

Dear reader,



You are reading the review of the work of the Statistical Office for the year 2004, which marks an essential milestone on the one hand and a period of complicated changes on the other hand. This year goes to the history in connection with the accession of Estonia to the European Union. It has been a great challenge for statisticians to take Estonian statistics to Europe. At the time of the accession we had managed to accomplish it. As a result of the effort of our 300 employees, last year 150 statistical surveys were conducted and about 2,400 orders and requests for information from domestic and international clients were satisfied. We have tried hard to make official statistics available in different channels — in the public database, in electronic and printed publications. Unfortunately, in the field of data collection we have lagged behind: the majority of enterprises' questionnaires are still presented on paper.

Several changes have taken place in the Statistical Office last year. Most significant of them was complete replacement of top management. In the middle of the year changes in management and work organisation were carried out, as a result of the changes the number of employees decreased by about one sixth, activities of information technology and data collection were centralised. These measures were taken in order to unify the processes and make similar activities more efficient.

For the year 2005, the government has given the Statistical Office the mandate for statistical surveys which in terms of volume is comparable with the previous years. Other orders have increased in bulk, especially on international scale.

This year we will focus on the target to provide the entrepreneurs with new technological possibilities to make the data submission more comfortable, faster and cheaper and more efficient for the data processors. The other essential strategic focus is using the collected data for statistical purposes, that means diminishing of asking the same data from respondents several times. Thirdly, we will concentrate on creating the culture which is orientated to service. This means to form the opinion that state agency is at the service of society, not vice versa. In our work national as well as international aspects are equally important. It is critical to maintain and raise the quality of statistics to be a respected doer in the statistical system of Europe. Professional specialists are prerequisite of the quality. The past proves that specialists have not always been valued, so they have moved on to more suitable environment. This is the topic to think about and to be occupied with.



Prit Potisepp
Director General

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE

2004

The Statistical Office is a government agency whose main task is to produce objective official statistics for public, business and research sectors, international organisations and individuals. The aim is to reflect the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation and trends in Estonia. Official statistics are in compliance with international classifications and methods and have to conform to the principles of impartiality, reliability, relevancy, cost-effectiveness, confidentiality and transparency.

The main objectives of the Statistical Office for 2004 were the following:

- to conduct statistical surveys for 2004 on the basis of the list approved by the Government of the Republic;
- to publish statistical publications and news releases according to the schedule;
- to implement the Intrastat system for collecting data about the trade between the EU Member States;
- to work out the adapted versions of international classifications;
- to complete the publication of the results of the 2000 Population and Housing Census.

As a result of Estonia's accession to the European Union, the Statistical Office became part of the European Statistical System. When in 2003 and in the beginning of 2004 the Acceding Countries participated in the meetings of the Statistical Programme Committee as observers, then since May 2004, the Statistical Office, together with statistical agencies of the other countries that had acceded to the EU, has participated in the Committee's meetings as a full and equal member.

Significant amendments were made to the Official Statistics Act. The amendments specified the use of personal data for the production of official statistics. The contradiction between the Official Statistics Act and the Personal Data Protection Act was removed. The amendments to the Official Statistics Act also specified the right of the Statistical Office to use the personal identification code, and personal and delicate personal data in producing official statistics.

The year 2004 can, first and foremost, be characterised by the reorganisation of the Office's work process and structure. A large proportion of the employees was involved in the work of the structure working group established at the end of 2003. The aim of the working group was to elaborate issues of implementation of the Strategy 2007 of the Statistical Office — the technological scheme of statistics production process, job titles, main tasks of the jobs and the centralised IT organisation.

Expenditure of the Statistical Office from the State Budget, 2000–2004 (thousand kroons)

Type of expenditure	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Operating expenses	129 345.9	102 092.1	59 376.3	58 260.4	62 572.9
personnel costs	87 455.3	67 461.9	38 945.6	41 076.3	43 187.6
administration costs	20 280.5	19 370.0	12 674.6	15 950.7	11 696.6
information technology	6 021.9	4 605.6	3 974.1	1 233.4	3 500.9
Intrastat costs	-	-	-	-	1 749.1
work and services purchased by the State	15 588.2	10 654.6	3 782.0	-	4 187.8
Capital costs	1 619.3	2 800.0	1 100.0	-	157.7
major repairs	1 600.0	2 800.0	1 100.0	-	-
acquisition of information technology	19.3	-	-	-	157.7

The new build-up and the new working procedure were implemented step by step. In February, the work of the Interviewers Section was reorganised; in March, the structure of the Social Statistics Department and Agricultural Statistics Department underwent changes, the Financial Planning and Administration Department was established.

In August the processes of data collection and data entry were drawn together to one unit, as was the software development. The Methodology Department was established.

As concerns the production of statistics, the greatest change was concentrating in one unit the following activities: data collection from enterprises and activities relating to the transformation into electronic form of the data submitted on paper. The aim of setting up such a unit was to reorganise the work to make it more efficient and to reduce the number of persons engaged in data collection. The change meant a significant reorganisation of the work process. The Statistical Office started to outsource the supporting activities (e.g. posting of questionnaires).

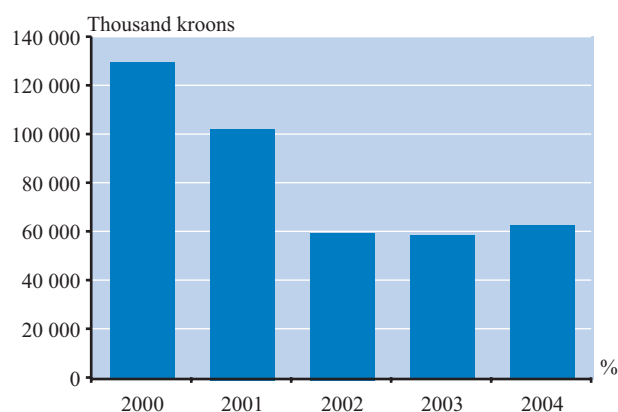
By that time, the centralised data collection via personal interviews had been carried out for ten years already.

The software development and common databases management and elaboration that had so far been scattered between different statistical units, were concentrated in the Information Technology Department. The results of this change can be seen in the nearest future when the share of universal statistics-related software solutions starts to increase.

If centralising the data collection and IT development mainly aimed at the improvement of the production process, then the establishment of the Methodology Department had also another objective — to achieve a better comparability and cohesion of official statistics through better coordination of classifications, definitions and methodology. This strategic innovation was targeted into the farther future and its results will be seen in several years only. On the one hand, specialists in methods of mathematical statistics and classifications were assembled in one structural unit, on the other hand, completely new posts are being created to deal with quality management.

As a result of reorganising the work process and the restructuring, the number of employees at the Office was reduced by 62 persons, or 16%. However, the main tasks of the Statistical Office for the year 2004 were successfully accomplished and in spite of reorganisation related difficulties the quality of statistics was maintained.

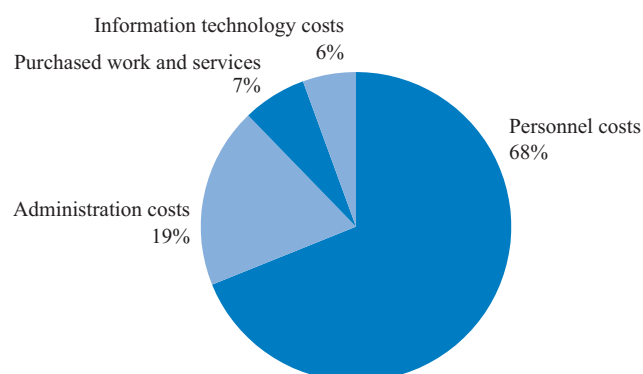
Operating expenses of the Statistical Office, 2000–2004



Milestones of the year 2004

16 February	"Koolinurk" ("School Corner", in Estonian only) was opened on the web site of the Statistical Office
27 February	Dashboard of Sustainability was made public on the web site of the Statistical Office
24 March	The publication of the results of the 2000 Population and Housing Census was completed: the e-publication "2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. XII. Vallasulate rahvastik. 2000 Populaton and Housing Census. XII. Population in Settlements of Rural Municipalities" was published
22 April	The Statistical Office participated in the fair "Key to the Future"
28 April	The Amendment Act of the Official Statistics Act entered into force, which liquidated the contradiction between the Official Statistics Act and the Personal Data Protection Act
1 May	The Intrastat system for collecting data about the trade between the EU Member States was started
27 May	The Statistical Office participated for the first time in the meeting of the Statistical Programme Committee as a full and equal member
23 July	The "Eesti statistika aastaraamat. 2004. Statistical Yearbook of Estonia" was published
1 August	The Statistical Office continued work with the new structure
21 September	The Phare Grant 2002 Contract was signed
27 November	The Government of the Republic approved the list of official statistical surveys for the year 2005
6 December	Priit Potisepp was appointed the new Director General of the Statistical Office
22 December	The Phare Grant 2003 Contract was signed

Operating expenses of the Statistical Office, 2004



PRODUCTS AND CONSUMERS

Besides traditional publications analytical publications were published

2004

The catalogue of the Statistical Office “*Statistikaväljaanded. 2004. Statistical Publications*” presents 46 titles of publications, including three monthly bulletins, three quarterly bulletins, 31 yearbooks and nine single publications. 36 publications are bilingual (Estonian and English), six are in Estonian and four in English.

In 2004, the Statistical Office presented short term statistics (monthly and quarterly statistics) besides public database mainly in electronic publications on the web site www.stat.ee under the subheading “Statistical Publications / e-publications 2004” of the heading “Statistics”. Official short term statistics in printed form are available only in the monthly *Eesti Statistika*. Estonian Statistics. Several yearbooks and single publications have also been issued as e-publications. 17 titles of e-publications have been released (mostly PDF to which Word- and/or Excel-files have been added). For the first time, the yearbook “*Eesti piirkondlik statistika. 2003. Regional Statistics of Estonia*” has been published as e-publication in HTML-format. E-publications are available free of charge on the web site.

In 2004, the publication of the results of the 2000 Population and Housing Census was accomplished. The 12th electronic publication of the results of the Population Census was published, discussing the population of rural municipalities. The joint publication in English “2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania” of the three Baltic countries was published, which includes the results of the population censuses in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. E-publication of the same title in English and e-publication in Estonian “*2000/2001. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendused Eestis, Lätis ja Leedus*” were also published.

The CD-ROM “*Eesti statistika aastaraamat. 2004. 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. On the CD-ROM the data have been presented as PC-AXIS-, XML-, HTML- and Excel-files. The user can draw up thematic maps on the basis of the data presented on the CD-ROM. The software PX-MAP of the product family AXIS is available to the user for this purpose.

The trend of the Statistical Office is to publish in statistical publications more and more overviews, analyses, diagrams, thematic maps, etc. based on statistics. In 2004, the analytical publications “*Sotsiaaltrendid 3*” and “*Social Trends 3*” were published, providing an overview of economic development, demographic processes, environment, people's income and expenditure, public safety. The scientific editor of the publication was Professor Alari Purju.

Titles and publications, 1994–2004

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
2004	46	101

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

The analytical publication “*Kõrgharidus. 1993–2003. Higher Education*” provides an overview on trends at higher education studies, the socio-economic situation of the population with higher education. The yearbook “*Linnad ja vallad arvudes. 2004. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures*” analyses and compares the development of local government units. The yearbook has been published in co-operation of the specialists of the Statistical Office and the researchers of the University of Tartu. The circulation of these two publication was quickly sold out, to meet the demands of the reader these publications are now disseminated on CDs.

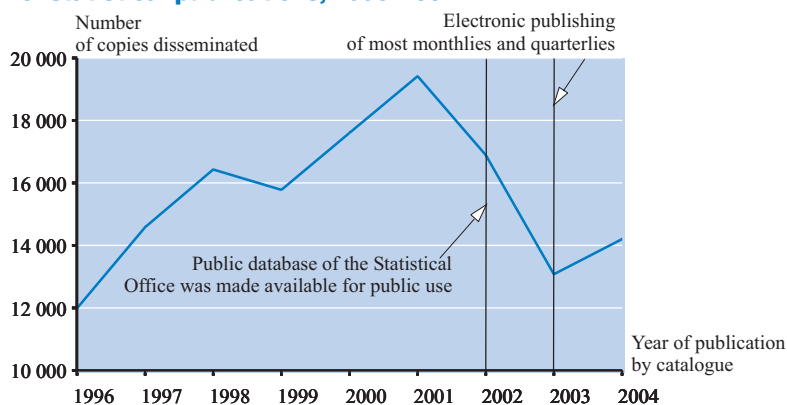
The pocket-sized reference book “*Eesti Euroopa Liidus. 2004. Estonia in the European Union*” provides comparative statistics on Estonia and other European countries, reflecting the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. More thorough analyses have been provided in the yearbooks “*Leibkonna elujärg. 2003. Household Living Niveau*”, “*Tööjõud. 2003. Labour Force*”, “*Ettevõtete majandusnäitajad. 2002. Financial Statistics of Enterprises*”, “*Keskkond. 2003. Environment*”, in electronic quarterly bulletin *Ettevõtlus. Business* and in other publications. The e-publication “*Säästva arengu näitajad. Indicators of Sustainable Development*” provides over 60 social, environmental, economic and institutional indicators which are in compliance with the list of Eurostat and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. The e-publication “*Põllumajanduslike majapidamiste struktuur. 2003. The Structure of Agricultural Holdings*” gives an overview of the land use, animal production, agricultural machinery and equipment, labour force and other gainful activities in agricultural holdings.

In 2004, the Statistical Office disseminated more than 14,000 copies of statistical publications (as hard copies, on CD-ROMs, on diskettes and by e-mail). County libraries, government agencies, e.g., the Riigikogu, Office of the President of the Republic, Bureau of the Prime Minister, ministries, offices, inspectorates, etc. receive statistical publications partly free of charge. 93% of the disseminated publications were hard copies. 78% of the subscribers to the statistical publications were from Estonia and 22% were from foreign countries. In 2004, about 300 new subscriptions were made, of which most were companies, unions, foundations, etc.

The web site of the Statistical Office was updated

In 2004, the structure of the web site of the Statistical Office was altered. The public database, news releases, publications, etc. are now available under the heading “Statistics”; publication calendars and ordered services are presented under the heading “Services”.

Dissemination of statistical publications, 1996–2004*



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

A new heading “Subject Areas” was added to the web site. In 2004, this heading contained three subheadings: “Population Censuses”, “Agricultural Census 2001” and “Foreign Trade”.

“Koolinurk” (“School Corner”, only in Estonian) was completed, the aim of which is to help the students to understand and use statistics.

The Dashboard of Sustainability was made public on the web site. It is the programme of graphic presentation of statistical data, according to the list of sustainable development indicators compiled by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and Eurostat.

The publications of the Population Census were most popular e-publications

Of the e-publications published on the web site, in 2004 the publications of the Population Census and the monthly bulletin *Eesti Põhilised Sotsiaal- ja Majandusnäitajad*. Main Social and Economic Indicators of Estonia were most popular. The publications “*Säästva arengu näitajad*. Indicators of Sustainable Development”, “*Põllumajanduslike majapidamiste struktuur*. 2003. The Structure of Agricultural Holdings” were also popular. Besides the monthly bulletin of main indicators, the quarterly bulletin *Ettevõtlus*. Business was the most popular among periodical e-publications.

Of the official statistical questionnaires published on the web site, in 2004 the questionnaires of Intrastat for collecting data on foreign trade statistics and questionnaires of wages and salaries monthly statistics were used most often.

The service standard of the web site is available in the Information Centre of the Statistical Office or on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading “Services”.

The public database is used more widely

Compared to the previous year, in 2004 the use of the public database has grown significantly. The amount of data in the database has also increased.

During the year, 260 new tables were added to the database. At the end of the year, the database included more than 1,900 tables. The number of data cells was about 17.8 million.

As in the previous years, the most popular field of statistics in the public database among the Estonian as well as English users was population, followed by wages and salaries, labour market and Population Census.

Satisfied requests and orders for information, 1998–2004

Year	Order of foreign trade statistics from Estonia	Order of foreign trade statistics from abroad	Other orders and requests from Estonia	Other orders and requests from abroad	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
2004	761	238	919	469	2 387

The use of tables in the public database differed by months (from 11,400 in July to 28,100 in March).

The service standard of the public database is available in the Information Centre of the Statistical Office or on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading “Services”.

“Koolinurk” (“School Corner”) helps the pupils to understand and use statistics

In February 2004 the column “*Koolinurk*” was opened on the web site. The aim of the column is to introduce statistics to pupils of secondary schools.

“*Koolinurk*” provides an overview of the economic and social life in Estonia and in other countries. The material is presented as texts, tables and diagrams. Separate statistics are provided on the youth aged 15–24, reflecting different angles of youngsters' life — studying, employment, family, health and crime.

To introduce the “School Corner” to the pupils, in April 2004 the Statistical Office participated in the fair for the youth “Key to the Future 2004”.

In May 2004, the information day was organised for the students of Suuremõisa Technical School. In October the Statistical Office participated in training courses organised by Junior Achievement for teachers of economy in Estonian Business School.

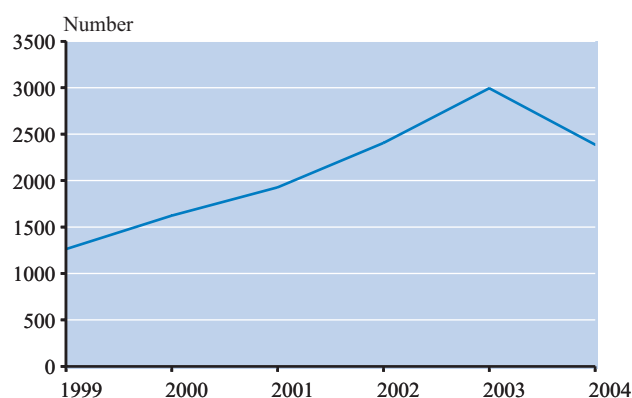
Requests and orders for information can be presented for getting statistical information

If the required statistical information cannot be found in statistical publications or in the public database on the web site, request or order for information can be presented to the Statistical Office. The request for information is the request for published or documented information. The order for information is a request for more detailed information than available in the public database or in statistical publications, which requires additional processing and analysis of data.

In 2004, the Statistical Office satisfied over 400 requests for information and about 2,000 orders for information. In total 2,400 requests and orders for information were satisfied, which is 600 less than in 2003. Foreign trade continued to be the most popular field of statistics, about 1,000 requests and orders for information were presented on foreign trade. In the period of launching the new foreign trade data collection system Intrastat on foreign trade statistics (about 2 months) it was not possible to satisfy orders for information.

The standards of services for requests and orders for information are available in the Information Centre of the Statistical Office or on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading “Services”.

Satisfied requests and orders for information, 1999–2004



Compared to the previous year, more calls were made to the information telephone +372 6259 300

In 2004, the calls to information telephone totalled about 4,600. Statistical publications were subscribed to, requests and orders were presented by phone, etc.

The standard of services of information telephone is available in the Information Centre of the Statistical Office or on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading "Services".

The Information Centre provides information also on statistics of European countries

The Information Centre of the Statistical Office is open from Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. in the building of the Statistical Office 15 Endla Str, Tallinn. The library of the Information Centre has the largest collection in Estonia of statistical publications issued by other countries and international organisations. The electronic catalogue on the web site of the Statistical Office provides an overview of library units available in the library. The statistical publications are available in the reading room of the library, it is not possible to borrow the publications.

In 2004, the fund of the library was supplemented with more than 800 exchange publications, about 300 were added as donations. At the end of the year the fund included 18,900 library units. About 4,000 clients visited the Information Centre, most of them used publications from the open stack and many bought publications of the Statistical Office. 1,400 pages of copies were made.

The visitors of the Information Centre can:

- buy the publications of the Statistical Office;
- read news releases of the Statistical Office;
- get consultation in finding statistical information;
- use library units on the spot;
- use the electronic catalogue of the library.

Since 1 October 2004, the Statistical Office provides consultations on the availability of the statistics of the European Union countries. One can turn to the Statistical Office for finding information on the web site of Eurostat.

The service standards of the Information Centre and of the consultation on availability of the statistics of the EU countries are available in the Information Centre of the Statistical Office or on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading "Services".

Aims of visitors of the Information Centre in using statistical information, 2004*



* Survey of the visitors of the Information Centre.

Visitors of the Information Centre prefer statistical publications

In May 2004, the Statistical Office conducted a survey for the visitors of the Information Centre. The aim was to find out the visitors' satisfaction with the possibilities of obtaining statistical information, statistical fields that the visitors are more interested in, the need for statistics of other countries. 60 visitors of the Information Centre responded. The number of males and females was equal among the respondents. More than half of them had higher education. 70% of the respondents were employed, a fifth of the employed persons were pupils and students.

The survey proved that of the products and services of the Statistical Office, the visitors use most statistical publications (68%), including e-publications on the web site. Publications are preferred due to accessibility and availability. People come to the Information Centre because it has the largest selection of statistical publications of other countries and statistical organisations. 52% of the respondents obtain statistical information on the web site of the Statistical Office.

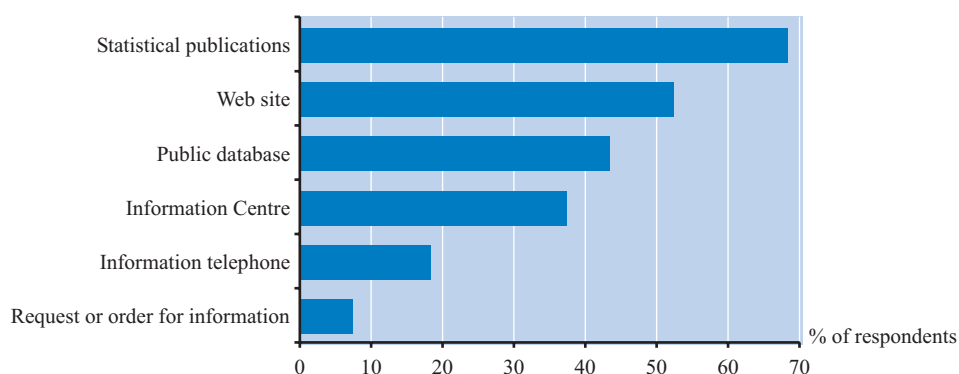
Besides Estonian statistics, the visitors of the Information Centre are very interested in statistics of the European Union countries (62% of the respondents). The statistics published by the international statistical organisations are also popular — 37% of the respondents is interested in the data of Eurostat, 23% is interested in statistics of the United Nations.

Of the fields of statistics, population is most popular among the visitors (42% of the respondents), followed by wages and salaries statistics and labour costs statistics (32%), labour market (30%) and financial statistics of enterprises (28%).

75% of the respondents are of the opinion that it is easy to find information in the Information Centre, only 3% think it is complicated. The available statistical information is sufficient for almost half of the respondents and for more than half the information partly covers their needs.

Some persons interested in statistics regularly visit the Information Centre. The Information Centre is visited in order to get statistical information for school projects (35% of the respondents), for self-improvement (33%), as well as for research (27%).

Products and services used by the visitors of the Information Centre, 2004*



* Survey of the visitors of the Information Centre.

The media helps to bring the statistical information to the public

In 2004, the Statistical Office published 124 news releases, i.e. on an average 10 news releases a month. National newspapers in Estonian and Russian, county papers and news agencies reflected 114 of them, i.e. 92%.

In 2004, the Statistical Office organised three presentations to journalists. The publication "*Eesti statistika aastaraamat. 2004. Statistical Yearbook of Estonia*", providing essential annual statistics on most spheres of life, the publication "Social Trends 3", analysing the welfare of the population in Estonia, and "*Linnad ja vallad arvudes. 2004. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures*", analysing the regional development of Estonia by local government units were presented to journalists.

The standard of services of news release is available in the Information Centre of the Statistical Office or on the web site www.stat.ee under the heading "Services".

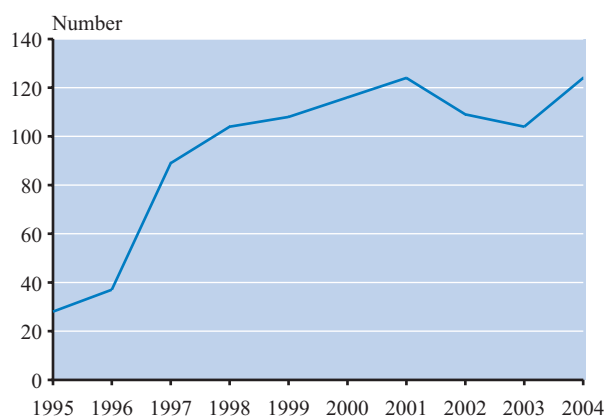
User survey provided an overview of government agencies' communication with the media

In January 2004, Turu-uuringute AS conducted a survey among journalists to get an overview of government agencies' and enterprises' communication with the media. 48 journalists assessed the relations between the Statistical Office and the media. The rating of the Statistical Office was 6.17. This figure was slightly higher than the corresponding average of the government agencies and enterprises covered by the survey. The journalists rated highly the continuity, reliability and openness of information and the image of the Office. The ratings to the senior staff's availability and the responding to queries were on the average level. The availability of the Press Officer and the ability of the Office's representatives to communicate with the media were rated lower than average.

Among the journalists surveyed the share of editors was the highest. Their ratings to the continuity, reliability and openness of information, etc., were higher than average, only the availability of the Press Officer was rated lower than average. Journalists specialising in news and internal affairs were more critical, the attitude of journalists specialising in economy was more affirmative.

Compared to the 2003 survey, in the journalists' opinion, it was however easier to contact the Press Officer. Responses to queries were also given faster. At the same time, ratings to the continuity of information and the ability to communicate with the media, as well as to the openness of information had dropped.

News releases, 1995–2004



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

2004

The scope of software development increased five times during the year

In 2004, the scope of purchased software development increased by almost five times compared to 2003. The software development predicted for 2005 surpasses the scope for 2004 by about two times. Due to such increase the work of Information Technology Department as well as other departments related to this field of statistics was very intense, especially taking into account the structural changes which began in 2003 and continued in 2004. Namely, at the beginning of the year the maintenance of information technology system was consolidated into the Information Technology Department of the Ministry of Finance, software development was centralised into the Information Technology Department of the Statistical Office.

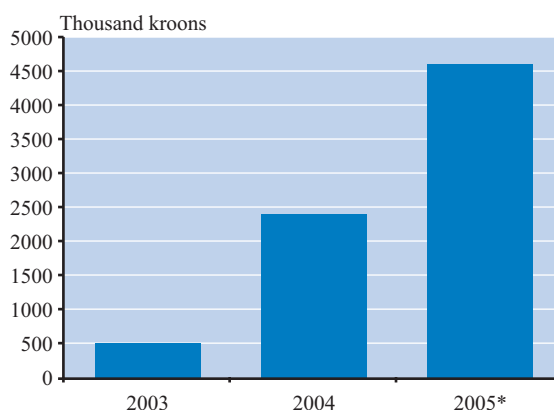
The development of the system of collection of electronic data — eSTAT — which had started in 2003 will soon be completed. In autumn 2003, the system analysis of eSTAT was carried out and in January 2004 the information technology enterprise Abobase Systems started programming. At the end of the year the new system was tested. eSTAT simplifies the completion and submission of statistical questionnaires and enables the Statistical Office to administer the collected questionnaires more efficiently. The new system is implemented step by step. The Statistical Office also provides a possibility on the web site to upload the questionnaires completed in Excel in order to improve the electronic data collection.

A completely new and more secure information system was applied for maintaining the database of vital events. The personal identification data which are preserved in the database will be separated from other personal data and encrypted. Each user has an access only to the data necessary for his/her work. All the operations with the data are fixed in the log. The monitoring over fulfilment of security measures is performed by the Security Chief by log analysis and control raids.

Last year, for processing the foreign trade data, the Statistical Office started to work out a new information system based on SAS software. At the end of the year, in co-operation with Resta Ltd the vision of the new system and pilot application were completed, aimed at testing the possibilities and suitability of the software. The pilot project was successful and this year development work will start. Analysis module of aggregated data will be the first work.

All these pursuits are in the interests of consumers of statistics, as they help to enhance the production of statistics and improve its quality.

Software development, 2003–2005



* Prognosis.

POPULATION AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

2004

Preparation of new surveys started

In 2004, in social statistics the preparation of the “Innovation Survey of Enterprises” started. An innovation is defined as a new or significantly improved product (good or service) introduced to the market or the introduction of a new or significantly improved process (incl. marketing, distribution methods etc.). The innovation is based on the results of new technological developments, new combinations of existing technology or utilisation of other knowledge acquired by enterprise. Innovation is basic power source for country's economical advancement. It is the fourth innovation survey of the European Union (CIS4). Estonia also participated in the previous survey (CIS3). Using the results and source data of the survey for research works is still popular among the researchers and officials. The above mentioned survey enables to observe innovation trends of Estonian enterprises and to compare the innovation level of enterprises with other countries of the European Union and with the European Union as a whole.

Preparation of the survey “Adult Education in Enterprises” started. The survey will be conducted in 2006. The survey deals with additional training organised for employees in enterprises. Lifelong learning is considered to be an essential resource to achieve the strategic objective set out in the Lisbon European Council on 23–24 March 2000 to transform the European Union into most competitive economical area for 2010. The survey provides essential and internationally comparable data for measuring the objectives set in Lisbon strategy. Estonia is participating in this Europe-wide survey for the second time already. The survey is conducted every five years.

To fill in the blanks in education statistics, the project of measuring education expenditures and revenues for private schools was started in co-operation with Eurostat at the end of 2004.

In the field of cultural statistics, in co-operation with the Information Centre of the Estonian Theatre Union a more thorough data collection system about theatre statistics was developed, which in the future enables to issue the publication of theatre statistics.

The methodology of social protection accountancy was completed

The needs of consumers prove that it is essential to measure the expenditure made on social protection. Up to now there was no specific methodology in Estonia which would have been comparable with the similar methodology of other countries. In 2004, thanks to financial support of Eurostat, the preliminary methodology of accountancy of social protection was completed, which is based on general principles effective in the European Union. Many drawbacks were revealed while compiling the methodology, but this enabled to improve measurement of the expenditures.

The second pilot project of the methodology of estimating work accidents was completed, which was made in co-operation with the Labour Inspectorate. It proved that Estonia is ready to register work accidents and to submit the data according to the methodology of the European Union. In this field Estonia is among the first countries of the ten new EU Member States.

Continuous surveys continued

In 2004 the Statistical Office continued two continuous surveys for the production of social statistics. In addition conducting of the panel survey started.

The aim of the quarterly **Labour Force Survey** is to provide the user of statistics with short term statistics for unemployment and employment. The labour force questionnaire is compiled pursuant to the legal acts of the European Union. Besides the basic questionnaire of the Labour Force Survey the EU countries also collect data with ad hoc module, the aim of which is to get more thorough information about the labour market. Estonian Labour Force Survey also includes such module. The 2001 survey addressed issues relating to length and patterns of working time. The 2002 survey examined the effect on health problems on a person's ability to work. In 2003 lifelong learning was surveyed, in 2004 the module on length and patterns of working time was added once more.

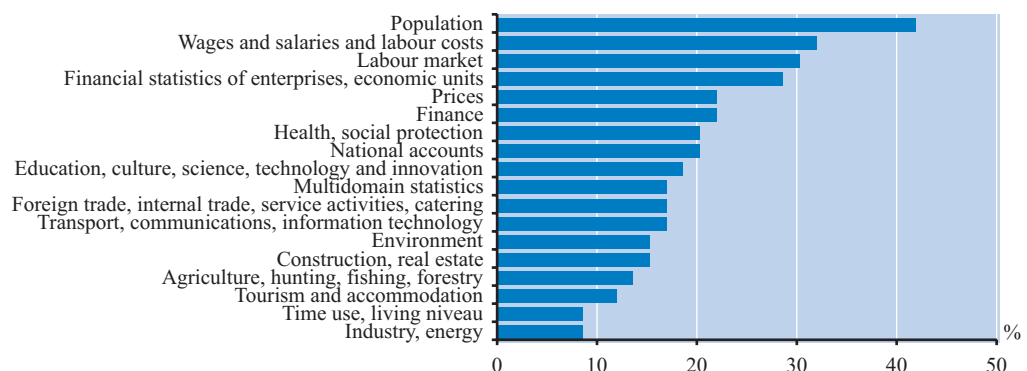
The preparation work started in the framework of the Eurostat Grant "Labour Force Survey ad hoc module on reconciliation of work and family life" for data collection.

In 2003, the interviewers started to enter data at the time of the interview, using laptop computers while collecting data for Labour Force Survey. In 2004, 10% of interviews were made using laptop computer, 90% on paper questionnaires. The yearbook "*Tööjõud. 2003. Labour Force*" which was completed on the basis of the Labour Force Survey, contains the data for 2003, it also provides an analytical overview, time series of main indicators and a short overview of methodology. The analytical overview focuses on describing the overall situation of labour market in comparison with the European Union.

The aim of the **Household Budget Survey** is to get an overview of the income and expenditure of households and of the household living niveau. The Household Budget Survey is a sample survey conducted once a year. The estimations are published once a year, the main publication in 2004 was the analytical yearbook "*Leibkonna elujärg. 2003. Household Living Niveau*".

In 2004, the Statistical Office started to conduct the panel questionnaire of the social survey. The object of the social survey is economic welfare related to the family, education, working life, place of residence of a person, as well as to person's work and income, health and social contacts. The emphasis of the survey has been laid on annual income of a person. The questionnaire also includes the vital events on a person's childhood home, education, work and migration. More detailed data are received by ad hoc modules. In 2004 the ad hoc modules were the following: "Social contacts", "Political views", "Crime, violence, security" and "National integration". In autumn 2005, the publication "*Sissetulek ja elamistingimused. Income and Living Conditions*" will be published on the basis of the survey.

The interest of visitors of the Information Centre in fields of statistics, 2004*



* Survey of the visitors of the Information Centre.

See about products and consumers also on pp. 40–46.

Analytical publications were published

Analytical publications analyse the topic under observation on the basis of statistical indicators, drawing comparisons between different periods. In 2004, three analytical publications of social statistics were published.

“Social Trends 3” was published in Estonian and in English. This time the publication focused on welfare, observing the indicators related to welfare. The publication discusses population, education, work, money, health, crime and social environment.

The analytical yearbook “*Leibkonna elujärg. 2003. Household Living Niveau*” analyses income and expenditure of households and the changes in income and expenditure during the last eight years. The emphasis is laid on issues of poverty and inequality.

In addition to the traditional yearbook on education, an analytical publication “*Kõrgharidus. 1993–2003. Higher Education*” was published. The publication provides an overview on trends at higher education studies during the last ten years illustrated by various indicators, diagrams and tables.

The publication of the results of the 2000 Population and Housing Census was completed

At the beginning of 2004, the 12th thematic publication “*2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. XII. Vallaasulate rahvastik. 2000 Population and Housing Census. XII. Population in Settlements of Rural Municipalities*” was published, presenting the results of the Population Census in settlements of rural municipalities, i.e. cities without municipal status, towns, small towns and villages.

Five publications presenting the results of the 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989 Population Censuses were also published electronically. The publications are available on the web site www.stat.ee under the subheading “Population Census” of the heading “Subject Areas”.

The recalculations of population data were continued

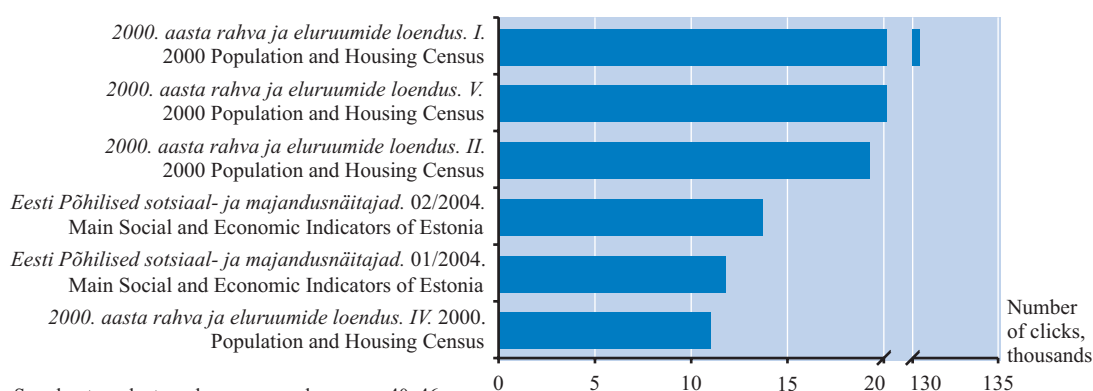
Taking into account the results of the 2000 Population and Housing Census, recalculations were made on the age distribution of Estonians for 1990–1999 by counties and for Tartu city. On the basis of the Census data, the population numbers by ethnic nationalities were calculated for the years 2000–2003.

The data of the short as well as of the long life tables were recalculated since 1989. It is planned to publish the data in 2005.

Producing of the population statistics is disturbed

Due to the enforcement of the new Personal Data Protection Act in October 2003, the processing of population data had to be suspended, since the Data Protection Inspectorate did not register the Statistical Office of Estonia as the processor of delicate

Most viewed e-publications on the web site in 2004



See about products and consumers also on pp. 40–46.

personal data, with reference to the absence of legal basis and incomplete fulfilment of the requirements of organisational, information technological and physical protection of the collected and processed data.

In 2004, the Statistical Office applied for registering the processing of delicate personal data for three times. Organisational as well as information technological security measures were supplemented according to the requirements of the Data Protection Inspectorate. New application software for processing of population data was created. In January 2005, the Data Protection Inspectorate registered the Statistical Office as the processor of delicate personal data and the production of population statistics could be continued.

It takes time to liquidate the results of suspension that lasted more than a year. The data for 2003 were published in March 2005, the data for 2004 will be published in autumn 2005. The traditional yearbook “*Rahvastik. Population*”, which was not published in 2004, will be published in the 1st quarter of 2006, comprising population statistics for 2003 and 2004.

The publication of the statistics on rehabilitation continued in the public database and the data of vital events registered in the registry offices continued to be published in the database and in the monthly *Eesti Statistika*. Estonian Statistics. A short analysis of the data quality problems of birth statistics was also published in the monthly.

Publications of population and social statistics in 2004

2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. XII. Vallaasulate rahvastik.

2000 Population and Housing Census. XII. Population in Settlements of Rural Municipalities. E-publication

2000/2001. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendused Eestis, Lätis ja Leedus. E-publication

2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. E-publication

Haridus. 2003/2004. Education

Kultuur. 2003. Culture

Kõrgharidus. 1993–2003. Higher Education

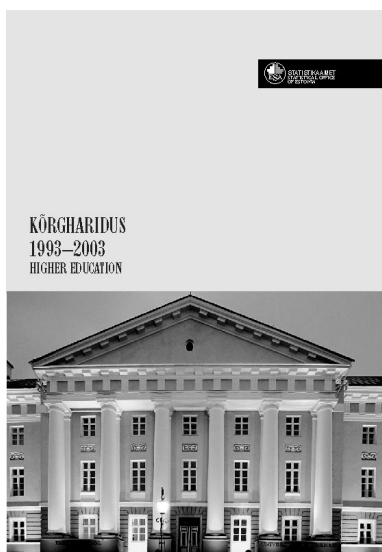
Leibkonna elujärg. 2003. Household Living Niveau

Sotsiaaltrendid 3

Social Trends 3

Teadus- ja arendustegevus. 2002. Research and Development

Tööjõud. 2003. Labour Force



PRICE AND WAGES AND SALARIES STATISTICS

2004

Calculation of price indices continued

In 2004, 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 2004 necessary preparations were started to introduce a new weights system from January 2005, which would correspond to the average consumption structure of the population in 2004. Base prices of goods, which will be included in the consumer price index beginning from 2005, 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 2004, the calculation of the producer price index of industrial output was based on the sales structure of 2002. Calculations were made on the base December 2003 = 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.

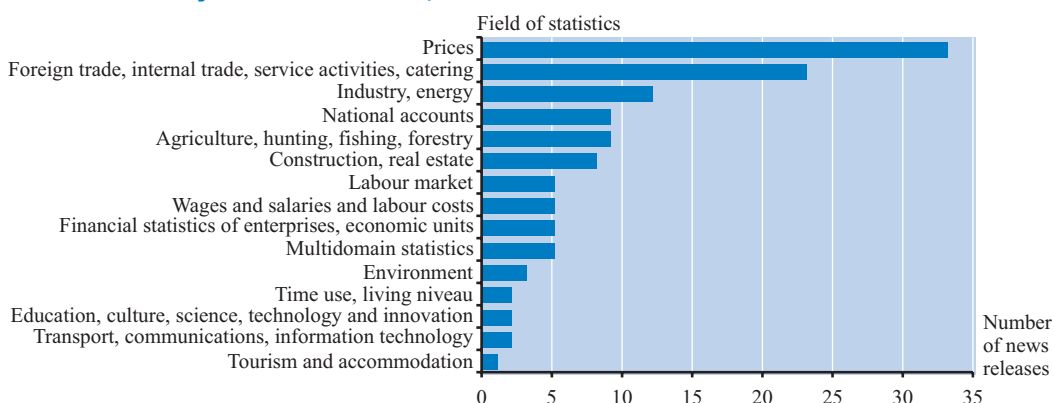
Starting from the 1st quarter of 2002, the construction price index, and the repair and reconstruction work price index are calculated on the base December 2001 = 100. Calculations are based on the structure of direct expenses at the building site in 2000. The proportions of groups of buildings correspond 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. Since 2004, the structure worked out in Eurostat serves as a basis for publication of the above mentioned indices.

The Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices of Estonia is integrated into the European Index of Consumer Prices

In 2004, Estonia continued to transmit the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) to 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 on the territory of Estonia is taken into account, i.e. private consumption

News releases by fields of statistics, 2004



See about products and consumers also on pp. 40–46.

expenditure of foreign visitors has been added. To receive the comparable indices, the calculation of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices is strictly regulated by the legislation of the European Union. HICP of Estonia together with other new Member States was integrated into the European Index of Consumer Prices (EICP) starting from May 2004.

European Comparison Programme enables to compare countries

The Statistical Office collects and transmits the necessary data to Eurostat for participation in the European Comparison Programme (ECP). 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 price level of the remaining two thirds is received by indexation the results of the previous cycle with the price indices. For the first time since 1999 it was not required to submit the prices of investment goods and not to price the bills of quantities, where in case of ECP 2004 results indexation was used as in the case of “old” Member States. In addition to prices, the Statistical Office submits in the framework of ECP the following data compiled according to the strict rules: price indices, average wages and salaries, average rents and the detailed gross domestic product calculated by expenditure approach.

In 2004 all the required data were submitted according to the time schedule determined by Eurostat.

Calculation of labour cost indices was updated

In 2004, the Statistical Office continued publishing the following data on wages and salaries and labour costs 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. Publishing monthly wages by occupation and sex, by economic activity and by major groups of occupations also continued.

In 2004 the Statistical Office started to calculate the labour cost indices by economic activities and by groups of aggregated economic activities. Since the 1st quarter of 2003, the total labour cost index, labour cost index excluding bonuses, wages and salaries index and employer's social contributions plus taxes paid by the employer less subsidies received by the employer are calculated on the base 2000 = 100. For comparability between countries, the calculation of indices is strictly regulated by the legal acts of the European Union.

The correction of the database of the Structure of Earnings Survey was completed. The database was transmitted to Eurostat. The quality of data was analysed and compared with the Labour Force Survey, which was reflected in quality report and transmitted to Eurostat according to the legislation of the European Union. The results of the survey have been published in the publication “*Tunnipalk. 2002–2003. Hourly Wages and Salaries.*”

Publications of price and wages and salaries statistics in 2004

Ehitushinnaindeks. Construction Price Index. E-publication

Palk. 2003. Wages and Salaries

Tunnipalk. 2002–2003. Hourly Wages and Salaries

MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS

2004

Essential changes were made in the methodology of macroeconomic statistics

Due to the accession with the European Union in 2004 Estonia as other Acceding Countries had to apply pre-accession criteria on methodology. The changes in the methodology of dwelling services that were elaborated for the Acceding Countries affected the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components for the period 1993–2003.

Dwelling services are divided into actual rentals and imputed rentals. The changes in the methodology in 2004 affected the level of GDP mostly by the calculations of imputed rentals of owner-occupied dwelling services which is the estimated value of services of owner-occupied dwellings that a tenant would pay for the same accommodation.

Changes in the methodology were made also in estimations of actual rentals and in consumption of fixed capital.

Recalculated time-series start from the year 1993 and compared to previous time-series the level of GDP has increased by 5–8%.

Obligations of the Statistical Office with regard to European Communities Own Resources administration system

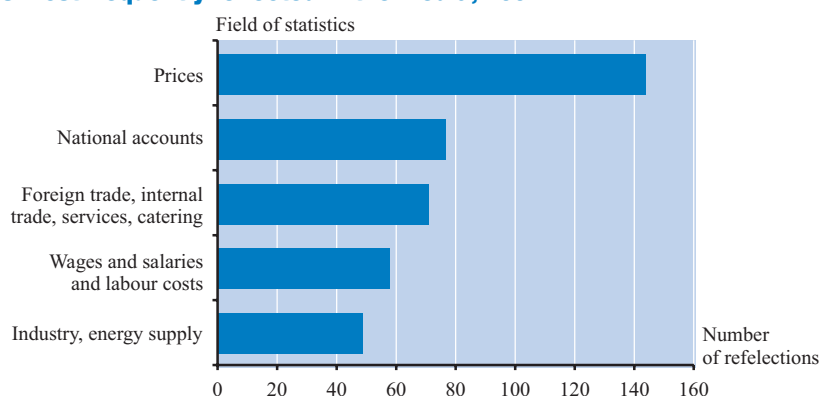
Estonia as a new Member State has the obligations with regard to EC Own Resources administration system consisting of traditional resources (customs duties) and new resources accruing from value added tax (VAT) and Gross National Income (GNI). The responsibilities of the Statistical Office are as follows:

- 1) to estimate Gross National Income according to the European System of National Accounts ESA 95, on which basis GNI resource financial contributions are calculated by applying a uniform rate (up to 1.27%) to the sum of all MS's GNI; to submit information about the GNI indicator and Quality Report to the European Commission;
- 2) to calculate the weighted average rate of value added tax for a statement of the VAT resources base.

The Statistical Office has to provide the European Commission with a comprehensive Inventory of sources and methods used to calculate Gross National Income. The Statistical Office participates in Eurostat's "GNI Inventory" project, which started in 2004. European Commission will evaluate the compliance with the ESA 95, reliability, comparability and exhaustiveness of GNI during control visits in 2006–2007. If the compilation methods do not follow ESA 95, European Commission will put the reservations.

In 2004 the specialists of the Input-Output Tables Service made the calculation of WAR for "VAT Statement 2003" as simulation exercise. The first obligatory WAR calculation for the financial year 2004 ("VAT Statement 2004") is scheduled in 2005.

News releases most frequently reflected in the media, 2004



See about products and consumers also on pp. 40–46.

In April 2004 the representatives of the European Commission made a four-day control visit relating to VAT own resources to Tallinn. One day in the Statistical Office was devoted to the WAR calculation of VAT.

For the first time a voluminous table of government finance statistics was transmitted

In autumn 2004, the Statistical Office of Estonia transmitted to Eurostat the table of government finance statistics in the framework of ESA 95 data transmission programme. The table reflects the detailed tax and social contribution receipts by type of tax or social contribution and receiving subsector in the years 1995–2003. The table contains data on central government, local governments and social security funds by taxes on production and imports, current taxes on income, property and capital taxes, as well as actual social contributions. The table was drawn according to the requirements of the European System of Accounts, ESA 1995, which means that the submitted data have been presented respecting accrual principle of recording.

In 2004, the collection of data for the main indicators of government sector by sub-sectors started in 2003 in the framework of the Phare project was successful: three months after the end of the reporting period the preliminary data of the main indicators for the year 2003 were submitted to Eurostat; more detailed data distributed by central government, local governments and social security funds were presented eight months after the end of the reporting period.

In 2004, the table of general government expenditure statistics was transmitted to Eurostat for the first time. The table reflects the expenditures of central government, local governments and social security funds by functions of government (COFOG) and by transactions. The preliminary data have been presented for the year 2003.

The Report of Government Deficits and Debt Levels is drawn up by the Statistical Office

In 2004, an essential document, the Report of Government Deficits and Debt Levels was added to the financial statistics of government sector. This report is drawn up and presented to the European Commission twice a year: in February and in August. A detailed description of data sources and accounting methods is added to the report. Up to now, the Ministry of Finance has presented this report, who also prepared the report for February 2004. Since August the Statistical Office draws up the Report of Government Deficits and Debt Levels, as the report has to be in compliance with the requirements of ESA 95. The above mentioned report is a part of the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) adopted by the Council of Europe in Amsterdam in 1997. The statistics of government deficits and debt levels are closely observed by the Directorate General of Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission (DG ECFIN) to guarantee the conformity with the fiscal discipline of the European Monetary Union (EMU). If the government deficit of a EU country exceeds 3% of the gross domestic product (GDP) or the share of the government debt in GDP is more than 60%, the Council of Europe may impose sanctions with regard to the Member State who has violated the fiscal discipline. Thus, the above mentioned document is a very important official statistical report.

Publications of macroeconomic statistics in 2004

Eesti rahvamajanduse arvepidamine. 2002. National Accounts of Estonia

Eesti sisemajanduse koguprodukt. 1/932/04. Gross Domestic Product of Estonia. E-publication

FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS

2004

Accession to the European Union brought about great changes in the foreign trade statistics

In 2004, the Statistical Office conducted three statistical surveys for the production of foreign trade statistics.

The accession of Estonia to the European Union was a great challenge for the producers of foreign trade statistics, as two systems had to be implemented: the Intrastat system (Intra EC Trade Statistics) for collecting data about the trade between EU Member States, as well as the system Extrastat (Extra EC Trade Statistics) for collecting data about the trade with non-EU countries.

Intrastat is a system of methods and technics for production of foreign trade statistics, replacing the customs declarations and formalities, and guarantees the thoroughness, reliability and relevancy of statistical data. Intrastat is an official mandatory data source on arrivals and dispatches in each Member State as the exchange of goods in EU Common Market is free and there is no customs registration on the EU internal borders. For the monitoring the EU trade statistics all the EU Member States collect trade-in-goods data directly from the enterprises.

Since the 2nd half of 1992, the foreign trade statistics in Estonia was based on customs declarations and statistical surveys are used for goods which are not subject to customs clearance. Since May 2004, to produce trade statistics between the EU Member States, data have to be collected directly from enterprises. As the majority of Estonian foreign trade is carried out with the EU Member States, since 1 May with the implementation of the Intrastat system the Statistical Office had to collect and process foreign trade surveys, covering over 90% of the volume of Estonian foreign trade transactions. The difference compared to previous surveys was large and many changes had to be introduced as the timely submission of and quality of Intrastat data directly influence the observance of Estonian economy on the national as well as on the European Union level.

The Statistical Office prepared thoroughly for implementation of Intrastat, making use of the experiences of the EU Member States. In 2004, the Phare twinning project "Implementation of Intrastat in Estonia" continued. In the first half-year, an adviser from the National Board of Customs Finland worked in the Statistical Office. In the course of the project the employees of the Statistical Office were trained with the aim to develop the necessary skills for conducting the Intrastat survey. Study trips were organised to Statistics Finland, Statistics Denmark and Customs and Excise Agency of Spain.

The public procurement for updating the hardware used for production of foreign trade statistics was successfully completed. 14 seminars introducing the Intrastat system and filling in the declarations were carried out in May all over Estonia, additional seminars are planned for the year 2005.

The year 2004 was climactic in the foreign trade statistics of Estonia.

Publications of foreign trade statistics in 2004

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania. Foreign Trade 2003

Väliskaubandus. 2003. Foreign Trade

For production of enterprise statistics, in 2004 the Statistical Office conducted 66 official statistical surveys — 12 monthly, 24 quarterly and 30 annual surveys. The users of statistics were provided with information about the following fields: industry, energy, construction, internal trade, accommodation, catering, real estate, transport, business and personal services. Compiling and publishing of the following publications continued: “*Ettevõtete majandusnäitajad*. Financial Statistics of Enterprises”, “*Energiabilanss*. Energy Balance”, “*Turism. Majutus*. Tourism. Accommodation”, “*Transport. Side*. Transport. Communications” (yearbooks), and “*Ettevõtlus*. Business” (quarterly bulletin) and “*Turism. Majutus*. Tourism. Accommodation” (monthly bulletin). Analytical publications provide economic analysis, illustrated by tables and diagrams. Numerical data in the public database allow the users to form statistical tables for themselves. At the end of 2004, the public database contained about 330 tables, which presented information grouped as time series by the period, economic activity and size of enterprise. 30 news releases on enterprise statistics were made public on the following topics: every month on the changes in the industrial production, every quarter on trade enterprises' activities, contracts of real estate, construction activities, business, and once a year about accommodation activities, passenger and freight traffic.

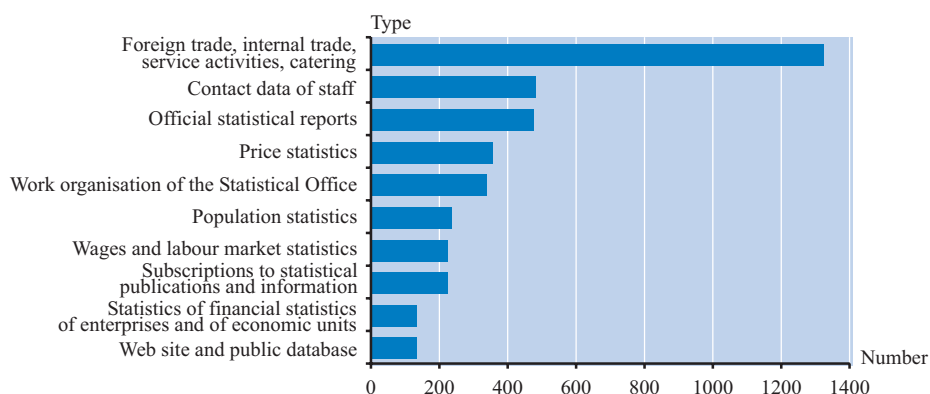
The data of new estimates were added to the public database

Since 2004, the Statistical Office started to publish value indices of industrial sales separately for domestic and foreign market. Previously only total index was published. Since 2004 the public database also provides indices by the following industrial groupings: durable consumer goods, non-durable consumer goods, intermediate goods, capital goods and energy products. This kind of distribution is common for the statistics of the European Union, as well as for other European countries, enabling better comparison between countries.

For the first time the public database provides short term statistics on building permits and building completions. The data are based on the Construction Works Register.

More detailed data on several fields of enterprise statistics were published. This was possible due to the modification of the Government Regulation about the rules of protection of the data collected and processed by the Statistical Office, which widened the borders of the confidentiality.

Calls received by information telephone by type of information requested, 2004



See about products and consumers also on pp. 40–46.

News releases reflect the financial statistics of enterprises by quarters

News releases on the quarterly financial statistics of enterprises started to be published. The news release provides short analysis about the financial data of enterprises and informs the public about the production and availability of the data. Simultaneously with the publication of the news release, the relevant data are added to the public database.

The quality of statistics on transport of goods was improved

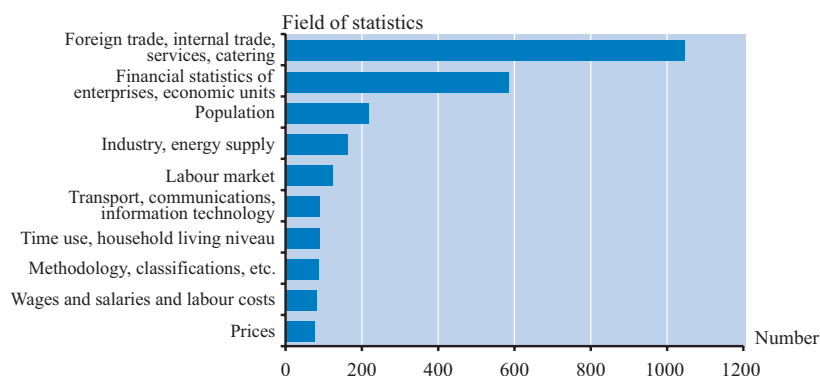
In 2004, the producers of transport statistics visited the National Motor Vehicle Registration Centre to acquaint themselves with its development during last years. The official statistical survey “The Carriage of Goods by Road” is based on lorries registered in the Vehicle Register. As the quality of the register has risen during last years, the conditions of the sample were re-examined. In co-operation with specialists in methodology the data of freight traffic for the previous periods were analysed. The analysis proved that as a result of the application of the new sample it is possible to reduce expenses of the survey and improve the quality of the data. In 2004 the data processing programme was improved to find out the discrepancies in the micro data. Due to this the users of statistics are provided with the data of higher quality.

Participation in several projects

In the field of energy statistics, the Statistical Office participated in two Phare projects co-ordinated by Eurostat — “CHP plants statistics” and “Half-yearly electricity and gas prices”. The first project provided better overview of combined heat and power plants and of process of co-generation which enables to improve the quality of the statistics. The aim of the second project was to introduce the production of price statistics of electricity and gas by consumer groups pursuant to the Regulation of the European Union. The experiences received from the project served as a basis for the production of the relevant regular statistics in 2005. The results of the survey are important for the estimation of price changes on energy market.

To estimate the globalisation of economy, it is necessary to produce statistics also by groups of enterprises. In Business Register, preparation started for forming groups of enterprises residing in Estonia and those under the control of foreign enterprises. Data exchange contract was concluded with the Bank of Estonia for the success of the project. Exchange of the micro data is possible due to the amendments in the Official Statistics Act in spring 2004. As a result of the pilot project the Statistical Office must be ready to produce enterprise statistics by country of residence of the legal persons who hold ultimate control over the enterprises.

Requests and orders for information by field of statistics, 2004



See about products and consumers also on pp. 40–46.

In 2004, with Eurostat's coordination, the project of business services was accomplished. The aim of the project was to study the distribution of sales revenue of service enterprises by type of services and by clients. The analysis and numerical data will be made public in 2005.

Tourism statistics studied the needs of consumers

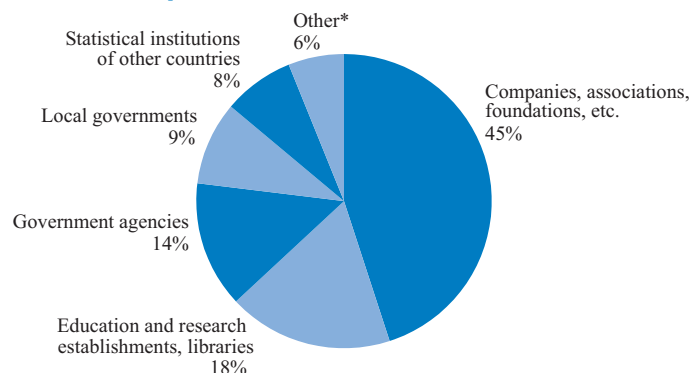
In 2004, the employees of the Statistical Office had a meeting with the consumers of tourism statistics. The aim of the discussion was to find possibilities for solving the problems in tourism statistics and discuss the consumers' needs for additional tourism statistics, as well as possibilities to produce it. The consumers were most interested in border crossings statistics. Since 1 May 2004, the Border Guard Administration does not register the border crossings of the European Union citizens. Therefore the total number of foreign visitors arriving in Estonia or their distribution by countries is not known. These indicators are relevant for planning tourism policy, as well as for accounting. The persons participating in the meeting discussed the possibilities of receiving the necessary data on border crossings and drew up a plan for this purpose.

The target is to decrease the load of respondents

The Statistical Office studied alternative data sources for the production of enterprise statistics. The aim is to use the data from administrative databases and decrease the load of respondents. The suitability of annual accounts for producing annual statistics was estimated. The following estimates were found: those which can be transferred from income statement and balance sheet and those which need supplementary estimation methods. The data of economic activities were analysed by size group of enterprise to determine the limit starting from which statistical reports are necessary for data collection and where administrative data sources could be used.

Eurostat conducted a similar survey for comparing the definitions of enterprise statistics and international accounting standards. Annual accounts do not include enough detailed information for users of enterprise statistics. There are also differences in the definitions of accounting estimates and statistical estimates. That is the reason why internationally comparable enterprise statistics cannot be produced only on the basis of accounting data. The survey proved that only one third of the necessary statistical estimates can be obtained from annual accounts.

Subscribers to the statistical publications, 2004



* The press, international organisations, representations and foreign missions. See about products and consumers also on pp. 40–46.

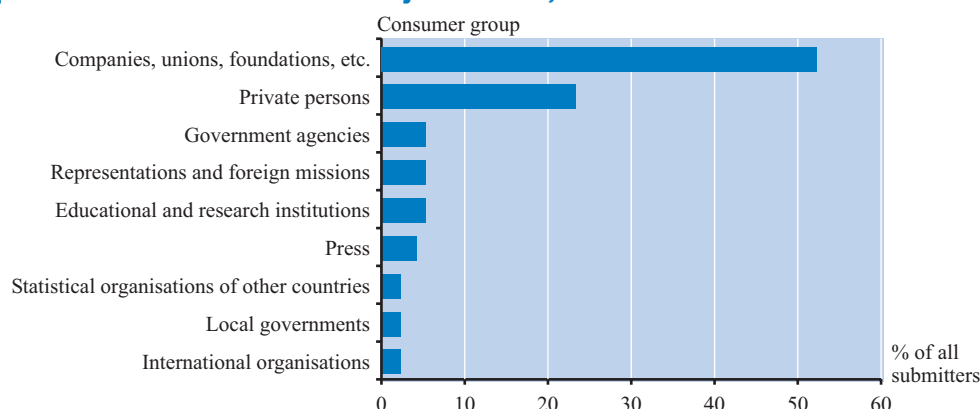
For producing monthly and quarterly enterprise statistics, the data collected by Tax and Customs Board are needed. Preparation work started to estimate if the data of the value-added-tax return could be used for producing short term statistics of enterprises. In 2004 the pilot project was launched, the aim of which is to estimate the quality of administrative data source and to work out the models for producing statistics.

Up to now, real estate statistics have been based on information of notarised purchase-sale contracts. The Chamber of Notaries and Estonian Land Board plan to introduce electronic system for collecting data on notarised purchase-sale contracts. The electronic system enables notaries to transmit data and the users of statistics to receive information. The Statistical Office has shown great interest in using the above-mentioned electronic database. With the application of the electronic database the Statistical Office plans to reorganise the production of real estate statistics in order to reduce the production costs.

In 2004, the Statistical Office developed the web-based information system for data collection (eSTAT). Specialists of enterprise statistics participated in testing the information system and made suggestions for supplementing the programme. Trade statisticians selected 13 enterprises who were asked to participate in the testing procedure of data transmission and submit the monthly questionnaire "Net sales of enterprises" electronically, using channels of eSTAT. The application of eSTAT makes the submission of reports more convenient, the respondents can abandon paper questionnaires and thus reduce the postal costs of enterprises.

For cross-usage of statistical aggregated data and for shortening of the process of data publication, the macrodatabase was developed. The database provides opportunities to extract tables of the public database. The aggregated data of the net sales of enterprises were loaded in the macrodatabase. On the basis of these data all tables being published in the public database are formed. Application of the macrodatabase significantly optimised the data publication, as a result of which the deadline of the data submission from enterprises was lengthened by eight days in 2005. This enables the enterprises to improve the quality of the data. At the same time the deadline of publication of statistics did not lengthen.

Requests and orders for information by submitters, 2004



See about products and consumers also on pp. 40–46.

Enterprise statisticians shared and acquired experiences

The employees of the Statistical Office participated in Eurostat in the workshops on short term and annual enterprise statistics, tourism, telecommunications and transport statistics. Data transmission, definitions of indicators and other problems related to the production and publication of statistics were discussed.

The cooperation of the Baltic countries concerning several fields of statistics continued. In the workshop in Riga enterprise short term statistics and tourism statistics were discussed. The workshop in Tallinn dealt with transport statistics.

The specialists of enterprise statistics consulted the statisticians of the Balkan states about the Business Register. Knowledge and experience acquired during the years were shared with the colleagues from Albania, Serbia and Montenegro. Statistics Sweden, which coordinates these projects, rated the co-operation with Estonian statisticians highly and was willing to continue it next year.

Minor shortcomings

The reorganisation of maintenance of IT system in June and the application of the new structure of the Statistical Office since August caused corrections in the deadlines of publication of the statistical annual data. The news release reflecting the industrial production and energy was also late for five days in May.

Publications of enterprise statistics in 2005

Energiabilanss. 2003. Energy Balance

Ettevõtete majandusnäitajad. 2002. Financial Statistics of Enterprises

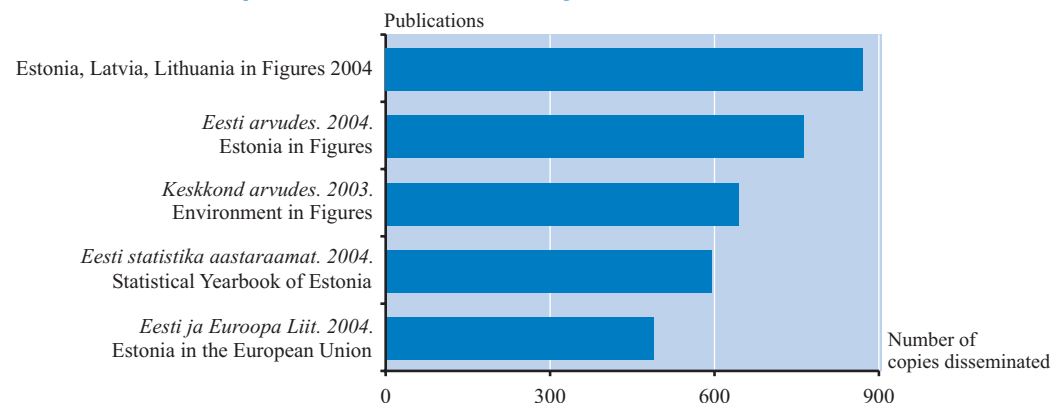
Ettevõtlus. Business. E-publication

Transport. Side. 2003. Transport. Communications

Turism. Majutus. 2003. Tourism. Accommodation

Turism. Majutus. Tourism. Accommodation. E-publication

Most disseminated publications issued once a year, 2004



See about products and consumers also on pp 40–46.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

2004

The results of the 2003 Farm Structure Survey have been published

In summer 2003, the Statistical Office conducted the Farm Structure Survey (a sample survey) to find out the changes having occurred in the structure of agricultural holdings after the 2001 Agricultural Census. The survey covered holdings which had at least one hectare of utilised agricultural land or whose standard gross margin (the difference between the holding's total output and the value of specific costs) was at least one European Size Unit (18,800 kroons).

The results of the survey are published in e-publication “*Põllumajanduslike majapidamiste struktuur*. 2003. The Structure of Agricultural Holdings” in 2004. It contains five chapters: general data, crop production, livestock farming, tractors and machinery, labour force. The general data present information on holdings by economic size and size of agricultural area, holdings by type of ownership of agricultural land, main indicators of organic farming, agricultural training of managers of holdings, types of farming in holdings and other gainful activities of holdings. The efficiency of agricultural production by economic size of holdings has also been analysed, comparisons are drawn with other Member States of the European Union. The chapter of labour force discusses family members' other gainful activity outside their holding. Comparisons have been drawn with results of the Agricultural Census.

The results of the survey have also been published in the public database.

Statistical surveys continued

In 2004, for the production of agricultural statistics, 13 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. The data on supply balance sheets of agricultural products were published in the public database.

Data were collected on economic indicators of agricultural, hunting, forestry and fishing enterprises. The quarterly economic indicators for 2004 were published in the public database and in the electronic quarterly bulletin *Ettevõtlus*. Business. The economic indicators for 2002 were made public in the public database and in the yearbook “*Ettevõtete majandusnäitajad*. 2002. Financial Statistics of Enterprises”.

The database of agricultural holdings is continuously updated

As data for producing agricultural statistics are collected by sample survey, the accuracy of statistics is mainly dependent on the accuracy of the data in the database of agricultural holdings. In 2004 the database was 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 information on new households established after the Agricultural Census and on changes in enumerated households. The survey covered about 6,100 holdings.

Publications of agricultural statistics in 2004

Kevadkülvipinnad. 2004. E-publication

Loomakasvatus. E-publication

Põllumajandus. 2003. Agriculture

Põllumajandus arvudes. 2003. Agriculture in Figures

Põllumajanduslike majapidamiste struktuur. 2003. The Structure of Agricultural Holdings. E-publication

Sügis põllutööd 2003. E-publication

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

Environment statistics are disseminated via public database

2004

In 2004, the Statistical Office conducted 17 official statistical surveys for the production of environment statistics. At the end of 2004, the public database contained more than 50 tables which provide data on environmental supervision, environmental protection expenditures, biological diversity, air quality monitoring, forest resources, water use, etc. Statistics on forestry, fishing and hunting are available under the field of economy.

To characterise the impact of anthropogenic pressure on environment, the environmental indicators are used which 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 presented in the yearbook “*Keskkond. 2003. Environment*”, published in 2004.

The statistical inventory of landfills and waste treatment facilities was carried out

In 2004, the Statistical Office participated in the pilot project of waste statistics coordinated by Eurostat. As a result of the project, preconditions were created in Estonia for fulfilling the requirements of the European Union Waste Statistics Regulation. The results are made public in 2005 on the web site of the Statistical Office.

The Statistical Office launched the graphical user interface: the Dashboard of Sustainability

In 2004, the Statistical Office completed the graphical user interface — Dashboard of Sustainability. The graphical user interface is based on the list of sustainable development indicators compiled by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and Eurostat. It presents in easily comprehensible way indicators on environmental, economic, social and institutional sphere. 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.

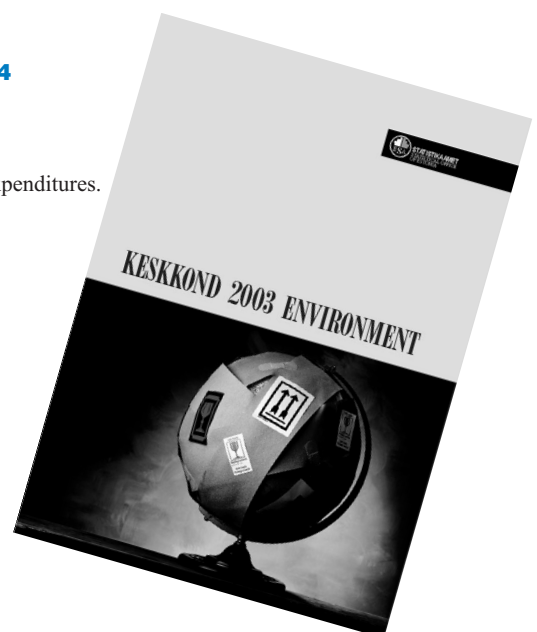
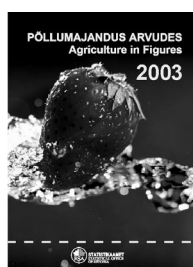
The graphical user interface enables comparison of Estonia with other European countries. Counties and groups of counties of Estonia — five regions — can also be compared. Collection of data from international databases, translating, adapting and editing of the programme, and preparation of the instruction manual was a voluminous work. Graphical user interface is available on the web site of the Statistical Office www.stat.ee under the heading “Statistics”.

Publications of environment statistics in 2004

Keskkond. 2003. Environment

Keskkond arvudes. 2003. Environment in Figures

Keskkonnakaitsekulutused. 2002. Environment Protection Expenditures.
E-publication



The development of regional statistics has reached the stage where the tasks have been set up and a lot of work has to be done for their fulfilment. In 2004, there were several essential accomplishments in the development of regional statistics.

Great interest in publications

In the first half of 2004, the statistical overview “*Pärnu maakonna regionaalareng*” (“Regional Development of Pärnu County”, only in Estonian) was published, which had been ordered by Pärnu county government. This order was very important as it proves the increasing confidence of consumers in the Statistical Office. Prolific co-operation between the customer and compiler of the work contributed to the positive result.

In the publication “*Maakonnad arvudes. 1999–2003. Counties in Figures*” the Statistical Office continued to reflect the objectives set in the strategy of the regional development of Estonia. In the future it is planned to follow the objectives set in other official development plans for regional development.

The publication “*Eesti piirkondlik statistika. 2003. Regional Statistics of Estonia*” was published in 2004 as an electronic publication. In content the publication continued the style developed throughout the years. The publication used many advantages of e-publication compared to that of a printed publication.

The publication “*Linnad ja vallad arvudes. 2004. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures*” proved to be very successful: the whole printed circulation was realised during ten days and after that the publication was disseminated on CD-ROM. One of the reasons for such interest was the analysis of viability of local government units published in the publication. The analysis was compiled thanks to the prior co-operation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the course of which the employees of the Statistical Office had an opportunity to get acquainted with the use of statistics in several local government agencies in Finland. It is worth mentioning that in the above mentioned publication the Statistical Office used thematic grid maps for the first time in a printed publication.

Communication with the users of statistics became more extensive

The year 2004 is also characterised by more extensive direct communication with the customers. Compared to previous years, the specialists of regional statistics of the Statistical Office received more invitations for presentations, which they gladly accepted. More consultations were given about the use of measuring instruments in development plans.

The year 2004 showed an increasing interest of customers in regional statistics, it also proved that the Statistical Office cannot yet answer all questions the customers are interested in. The necessity to find new opportunities to satisfy the customers' needs is still topical, as well as the need for better application of the existing opportunities.

Publications of regional statistics in 2004

Eesti piirkondlik statistika. 2003. Regional Statistics of Estonia. E-publication

Linnad ja vallad arvudes. 2004. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures

Maakonnad arvudes. 1999–2003. Counties in Figures

Pärnu maakonna regionaalareng (Regional Development of Pärnu County, only in Estonian)

New map application was completed and new thematic maps were published

In co-operation with the Estonian Land Board a new map application “Interactive map of administrative and settlement division of Estonia” was created on the Internet. It was opened for customers at the beginning of 2005.

Thematic maps were compiled for publishing in the publication “2000. aasta rahva ja eluruumide loendus. XII. Vallasulate rahvastik. 2000 Population and Housing Census. XII. Population in Settlements of Rural Municipalities”, a new selection of thematic maps was compiled for publication in the yearbook “Eesti statistika aastaraamat. 2004. Statistical Yearbook of Estonia”. Thematic maps were also published in other statistical publications and on the web site of the Statistical Office in the column “Koolinurk” (“School Corner”, only in Estonian).

On the basis of digital maps and results of the Population Census, grid maps were compiled for the first time for the 12th publication of the Population Census and for the publication “Linnad ja vallad arvudes. 2004. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures”.

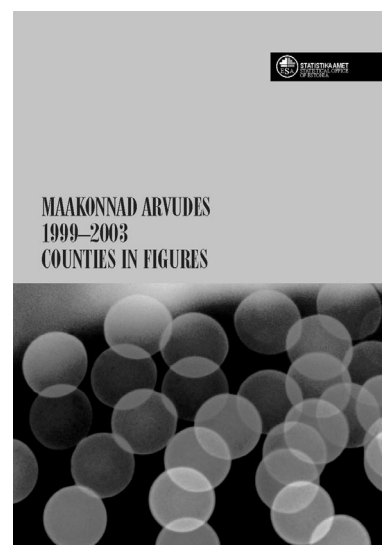
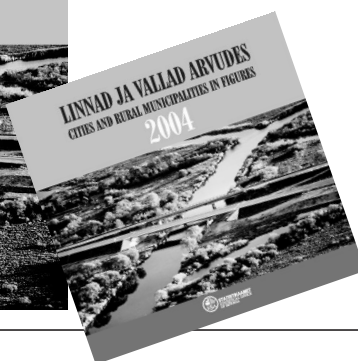
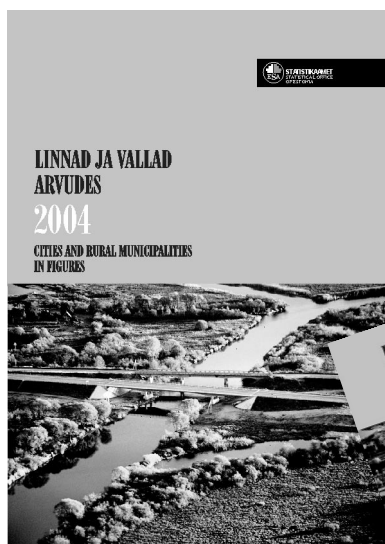
Under the subheading “Maps” of the heading “Statistics” a new subheading “Fields of Statistics” was opened where thematic maps of different fields are continuously published.

Pursuant to the licence contract concluded with the Statistical Office, 109 local governments and 6 county governments have applied digital Population Census maps. While drawing up supervision areas of sample surveys, digital Population Census maps are continuously used.

In the framework of the pilot project of Eurostat Urban Audit II (the survey of European cities' quality of life) the data were specified; spatial data of Estonia were presented for the project Dashboard (the Dashboard of Sustainability). In the framework of Eurostat's pilot project, the new map application of environment statistics based on the Internet started to be established.

The employees participated in the training of geographical information systems in Statistics Finland.

Of the works of geographical information systems of the Statistical Office, a report was presented in the conference of the Estonian Statistical Society in Tallinn and in the forum of geographical statistics of the Nordic countries in Copenhagen. The international GIS-day was celebrated in the Statistical Office with the exhibition of appropriate publications.



CLASSIFICATIONS

Classifications are prepared in international co-operation

2004

Pursuant to the Official Statistics Act, in producing statistics the methods of data collection, processing and publication must be in compliance with the international and national classifications. Pursuant to the Government of the Republic Regulation of 9 October 2003 “Establishment of the System of Classifications”, the Statistical Office is the agency which coordinates the system of classifications in the country.

Work on electronic presentation of classifications continued. The Statistical Office has worked out the possibilities of presenting classifications in XML-format. The column “Classifications” on the web site of the Statistical Office www.stat.ee enables to download classifications in other formats as well. This column is continuously supplemented.

The following two classifications were published and taken into use: the Combined Nomenclature (CN 2004) for classifying goods and the Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use, Rev. 1 (M/49).

On the basis of the Combined Nomenclature the material was prepared by topics for collecting data according to the Intrastat system about the trade between EU Member States.

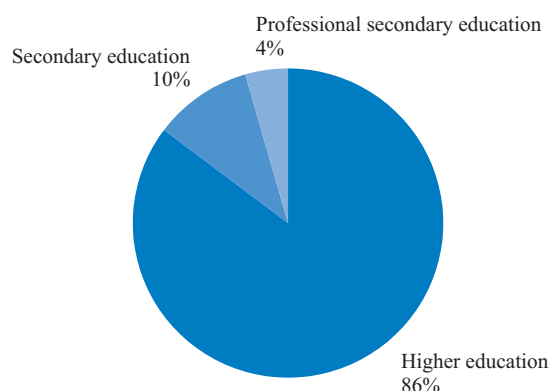
The statistical questionnaires and instructions have been surveyed with regard to their correspondence to classifications, e.g. the use of terms and correctness of codes has been observed.

The use of classifications in producing statistics has been systematised. The conformity of classifications to the valid versions has been checked. The producers and users of statistics have been taught the correct use of classifications, complicated classification problems have been solved. Consultations have been given in the Statistical Office as well as by e-mail and telephone. The share of consultations has increased in connection with the application of new classifications and their versions.

The employees of the Statistical Office participate in working out the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE) and new versions of the Statistical Classification of Products by Activity in the European Economic Community (CPA). The aim is harmonisation of the corresponding classifications all over the world.

The work in supplementing the metadatabase of the statistical information system (SIS) continues.

Officials of the Statistical Office by education, 31 December 2004



In 2004, the employees of the Statistical Office participated in 281 international conferences, seminars, workshops or courses. 116 employees were sent on missions abroad.

Active participation in the international co-operation was possible due to the continuous co-operation programme of statistics between countries. The Phare Grant 2002 Technical Aid Contract was signed on 21 September. The Phare Grant 2003 Contract was signed on 22 December.

Two employees worked as trainees in Eurostat. At the end of the year two employees started their 5-month training in Eurostat — in monitoring the Phare Grant contracts.

As a result of Estonia's accession to the European Union, the Statistical Office became a full and equal member of the Statistical Programme Committee and participated in all meetings of the Committee. One employee of the Statistical Office participated in the 35th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York.

Co-operation with the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia and Statistics Lithuania continued. On 13–15 May, the Steering Committee of Statistical Organisations of the Baltic States held a meeting in Latvia.

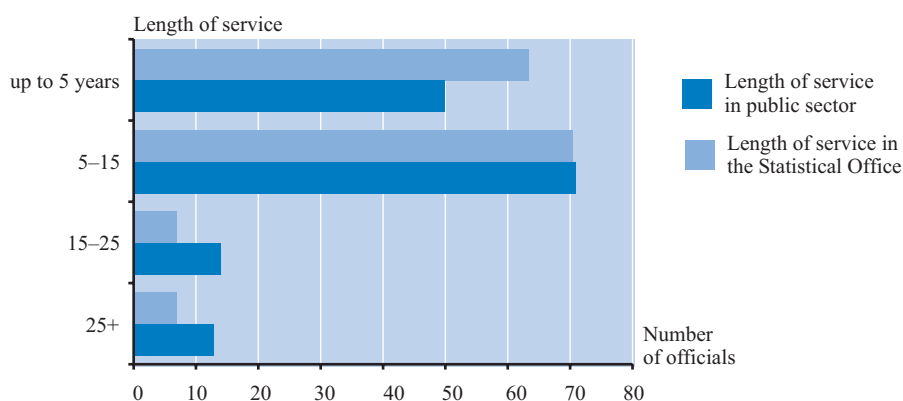
In co-operation with Statistics Sweden, the experts of the Statistical Office continued to train the statisticians of Albania in Tirana and in Stockholm.

The volleyball team of the Statistical Office participated in the traditional European Volleyball Tournament for Statisticians, which was held in Helsinki on 17–19 September.

STAFF

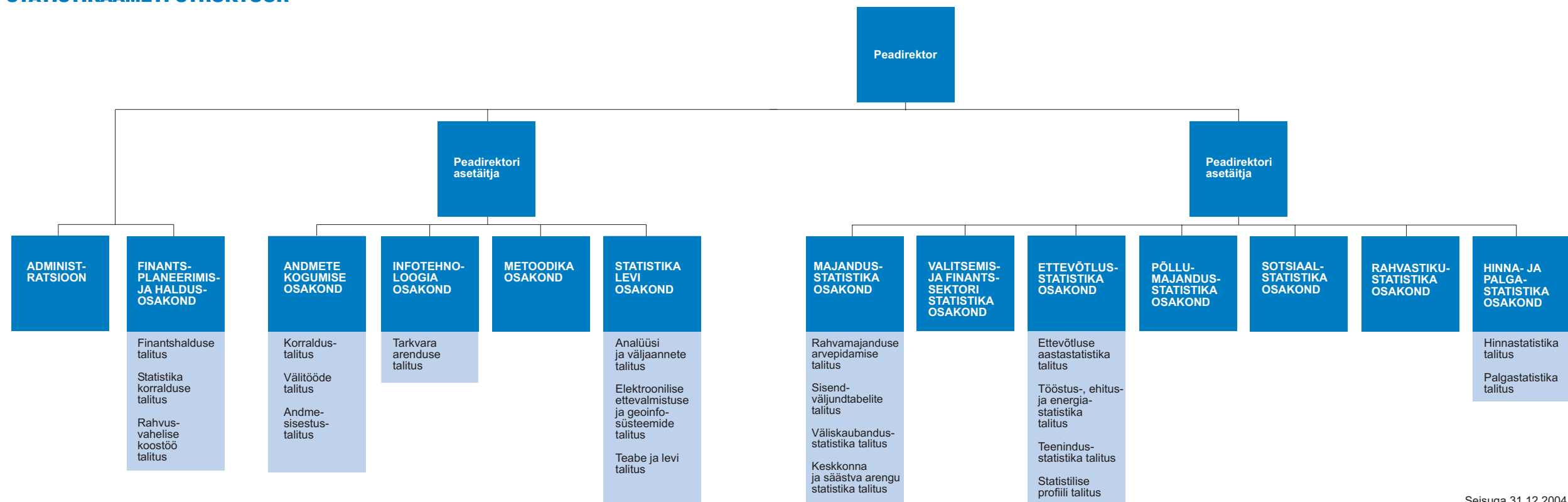
As at 31 December 2004, the total number of posts in the Statistical Office was 323, of which 42 posts of higher officials, 256 of senior officials and 9 of junior officials, and 16 posts of support staff. At the same time 292 officials were working, of which 40 higher officials, 246 senior officials and 6 junior officials, and 86 persons of support staff, including 60 non-staff interviewers. 85% of officials had higher education, whereby only one of the higher officials did not have higher education. The average age of employees was 45. The share of employees aged 41–60 was the largest — 55%, the share of persons aged 31–40 was only 16%. The share of females was relatively large — 87%. Males accounted for the largest share in age group 21–30 — 29%. The turnover of staff was big. In 2004, 53 officials were employed, 9 of them came from public service, 22 from private sector and 22 from elsewhere (e.g. from educational institutions). 105 officials were relieved of office.

Officials of the Statistical Office by length of service, 31 December 2004



2004

STATISTIKAAMETI STRUKTUUR



STRUCTURE OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE

