rail transport

New indicators were added to the statistics of rail transport according to the new legislation of the European Union concerning rail transport. Freight turnover data for 2003 on containers carried by railway and by commodity chapters are available to the users. The data are presented according to the classification of commodity chapters Standard Goods Classification for Transport Statistics/Revised (NST/R). Statistics on container transportation are mostly required by logistic firms. In 2004, the Statistical Office prepared to transmit rail statistics regularly to Eurostat.

Subscribers to the publications of the Statistical Office, 2003



* The press, international organisations, representations and foreign missions.
See about products and users of statistics also on pp 54–58.

Indices of production are presented according to the international custom

The Statistical Office started to publish the volume indices of industrial production according to the international custom, i.e. seasonally and working-day adjusted volume index. The public database on the web site www.stat.ee and the monthly *Eesti Statistika*. Estonian Statistics provide unadjusted as well as adjusted production indices. This gives the user of statistics a better overview of processes in industry and enables more profound analysis of economy and comparisons with statistics of other countries.

In energy statistics a new and shorter questionnaire for energy consumers was taken into use in order to simplify the work of respondents and to improve the submission of the data.

Tourism statistics are available on the web site

Since 2003, the monthly bulletin of tourism statistics *Turism. Majutus*. Tourism. Accommodation is available electronically on the web site of the Statistical Office. The monthly statistics on accommodation and border crossings and quarterly tourism statistics are also available in the public database. A pilot survey was launched, its aim being to prepare the data of tourism statistics for transmitting to Eurostat and to introduce the regular data transmission system. Producing of tourism statistics and transmission of the data to Eurostat was carried out with the assistance of Statistics Finland.

The customers' interests come first

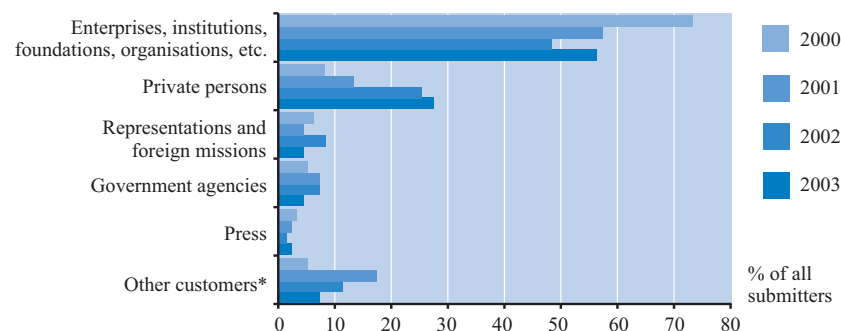
The processing time of annual data for enterprise statistics was reduced significantly, thus the users receive the statistical information faster. In previous years the information reached the customers in the 16th month after the end of the reference year, in 2003 the data were published in the 12th month. The data on investments and financial data of enterprises were added to the public database by more detailed economic activities. For the first time information on the number of persons employed was published by economic activities and size groups of enterprises.

A pilot project was launched in the course of which detailed information is collected on the sales of business services by kind of services and clients. The data are collected for the year 2003 and the results will be published at the beginning of 2005.

The load of data submitters is decreasing

The need for information has increased in the last years. That is the reason why the Statistical Office collects more and more thorough data. The respondents' costs and time spent for statistical questionnaires has increased. The Statistical Office has started to look for alternative data sources for receiving the indicators characterising financial data of companies. As the data of official databases do not cover all the needs for statistical data, models started to be worked out to generate missing data with the help of the existing ones. The work with methodology is voluminous and the quality of the received results

Requests and orders for information to the Statistical Office by submitters, 2000–2003



* Local governments, educational and research establishments, statistical institutions of other countries, international organisations, etc.
See about products and users of statistics also on pp 54–58.

has to be analysed. In case of positive results, small enterprises gain as the quantity of the data transmitted to the Statistical Office by small enterprises decreases.

Although the respondents have always felt safe with regard to the confidentiality of their data in the Statistical Office, the programme of secondary confidentiality of the published data was implemented. This allows the statisticians to observe better the requirement to guarantee the principle of confidentiality of source data according to the Official Statistics Act. This means that even in combining different tables it is not possible to identify source data.

The first analytical publication of enterprise statistics was published

In 1995–2002, with the co-ordination of Eurostat, the survey of small and medium-sized enterprises in Central European countries was conducted. In 2003, the analytical publication “*Kesk-Euroopa väikesed ja keskmised ettevõtted. 1995–2001. Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Central European Countries*” was issued on the basis of the results of the survey. The publication had a positive appraisal from the statistical organisations of other countries as well as from users of statistics in Estonia. Besides the results of the survey, the publication provides other essential information about enterprise.

Changes were introduced into the quarterly bulletin *Ettevõtlus. Business*. As the tables with more detailed data on the quarterly results of enterprises are available in the public database, the number of tables in the publication was reduced. More emphasis was laid on analysis, in the future it is planned to improve this part. The bulletin is now issued electronically.

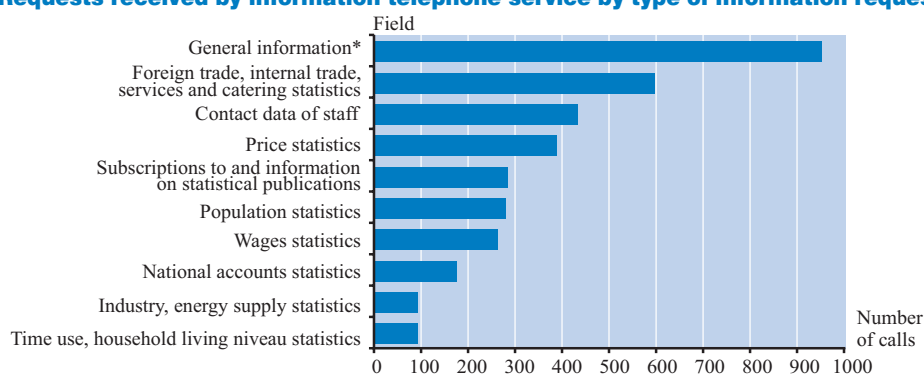
Thorough work in the field of demography of enterprises

In 2003, one of the most essential and interesting part of the statistical register of economic units — enterprise demography — was improved. The pilot project of demography of enterprises was launched, co-ordinated by Eurostat. This enabled to have a regular overview of demographic events of enterprises — births, deaths, survivals, etc.

The aim is to know how many new enterprises emerge every year and how many enterprises terminate their activity. Experience was obtained from the pilot project in order to show the usefulness of collecting information from different sources as it gives the opportunity not to burden the economic units with a new statistical report.

A contract was concluded with the Tax Board to enter the data of economic units in the statistical register which was a great step forward. This kind of co-operation between government agencies simplifies the accounting of enterprises. The quality of the statistical register has greatly improved thanks to the data of the Tax Board, first and foremost in eliminating over-coverage — it is easier to specify non-operating enterprises.

Requests received by information telephone service by type of information requested, 2003



* Work organisation of the Statistical Office, methodology, classifications, web site, public database, etc.
See about products and users of statistics also on pp 54–58.

Methodologists conducted a course

The group of methodology conducted a course “Overview of the principles of statistics” to the employees engaged in enterprise statistics. The course gave a thorough overview of the main terms of statistics and main rules of producing statistics. The participants also solved some practical tasks. The participants were very satisfied with the course. It is planned to conduct such kind of courses also in the future.

The methodological material “Estimation of the quality of administrative data with the aim of producing official statistics” was completed. This will serve as a basis for estimating the quality of the data and for documentation of estimation of the data from administrative sources.

Working group of good ideas was established

It was decided to include more employees working at the post of specialist in the development of enterprise statistics and to enhance their co-operation. The working group of good ideas was established, each team of which should deal with different subjects. As for producing enterprise statistics the updated statistical register of economic units is very important, updating of the statistical register was chosen the first subject matter of the working group. The aim was to consolidate the experience of updaters and users of the statistical register and offer ideas how to make the work more efficient. The working group included eight employees, the activity of the working group was efficient. Most of the received ideas were implemented in forming the statistical profile of 2003. The information system programme of the statistical profile was provided with many supplements.

Publications of enterprise statistics in 2003

yearbooks

Energiabilanss. 2002. Energy Balance

Ettevõtete majandusnäitajad. 2001. Financial Statistics of Enterprises

Rahandussuhtarvud. 2001. Financial Key Ratios

Transport. Side. 2002. Transport. Communication

Turism. Majutus. 2002. Tourism. Accommodation

publication

Kesk-Euroopa väikesed ja keskmised ettevõtted. 1995–2001. Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Central European Countries

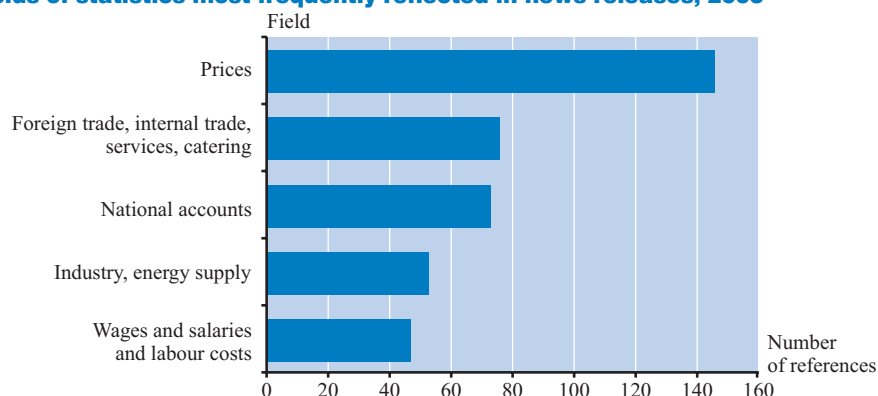
quarterly bulletin

Ettevõtlus. Business. Electronic publication

monthly bulletin

Turism. Majutus. Tourism. Accommodation. Electronic publication

Fields of statistics most frequently reflected in news releases, 2003



See about products and users of statistics also on pp 54–58.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

2003

All the results of the Agricultural Census have been published

The publication of the results of the 2001 Agricultural Census was finished. In addition to those published earlier, two new electronic publications were issued. The third publication of the Agricultural Census presents data on holders, managers, family labour force and salaried labour force of agricultural holdings and provides information on main sources of income of holdings. The fourth publication gives an overview of forestry, fishing and aquaculture in agricultural holdings. All the results of the Agricultural Census are also available in the public database. At the end of 2003 the public database included 458 tables with the Agricultural Census data.

The survey of the structure of agriculture was conducted

In summer 2003 a sample survey of the structure of agriculture was conducted to study the changes that occurred in the structure of holdings after the Census. The survey covered holdings which had at least one hectare of utilised agricultural land or whose standard gross margin (the difference between the total output and specific variable costs of production) was at least one European Size Unit (18,800 kroons). The sample included over 9,600 holdings, including about 800 companies or cooperatives. Besides general data on holdings, the data was also collected on land use, number of livestock and poultry, use of manure pits, tractors and machinery, labour force and other profitable activities of holdings. The data on holdings of natural persons were collected by the employees of the Statistical Office of Estonia. The results of the survey will be published in March 2004.

Statistical surveys continued

In 2003, 12 official statistical surveys were conducted which covered agricultural producers as well as processors of agricultural products. The data were collected from agricultural producers about land use, number of animals and poultry, produced agricultural products and used fertilizers and forage. The companies processing agricultural products submitted data on purchased livestock, poultry, milk and grain. Since 2003 the monthly data on the purchase of animals and milk are collected from milk and meat processing companies.

The release of data on the resource and use of agricultural products in the public database continued.

Collecting economic indicators on agricultural, hunting, forestry and fishing enterprises continued. The quarterly economic indicators for 2003 were released in the public database and for the first time in the electronically published quarterly bulletin *Ettevõtlus. Business*. The economic indicators for 2001 were issued in the public database and in the publications “*Ettevõtete majandusnäitajad*. 2001. Financial Statistics of Enterprises” and “*Rahandussuhtarvud*. 2001. Financial Key Ratios”.

At the end of 2003, the public database (Statistical Database and Regional Development Database) (www.stat.ee) contained 20 tables of agricultural statistics.

The database of agricultural holdings was updated

As data for agricultural statistics are collected by sample survey, the accuracy of statistical data is mainly dependent on the accuracy of the data in the database of agricultural holdings. In 2003 the database was continuously updated on the basis of administrative databases as well as on the basis of the data of sample surveys. A special survey was conducted for receiving data on changes in new households established after the Agricultural Census and on changes in enumerated households. The survey covered about 4,300 households.

Publications of agricultural statistics in 2003

yearbooks

Kevadkülvipinnad 2003. Electronic publication

Põllumajandus. 2002. Agriculture

Sügispõllutööd 2002. Electronic publication

quarterly bulletin

Loomakasvatus. Electronic publication

other publications

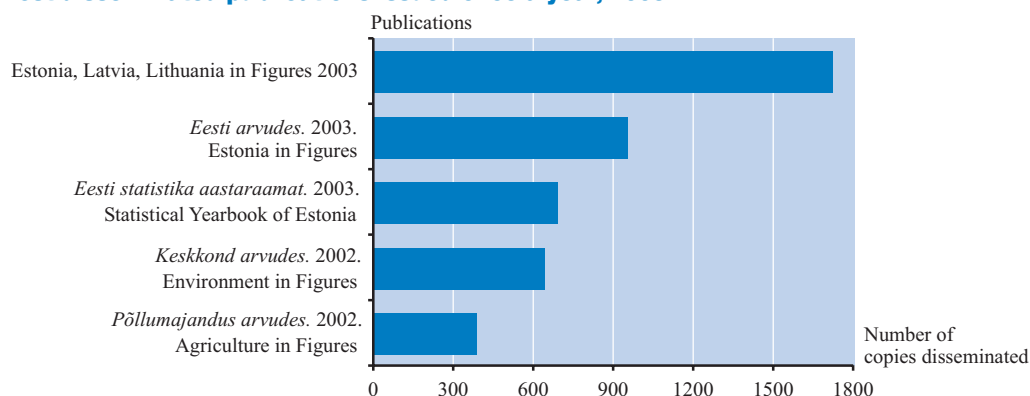
2001. aasta põllumajandusloendus. III. Majapidamiste tööjõud. Sissetulek. 2001 Agricultural Census. III. Labour Force. Income of Holdings. Electronic publication

2001. aasta põllumajandusloendus. IV. Metsamajandus. Kalandus. 2001 Agricultural Census. IV. Forestry. Fishing. Electronic publication

pocket-sized reference book

Põllumajandus arvudes. 2002. Agriculture in Figures

Most disseminated publications issued once a year, 2003



See about products and users of statistics also on pp 54–58.

REGIONAL STATISTICS

2003

The statistical publications became more voluminous

In 2003, a significant event in the development of regional statistics was compiling and publishing of the publication “*Linnad ja vallad arvudes. 2003. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures*” that is based on the pocket-sized reference book. This publication is the most manifold and voluminous statistical overview of local government units issued by the Statistical Office so far. The publication does not contain only numerical data. Some essential topics of regional development have been analysed in the publication. The analyses were compiled in co-operation with the researchers of the University of Tartu and the specialists of the Ministry of Finance.

The publication “*Maakonnad arvudes. 1998–2002. Counties in Figures*” provides a thorough analysis of the regional development of Estonia, taking into consideration the criteria presented in the strategy of Estonian regional development.

In 2003, a set of thematic maps was compiled as a new means of regional analysis in Estonia. The thematic maps are available on the web site of the Statistical Office (www.stat.ee).

International co-operation advanced

Compared to the earlier years, international co-operation on regional statistics was more intense. Several voluminous tasks were added to the previous works.

The most essential international project of regional statistics was Urban Audit II that is being continued also in the year 2004. Within the project, data were collected on the two biggest cities of Estonia — Tallinn and Tartu. 34 employees of the Statistical Office participated in the project. City governments of Tallinn and Tartu were partners of the Statistical Office in this project. The aims that Eurostat set for the year 2003 were achieved.

In February a meeting of regional statisticians of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania was organised by the Statistical Office of Estonia in Tallinn. The representatives of Estonia presented three thorough reports that analysed the situation of producing regional statistics. The possibilities for further co-operation were also discussed. As a practical result of the meeting, the quality of the chapter “Selected Statistics on Baltic Countries” of the yearbook of “*Eesti piirkondlik statistika. 2002. Regional Statistics of Estonia*” improved.

Speeches were delivered in one international seminar and a thorough report was submitted to the other. In September a written report on the development of regional statistics of Estonia was submitted to the seminar “Regional Statistics — EU Enlargement — Regional Development” which took place in Jachranka, Poland. In December two employees of the Statistical Office participated in the Eurostat workshop “Regional and Urban Statistics” in Luxembourg, delivering a report about Estonian experience in producing regional statistics.

Co-operation was extensive with the organisation Artemis Information Management, which is preparing the publication “Portrait of the Regions” ordered by Eurostat.

Experience of producing and disseminating regional statistics was gained from the Finnish colleagues. Thanks to the assistance by Statistics Finland and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Finland the employees of the Statistical Office had an opportunity to visit several local government agencies in Finland. The use of statistics in the work of their local government agencies is impressing. The experience of Finland can also be made use of in Estonia. Following the lead of Finland, in 2004 the Statistical Office has planned to prepare a folder about one local government unit and a statistical overview of one county that serve as examples for the other local governments and counties to order statistical products.

The overview of publication of statistics in Eurostat database was completed

An overview of publishing the regional data of Estonia in Eurostat database NewCronos was compiled. The overview enables to plan measures for better presentation of regional data of Estonia in international database.

Regional statistics of Estonia are first and foremost released in the Regional Development Database available on the web site of the Statistical Office www.stat.ee. In 2003 the following new topics by local governments were added to the database: education, public libraries, distances from county centres and Tallinn, land use by form of ownership and by intended purpose. The Regional Development Database contained 628 tables.

However, some setback was experienced: departmental data sources for producing statistics at the local government unit level could not be used at the extent it had been planned. In spite of that the year 2003 was a step further in the production of regional statistics.

Publications of regional statistics in 2003

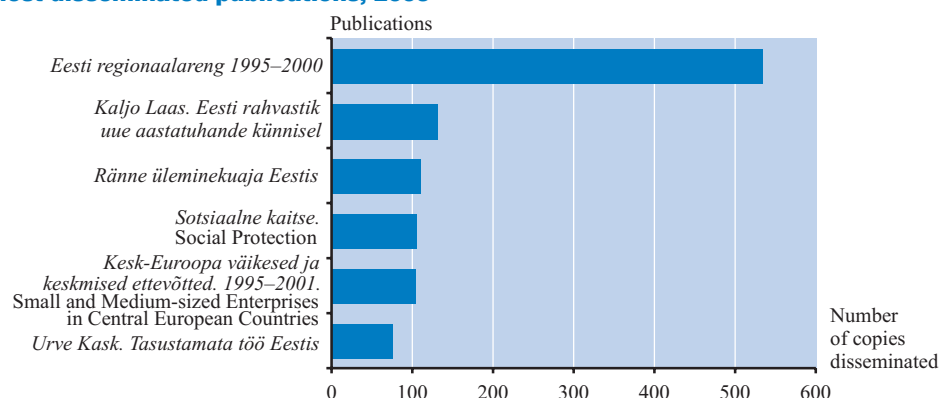
yearbooks

Eesti piirkondlik statistika. 2002. Regional Statistics of Estonia

Linnad ja vallad arvudes. 2003. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures

Maakonnad arvudes. 1998–2002. Counties in Figures

Most disseminated publications, 2003



See about products and users of statistics also on pp 54–58.

PRODUCTS AND CONSUMERS

2003

The share of electronic statistical products increased

The catalogue of the Statistical Office “*Statistikaväljaanded. 2003. Statistical Publications*” presents 54 titles of publications including three monthly bulletins, four quarterly bulletins, 33 yearbooks and 14 single publications. 43 publications are bilingual (in Estonian and English), nine are in Estonian and two are in English.

In 2003, the Statistical Office presented short term statistics (monthly and quarterly statistics) besides public database (Statistical Database and Regional Development Database) mainly in electronic publications on the web site www.stat.ee under the subheading “Statistical Publications / e-publications 2003” of the heading “Products and Services”. Since 2003, official short term statistics in printed form are available in the monthly *Eesti Statistika*. Estonian Statistics. Several single publications have also been issued as electronic publications. 15 titles of e-publications have been released (PDF to which Word- and/or Excel-files have been added). E-publications are available free of charge on the web site.

In 2003, the publication of the results of the 2000 Population and Housing Census and the 2001 Agricultural Census has almost been completed. Five electronic publications of the results of the Population Census have been issued, discussing the following topics: family, population with long-term illness or disability, sources of subsistence, employment and socio-economic status, economically active population, dwellings and buildings containing dwellings and living conditions. Results of the Agricultural Census have been published in two electronic publications. They give an overview of labour force and income of agricultural holdings, of forestry and fishing.

The CD-ROM “*Eesti statistika aastaraamat. 2003. Statistical Yearbook of Estonia*” presents longer time series on environment, population, social and economic statistics compared to the printed publication under the same title, as well as regional statistics. The CD-ROM of the yearbook of population statistics “*Rahvastik. 2002. Population*” provides general demographic data, statistics on location and composition of population, births and deaths, marriages and divorces as time series since the year 1970 or from later periods, as well as more detailed data on vital events for 2002 by counties, cities and rural municipalities. On both CD-ROMs the data have been presented as PC-AXIS-, XML-, HTML- and Excel-files. The user can compile thematic maps on the basis of the data presented on CD-ROMs. The software PX-MAP of the product family AXIS is available to the user for this purpose.

The results of user surveys have proved that users need besides numerical data also “explaining the numbers with words”. This is mainly provided by statistical publications presenting overviews, analysis, illustrating diagrams, thematic maps, etc. based on

Titles and publications, 1994–2003

Year	Titles (by catalogue of publications)	Publications* (01.01.–31.12.)
1994	51	105
1995	46	99
1996	46	117
1997	52	118
1998	59	120
1999	59	117
2000	58	127
2001	65	130
2002	54	117
2003	54	106

* Includes all the annual publications published once a year and single issues of periodicals (printed as well as e-publications).

statistics. In 2003, the Statistical Office published in co-operation with the University of Tartu Institute of Geography the analytical publication “*Ränne üleminekuaja Eestis*” (“Migration in Estonia in Transition Period” — only in Estonian). The publication gives an overview of internal migration in the years 1989–2000. The analytical publication “*Sotsiaalne kaitse. Social Protection*” was completed in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and discusses the development of social protection in Estonia during the last years. Expenditure of social protection and population covered by social protection are under observation. The yearbook “*Vallad ja linnad arvudes. 2003. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures*” analyses and compares the development of local government units. Besides specialists of the Statistical Office, a researcher of the University of Tartu and specialists of the Ministry of Finance have contributed to the publication of this yearbook. A more thorough analysis is also presented in yearbooks “*Leibkonna elujärg. 2002. Household Living Niveau*”, “*Tööjõud. 2002. Labour Force*”, “*Ettevõtete majandusnäitajad. 2001. Financial Statistics of Enterprises*”, “*Keskkond. 2002. Environment*”, in electronic quarterly bulletin *Ettevõtlus. Business* and in other publications.

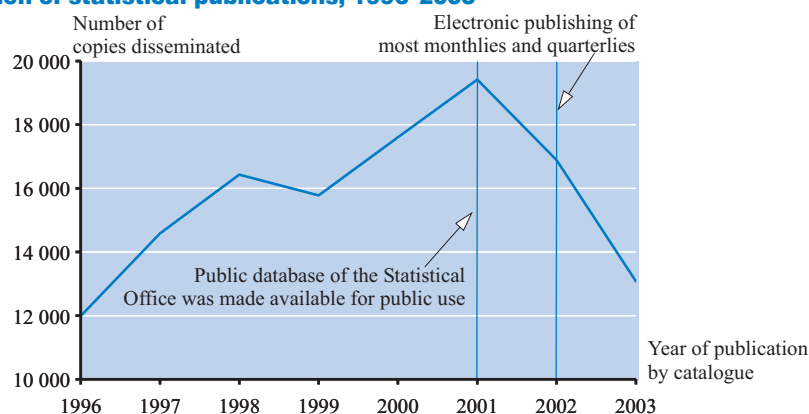
In 2003, the Statistical Office disseminated about 13,000 copies of statistical publications (as hard copies, on CD-ROMs, on diskettes and by e-mail). 53% of disseminated copies were free of charge. Government agencies, e.g., the *Riigikogu*, Office of the President of the Republic, Bureau of the Prime Minister, ministries, offices, inspections, etc. receive statistical publications partly free of charge. In 2003, rural municipality and city governments received free of charge the publications of the 2000 Population and Housing Census and the 2001 Agricultural Census. 97% of the disseminated publications were hard copies. 79% of the subscribers of the statistical publications were from Estonia and 21% were from foreign countries. In 2003, 445 new subscriptions were made, of which 340 were commercial undertakings, unions, foundations, etc. who accounted for 46% of all subscribers.

Public database was popular among users

According to user statistics, in 2003 the most popular heading of the web site was “Statistics”, which provides access to the public database. The most frequently visited headings were “Main Social and Economic Indicators”, “Questionnaires 2003”, “e-publications 2003”, “Classifications”, etc.

As in the previous year, the most frequently visited field of statistics was population, followed by Population Census, gross domestic product, wages and salaries, labour market and foreign trade. At the end of 2003, the public database contained 1,659 tables.

Dissemination of statistical publications, 1996–2003*



* Excluding copies used in press conferences, fairs, advertising campaigns, etc.

In 2003, user surveys were carried out in order to find out the users' attitude to e-publications. The surveys proved that more than a half (71%) of the users of web site preferred e-publications to hard copies. A third (34%) of the users used e-publications at least once a week, a third (29%) — once a month.

The standard of services is available in the Information Centre or on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading “Products and Services”.

The users were satisfied with the products and services of the Statistical Office

In November 2003, the Statistical Office conducted a User Survey to study the information channels the users prefer to get statistical information. The other aim of the survey was to evaluate the products and services of the Statistical Office. The users of statistics from commercial undertakings, government agencies, rural municipality and city governments and research institutions who subscribed to statistical publications in the years 2000–2003 were questioned.

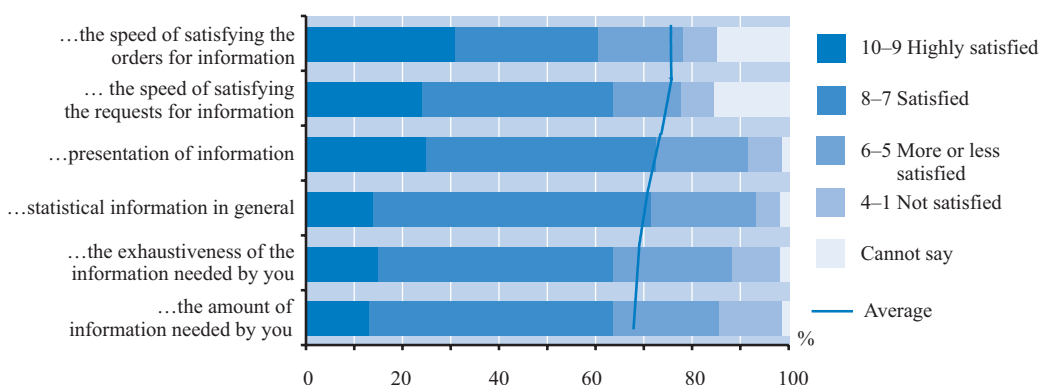
After some printed publications turned into electronic ones, only 10% of the users of printed publications have given up using the data. The majority of these users could find the necessary information in the public database and e-publications. 64% of users combine the public database and e-publications.

41% of users preferred e-publications on the web site, 25% wished to get them as printed publications, 23% by e-mail and 7% on the CD-ROM. The most popular way of presenting statistics is a combined version of tables, diagrams and analytical text. 59% of respondents considered the prices of statistical publications acceptable, 13% considered the prices too high.

60% of the respondents received statistical information besides statistical publications also from the public database. As a rule, 65% of users were satisfied with the database. For 57% of respondents it was not difficult to find the necessary information from the database. For 67% of respondents it was easy to form tables. 76% of respondents preferred to form Excel tables from the database.

65% of the respondents considered the information about the products and services of the Statistical Office sufficient. Most information was obtained from the web site (80%) and through the media (64%). The respondents evaluated the products and services of the Statistical Office on the 10-point scale. The highest rates were given to the speed of satisfying the requests and orders for information and to the ways of presenting the information.

Satisfaction with...*



* Based on the User Survey conducted in November 2003.

Information Centre was created for the improvement of rendering the services

On 1 September 2003, it was ten years since the establishment of the library of the Statistical Office. At that time the library fund included slightly over 1,000 library units and the readers had a reading room of 50 square metres at their disposal. Now the library fund has increased to 17,000 library units. The reading room was enlarged to 80 square metres and there are publications issued by 43 countries and 14 international organisations. The visitors can use the computer that enables to find necessary information from the Internet. The electronic catalogue available on the web site of the Statistical Office provides an overview of the units in the fund of the library.

As the interest in the statistical data has increased from year to year, on 1 January 2003 the Information centre was created for the improvement of rendering the services.

The visitors of the Information are served by four consultants to whom one can turn

- to find books from the shelves,
- to get information about the availability of statistics,
- to find statistical information on the web site,
- to buy statistical publications,
- to order statistical information.

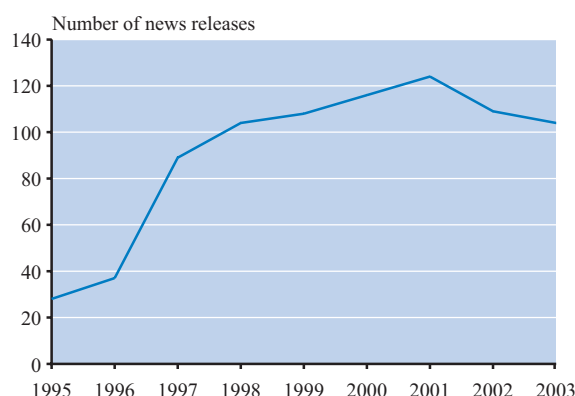
In 2003, the library fund of the Information Centre was supplemented with 992 exchange publications, 426 publications were donated, 56 publications were purchased. At the end of the year the fund comprised 17,589 library units. About 6,100 customers visited the Information Centre, of whom 5,500 used literature from the shelves and about 600 bought publications of the Statistical Office. Over 2,400 pages of copies were made. 9 excursions with 108 participants, most of whom were students (pupils), visited the library.

The standard of services of the Information Centre is available in the Information Centre or on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading "Products and Services".

Information released in news releases and presentations were made available for the public

In 2003, the Statistical Office published 104 news releases. National newspapers, county papers and news agencies reflected 103 of them, i.e. 99%. The news releases discussing prices, national accounts and foreign trade evoke most response. The data of the news releases of the Statistical Office were published most in the newspaper *Äripäev*, followed by *Eesti Päevaleht* and *Postimees*. Of county papers, the Statistical Office or its data were most reflected in *Põhjarannik*.

News releases of the Statistical Office, 1995–2003



In 2003, the Statistical Office organised a briefing and two presentations to journalists. The aim of the briefing was to present the public database and the possibilities to use it, as the survey of journalists' needs and satisfaction proved that although journalists are acquainted with the public database, they do not always know how to use it. In 2003, the Statistical Office presented to journalists the hard copy and the CD-ROM of "*Eesti statistika aastaraamat*. 2003. Statistical Yearbook of Estonia" and the publication "*Leibkonna elujärg*. 2002. Household Living Niveau", discussing poverty and inequality.

The news releases and service standards are available in the Information Centre and on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading "Products and Services".

The number of orders for information increased

It is possible to turn to the Statistical Office with various requests and orders for information by letter, fax, e-mail and via web site. Information can also be ordered in the Information Centre.

The request for information is the request for published or documented information. In 2003, the Statistical Office satisfied 619 requests for information. Order for information is a request for more detailed information than available in the public database or in publications. Satisfying the order requires additional processing and analysis of the data. 2,375 orders were satisfied, which is 648 more than in 2002. The most popular field is foreign trade, for which 1,014 requests and orders for information have been presented. The total number of satisfied requests and orders for information was 2,994, 588 more than in 2002.

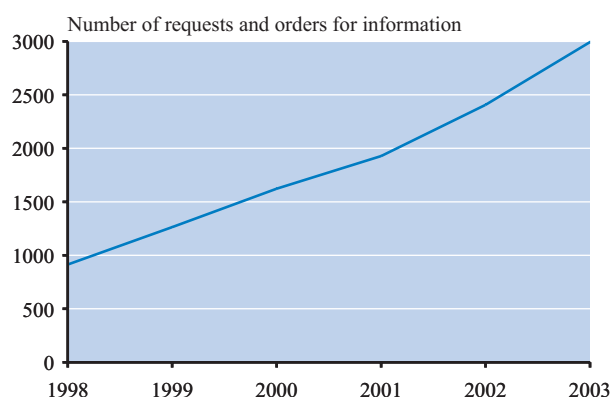
The standard of services of requests and orders for information is available on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading "Products and Services".

Statistical information is available to all users by telephone +372 6259 300

In 2003, the calls to information service telephone totalled 3,913. On average 16 calls per day were answered. By phone it is possible to subscribe to statistical publications, present requests and orders for information, etc.

The standard of information service telephone is available on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading "Products and Services".

Requests and orders for information satisfied by the Statistical Office, 1998–2003



The Statistical Office coordinates the translation of international classifications and implements the national classifications that have been worked out on the basis of them.

In 2003, the questionnaires and instructions used in conducting official statistical surveys were harmonised on the basis of classifications.

The use of classifications in producing official statistics in the Statistical Office was arranged and coordinated. The producers and consumers of statistics were counselled in the use of classifications. Assistance was offered in solving classifications-related problems. Advice on classifications was given in the Statistical Office as well as by e-mail and by phone. Counselling is becoming more and more important in connection with the application of new versions of classifications.

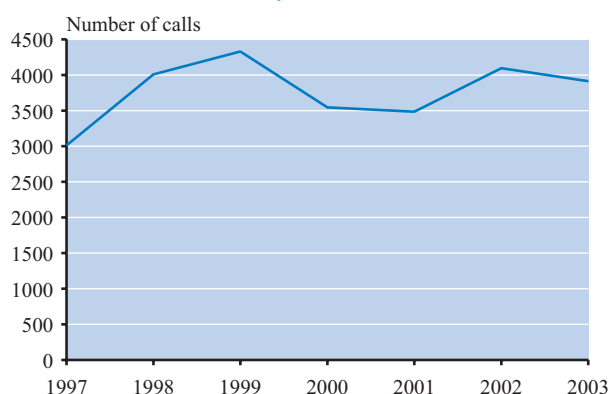
The column "Classifications" on the web site www.stat.ee was supplemented. The work with the development of the database of the information system of the Statistical Office (SIS) also continued.

To improve the use of classifications, the Statistical Office and the Department of State Information Systems worked out the draft Regulation of the Government of the Republic "Establishment of the System of Classifications". The Regulation was adopted on 9 October 2003 (RT I 2003, 65, 435).

The following new versions of international classifications were published and introduced: in January the Combined Nomenclature (CN 2003) (printed matter and electronically), in March the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) (printed matter and electronically), in April the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose Adapted to the Needs of Household Budget Surveys (COICOP-HBS) (electronically).

The Statistical Office participated in the Eurostat project Operation 2007, in the framework of which the structure of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE) and the Classification of Products by Activities (CPA) was modified according to the changes of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and of the Central Product Classification (CPC). The changes are caused by the worldwide harmonisation of classifications of economic activities and products.

Information telephone of the Statistical Office, 1997–2003



See about products and users of statistics also on pp 54–58.

INTERVIEWERS SET SECTION

2003

The main task of the Interviewers Set Section is to collect data for official statistical surveys. In 2004, it will be ten years since the Interviewers Set Section was formed.

At the beginning of 2003, the work of Interviewers Set Section underwent thorough reorganisation. All over Estonia, 58 interview districts were formed in Estonia, one interviewer to work in each district. Earlier the interview districts were formed and interviewers were recruited for each survey depending on county sample size, however now the borders of interview districts are not changed with survey and they are no longer based on the borders of counties. These changes will enable to collect data faster and more flexibly as well as to have a better overview of the interviewers' work. Formation of new interview districts was performed on the basis of digital Population Census maps.

In 2003, the Statistical Office continued collecting data for the quarterly Labour Force Survey, the Household Budget Survey and the continuous Farms Survey. The border-crossing surveys whose aim is to collect information on the motivation of foreign visitors to visit Estonia and on their expenditure in Estonia, were also conducted. In 2003 the border-crossing survey was included in the list of official statistical surveys. In co-operation with producers of agricultural statistics, the survey of the structure of agriculture was conducted from June to August.

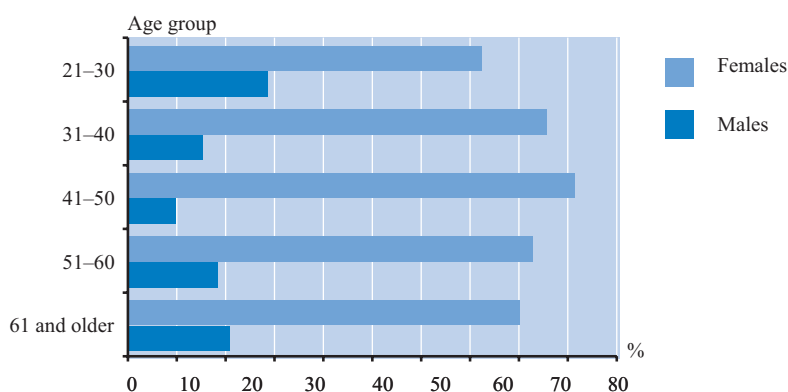
Step by step, the electronic data collection is being implemented. This will accelerate the whole process of data collection and improve data quality. This will also enable the Statistical Office to save on labour force. If 2002 was the year when the electronic data collection was tested, then in 2003 the collection of data for the Labour Force Survey by using laptop computers started. This will enable the immediate transformation of the data into computer-readable form. Preparations started for the electronic collection of data for household pictures and post-interviews within the Household Budget Survey. The pilot survey is planned for the 1st quarter of 2004.

STAFF

The share of males was larger among young employees

As at 31 December 2003, the number of employees in the Statistical Office was 371, of which 345 were officials, 26 were support staff. 83% of the employees were women. Among higher officials, (57 in total) men accounted for 25% and among senior officials, men accounted for 17%. The share of men was relatively large among persons aged 21–30 — 28%. Among persons aged over 65, the share of women and men was almost equal. The share of employees aged 41–60 was the largest — 53%. 85% of officials had completed higher education, 11 had a doctor's degree, 12 had a master's degree. In 2003, 31 employees started to work in the Statistical Office, 22 employees left the office.

Employees of the Statistical Office by age group, 31 December 2003



**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

2003

**Efficient work was done in the field
of information technology**

The year 2003 was full of changes for the Information Technology Department of the Statistical Office. The year started with changes in the structure when the Information Department became the Information Technology Department and a new structural unit was formed — the Software Development Section. Transition to centralised development of software will continue at least until the end of 2004. For the user of statistics this means that the production of statistics becomes more efficient and the quality improves.

The development plan for information technology of the Statistical Office was made for the years 2003–2007. To evaluate the efficiency of measures for organisational protection of the data, internal security audits were organised. Assessment was made of the security organisation of the office and how the confidentiality and security rules were followed. The conformity of contracts concerning data collection to security rules and the security classes of processing of the data collected in the official statistical surveys were studied in detail.

In 2003, the Statistical Office started to create the system of collection and verification of electronic data — eSTAT. This should simplify the completion and submission of statistical questionnaires and enable the Statistical Office to verify and administer the collected data more efficiently. eSTAT will be introduced to the respondents in summer 2004. Transition to the new system is carried out step by step.

The public database of the Statistical Office is becoming the place where the data are released first. The database has gained popularity. The number of visits to the site of the tables in November was extremely large — 24,000. During the year about 600 new tables were added, by the end of the year, the number of tables in the database grew to 1,659. All the data have also been presented in English.

The data are continuously added to the internal tabular database of the Statistical Office and metadatabases are introduced.

**Map information was published both in publications
as well as on the web site**

In co-operation with the Estonian Land Board, the Statistical Office created a new map application “Interactive map of administrative division on the Internet”, which was tested in a pilot project. The map application will be available to users in 2004.

Thematic maps were compiled for publishing in the Population Census and Agricultural Census publications.

On the web site a new sub-heading “Maps” was created under the heading “Statistics”. Thematic maps of different fields of statistics are available to the users.

93 local governments have taken into use the digital Population Census maps on the basis of the licence agreement concluded with the Statistical Office. Formation of interview districts of sample surveys on the basis of digital Population Census maps continues.

The Statistical Office together with the Candidate Countries of the European Union participated in the pilot project Urban Audit II, where data on the quality of life of the European cities are collected. In the framework of the project, a new division into city districts in Tallinn and Tartu was introduced and the land use in suburban areas in Harju and Tartu counties was appraised.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

2003

Missions of the employees of the Statistical Office to 30 countries

International co-operation was intense. In 2003 the employees of the Statistical Office participated in 296 international conferences, seminars, meetings or courses. 93 employees were sent on missions abroad to a total of 30 countries. The farthest destination was New York, the most exotic Almaty, capital of Kazakhstan. As in previous years, the most frequently visited destination was the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) in Luxembourg (141 times). Helsinki ranked second (25 times), Riga and Brussels were sharing the third and fourth places (14 times).

The Statistical Office continuously participated in the international statistical co-operation programme. On 31 August 2003, the Phare Grant 2000 Technical Aid Contract ended. On 7 October the Phare Grant 2001 Contract was signed.

The employees of the Statistical Office participated in the work of five Task Forces of Eurostat. In March an employee of the Statistical Office participated for the first time in the meetings of the Statistical Programme Committee as an observer. In autumn a regular participation in the meetings of the statistical working group of the Council of the European Union in Brussels started. The representatives of the Statistical Office took part in five meetings on the implementation of research and development in official statistics (AMRADS). For the sixth time, a representative of the Statistical Office participated in the annual Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York.

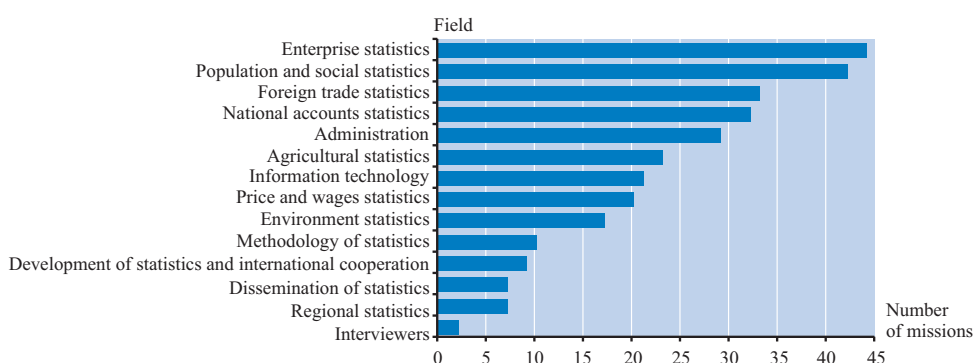
For the second year two national experts continued their work at Eurostat. Six employees of the Statistical Office worked as trainees at Eurostat. The trainees worked in the following fields: environment statistics, health statistics, data collection, publications and implementation of grant contracts in Candidate Countries.

Participation in training courses in the other countries was not as numerous as in previous years. Only two employees participated (in one course each) in two courses of the Institute of Training of European Statisticians (TES-Institute). In total 11 persons were trained on five study trips in Helsinki and Riga, organised by Statistics Finland.

Seminars and study trips contributed to the co-operation

52 foreign experts and consultants visited the Statistical Office of Estonia.

For the first time a ten-member Jordanian delegation was on a study trip in the Statistical Office. Among other fields, they were interested in employment statistics and adult training statistics. The Ukrainian colleagues visited the Statistical Office within the training programme of the economic management of Canada-Ukraine-Baltic States. In the framework of the United Nations Development Programme, a delegation from Kazakhstan visited the Statistical Office.

Foreign missions of the Statistical Office, 2003

Intensive co-operation with Statistics Finland, the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia and Statistics Lithuania continued. On 29–31 May, the Steering Committee of Statistical Organisations of the Baltic States had a meeting near Vilnius. In co-operation with Statistics Sweden, the statisticians from Albania and Kosovo were trained in Tirana and Tallinn.

The Statistical Office organised seven international seminars:

27–28 February	Within Baltic co-operation a meeting on regional development and statistics
27–28 February	Eurostat Working Group meeting on Employment Data Reconciliation
19–21 June	Eurostat Working Group meeting on Income and Living Conditions
25–26 September	9th Baltic Population Census Seminar
22–23 September	Joint meeting of the Baltic States on Household Budget Survey
14–15 October	Baltic Agricultural Statistics Seminar
6–7 November	Eurostat Special Management Group meeting

The Statistical Office participated in many pilot projects

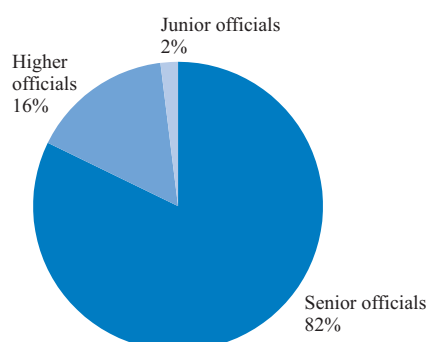
In 2003, the pilot projects that had started in the previous year continued. New projects were launched in the following fields: purchasing power parity of price statistics; non-financial national accounts private household consumption, non-financial national accounts dwellings; social protection; waste statistics; national accounts; employment data reconciliation; basic methodology for the recalculation of intercensal population estimates; Labour Force Survey ad hoc module on Lifelong Learning; innovation statistics; social protection statistics; income and living conditions; short term business statistics. At the end of the year agreements on pilot projects of environment statistics, of demography of enterprises and of business services were signed.

Preparations for the implementation of Intrastat continued

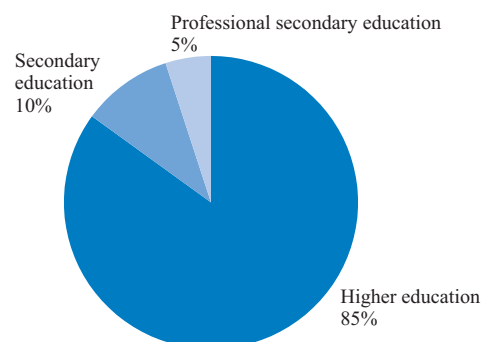
Preparations for the implementation of the system Intrastat to collect data on the exchange of goods between the EU Member States continued. Within the project, eight employees were trained at the Finnish Customs, four persons studied Intrastat system in Statistics Sweden. To enable the efficient implementation of Intrastat in Estonia, Jorma Tuomainen from the Finnish Customs is working as an adviser in the Statistical Office of Estonia since 1 July 2003 till 30 June 2004. In 2003, eight visits to the Statistical Office by short-term experts took place within this project in order to draw up mid-term reviews of the project, as well as to make future plans.

Traditionally the employees of the Statistical Office participated in the European Volleyball Tournament for Statisticians, which was held in Düsseldorf, Germany.

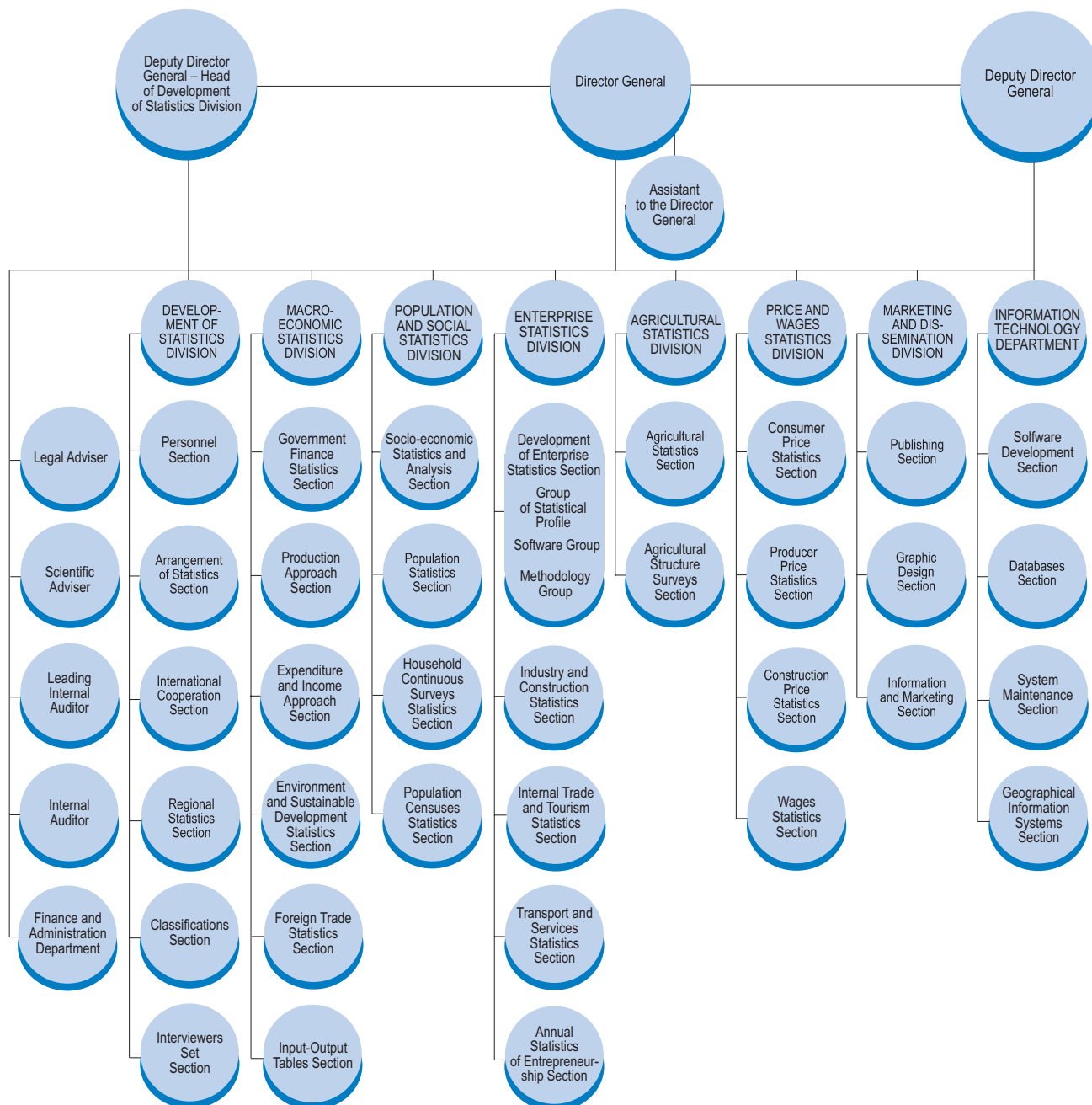
**Officials of the Statistical Office,
31 December 2003**



**Officials of the Statistical Office by education,
31 December 2003**



STRUCTURE OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE



As at 31 December 2003