

STATISTICAL DATABASE SURVEY 2008

Aim

The aim of the survey was to collect suggestions for the development of the statistical database, to study the respondents' opinions about the user-friendliness of the database and to find out the users' preferences while searching for the data.

The background of the survey

The survey was conducted 20.05 – 3.06.2008. A window with the introduction of the database and a link to the web questionnaire was displayed to the user who had entered the database. The questionnaire included seven questions, three of which enabled to add explanations and make suggestions.

The users of Estonian as well as English database were questioned. 92% of persons participating in the survey answered the web questionnaire in Estonian and 8% in English. The respondents divided as follows:

Student	165	30%
Employee of a company, association, foundation, etc	128	23%
Employee of a government or a local government agency	116	21%
Employee of a research or educational institution, librarian	62	11%
Other private person	34	6%
Employee of a media enterprise	20	4%
Pupil	19	3%
Employee of other statistical organisation or Eurostat	9	2%
Total	553	100%

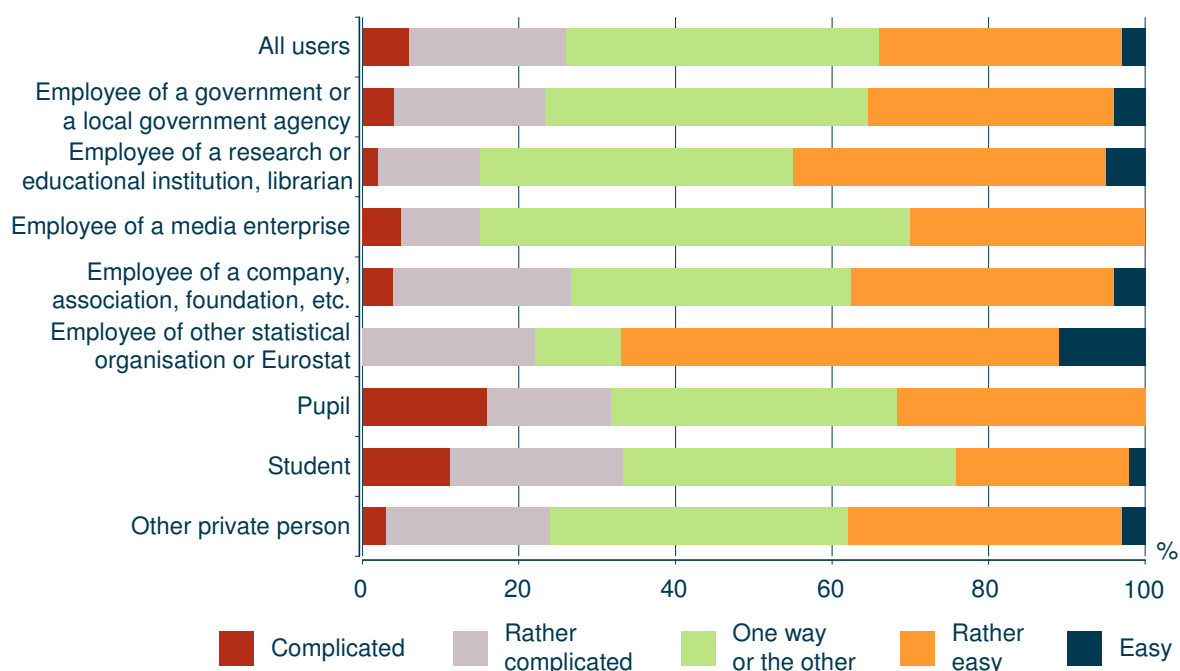
Conclusion

A fifth of respondents used the database several times a week, about a third a couple of times a month and a third more seldom. 16% used the database for the first time. Most active were the employees of media enterprises and employees of government or local government agencies, of which a quarter used the database several times a week. Also the employees of other statistical organisations and Eurostat and the employees of research or educational institutions used the database often — a fifth of them several times a week.

The majority of respondents found the necessary data at least partly, 7% could not find the data at all. The reason for not finding the data was mainly that they could not find the data for some specific subject area (27% of respondents). More detailed data (e.g. more precise age distribution) and more regional statistics (the county level is not sufficient) were also required.

To the question about the simplicity/complexity of finding the data 40% of respondents answered "one way or the other". About a third considered finding the data rather easy or easy, about a quarter complicated or rather complicated. For students and pupils it was more difficult to find the data as there were more occasional users among them. The employees of other statistical organisations and Eurostat and the employees of research or educational institutions consider finding the data easier.

The simplicity/complexity of finding the data in the statistical database



The statistical database was mainly used for two purposes: for analysing the present situation and making the necessary decisions (41%); and for studying (40%). Other purposes were mentioned less — 29% of the respondents used the database for specifying the trends and 27% for receiving background information about economic policy.

The survey also studied the necessity for training of the database users. Most respondents preferred the user instruction on the web site (53%) and the interactive code of practice (demo tour) (32%). Over a quarter of respondents mentioned that they did not need training.

Suggestions about the development of the database

For making suggestions the questionnaire had a text field, which was filled in by about a third of the respondents. It was mostly recommended to improve the search system. There were also suggestions to simplify the database structure as it often does not correspond to the logic of the regular user. The respondents also wanted more detailed data (e.g. more exact age distribution, distribution of economic activities, regional distribution) and more information (all the data of Statistics Estonia could be in the database). 69% of the respondents suggested that the key ratios should be in the database. Some of the respondents did not find the link to the database on the web site and suggested a more visible link.

Many respondents were satisfied with the database: it was rated good and user-friendly (no need to change), the possibility to make tables and save them as Excel tables was rated very good; the search engine was also rated very good.