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ANNUAL REPORT

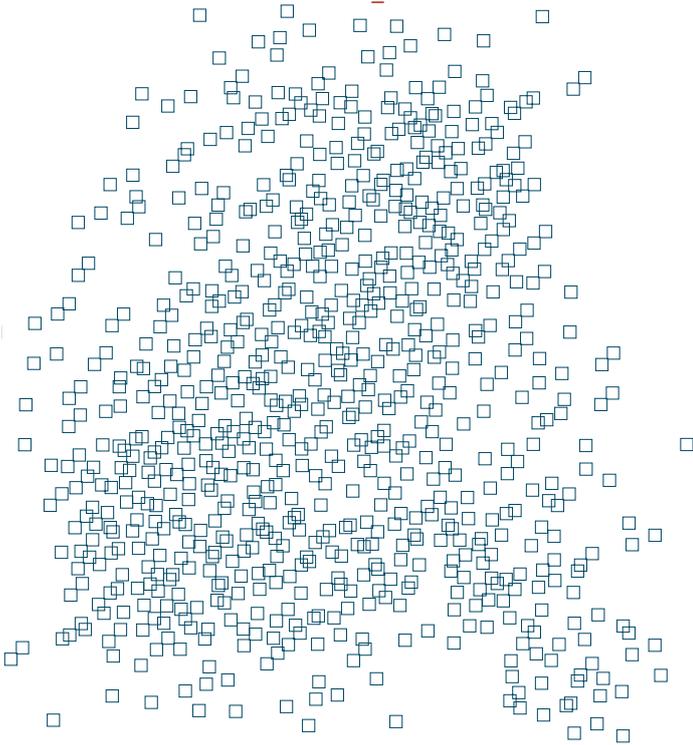
STATISTICS ESTONIA 2007

2007

ANNUAL REPORT

TALLINN 2008

451 objects in total



Mr Priit Potisepp, Director General



Ms Tuulikki Sillajõe, Deputy Director General



Dear Reader!

Statistics Estonia has had the honour to observe the eventful year 2007 and to function as the producer and provider of the main facts to the society. We are the primary body reflecting the changes in the state and providing international statistics with the data on Estonia. In the globalising world and in the information- and knowledge-based society, facts play an essential role in decision-making — there cannot be good politics without good statistics.

The previous year showed that changes can be rather unexpected. A few quarters ago we could speak about a rapid growth in the economy, but in 2007 we witnessed a considerable deceleration in the economic growth and a simultaneous sharp rise in consumer prices. Unemployment has maintained its low level so far. Amid the period which is difficult to forecast, the economy-related monthly and quarterly statistics regarding Estonia, its primary trading partners and the rest of the world are held in special focus. Last year Statistics Estonia started to publish preliminary estimates on the quarterly gross domestic product nearly 3 weeks earlier than before. Thereby, the quality of estimates was maintained.

The Annual Report provides an overview of Statistics Estonia's primary activities in 2007. In general lines, the total number of surveys did not change, the volume of samples with respect to enterprises, non-market organisations and private persons remained the same as it was in 2006.

Enhancement of the data collection efficiency was continually kept in focus in 2007. By the end of the year nearly 7,000 enterprises had joined eSTAT, the web-based environment for data submission. By 2008, Statistics Estonia stopped issuing paper-based report forms to enterprises and made almost all reports available on the web, thus we expect the percentage of data transmitted via eSTAT to grow even faster than earlier. Like before, the priorities of Statistics Estonia include the use of administrative databases for statistical purposes.

Last year was a complicated one for Statistics Estonia due to the developments on the labour markets. The labour turnover problem was already pointed out in the previous annual report. In 2007 the situation became even worse and one cannot be satisfied with this outcome.

After a two-year preparation process, an audit was issued by the State Audit Office which focused on the compliance of official statistics with the needs of customers and on the efficiency of data collection. The audit was rather critical, but did not point out any particularly new matters. Granting the users a bigger right to express their opinion with respect to planning the official statistical programme, expansion of the electronic data collection, a wider use of the state databases have constantly been in the focus for Statistics Estonia. Another matter is whether we have gained results fast enough.

High quality statistics cannot be produced without the cooperation and dedication of respondents and the employees of Statistics Estonia. Thank you for that!



Priit Potisepp
Director General

2007 — LAST YEAR OF STRATEGY PERIOD

National and international plans of statistics

The goals of Statistics Estonia for the strategy period 2003–2007 were as follows:

- increased public awareness of the role of official statistics in the democratic society and the tasks of Statistics Estonia in organisation thereof,
- the increased leading and coordinative role of Statistics Estonia in the production of Estonian official statistics,
- more effective work organisation and production process of official statistics,
- more efficient coordination in the fields of information technology and methodology,
- professional and motivated personnel,
- implemented quality management and contemporary management methods,
- improved working environment.

Final conclusions of the past strategy period will be made in 2008, but in 2007 Statistics Estonia prepared a new strategy for 2008–2011 and participated in the preparation of the 2009–2012 strategy development plan of the domain administered by the Ministry of Finance. In addition, the European Union Statistical Programme 2008–2012 and the project of the plan for Estonian official statistical surveys 2009–2012 were compiled. The EU statistical programme has been approved by the decision of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, but the relevant Estonian document is still in the coordination phase with the users of statistics.

In 2007, Statistics Estonia conducted 158 official statistical surveys, i.e. collected and processed the data and published statistics on the status and trends of environment, population, social life and economy.

In conducting the survey, Statistics Estonia concentrated on:

- enhancement of electronic data collection and improvement in the receipt of reports on time,
- preparation for a wider use of administrative databases,
- maintenance of statistical capability in a complicated labour market situation.

Use of administrative databases increased

The strategic objective of Statistics Estonia is to reduce the data submission burden of respondents. One way thereof is to make more use of the data, already collected by agencies (administrative data), in the production of statistics. This means that Statistics Estonia tends to collect from economic units or natural persons less and less of the data already submitted by them to the Estonian state. Use of administrative data in the production of statistics directly reduces the burden of respondents, but brings along additional work for the state, as the burden of registrars and Statistics Estonia increases. For data transmission purposes, registrars must make additional inquiries and deal with development, and frequently they should also make changes in the statutes and work organisation of registers. Statistics Estonia must coordinate improvement of registers, evaluate the quality of register data and the opportunities for using them in the production of statistics, and work out methodology and develop the information system. It is an extended process which, according to the experience of other countries, is going to take decades.

Employment of the data already collected by the state has shown an increasing trend — every year a new register or database has been added. In 2007, in case of 55 surveys out of 158 (35%), Statistics Estonia used administrative data originating altogether from over 40 administrative databases. The contract signed in March 2007 regarding data transmission from the Tax and Customs Board to Statistics Estonia served as an important milestone. Statistics Estonia's work organisation was changed, the aim of it was to get a better overview

of the databases-related opportunities and to express Statistics Estonia's needs to them in a clearer and more coordinated way. New positions were created in the Methodology and Information Technology Departments. The use of XPath as a data collection channel was increased, and designing of the new information system, to support the new work organisation, was started.

Popularity of eSTAT increased

Although Statistics Estonia tries to make more use of administrative data, a lot of data must still be collected from economic units (companies, state and local government agencies, non-profit organisations, self-employed persons), because administrative data are often not sufficiently flexible in satisfying the quickly changing demand for information. Statistics Estonia intends to facilitate such data collection for respondents by developing electronic data transmission channels and improving customer service. The fact that new report forms were added to the electronic data submission channel eSTAT, influenced its usability — the number of main users of eSTAT doubled in 2007 compared to 2006. By the end of 2007, one third of economic units had joined eSTAT, submitting at least one report via eSTAT. Over one fifth of statistical reports were submitted to Statistics Estonia by this channel.

The objective is to develop eSTAT into a communication environment functioning between enterprises and Statistics Estonia. At present, respondents can see their reports previously submitted via eSTAT, check the contact data of enterprises/agencies, etc. In future, enterprises that are simultaneously in the role of respondents and users of statistics, will be provided with an opportunity to order statistics from eSTAT.

Nevertheless, there are a lot of respondents who use other possibilities for electronic data submission — they upload report files from the web site or send reports by e-mail. Submission of reports by e-mail is convenient for respondents, but it is not secure. As data protection is vital for Statistics Estonia, enterprises, too, should consider it, by giving preference to secure channels like eSTAT and uploading of report files from the web site by inserting the identification code given by Statistics Estonia.

Preparations were made for 2011 Population and Housing Census

In 2007, more stress was laid on preparations for the next Population and Housing Census: the census questionnaire was worked out and the description of data collection process was formulated. According to international practices and need for data, censuses are generally conducted every ten years. Starting from February 2008, the EU regulation, laying down harmonised requirements, incl. applied definitions, classifications and principles of data publication, to all Member States for conducting the Population and Housing Census, is being applied. The year 2011 will, among other things, be set as the next reference year, and further on — the first year of every decade.

Opportunity to apply penalty payment

Although a lot of respondents are also users of statistics and therefore understand the importance of data submission, there are a lot of economic units who do not send their reports in due time. In 2007, 43% of reports were received in due time (39% in 2006). Receipt of too few reports in due time affects seriously the production of statistics. It prolongs the release time of statistics and users do not receive necessary information fast enough. In addition, it brings about extra costs, as a large number of persons are involved in the receipt of reports, reminders are sent and telephone calls are made to enterprises in order to persuade them into submission of reports.

In October 2007, amendment to the Official Statistics Act took effect, granting Statistics Estonia an opportunity to apply penalty payment instead of legally complicated imposition of fines to economic units who do not submit statistical reports or who fail to submit them in due time. The objective of amendment to the Act is to increase the number of timely submitted reports and to reduce the data collection-related expenses.

Maybe Statistics Estonia has been too mild toward those not submitting data. For example, a fine shall be imposed on those avoiding data submission to the Tax and Customs Board. Statistics Estonia has not punished anybody so far, this is evidently the reason why a part of enterprises do not look upon submission of statistical reports as a serious duty. At the same time, the quality of official statistics depends directly on the receipt of initial data, and if the timely receipt of data does not show a growing trend, penalty payment will surely be applied in future.

Quality and sustainability of statistics

In November 2006, foreign experts pointed out the fact that restricted resources may cause problems in recruiting and motivating good specialists in the rapidly changing labour market. To diminish these risks, Statistics Estonia completed the earlier started valuation of positions in 2007. The valuation of positions based on valuation points allows to compare the wages and salaries of a position with the wages and salaries of similar positions in other organisations. On the basis of obtained information, Statistics Estonia worked out

the remuneration principles of officials in 2007. Statistics Estonia also contributed to the improved management quality, e.g. to the development of planning system (incl. synchronisation of plans).

Despite that, the turnover of officials in Statistics Estonia was 19.9% in 2007 (11.7% in 2006): 80 officials and 73 support staff employees (24% and 70% respectively) resigned from service. Dissatisfaction with salary constitutes the main cause for the resignation of officials. Due to such a great staff turnover, the provision of Estonian users of statistics with their ever growing need for information, and compliance with the requirements laid down in the EU regulations is becoming more and more complicated day by day. At the same time, statisticians have a constantly increasing responsibility for the quality of outgoing information due to a wider use of statistical information by the society. The report „*Riikliku statistika tõhusus ja andmete kogumise asjakohasus*” (the efficiency of official statistics and the relevance of data collection), submitted to the *Riigikogu* in 2007 by the State Audit Office, states that official statistics serve as basis for making important decisions which in turn will have a significant economic effect. For example, the proportion of cost sharing of the Estonian state in the budget of the European Union depends directly on the gross national income indicator calculated on the basis of the data received from Statistics Estonia. For instance, a 0.01% bigger share (of which the corresponding gross national income percentage forms about 60%) in the budget of the European Union will bring along nearly 20 million kroons-worth additional costs to the state budget.

Recognition Aspiring Organisation awarded in 2007

In December 2006, Statistics Estonia joined the Management Quality Award base level project “*Edasipürgiv organisatsioon*” (Aspiring Organisation) organised by *Eesti Kvaliteediühing EKÜ* (Estonian Association for Quality, EAQ). The Estonian Management Quality Award is based on the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Excellence Model recognition schemes, and “*Edasipürgiv organisatsioon*” fully corresponds to the equivalent C2E (Committed to Excellence) level of this model. As statistical institutions of the European statistical system are recommended to apply namely the EFQM Model, Statistics Estonia assessed the organisation in 2007 on the basis of this model, chose the improvement actions and implemented them by the deadline prescribed by the project.

After that an expert from EAQ visited Statistics Estonia. He assessed the implementation progress of the actions selected for the project “*Edasipürgiv organisatsioon*”. As a result of assessment it was concluded that Statistics Estonia fits with the criteria specified by EAQ and EFQM. On 21 June 2007, EAQ presented Statistics Estonia with the certificate “*Edasipürgiv organisatsioon*” and the equivalent EFQM certificate Committed to Excellence. The recognitions are valid for two years.

According to the words of P. Potisepp, Director General of Statistics Estonia, we have received, due to the EFQM Excellence Model-based self-assessment, an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of our organisation’s management performance, and we know which management areas need to be improved during the coming years.

The recognition “*Edasipürgiv organisatsioon*” means that Statistics Estonia is an organisation which

- intends to assess its own performance on a regular basis and improve it if needed,
- is able to spot its mistakes and find solutions to eliminate them,
- is able to carry out improvement actions.

Statistics Estonia plans to participate in the Estonian Management Quality Award projects in future as well.

STRATEGY OF STATISTICS ESTONIA 2008–2011

“From data provider to information service provider”

MISSION (main objective)

The main task of Statistics Estonia is to provide administrative agencies, business and research sectors, international organisations and individuals with a reliable and objective information service on the environmental, demographic, social and economic situation and trends in Estonia.

VISION

Statistics Estonia is the leading and internationally recognised producer of qualitative and comparable statistics.

VALUES

Quality

For producing reliable and objective statistics, quality should be aimed at in each segment of work process. Competent specialists, modern technology, simple and efficient work organisation and orientation to results serve as a basis for this purpose. The data trusted with us are protected.

Openness and transparency

We are open and straightforward in communication, the opinions and initiative of employees serve as the engine for development. We keep our promises. Our activities are ethical and transparent.

Co-operation

We respect our clients, know their needs and act accordingly. We try to foresee information needs of the society and develop statistics according to this. We hold a leading or supporting position in the co-operation networks of national and international statistics and data management. Co-operation between employees is a vital prerequisite for the achievement of common goals.

OBJECTIVES

I Reputation, respectfulness and efficient use of official statistics in the society

- Fulfil the statistical programme
- Increase the cohesion and comparability of the statistics of different domains
- Increase the scope of analytical products
- Increase the scope of regional statistics
- Simplify the use of anonymous individual data in the society

II Qualitative and professional service

- Respond faster to the needs of clients
- Provide key clients with private service
- Standardise the process of data processing
- Separate the development process from production process
- Increase the share of many-sided statistics professionals
- Develop the department-driven organisational culture into the institution-driven one
- Create a modern working environment

III Partnership with respondents

- Make a wider use of administrative data
- Reduce the average report fulfilment time
- Improve the quality of questionnaires
- Switch over from the collection of reports to the collection of indicators

Ms Aira Veelmaa, Head of Information and Marketing Service



Ms Margit Rennebaum, Leading Consultant on Data Collection



451 objects in total



Mr Meelis Somelar, International Cooperation Manager



Ms Birgit Anteploon, Leading Specialist in Fieldwork Organisation

STATISTICS TO THE BENEFIT OF CUSTOMERS

The aim of the Marketing and Dissemination Department is to inform the society of the existence of official statistics and to make them available for customers. Besides that, regional statistics and geographical information systems are developed.

Analytical publications were presented

Apart from the publication of statistics, active notification and training of users are essential factors in order to take statistical information closer to users. Analytical publications of Statistics Estonia reflect the processes underway in the society and economy. In the event that more important publications are issued, Statistics Estonia organises presentations — there were nine of them in 2007. On six occasions, publications were introduced to journalists who are important cooperation partners in disseminating statistics. On average 11 journalists attended the presentation. The promoted titles were: *"Sotsiaalne ebavõrdsus. Social Inequality"*, *"Naised ja Mehed. Women and Men"*, *"Kutseharidus. 1996–2006. Vocational Education"*, *"Eesti statistika aastaraamat. 2007. Statistical Yearbook of Estonia"*, *"Sotsiaaltrendid 4"* (*"Social Trends 4"*) and *"Linnad ja vallad arvudes. 2007. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures"*. The last four titles were also introduced to other users: to the representatives of ministries and other state agencies, local governments, education and research institutions and libraries). The presentation carried out in January 2008 met a real success. Three publications: *"Sotsiaaltrendid 4"*, *"Linnad ja vallad arvudes. 2007. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures"* and *"Rahvastik. 2005–2006. Population"* were featured there. The participants gave a lot of positive feedback which encourages further organisation of such presentations.

Users of statistics were trained

Statistics Estonia also arranges user trainings in order to provide assistance in finding and using statistical information. Ten trainings were organised in 2007, in the course of which the products and services of Statistics Estonia were introduced, an overview was given of the availability of statistics and instructions were provided on how to use statistical databases available on the Statistics Estonia and Eurostat web sites. The training was attended by the representatives of state agencies as well as enterprises, university students and pupils. As enterprises form a large proportion of the users of statistics, Statistics Estonia intends to offer appropriate trainings namely for them in future, because statistics can be used in the preparation of business plans and in the evaluation of attained business results. In 2008, Statistics Estonia plans to work out a training programme which will function as a prerequisite in the development of training system.

Participation in events

Apart from the presentations and trainings arranged in Statistics Estonia, conferences, fairs and other such events function as an important form of communication with users of statistics. In 2007, Statistics Estonia took part in nine events — at four of them with a presentation. At the majority of events Statistics Estonia had a separate information booth, which gives us a good opportunity to introduce ourselves to potential customers and receive feedback from the present ones. This may often lead to a longer-term cooperation.

For publicity purposes, information materials were prepared in 2007 to assist the persons interested in statistics with finding necessary information. The Statistics Estonia products and services were introduced in *"Otsi ja kasuta statistikat"* (*"Find and Use Statistics"*). The information booklet *"GIS Statistikaametis"* (GIS in Statistics Estonia) provided an overview of geo-referenced statistical output, and a flyer provided information about the Information Centres. Printed information materials were mostly disseminated at user trainings, fairs and in libraries.

Dissemination policy was updated

The primary aim of Statistics Estonia is to provide users of statistics with reliable and objective statistical information. In addition to the organisation of official statistical surveys, the objective of Statistics Estonia is to enhance public awareness of the role of statistics and of the tasks of Statistics Estonia. Thus, it is vital to communicate with respondents as well as with users of statistics. In case of users of statistics, Statistics Estonia proceeds from the principle of equal treatment and wishes to offer them necessary products and services. The respondents-related objective is to reduce their response burden and make the submission of reports as convenient as possible for them. In order to stick to certain principles in achieving the mentioned objectives, the dissemination policy, involving the marketing and public relations of Statistics Estonia, was updated in 2007.

Statistics Estonia Information Centres open to everybody

At the end of 2006, Statistics Estonia opened an information centre also in Tartu. Despite the fact that statistical information can conveniently be obtained by e-mail or information phone, over 3,700 persons visited the information centres in 2007. As information centres are provided with wifi-connection and computers, it is convenient to work there. Helpful consultants instruct in finding necessary information from publications and the database,

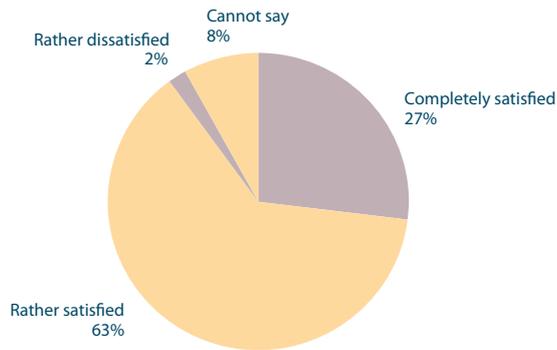
in case of necessity support can also be obtained from the statistics specialists. On the spot, visitors can use or buy the publications of Statistics Estonia and place orders for more detailed information than published. Since 2004, the Information Centre in Tallinn functions also as the centre for EU statistics in Estonia, e.g. users are provided with consultation about the availability of EU statistics and with help in finding information in the Eurostat databases. The library of the Information Centre in Tallinn will celebrate its 15th anniversary in 2008. The library fund contains over 23,000 library units at present, the oldest of them date back to the 1920s.

Statistics Estonia organises user surveys on a regular basis, in order to get information about user satisfaction and suggestions for making products and services more user-friendly. In 2007, statistical publications were under observation. The objective of the survey was to assess the level of user satisfaction and expectations regarding publications, to study the motives of customers' behaviour and to collect suggestions for product development.

Users were satisfied with statistical publications

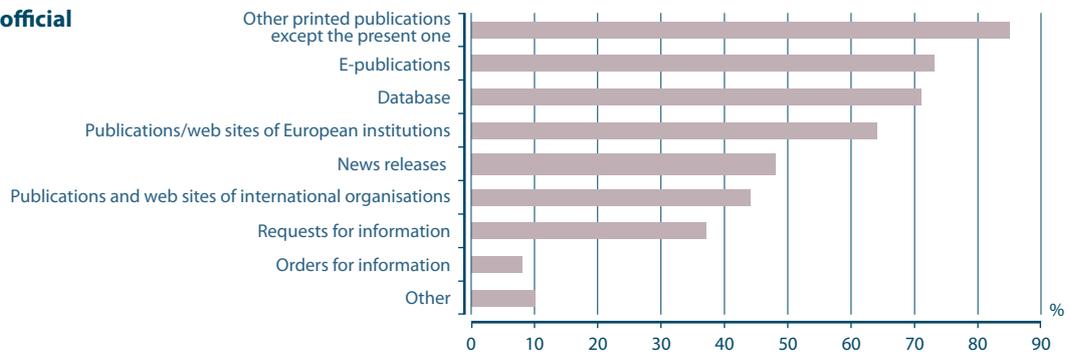
Turu-uuringud AS conducted an interview with 52 users of 12 statistical publications. In general lines, the interviewed users were satisfied with the publications of Statistics Estonia — especially with the logical structure and general design of publications (average grade of 8.08 points on the 10-point scale). The subdivision and comprehensibility of texts as well as the clear-cut presentation of tables, diagrams and thematic maps received high scores. The lowest score (6.84) was attributed to the exhaustiveness of information. At the same time, the thoroughness and the scientific quality level of publications were predominantly assessed as good. In the opinion of users, more detailed information, more diverse analyses, more precise description of methodologies and longer time series would contribute to the exhaustiveness of information.

Satisfaction with the thoroughness of topic handling in publications, 2007



58% of interviewees were satisfied with the proportions of the different types of information presentation. Nearly a fourth of interviewees would have liked the publications to contain more analytical texts, a fifth suggested that the share of diagrams should be increased, a tenth suggested that the share of thematic maps or tables should be increased. Apart from the present publication, 85% of interviewees used also other Statistics Estonia's publications. The majority of interviewees (88%) were of the opinion that a publication as such has value added compared to the statistical database.

Use of the sources of official statistics, 2007



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Important guests

In 2007, H. Carré, Director General of Eurostat, who had for years been related to the creation and adoption of the European single currency (euro), visited Estonia. On the visit to Statistics Estonia Mr Carré was accompanied by Deputy Director General of Eurostat M. Bohatà. When meeting with P. Potisepp, Mr Carré confirmed that for such a small country which has had little time for building up its own state, Estonia has been very good in the field of statistics. Minister of Finance, I. Padar, could admit with satisfaction that Statistics Estonia has a good reputation in the EU. The interest that journalists took in this event guaranteed a lot of media reflections for Statistics Estonia.

Sustainability of the system of statistics depends on its capability to keep and educate strong specialists — this was a thought pointed out by Mr Carré for several times. One of the ways leading to this goal is business travels. Year-by-year all these possibilities have become a part of work for an ever growing number of persons.

More business travels than before

In 2007, already more than a third of the Statistics Estonia employees went to a business trip. As of 31 December 2007, 333 employees worked for Statistics Estonia (excl. employees working on the basis of employment contract and non-staff employees), 119 of them made at least one business trip beyond Estonia. Although Luxembourg was the destination of almost every other trip, more exotic places were also visited: Astana in Kazakhstan, Annapolis in the USA, Istanbul and Crete. Nearly half of the 322 business travels were connected with participation in the working groups meeting on a regular basis (the working groups of Eurostat predominantly). A more active participation in the statistical working group of the Council of the EU can be pointed out as a new feature. This increases the inclusion of Estonia in legislative process. Already for several years Statistics Estonia has contributed to the work of Eurostat via the two experts residing in Luxembourg. It has been decided to carry on with such a policy in the coming years.

Statistical Cooperation of the Baltic Republics

In 2007, the members of managements and international cooperation leaders of the statistical offices of Baltic States met in Svente near Daugavpils. Latvia was a popular place also among experts, as Riga was the city most visited by them in 2007. Such topics as the labour force survey, dissemination of statistics, regional statistics, population census, foreign trade statistics and social surveys were under discussion there.

Training provided to other countries

At meetings held according to the Baltic Statistical Cooperation Activity Plan, Statistics Estonia not only presents its successful solutions, but also learns from the colleagues' best practices. Occasionally our employees, however, go to train others beyond the Baltic region. Traditionally, the enterprise statisticians were extremely active in 2007 and continued, in cooperation with Statistics Sweden, consulting the Balkan states. In June, experience in the production of structural business statistics was delivered to the statisticians of Montenegro, in December the calculation of production indices was taught. Apart from that, Statistics Estonia participated already in 2006 in the international project, as a result of which the quality indicators system regarding the surveys of research and development activities was launched last year. The gained experience was used by enterprise statisticians in training the colleagues of Malta. In 2007, Statistics Estonia had a chance to introduce the production of Estonian regional statistics to their Armenian colleagues who came to Estonia to gain new knowledge. Besides that, the project for training the Western Balkan statistical offices in the area of statistics dissemination which started in 2006 was continued. In March 2007, the final seminar of the project took place in Tallinn and the final report was approved by Eurostat by Christmas.

Support from the European Union

Transition Facility 2004, a capacious project of Statistics Estonia, involving 19 subprojects related to statistical development, finished in 2007. The consolidated report of the project has been approved by Eurostat. For the year 2007 Statistics Estonia applied for assistance from the similar transitional measure, i.e. from Transition Facility 2005. The scope of this two-year agreement is significantly smaller — involving eight subprojects. However, compared to the previous project, more cooperation partners have been included in this one: in addition to the Ministry of Social Affairs, also the State Register of Construction Works of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications.

In 2007, compared to the previous year, more new grant project agreements were concluded between Statistics Estonia and Eurostat for carrying out statistical works in different domains (statistics related to entrepreneurship, agriculture, economy, prices, social life and environment) — 16 (10 in 2006). Besides that, three agreements, the works of which will start in 2008, were signed. Work continued regarding 16 agreements signed earlier.

Ms Mare Kusma, Head of Wages Statistics Service



Ms Mari Toomse, Leading Statistician in Social Surveys



451 objects in total



Mr Tõnu Mertsina, Head of National Accounts Service



Mr Kenet Pindmaa, Leading Statistician in Population and Housing Census

DATA COLLECTION

The important society-related topics comprise economical consumption, saving, caring for the health and environment. Efficient time management is increasingly being valued. How to collect data necessary for the production of statistics in a more economizing way, with less costs, by a method more convenient and time-sparing for respondents — this was the core matter in 2007.

No paper-based report forms are sent to enterprises any more

Economic units surely comprise the largest group of respondents. Every year more than 40,000 economic units should submit data to Statistics Estonia. For years, Statistics Estonia used to send paper-based report forms to enterprises. As a lot of enterprises do not use paper-based forms any more and prefer the electronic form of data transmission, Statistics Estonia decided to give up sending paper-based report forms starting from the official statistical surveys of 2008. In December 2007, a notice with a list of statistical reports expected to be submitted to Statistics Estonia in 2008, was sent to enterprises. Information regarding the reporting requirements was also published in the publication *"Ametlikud teadaanded"*. This amendment allows to economize costs and save the nature to a considerable extent — as over eight tons of paper is needed to type reports, and more than 100 trees are cut down for this purpose. By working in a new way, it is also possible to increase the electronic receipt of data and hence, the production of statistics will become more effective.

Number of eSTAT-users is increasing

The data transmission channel eSTAT, introduced in 2006, enables enterprises to fill out statistical reports. Compared to 2006, the number of the main users of eSTAT doubled — by the end of 2007 the total number of 6,735 economic units had joined eSTAT, they submitted altogether nearly 54,000 statistical reports a year. By the end of 2007, one fifth of reports were received through eSTAT. Last year it was possible to submit 77 different reports through eSTAT (21 in 2006), but starting from 2008 over 120 different reports (90% of statistical reports) can be transmitted this way.

In eSTAT it is possible to compile, monitor, save and amend reports. Besides that, persons having compiled a report can instantly receive information on the arrival and correctness thereof. In addition, eSTAT provides respondents with an opportunity to see the previously presented reports and to receive information about the types of reports to be submitted and the relevant deadlines. Respondents can also order reminder letters on submission deadlines.

eSTAT has developed into a widely used data collection channel, the share of which is increasing rapidly compared to other forms of data transmission.

Interviews conducted among population have become more efficient

Individuals involved in the social surveys form another large group of respondents. Traditionally, data are collected from the population by Statistics Estonia's interviewers. As the living environment has changed and a large part of population lives in urban regions and, as people have become more informed and the pace of life has accelerated, it is complicated to find suitable time for meetings with interviewers and for conducting interviews. Over years, the survey-based statistics has undergone a great development in Statistics Estonia — laptop-assisted interviews have ousted paper-based ones. This has given rise to great changes in the data quality and in the survey-related work organisation. On the one hand, the amount of time used for insertion of data during interviews has decreased. On the other hand, the initial check-up of data to be collected is done already in the course of interview, this allows to save the time spent on further data editing. Electronic data collection enables the survey managers and coordinators to receive instant feedback already during the data collection process — earlier they had to wait for feedback for weeks or even for months.

The flexibility and convenience of interview-based statistics provides the interviewees with a possibility to choose between different interviewing methodologies. So, Statistics Estonia used web-based interviewing (CAWI-methodology) when collecting data in the framework of the 2007 career-related survey of doctorate holders. The result thereof surpassed preliminary forecasts: almost 40% of interviewees preferred to fill out web-based questionnaires instead of meeting with the interviewer.

POPULATION AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

Population and social statistics includes statistics of the following domains: population and households, culture and labour market, worklife quality, social protection and security, justice, income, expenditure, poverty, dwellings and living conditions, social environment (e.g. exclusion, cohesion). Apart from that, the Population and Social Statistics Department organises personal and household surveys and population censuses.

In publications, more stress is laid on analysis

In 2007, a number of analytical publications on population and social statistics were issued. "Sotsiaaltrendid 4" and "Social Trends 4" focused on social inclusion. The publication "Sotsiaalne ebavõrdsus. Social Inequality" explored inequality in a broader meaning — in addition to income, attention was also paid to the distribution of social, cultural and health-related resources among persons. Additionally, the transmission of inequality from one generation to another was analysed. The yearbook "Rahvastik. 2005–2006. Population" gave an analytical overview of the changes in vital events, population number, population composition and mortality in 2005 and 2006. Besides that, comparisons with previous years and other countries were provided. Data on the main demographic indicators and vital events were presented in longer time series. The publication included harmonised fertility and mortality indicators by region, population data by ethnic nationality and data on life expectancy. The publication "Kutseharidus. 1996–2006. Vocational Education" provided an overview of the acquisition of vocational education in Estonia during 1996–2006 by levels of education and fields of study. Comparisons were also drawn with other countries. The labour status of the population with vocational education was observed.

Publication of information sheets was continued. The topics included the possibilities of using flexible working time in Estonia and in the EU, the impact of long-term unemployment as the cause of social problems, and the consumption habits of households.

Survey laboratory

Last year, preparations for launching a survey laboratory were started. The aim is to ensure a thorough testing of the questionnaire content, in order to reduce errors in data collection. The methodology was tested on new modules, and the survey laboratory concept was compiled.

The results of social surveys are transmitted to Eurostat on a regular basis. To ensure an even better comparability of data at the Estonian as well as international level, elaboration of core variables was started. The manual of core variables will be issued in 2008.

Essential surveys continued

The General Household Survey and the Border Survey were started in 2007. The third new survey provided an overview of adult education. Essential official surveys — Labour Force Survey, Household Budget Survey, Social Survey and tourism surveys were continued, but besides the main goal, occupational accidents and work-related health disorders, living conditions and production for oneself were in focus. Integration-related data were collected in the framework of an additional module of the General Household Survey. In 2007, preparations were made for starting two new surveys: the Immigrant Population Pilot Survey was carried out, and preparations for conducting the Victims and Violence Survey were started.

Last year, Statistics Estonia took part in the Eurostat project "Career-related Statistics of Doctorate holders". The survey focused on the acquisition of doctoral degree, on a person's worklife, research-based career and international mobility. In the data collection process, the internet-based interviewing was tested in Statistics Estonia for the first time.

Preparations for the Population and Housing Census 2011

In 2007, Statistics Estonia continued preparations for the 2011 Population and Housing Census. A questionnaire — involving the e-census as well as the computer-assisted census questionnaires — was prepared in cooperation with users and experts. In addition, a pilot survey for forming the population of buildings and dwellings was conducted (the possibilities of using the data contained in the State Register of Construction Works were evaluated among other things), the regions and goals of the 2009 pilot census were determined, the interviewing facilities (PDAs) and the internet connection *Kõu* were tested. The data collection vision, describing the data collection process and the relevant supporting information system, was prepared. Research Council was set up to consult Statistics Estonia in organising the Census. Three important topics were under discussion in 2007: the census questionnaire and organisation process, the use of registers in preparations for the next Census (incl. arrangement of address details). In addition, the budget of the Census project was drafted last year. The legislation-centred work was started and the proposal with respect to the European Parliament and the Council of Europe regulation "The Population and Housing Census" was discussed.

Plans for future

In the near future, new social surveys will be carried out (the Working Life Survey and the Time Use Survey), the Household Budget Survey will be made user-friendlier. The folk culture-centred data will again be published starting from 2008 in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture. Data concerning preprimary education will be taken from the administrative database, i.e. from the Estonian Education Information System *EHIS*, and the register-based form of data collection is intended to be used also in the field of culture. In 2008, three voluminous analytical publications ("*Lapsed. Children*", "*Ränne. 2000–2007. Migration*" and "*Pilk tööellu. A Glimpse into the Working Life*"), the pocket-sized reference books "*Sotsiaalelu arvudes. 2007. Social Life in Figures*" and "*Naised ja mehed. 2007. Women and Men*", and information sheets will be published. The Population and Housing Pilot Census will be conducted in ten regions in 2009. The goal thereof is to test the census methodology (incl. e-census), instruments and operational schemes.

WAGES AND SALARIES STATISTICS

The task of the Price and Wages Statistics Department is to produce price and wages statistics and to organise the international comparison programme of purchasing power parity.

Wages and salaries statistics excited lively interest

The results published in the publication "*Töötasu. 2005. Earnings*", issued in 2006, received a lively response. The Estonian Employers' Confederation expressed their keen interest by organising a series of seminars on the topic of wages and salaries, where also Statistics Estonia's employees were invited to take floor. The presentation dealt with the procedure and results of the wages and salaries statistics surveys, Estonia's data were compared with the data of other EU Member States, and the impact that the European labour market status has on Estonia was discussed.

The number of price indices is expected to increase

In 2007, Statistics Estonia continued to publish its traditional indices which peaked at the publication of 33 index-related news releases. Elaboration and implementation into production of the business services producer price indices continued. The accounting services, legal services and cleaning services producer price indices were produced on a regular basis. Preparations were made for price collection of the courier services producer price index. Besides that, preliminary work was carried out for implementation of the postal activities under universal service and the telecommunication services producer price indices. Work involving the introduction of dwellings acquisition price indices was started.

European Comparison Programme and International Comparison Programme

In 2007, the Council of Europe regulation was adopted which made participation in the European Comparison Programme compulsory for all EU Member States. At the same time, requirements to the submitted data have increased and participation in the programme has become considerably more time-consuming and labour-intensive. On 17 December 2007, the World Bank issued a news release regarding the 2005 preliminary results of the International Comparison Programme, this marked the end of work for Statistics Estonia in this comprehensive programme.

Plans for future

The future will bring about a huge amount of work to develop the business services producer price indices and the dwellings acquisition price indices into the condition satisfying the needs of Estonia and the international requests and to make them ready for publication. Cooperation between the Estonian Employers' Confederation and the Wages Statistics Service will evidently continue also in 2008. As the new Classification of Economic Activities will be launched, the time series of labour cost index must be recalculated. An intensive work at the improvement of processing programmes for time saving purposes will continue.

MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS

The Economic Statistics Department produces the national accounts and foreign trade statistics, and also statistics related to the environment, natural resources, forestry, fishery and hunting. Apart from that, the sustainable development indicators are formulated and the value added tax basis necessary for the administration of the EU own funds is calculated.

Shorter release deadline for GDP data

Starting from 2007, Statistics Estonia releases flash estimates of the quarterly economic growth on the 45th day after the end of accounting period (compared to 65 days theretofore). Release deadline for the provisional quarterly GDP was shortened as well, to the 70th day

instead of 90 days theretofore. The aim was to meet the needs of users of statistics and to comply with the respective EU requirement which prescribed to shorten the release deadlines of GDP. The difference between the flash estimate of economic growth and the preliminary quarterly GDP growth has been on average 0.2 percentage points during the last two years.

Indicators of tourism accounts in the database

The aim of tourism satellite accounts is to estimate the effect of tourism industry on the Estonian economy and to measure the main indicators of tourism accounts, like tourist's internal consumption, tourism output, gross value added by industry, net taxes on tourism products and the contribution of tourism to the Estonian economy's GDP. In 2007, the indicators of tourism satellite accounts for 2000–2002 were published in the Statistical Database.

Revision of the GDP accounting methods

Whereas, in 2006 Statistics Estonia revised the GDP accounting methods according to the system of Supply and Use Tables, and adjusted the GDP calculations as from the year 2000, the time series covering the years and quarters since 1995 (incl. regional indicators since 1996) were revised in 2007. The revision of GDP involved precise descriptions of the methodology and the use of supplementary administrative databases, and it concerned all GDP components. According to the updated methodology, the GDP at current prices rose by 0.3–2.1% and at constant prices by 0.4–1.6% for the revised years of 1995–1999 compared to the previously published data. The GDP annual growth at constant prices remained within -0.4 to +1.7 percentage points.

In 2007, Statistics Estonia elaborated the chain-linking method for constant price calculations and made test calculations. A single fixed base year has not been applied to this method (so far it was the year 2000). Every year preceding the accounting year serves as a base year. Thus, calculations are made at previous year prices like in the majority of EU Member States. Calculations at previous year prices and chain-linking thereafter enable to measure changes more accurately. The GDP time series calculated at previous year prices and chain-linked are released in 2008.

Foreign trade statistics survey of the burden related to Intrastat reports

In 2007, three years passed from the launch of Intrastat reports which are intended for collecting data from enterprises on the trade in goods between the EU Member States. As Intrastat is one of the most complicated statistical reports, Statistics Estonia, in cooperation with Eurostat, conducted a survey on the respondents' response burden. The survey embraced about 1,100 enterprises. 70% of respondents preferred to submit reports via electronic channels and the same share of enterprises confirmed that filling out of the Intrastat reports did not cause difficulties. Classification of goods and determination of net mass were the main topics posing problems. Eurostat was interested in the results of the survey, as this was one of the first similar surveys conducted in the New Member States, and the obtained information will be employed in the development of Intrastat system at the EU level.

Trends in environmental statistics

In order to enhance the availability of environmental statistics, Statistics Estonia has introduced and developed the Dashboard of Sustainability during recent years. Steps have also been taken to enhance the relevance of statistics. For example, in 2007, Statistics Estonia participated in the cooperation network of officials related to sustainable development. The suitability of indicators applied to measuring the goals of the Estonian sustainable development strategy was evaluated. In order to reduce the response burden of respondents, factors were worked out for assessing the generation of waste by small enterprises.

Wastewater is a topical subject

In 2007, Statistics Estonia started to work out the wastewater satellite accounts. The statistical inventory of wastewater treatment plants was carried out and the wastewater sources were observed, the essential wastewater parameters for all institutional sectors were assessed. Mapping of the formation and handling of wastewater sediment was started.

Pesticides were studied

In order to better assess the hazard of toxic chemical agents used in agriculture to the man and the environment, the use of pesticides was assessed at the level of active substances in 2007. This kind of statistics show more precisely the actual hazard to the man via food and water, and via direct exposure to the impact.

Plans for future

In December 2009, Statistics Estonia will publish the 2001–2006 Supply and Use Tables by the double deflation method (production and intermediate consumption are deflated separately), the calculations of which will be integrated into the system of national accounts. The priorities of foreign trade statistics for the coming years comprise the improvement of data quality and timely submission of data. In foreign trade statistics, the electronic submission of Intrastat reports will be promoted, data control will be improved, data collection will be enhanced. Statistics Estonia will try to make the submission of reports more convenient and to simplify the Intrastat system. In environmental statistics, emphasis will be laid on setting up satellite accounts. In Eurostat, already nearly 16 satellite accounts have been described.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND FINANCIAL SECTOR STATISTICS

The General Government and Financial Sector Statistics Department deals with the national and financial accounts of the general government sector and financial enterprises as well as with the calculation of government's debt and deficit.

Longer time series and more efficient production in public finance statistics

In 2007, in cooperation with economics statisticians, the general government and financial sector indicators for the years 1995–1999 were revised in national accounts. As a result, the time series of public finance statistics and financial sector statistics were significantly extended and they became comparable in terms of time. In addition, methodology was elaborated, for example, the indicators in the accounts of general government sector value added were worked out for measuring individual consumption expenditures at constant prices in the economic activities of education and health. In 2007, development of a production programme based on the state accountancy balance data of the Ministry of Finance's state treasury department was started in Statistics Estonia. This allows to process the financial data of state accounting entities considerably faster than before and to produce finance statistics on state agencies, local government agencies and state enterprises according to the European System of Accounts (ESA95) methodology.

Collection of financial intermediation statistics made easier

Data submission became easier than before for the enterprises active in financial intermediation. Starting from 2007, Statistics Estonia collects data from financial intermediators by monthly, quarterly and annual reports, instead of aggregate reports embracing several periods. There is a tendency to make a more clear-cut distinction between financial intermediation and the government sector finance. For instance, "Eesti statistika aastaraamat. 2007. Statistical Yearbook of Estonia" contained two separate chapters instead of the previously used general discussion of finance.

Plans for future

In 2008, Statistics Estonia intends to start publishing, in the Statistical Database, statistics about the enterprises active in the economic activity of insurance within the domain of financial intermediation. For the first time, data of the financial accounts for the whole economy will be published, thus information can be obtained about the financial transactions of all institutional sectors by financial instruments. As public finance statistics are monitored by international organisations and this allows to compare the work of governments, the definition of "general government sector" used by different countries should be unified. In methodological matters Statistics Estonia cooperates with *Eesti Pank* (Bank of Estonia) and the Ministry of Finance. The primary topic of the 2008 round-table talks will be the classification of Estonian health care institutions. Decisions made at the round-table meetings will have a direct impact on the debt level of the Estonian general government sector and on the statistics of consolidated budget balance.

ENTERPRISE STATISTICS

Enterprise statistics include industry, construction, energy, trade, real estate, service activities and transport statistics; science, technology and innovation statistics as well as information and communication technology statistics and statistics on the economic activities of enterprises.

Shorter deadlines for publication of statistics

As the needs of users are of primary importance (the diversity of information and a prompt access to it, the quality of statistical data), the data concerning industrial products were published 9 months after the end of accounting period (instead of the previous 17 months). The publication term of information technology statistics was also shortened considerably.

Databases are more user-friendly

In the public database available on the Statistics Estonia web site there are nearly 470 business-related tables. Work regarding the tables of the Statistical Database and Regional Development Database was continued in 2007. The topic of productivity which found a lively response from users, was presented in a better way in the table "Indicators of enterprises' productivity". The main indicators of business demography (births and deaths of enterprises) by economic activity and by county as well as the tables regarding the use of passenger cars in the domain of road transport were published for the first time. The short-term energy statistics were complemented by monthly data of the wind and hydroenergy production and of the exports and imports of electricity. In 2008, information on the prices of electricity and natural gas will be added to the database and there is a plan to start publication of the ratios characterising energy efficiency.

Interest in transport statistics increased

In 2007, the traditionally published enterprise-related publications were issued (e.g. *"Ettevõtete majandusnäitajad. 2005. Financial Statistics of Enterprises"*) and 53 news releases were compiled. In relation to the changes in the Estonian economy, the topic of transport was more widely reported in the press than in previous years. In October, the article *"Keeruline raudteestatistika"* (complicated railway statistics) was issued in the newspaper *Postimees*. In this article the railway statistics collection principles, possibilities of usage and interpretation thereof were explained to consumers. At the same time, a special news release *"Rail Transit Passing Estonia Decreases"* was published.

Use of administrative data increased

On 25 January 2007, the Government approved the Development Plan 2007–2013 for Enhancing the Use of Biomass and Bioenergy. In connection with that, new types of biomass fuel were added to survey forms, in order to ensure necessary data for analysing bioenergy statistics. In the conditions of rapid economic growth in Estonia, expansion of the EU and changes in the world market business structure, statistics need to be up-to-date, but a greater need for data must not bring along an increase in the data submission burden of respondents. The already collected data and administrative data sources should be employed in the production of indicators (in 2007, in case of 12 surveys out of the total number of 68 statistics were produced on the basis of administrative data).

Railway undertakings were exempted from the obligation to submit the report *"Raudtee ja veeremi olem ning liiklusõnnetused"* (railway infrastructure and registered rail vehicles, and rail traffic accidents) as Statistics Estonia received the data from the Railway Traffic Register administered by the Estonian Railway Inspectorate. Statistics Estonia continued work with the Tax and Customs Board for the implementation of taxation data. Apart from that, cooperation with the Estonian Land Board was continued with the aim to produce real estate statistics on the basis of the real estate transactions database of the Estonian Land Board. Due to that, notaries will be exempted from the obligation to present the Real Estate Report starting from 2008. The annual reports submitted to the Centre of Registers and Information Systems (*RIK*) are known as a bulky source of data in annual enterprise statistics. One of the results of the concluded cooperation agreement is conversion by *RIK* of the cash flow reports data into the electronically processed format. This allows to give up asking these data by statistical surveys in future.

Results of the transport statistics project

In the middle of 2007, a pilot project, the aim of which was to improve the quality and dissemination of road transport statistics and to improve data processing and analysis, came to an end. As a result of the project, quality of the Freight Carried by Road Survey improved considerably and the time spent on the processing of data decreased significantly. Filling of the report became easier for respondents. The survey sample set-up principles were changed, this allows to further enhance the quality of data without increasing the number of respondents. The transport statistics pilot project was also approved by Eurostat. New tables worked out in the course of the project will be made available in the Statistical Database in 2008.

Development of the industry-related statistics

In 2007, the final analysis of the two-year project dealing with industrial statistics was prepared. The aim of it was to analyse the possibility of using different data sources for calculating indicators regarding the breakdown of the monthly industrial export turnover into the euro zone and non-euro zone sections. Upon accession to the euro zone, Estonia should be ready to publish these data. Two initial databases were employed in the project: data of monthly industrial statistics and data of foreign trade statistics. The results revealed that a lot of indices of industries, calculated on the basis of two data sources, were in a very strong correlation. Thus, it can be concluded that in case of these indicators it would be possible to use the data of foreign trade statistics, as this would reduce the data load of enterprises to some extent. At the same time there appeared to be industries in case of which the link was very weak. Data comparison will be continued despite the end of project, because a two-year period is too short for analysing time series.

Enterprises' attitude to innovation was studied

In 2007, Estonia participated in the Community Innovation Survey (CIS) for the third time. The survey focused on the enterprises' innovation-related activity during the years 2004–2006. The attitude of enterprises to the innovation survey has constantly improved — this is proved by the facts that the proportion of non-responding enterprises has decreased and the quality of filling in the report forms has improved. The effort of statisticians has also played role in it as the statisticians have, when communicating with respondents, developed the respondents' awareness of the content and measurability of innovation process.

Work at the new version of EMTAK

In 2007, the Enterprise Statistics Department implemented a new version of the Estonian Classification of Economic Activities (*EMTAK*). It was developed in spring in cooperation with *RIK*. In summer, a survey of the economic units' statistical register was conducted,

in the course of which the economic activities of nearly 15,000 economic units were studied. The remaining 124,000 economic units were recoded either according to automatic rules or by making use of available information sources (earlier submitted statistical reports, the annual reports of economic units, the information published on the web, etc.)

Plans for future

An essential key topic for 2008 is the new version of Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE) which will take effect and be applied in the EU. Proceeding from that the production of enterprise statistics must be rearranged and time series must be recalculated in order to ensure comparability of data. Work regarding the enterprise groups will be continued. The production of Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS) is intended to be introduced by 2009 to inform users of the share of foreign capital (incl. by countries) in the Estonian economy as a whole and by economic activities.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

The Agricultural Statistics Department produces agricultural statistics, organises censuses and keeps the databases of agricultural holdings.

Data subject to publication are getting more precise

In 2007 the publication "*Põllumajandus. 2006. Agriculture*" was issued. For the first time, the data regarding the agricultural production, intermediate consumption and value added of agricultural economic accounts at the corresponding year and previous year basic prices were presented in this publication and in the Statistical Database. Agricultural statistics can also be found in other publications (e.g. "*Ettevõtete majandusnäitajad. 2005. Financial Statistics of Enterprises*") and in pocket-sized reference books. The data of agricultural production statistics available in the Statistical Database were started to be published by counties. So far, the data of 2006 are available, in 2008 publication of longer time series will be continued.

The latest Farm Structure Survey before Agricultural Census 2010

In the summer 2007, Statistics Estonia conducted the most recent sample-based Farm Structure Survey. This time, the panel of topics included management of holdings, ownership and lease relations, crop and livestock farming, labour force of holdings and other gainful activities. Unlike the other agricultural statistical surveys, the Farm Structure Survey reveals the total number of Estonian agricultural holdings and their structure by different indicators (incl. type of farming and economic size). The data of Farm Structure Survey 2007 will be published in the Statistical Database on 30 June 2008.

Estonia joined the European Survey on Plantations of Fruit Trees

In 2007, Statistics Estonia conducted, in combination with the Farm Structure Survey, for the first time, the Survey on Plantations of Fruit Trees, organised by the EU countries on the basis of common methodology every five years since 1972. Data are collected about the most important kinds of fruit trees in every country, and about the holdings that produce fruits for sale. The Estonian Survey on Plantations of Fruit Trees included only apple orchards, whereas data were collected regarding the area, age structure as well as kinds of apple trees. Data with respect to the Survey on Plantations of Fruit Trees 2007 will also be published in 2008.

Preliminary work to reduce the load of respondents

Last year, preparations were made to start producing, from 2008, provisional statistics of the crop and livestock farming on the basis of administrative data. In the same way, the use of administrative data sources has constantly been extended when updating the database of agricultural holdings. This has improved the quality of agricultural statistics and attracted the attention of other EU countries, too.

Plans for future

In 2007, Statistics Estonia actively participated in drawing up the EU regulations, which will determine the composition and definitions of the Agricultural Census 2010 data. In 2010, data regarding only the operating agricultural holdings will be collected. In addition, a totally new Survey on Agricultural Production Methods will be conducted. There is a plan to start collecting data, regarding the sown area of agricultural crops and the number of farm animals, from the registers administered by the Estonian Agricultural Registers and Information Board. Household plots will not be included in Agricultural Census 2010, because these data will be asked in the framework of Population Census 2011.

Ms Annika Laidra, Leading Statistician in Financial Accounting



Ms Kaia Oras, Head of Environment Statistics Service



451 objects in total



Mr Aavo Heinlo, Principal Analyst in Annual Statistics of Entrepreneurship

Mr Ivar Himma, Leading Statistician in Agricultural Statistics

REGIONAL STATISTICS

Regional Development Database was improved

Regional statistics produced by Statistics Estonia has mainly been published in the Regional Development Database. In 2007, the performance of database was analysed, in order to arrange data in a better way and make them more user-friendly in future (incl. a larger volume of the database and a better quality of metadata).

New topics in publications

The publication "*Maakonnad arvudes. 2002–2006. Counties in Figures*" provided a traditional overview of the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy of Estonia. In addition, a more in-depth overview was presented on the regional development of one field of life. This time, the topic of construction activities was in focus. An in-depth handling of one Estonian county was brought in the publication as a new topic: the development of Viljandi county was handled from the perspective of the county's vision conference and the county plan. For the first time, the regional development of one neighbour country, Lithuania, was analysed in the publication. The publication is complemented by a CD-ROM containing a lot of data on counties, thematic maps produced by Statistics Estonia and the archive of analytical overviews. Three of the four analytical articles in the publication "*Linnad ja vallad arvudes. 2007. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures*" were focused on new topics: investments and financial capability of local governments, males and females on the labour market and their wages and salaries, business demography in local government units. Despite the complexity of the topic, Statistics Estonia has tried, within its bounds of possibility, to provide the users with migration-related information, too. The article, issued in 2007, focused on the migration of older population.

Comparison of countries is also considered regional statistics

Although, in Estonia we mean by the term 'region', first and foremost, a county or a local government unit, Estonia can be looked upon as a region in Europe. Making the data about different countries available has become one of the tasks for the statisticians dealing with regional statistics. A chapter focusing on the comparison of countries will be compiled for the Statistical Yearbook of Estonia, and the data about Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia at the classification NUTS 3 level are presented on the CD-ROM added to the publication "*Maakonnad arvudes. 2002–2006. Counties in Figures*".

Meetings with users of statistics are continuously important

Meetings with the users of regional statistics provide an opportunity to introduce regional statistics and to receive feedback on the work done so far. In 2007, regional statistics were introduced to county governors, to the local governments' leaders and public officials of Valga and Viljandi counties. A presentation was made in the framework of the Cities and Municipalities Days and lectures were held at Suuremõisa Technical School.

Methodological problems

A specific problem of regional statistics is the small size of surveyed objects, which makes application of statistical methodologies difficult. Last year, K. Sõstra, Head of Methodology Department, defended the Doctor's degree at the University of Tartu in the field of small regions' statistical analysis. This gives us hope that Statistics Estonia will be able to apply more update methodology than before in studying the regional development of Estonia.

Plans for future

One of the key topics of the new strategy plan is the development of regional statistics. There is a plan to call the Regional Statistics Council and to work out a new regional statistics development plan.

DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS

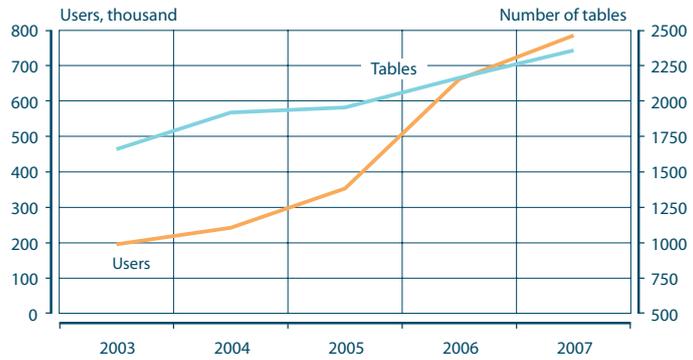
The website is gaining popularity

The number of visits to the Statistics Estonia website has increased year by year. The users of database as well as the respondents have contributed to this trend. In 2007, the number of website visits amounted to approximately 560,000 (half a million in 2006) and the website was clicked on for more than 14 million times (4.2 million in 2006). The statistical database and the report forms were viewed most often.

Users prefer to search for statistics in the database

The goal of Statistics Estonia is to make all the statistics subject to publication available to users in the Statistical Database. Database can be accessed through Statistics Estonia's website since 2001. The number of tables published there as well as the number of users have grown year by year. At the end of 2006 the database contained over 2,100 tables, but in 2007 the relevant figure exceeded 2,300. Users are ever more getting used to seeking information from the database. In some months of 2007, the number of visits to the database exceeded 80,000 cases (over 70,000 cases in 2006). User trainings surely play an important role in it.

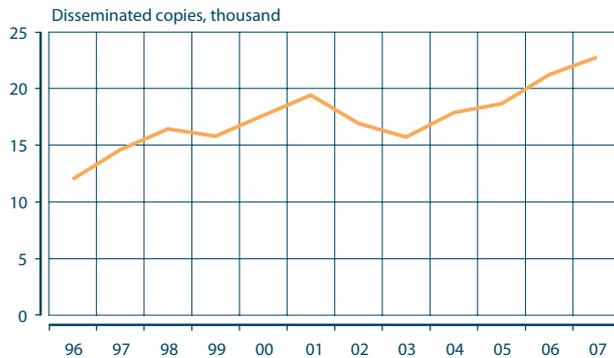
Tables and users of Statistical Database, 2003–2007



The demand for statistical publications is still high

Although users increasingly turn to the database, the dissemination of statistical publications shows a growing trend, too. If a user needs a quick overview of any domain, he/she prefers an analytical publication. Therefore, Statistics Estonia has steadily increased the importance of analytical output. In 2007, Statistics Estonia issued 30 statistical publications (34 in 2006) — five monthly and quarterly bulletins, 19 yearbooks and six single publications. Although the number of printed publications decreased compared to the previous year, the circulation numbers have grown due to the increased share of analyses. More than 22,000 copies of publications were disseminated as printed matter, on CD-ROM and by e-mail (over 21,000 in 2006).

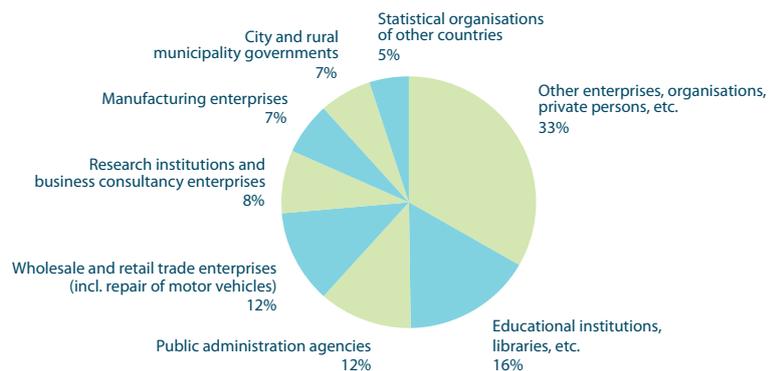
Dissemination of publications, 1996–2007^a



^a Excl. copies used at media events, fairs, and in advertising campaigns and in the work of Statistics Estonia, etc. In 2001, the public database was taken into use. In 2003, most of the monthly and quarterly publications were made electronically available.

87% of subscribers to statistical publications were from Estonia and 13% from abroad (in 2006 respectively 85% and 15%). In 2007, there were 412 new additional subscribers (377 in 2006) — most of them (76%) were enterprises, associations, foundations, etc. In 2007, too, enterprises formed more than a half of the total number of subscribers to publications.

Subscribers to statistical publications, 2007



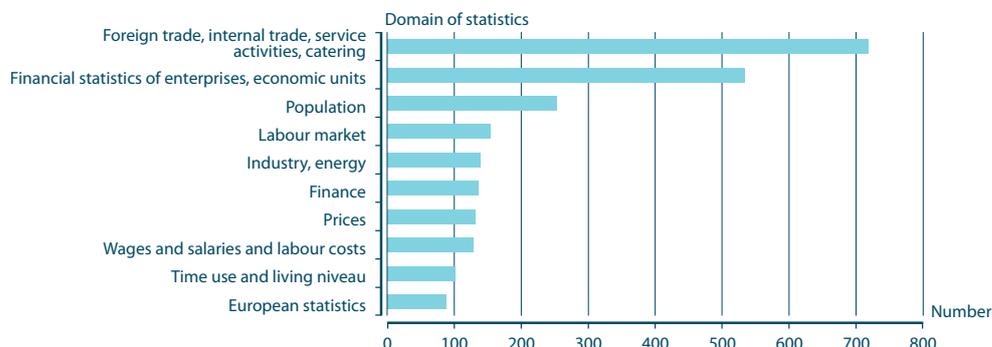
The most disseminated publication was the pocket-sized reference book “Minifacts about Estonia 2007” (incl. also in Russian, German and French). Three more pocket-sized reference books (“Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania in Figures 2007”, “Keskcond arvudes. 2006. Environment in Figures” and “Kultuur arvudes. 2006. Culture in Figures”) and “Eesti statistika aastaraamat. 2007. Statistical Yearbook of Estonia” were among the first top five publications in 2007.

Customers can order information

By requests for information it is possible to order the already published statistics and consultations for finding information on the Statistics Estonia and Eurostat websites. By placing an

order it is possible to get more detailed statistical information than published in publications and in the Statistical Database. In 2007, Statistics Estonia satisfied nearly 2,200 orders and requests for information (about 5% less than a year ago). Nearly one third of submitted requests and orders for information were related to foreign trade. In 2007, Statistics Estonia satisfied over 1,200 requests for information, which makes nearly three fourths more than a year ago. The statistical information telephone No. +372 625 9300 received about 4,000 calls, which was similar to the previous year.

Orders and requests for information, 2007

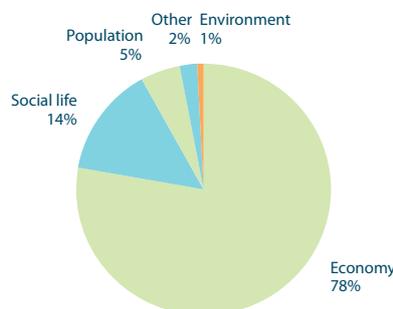


Media channels showed great interest in official statistics

In 2007, Statistics Estonia and the official statistics were reflected via media channels on more than 3,000 occasions. On average nine media coverages based on official statistics or dealing with this topic were published per day. Compared to the previous year, the number of media reflections increased nearly twofold — the surge was caused by the changed methodology of media monitoring. From January to April, Statistics Estonia itself conducted the media monitoring of 12 media channels, in May Statistics Estonia started cooperation with a monitoring company covering over 120 channels. During the recent years, online news have experienced a triumph — this trend is also reflected in the mediation of official statistics. In 2007, online news constituted the main mediation channel of official statistics encompassing for about a half of the total number of media reflections. National and local newspapers followed.

On the basis of media reflections, economy-related statistics turned out to be the most popular among the four main domains of official statistics, accounting for nearly 80% of the total number of media reflections.

Media reflections by main domains of statistics, 2007



The media reflected all news releases

In 2007, Statistics Estonia published 144 news releases (137 in 2006) — on average 12 news releases per month. The percentage of news releases reflected in the media was even 100% in 2007. The extended coverage of channels as well as the growth in the share of online news have contributed to the trend. The media monitoring over several years indicates that news releases form over a half of all official statistics-related media reflections — 53% in 2007 (59% in 2006).

News releases, 1995–2007



Ms Elo Sagor, Personnel Specialist



Ms Maia Ennok, Head of Database Services Service



Mr Mihkel Servinski, Principal Analyst in Regional Statistics



Ms Ene-Margit Tiit, Senior Methodologist

451 objects in total

GEO-REFERENCED STATISTICS

Estonia is a founding member of the European Geostatistic Forum

The Estonian official producers of statistics acknowledge an increasing need of the society for the location-based statistics as well as the intention to apply geostatistical methodology to the production of statistics and to develop geographical information systems. In the autumn 2007, the European Geostatistic Forum was established, the aim of which is to become the Centre of Excellence and to enhance the exchange of geostatistical know-how and experience among the European official producers of statistics. Statistics Estonia was one of the founding members. In 2008, the geographical information system and geostatistics development plan of Statistics Estonia will be prepared, in order to facilitate data collection, reduce the burden of respondents, conduct spatial analyses of statistical phenomena, simplify the interoperability of administrative data and increase the dissemination of statistics.

For providing a comprehensive view of statistics to users, the almost 90-year-old tradition to present statistics in the form of thematic maps was continued. The plan for the coming years is to develop the interactive presentation of thematic maps on the Statistics Estonia web site.

Digital grid-based population statistics based on Population and Housing Census results

Even until recently the information about the location of population that the Estonian researchers, regional planning specialists, compilers of development plans, the rescue board and emergency medical care, private enterprises, etc. used was based on administrative units. Such information provides e.g. the population number of Mikitamäe municipality, but it is not sufficient for taking action in crisis, for a detailed planning of the state infrastructure development, or for finding the optimum site for a new commercial undertaking. Consumers increasingly need more detailed population statistics, which, in addition to tables, would include location-related information and could be processed by a widespread geographical information software. Therefore, Statistics Estonia develops digital grid-based population statistics products, based on the geo-referenced Population and Housing Census results. The results of the Population and Housing Census 2000 have been presented in the form of identical territorial units, i.e. grids (1 x 1 km; 500 x 500 m), which facilitate the production of detailed statistics independent of administrative borders and in compliance with the Personal Data Protection Act. All Census results (population composition by sex and age, ethnic nationality, command of languages, socio-economic indicators) have been geo-referenced (related to the geographical coordinates of a location). In 2008, county-focused products will be launched and metadata will be prepared — this will further simplify the usage of detailed population statistics related to the geo-referenced information.

Furthermore, a general action plan was prepared in 2007 to develop the geographical information systems for Population and Housing Census 2011, in order to ensure the necessary geographical data for the production of Census maps and to guarantee the geo-reference of Census results. For this purpose, Statistics Estonia effectively cooperated with the official producer of spatial data — the national mapping agency Estonian Land Board.

Better availability of geostatistics in Europe

In 2007, the INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community) Directive of the EU took effect. The aim of this directive is to provide the legal basis and general rules for creating the infrastructure of spatial data, in order to simplify the interoperability and availability of metadata in the European Community. In 2007, Statistics Estonia had effective co-operation with the geostatisticians of other countries, in order to acknowledge, on common grounds, the interests of the users of statistics for drawing up the INSPIRE implementation rules. In 2008, Statistics Estonia is going to start preparations for guaranteeing data compliance with the INSPIRE Directive implementation rules.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The task of Information Technology Department is to secure the preparation and implementation of information technology strategy, the functioning and development of Statistics Estonia's information systems. Besides that, the department deals with the maintenance of databases in terms of IT, maintenance of standard software, maintenance and development of special software, instruction of users, organisation of trainings and information security. Apart from electronic data collection (eSTAT for enterprises, laptops for interviewers and use of administrative databases), the Information Technology Department focused on electronic dissemination, on the development of the data processing and analysing software and customer management system, as well as on information security.

Electronic dissemination improved

In 2007, the structure and functionality of Statistics Estonia's renewed web site were in the preparation phase. Statistical Database, which can be accessed from the web site, has become the primary channel for dissemination of statistics during a couple of recent years. A goal of publishing statistics has been to provide users with as much additional information as possible. For this purpose the Detailed Information heading was added to the tables of Statistical Database, and the information system for metadata publication was created. The release calendars' information system was completed in 2007. It was integrated, together with the Statistical Database and the metadata information system, into Statistics Estonia's new web site. The structure of the new web site is based on statistical domains, hence the new web site should be more understandable for users.

The data processing and analysing software was developed

As the data processing software has been, in general, survey- or study-based so far, a goal of the Information Technology Department during recent years has been to harmonise software. For example, a new information system of vital events was created in 2005. In 2007, new software was implemented for monitoring and amending the data of foreign trade statistics. The software called PIA was designed by AS Microlink in cooperation with Statistics Estonia's specialists. PIA enables a more effective monitoring and amendment of Intrastat reports and customs declarations. This enhances the quality of statistics and a respondent receives a faster feedback on the errors found in the report. Apart from that, special software for analysing and releasing the foreign trade statistics related data was implemented in 2007. The application, called AVA, was developed by AS Resta and Net Group OÜ. In addition, the strategic analysis of statistical information system was carried out in 2007 for the purpose of mapping the main and support processes of Statistics Estonia and for compiling a general overview of information system. On the basis of this analysis, development of a totally new unified data processing information system UNISTAT was started. Employment of the statistical analysis software has undergone a great change during recent years. In 2003, the employment of SPSS and SAS software applications for data analysing purposes was possible for a small number of statisticians and analysts only, but today all those who wish can make use of it, and the users of both software applications have passed comprehensive training.

Kunde and Korraldaja assist in planning

Good data collection and processing information systems are not sufficient for efficient production of statistics. Apart from this, a planning system is needed which could incorporate the needs of customers, possibilities of respondents and available resources. On the basis of this information, a production plan can be developed which will secure the best possible solution. Pursuing to achieve a more precise planning and acknowledgement of the needs of customers, development of the customer management system *Kunde* (Customer), created in 2006, was continued. The information related to the customers' use of statistics is registered in *Kunde*. The latest renewal encompasses the customers' data analysing module, based on the SAS software, which was taken into use at the end of 2007. It enables to register contacts and to use the results of analysis in planning marketing and product development. In order to produce statistics meeting the requirements of customers, one should proceed from an efficient planning system, which would enable a better monitoring of Statistics Estonia's activities and release dates. To simplify this time-consuming process, the development of software *Korraldaja* (Organiser), which does not meet all needs yet, was continued in 2007.

Security of data guaranteed

Development in the field of data security has been fast and Statistics Estonia has been efficient in order to guarantee the updated level of information systems, information security measures as well as the awareness of employees. All information systems processing sensitive personal data, and the relevant versions, have been registered at the Data Protection Inspectorate in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Act. Personal data are processed in a so-called coded (with no possibility of direct identification) form, and security audits are conducted on a regular basis, in the course of which adherence to the requirements of security rules and good data processing practice is monitored. Employees are provided with a regular training in the field of information security. The information security documentation is being brought into compliance with international standards on a regular basis.

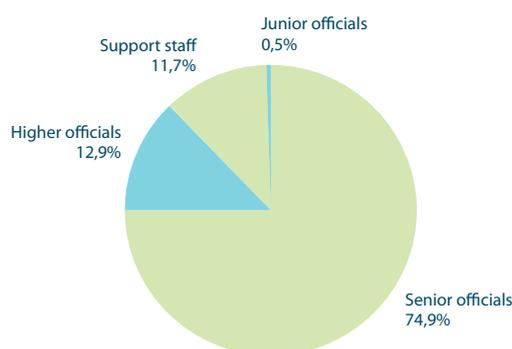
EMPLOYEES

Number of employees and work load

In 2007, on average 451 officials worked for Statistics Estonia: 50 higher officials, 291 senior officials, 6 junior officials and 104 support staff officials (price registrators and interviewers). Compared to 2006, the average number of Statistics Estonia employees rose by 20 officials. This was mainly conditioned by the employment of interviewers and some junior officials on temporary basis in the summer of 2007 for conducting the Farm Structure Survey.

The majority of Statistics Estonia's employees worked full-time in 2007, whereas the interviewers and price registrators worked mostly part-time. In 2007, the structure of Statistics Estonia comprised 394.5 staff positions (51 for higher officials, 295.5 for senior officials, 2 for junior officials and 46 for support staff officials), covered on average by 417 officials during the year. The positions were divided between 12 departments and 24 services. For years the largest departments have been the Data Collection Department with its three services comprising 49 positions for officials and 30 for interviewers, and the Enterprise Statistics Department with its four services comprising 48 positions of officials.

Distribution of staff positions, 2007



Structural changes

In 2007 the structure of Statistics Estonia was changed for three times: on 1 January, 1 June and 1 September 2007. Instead of the Financial Planning and Administration Department, the General Department with 25 positions was set up to take charge of the support functions of the organisation (except personnel management). Besides that, the previous Social Statistics Department and Population Statistics Department were integrated into the Population and Social Statistics Department with 41.5 staff positions. Due to the changes undertaken at the beginning of the year, the number of staff positions in Statistics Estonia increased by five positions compared to 2006. In 2007 also minor rearrangements were done. For example, the nature of work of some positions changed and hence, the official titles were changed, for the purpose of a better organisation of work processes some positions were transferred from one unit to another, some positions were cut or created. Thereby the number of staff positions and division of positions by groups of officials remained the same in 2007.

Labour turnover increased steeply

Unfortunately, because of the unavailability of suitable candidates, a lot of recruitment competitions failed (61, i.e. approximately 72%, of the 85 announced competitions failed) in 2007 and due to the increased labour turnover, about 6–7% of staff positions are constantly vacant. Caused by rapid changes on the Estonian wage and labour market and by the low level of wages and salaries in Statistics Estonia, a rapid increase in the labour outflow could not be stopped in 2007. The turnover increased in all groups of officials.

Labour turnover^a, 2003–2007 (percentage)

Group of officials	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Higher officials	3,6	11,0	11,0	2,4	12,0
Senior officials	5,8	11,3	8,0	12,9	16,0
Junior officials	0,0	33,0	11,0	0,0	0,0
Support staff officials	3,9	8,0	0,0	13,6	25,6
Non-staff interviewers	5,2	19,0	18,0	9,1	55,6
Other non-staff officials	5,2	12,6	10,3	11,7	37,5
Total turnover	5,2	12,6	10,3	11,7	19,9
Turnover excl. non-staff officials	... ^b	... ^b	... ^b	... ^b	15,9

^aThe number of persons who have resigned from the service is divided by the average number of employees and multiplied by 100. Only the persons who have resigned from the service on their own initiative and those who have been dismissed (e.g. released from the service due to age) are included; the employees who have resigned from the service by agreement of the parties, because of expiry of agreement, unsatisfactory results of the probationary period and unsuitability for office are not included in the table.

^bData not available or uncertain for publication.

The rearrangement of wage system continued

In order to distribute the scarce salary fund as fairly as possible, the analysis and rearrangement of wages and salaries system was started in Statistics Estonia already in 2006. The evaluation of positions and revision of remuneration principles, incl. the preparation and establishment of the salary grades and the corresponding levels of salaries and wages, continued in 2007. The wages and salaries rearrangement project was completed in December 2006 by confirming the remuneration principles for the Statistics Estonia officials. Nevertheless, already at the beginning of 2007 it was possible to use the preliminary results of the evaluation of positions in the comparison of Statistics Estonia's levels of wages and salaries with the median level of the public service's wages and salaries gained due to the Salary Survey conducted by Fontes, in order to analyse the fairness of the levels of wages and salaries in different units within Statistics Estonia. On the basis of analyses, the small 2007 pay rise fund was distributed between the departments of Statistics Estonia, and two rearrangements of the levels of wages and salaries were carried out.

At the beginning of 2007, the wages and salaries of employees were raised on average 13%, but the adjusted wages and salaries remained so low that the outflow of specialists did not stop. By the beginning of the year it was clear that the wages and salaries offered by Statistics Estonia will remain significantly below the wages and salaries' market level also in 2007^a — on the basis of information collected during the interviews given by resigned employees, this was the main reason why the outflow of experienced statistics specialists gained ground in the first quarter of 2007. Too large work load was additionally pointed out as one of the reasons. The aim of the wages and salaries adjustment carried out as of 1 July was to raise the very low wages and salaries of officials to the lowest level of salary grades. This time it was possible to raise the wages and salaries of employees about 3% and the wages and salaries of 45% of employees were revised. The wages and salaries of support staff were not amended, thus the adjustment of wages and salaries concerned only about 30% of all Statistics Estonia employees. After the twofold rise of wages and salaries, the average wages and salaries of Statistics Estonia remained 20% below the public service's median level of salaries set out in the Salary Survey 2006 conducted by Fontes.

Other incentives

In the conditions of a scarce salary fund, stress was laid on non-material incentives in 2007 as well. As before, attention was paid to the sporting possibilities and health of Statistics Estonia's employees. From May to September all officials of Statistics Estonia had a thorough medical examination, the sporting incentives offered by Statistics Estonia^b became more and more popular^b. Company events have become a tradition. The Winter Sports Day, organised by the Social Statistics Department in March 2007, was held for a second successive year. On this Winter Sports Day, held in Kõrvemaa, several competitions, hikes for grown-ups and children as well as the feast of Shrove buns were on the programme. The Price and Wages Statistics Department organised the Summer Days at Roosta, providing a number of excursions and hikes full of information and activities, and all employees of Statistics Estonia with their families were expected to attend. The year 2007 ended with an event which called forth a very positive response — a Christmas party at the restaurant *Merineitsi* organised this time by the Enterprise Statistics Department.

Training of employees as important as before

In training activities, attention was first and foremost paid to the development of cooperation and communication skills in 2007. The greatest cooperation training "Implementation of management principles and value-focused team work at Statistics Estonia" embraced 13 teams and 215 employees. To carry out this training, Statistics Estonia applied for training-targeted co-financing from the European Social Fund. The aim of this training was to enhance the performance and management quality through acknowledged development of organisational culture and cooperation. The active type of training conducted in the forests of Kõrvemaa was intended to explain the management principles to employees from the point of view of day-to-day work. The interviewers of Statistics Estonia passed the training "The Magic Power of Communication in Interviews with Clients". The training concentrated on communication techniques that the interviewers constantly need in their everyday work — how to be a good listener, forward self-notices, impose oneself and cope with a client's no-response. Video-exercises helped to perceive the behavioural patterns and opportunities for future application.

^a According to the 2006 Salary Survey of Fontes, the wages and salaries of public sector (incl. ministries, government agencies, State Chancellery, Chancellery of the *Riigikogu* and city governments) were about 29% higher than the Statistics Estonia's average wages and salaries adjusted in July 2007. According to the Survey by Fontes, the basic wages of public service rose from the summer 2006 to the summer 2007 on average 18% and the full salaries and wages 12%. According to the Salary Survey conducted by Fontes in the summer 2007, the median salary level of the public sector was already about 42% higher than the average Statistics Estonia's salary level at the end of 2007.

^b Officials can go in for sports under favourable conditions in the sports club of Idakeskus in Tallinn. Besides that, sporting possibilities under favourable conditions are offered all over Estonia in cooperation with Fosdec Sportfit OÜ with recreational sport tickets as valid means of payment (www.sportfit.ee).

Beside cooperation and communication competence, Statistics Estonia attributed importance to the development of the spheres related to its primary activity. Trainings by Professor Emeritus Ene-Margit Tiit, which had won popularity during recent years were continued: the statistics base course and "Time Series and Imputation". Two exciting tailored courses (economic analysis and accounting) where topics were discussed from the production of statistics perspective — were conducted for the Enterprise Statistics Department. Apart from that, the employees of Statistics Estonia participated in several professional courses and seminars as well as in conferences held by professional associations (e.g. conferences of tourism and organic farming) which offered a good opportunity for acquisition of knowledge and experience and for meeting specialists in one's own field of activity.

In 2007, Statistics Estonia also continued trainings in the field of management. This year, the primary attention was focused on activities related to quality and strategic management. The management of Statistics Estonia met with T. Tammaru, Member of Management Board of the Estonian Association for Quality, who contributed to Statistics Estonia's application for the Management Quality Award base level recognition "*Edasipürgiv organisatsioon*" (Aspiring Organisation) as well as to the initiation of seminars of the new strategic period.

The employees of Statistics Estonia attended trainings in a dozen of destinations outside Estonia, and almost every 14th employee regarding all departments could participate in appropriate courses / summer schools.

Plans for 2008 include the development of organisational culture, support for further development of the management. Trainings related to the primary activity of Statistics Estonia will for sure be of primary importance, too.

FINANCING

Statistics Estonia's operating expenses and IT-investments, 2003–2007 (thousand kroons)

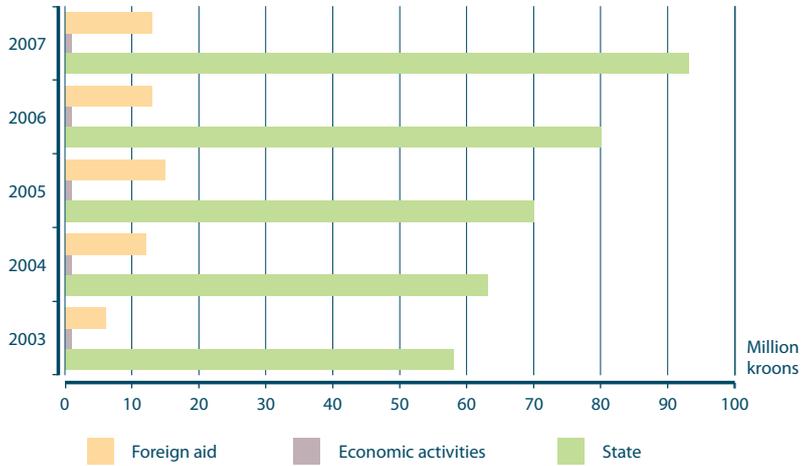
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	65 242,5	75 910,7	85 861,5	93 921,9	106 971,2
operating expenses	64 009,1	74 192,4	85 861,5	90 521,3	103 302,4
IT-investments	1 233,4	1 718,3	0,0	3 400,6	3 668,8
Expenditure from the state revenue	58 123,6	62 536,5	69 843,4	80 145,1	92 507,2
operating expenses	56 890,2	62 378,9	69 843,4	76 744,5	88 838,4
personnel costs	40 883,2	42 976,9	50 413,8	56 695,7	69 103,1
administration costs	16 007,0	19 402,0	19 429,6	20 048,8	19 735,3
IT-investments	1 233,4	157,6	0,0	3 400,6	3 668,8
Expenditure from the reve- nue of economic activities	945,4	883,2	944,0	911,4	1 067,7
operating expenses	945,4	883,2	944,0	911,4	1 067,7
personnel costs	293,5	360,3	186,5	597,2	442,0
administration costs	651,9	522,9	757,5	314,2	625,7
Expenditure from EU subsidies	6 173,5	12 491,0	15 074,1	12 865,4	13 397,3
operating expenses	6 173,5	10 930,3	15 074,1	12 865,4	13 396,3
personnel costs	1 984,8	2 758,3	8 272,4	6 534,2	9 446,4
administration costs	4 188,7	8 172,0	6 801,7	6 331,2	3 949,9
IT-investments	0,0	1 560,7	0,0	0,0	0,0

In 2007, the operating expenses of Statistics Estonia accounted for nearly 107 million kroons — compared to the previous year, the expenses increased by 13 million kroons or 13.8%. Expenditure from the state revenue was nearly 93 million kroons which is 13 million kroons or 16.3% larger compared to the previous year. Expenditure from the revenue of economic activities was in the amount of 1 million kroons and the expenditure from foreign aid or from the EU subsidies remained at the same level as a year ago — 13 million kroons.

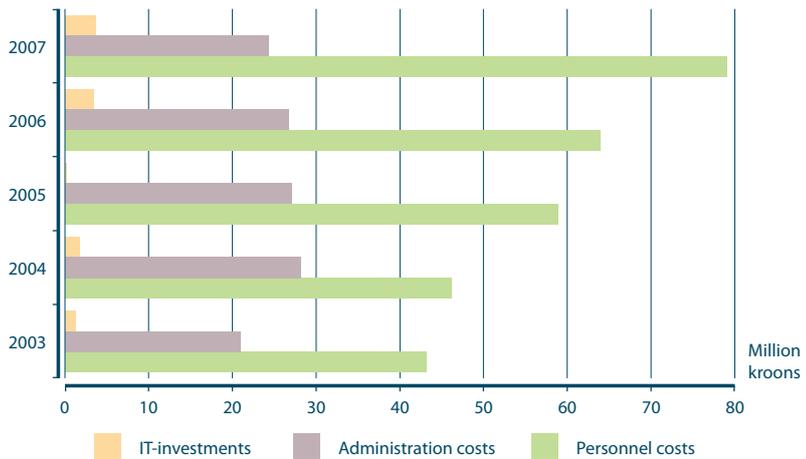
The personnel costs accounted for 79 million kroons or 76%, and the administration costs 25 million kroons or 24% of the 2007 operating expenses. Compared to the previous year, personnel costs increased by 15 million kroons or 23.4% and, compared to 2005 — by 20 million or 33.9%. The increase in the personnel costs was conditioned by the need to ensure a competitive salary to Statistics Estonia’s employees in the labour market. For that purpose the salary adjustment, started in 2005, was continued. Administration costs have remained at the same level for four years, although the administration costs related to foreign aid projects decreased in 2007.

In 2007, 1.8 million kroons of the IT-investments were used for improving the customer management system; 1.9 million kroons for developing the meta-web, eSTAT (the web-based environment for data submission) and UNISTAT (the unified data processing software).

Sources of financing, 2003–2007



Expenses, 2003–2007



MAIN EVENTS 2007

Organisation

- Director General of Eurostat H. Carré, and his Deputy M. Bohatà visited Statistics Estonia.
- Estonian Association for Quality awarded Statistics Estonia the recognition "*Edasipürgiv organisatsioon*" (Aspiring Organisation) and the equivalent European Foundation of Quality Management (EFQM) certificate "Committed to Excellence".
- Statistics Estonia's strategy period 2003–2007 ended.
- The General Department was set up on the basis of the Financial Planning and Administration Department, the Social Statistics and Population Statistics Departments were integrated into the Population and Social Statistics Department.
- The project regarding the evaluation of positions and revision of remuneration principles, which started in 2006, was completed.
- The dissemination policy of Statistics Estonia was updated.
- A large-scale cooperation training Implementation of Management Principles and Value-Focused Team Work at Statistics Estonia, embracing 13 teams and 215 employees, was organised.
- The European Geostatistic Forum was set up, Statistics Estonia was one of the founding members thereof.
- Transition Facility 2004, a capacious international project of Statistics Estonia, involving 19 subprojects related to statistical development, was finished.
- The customer management system *Kunde*, the document management system *Postipoiss*, and *Korraldaja* which supports the planning-related work of Statistics Estonia, were the further developed software programmes.

Production of statistics

- Statistics Estonia started to release flash estimates of the quarterly economic growth on the 45th day after the end of accounting period (compared to 65 days theretofore). Release deadline for the provisional quarterly GDP was shortened as well — to the 70th day instead of 90 days theretofore.
- Release deadline for the data concerning industrial products was shortened to 9 months after the end of accounting period (compared to 17 months theretofore). Release deadline for the information technology statistics was shortened considerably, too.
- Preparations targeted at giving up the issue of paper-based report forms to enterprises starting from the official statistical surveys of 2008, were completed.
- Compared to 2006, the number of main users of the web-based data transmission channel eSTAT doubled — by the end of 2007 over 6,700 economic units had joined eSTAT. More than one fifth of reports were received via eSTAT. In 2006, it was possible to submit 21 different reports via eSTAT, but by 2007 the number had grown to 77.
- Statistics Estonia was granted the right to apply penalty payment in order to guarantee the receipt of reports from enterprises.
- Preparations were made to implement the new version of the Estonian Classification of Economic Activities (*EMTAK*).
- Preparations for the 2011 Population and Housing Census were continued.
- Statistics Estonia started to design a totally new unified data processing software UNISTAT.
- Three new social surveys, i.e. General Household Survey, Border Survey and Adult Education Survey, were conducted.
- In 2007, the media reflected all news released published by Statistics Estonia.
- Statistics Estonia developed a new web site opened at the beginning of 2008.

PUBLICATIONS 2007

Printed publications

Eesti rahvamajanduse arvepidamine. 2005. National Accounts of Estonia
Eesti statistika aastaraamat. 2007. Statistical Yearbook of Estonia (also on CD-ROM)
Eesti Statistika Kuukiri. Monthly Bulletin of Estonian Statistics
Energiabilanss. 2006. Energy Balance
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania in Figures 2007 (pocket-sized reference book)
Ettevõtete majandusnäitajad. 2005. Financial Statistics of Enterprises
Keskkond. 2006. Environment
Keskkond arvudes. 2006. Environment in Figures (pocket-sized reference book)
Kultuur arvudes. 2006. Culture in Figures (pocket-sized reference book)
Kutseharidus. 1996–2006. Vocational Education
Linnad ja vallad arvudes. 2007. Cities and Rural Municipalities in Figures
Maakonnad arvudes. 2002–2006. Counties in Figures (also on CD-ROM)
Minifacts about Estonia 2007 (pocket-sized reference book)
Põllumajandus. 2006. Agriculture
Rahvastik. 2005–2006. Population
 Social Trends 4
Sotsiaalne ebavõrdsus. Social Inequality
Sotsiaaltrendid 4
Teadus- ja arendustegevus. 2005. Research and Development
Transport. Side. 2006. Transport. Communications
Turism. Majutus. 2006. Tourism. Accommodation
Tööturg arvudes. 2006. Labour Market in Figures (pocket-sized reference book)
Väliskaubandus. 2006. Foreign Trade

E-publications

Eesti Põhilised Sotsiaal- ja Majandusnäitajad. Main Social and Economic Indicators of Estonia (monthly bulletin)
Ehitushinnaindeks. Construction Price Index (quarterly bulletin)
Ettevõtlus. Business (quarterly bulletin)
Keskkonnakaitsekulutused. 2005. Environment Protection Expenditures
Kevadkülvipinnad 2007 (spring sowing area)
Loomakasvatus (livestock farming) (quarterly bulletin)
Riiklikud statistilised vaatlused 2008 (official statistical surveys)

Information sheets (only in Estonian)

Leibkonna kulutused ja tarbimine (expenditures and consumption in households)
Lühi- ja pikaajaline töötus (short-term and long-term unemployment)
Tööaja paindlikkus (flexibility of working time)
Varimajandus Eestis, 2000–2006 (non-observed economy in Estonia)

The use of statistics is made easier due to the Statistics Estonia web site www.stat.ee which sets out, among other things, Statistical Database Release Calendar, Statistical Database, e-publications, news releases, *Koolinurk* (school corner) and Dashboard of Sustainability.

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