



STATISTICS
ESTONIA

2011



ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICS ESTONIA 2011



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Dear readers!

The year 2011 marked the 90th anniversary of official statistics in the Republic of Estonia. We celebrated the anniversary with many small events and projects. Also, the anniversary logo was used in the publications issued this year. Almost half of the time that a central statistics agency has operated in independent Estonia falls into the period after the restoration of independence.

In 2011, Statistics Estonia had a special focus on preparations for the 2011 Population and Housing Census (PHC 2011). Since there were many innovations in the census process, the preparation period was particularly busy, as we tried to carry out final testing and fix any problems. In general, 2011 was a routine year as concerns regular and non-regular statistical actions, but it is worth mentioning that 29 statistical actions were featured in the programme for the first time. Thus, there has been no decrease in the need for statistical data and in the number of orders, despite the recession. On the contrary, the use of statistical data by the society is on the rise and statisticians have to work hard to keep up.

I wish to thank all colleagues for their admirable commitment.

Priit Potisepp
Director General




Director General of Statistics Estonia Mr Priit Potisepp at a press briefing on PHC 2011

Main events 2011

- Statistics Estonia celebrated the 90th anniversary of statistics in Estonia. To mark the occasion, Statistics Estonia launched the Albert Pullerits young statistician's grant. The 2011 grant was awarded to Ms Piret Avila for her Master's thesis "Statistical Analysis of the Stochastic Super-exponential Growth Model" defended at Tallinn University.
- The Statistical Council was re-established after an interval of more than 70 years. The Council held its first meeting on 28 February 2011 and its current chair is Ms Luule Sakkeus.
- On 20 and 21 April, the Estonian Statistical Society held its 23rd conference. In connection with the approaching Population and Housing Census, the title of the conference was "Will the Estonian Population Survive?".
- In December, Professor Ene-Margit Tiit presented her new book about censuses in Estonia, titled "Eesti rahvastik. Viis põlvkonda ja kümme loendust" (The Estonian Population: Five Generations and Ten Censuses).
- In December, the final results of the 2010 Agricultural Census were published.
- The 2011 Population and Housing Census began on 31 December. This is the eleventh census in Estonia's history and the first paperless census: residents could complete the census questionnaires online and those who did not complete the census online were visited by an enumerator who entered the data on a laptop.

Fulfilment of the statistical programme

The main task of Statistics Estonia is to provide reliable and objective information on the environmental, demographic, social and economic situation and trends in Estonia. For this purpose, Statistics Estonia performs statistical actions. The Government of the Republic of Estonia approves a statistical programme for every year. In addition to the statistical actions included in the programme, Statistics Estonia also performs statistical actions beyond the programme for external customers.

The structure of the statistical programme changed in 2011. The programme is now prepared for five-year periods and has five major sections: main statistics, non-regular statistics, development actions, statistical analysis and statistical registers. From now on, the programme also includes the projects funded by Structural Funds and the European Commission.

In 2011, Statistics Estonia performed 210 statistical actions listed in the programme, for a total cost of 12.4 million euros. The most costly action (4.4 million euros) was the preparation for the 2011 Population and Housing Census. The 210 statistical actions included 150 annual statistical actions (part of main statistics), 21 one-off or non-regular (carried out after certain intervals) statistical actions, 23 development actions, 12 statistical analysis actions and 2 statistical registers.

The most important and laborious action in the statistical programme in 2011 was the preparation for the 2011 Population and Housing Census which culminated with the start of the e-census on 31 December 2011. Processing of the data of the 2010 Agricultural Census continued, and the data were published in the Statistical Database in December 2011. Statistics Estonia also continued preparations for the Register-based Population and Housing Census (REGREL) to be conducted in 2020–2021. Many new data were added to the regional statistics portal, and revised GDP time series since 2000 were published. These actions will be discussed in detail below.

Statistics Estonia also performed actions not included in the statistical programme. The largest among these were the adult competencies survey “Tea ja oskan” (PIAAC) funded by the European Social Fund and carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Research (it started in 2010 and continues in 2012); and the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) financed by the European Commission. These projects will also be discussed further below. In addition to that, Statistics Estonia fulfilled 215 non-programme orders placed by enterprises, institutions and private persons. Most of these were small-scale orders for more detailed statistics than publicly available (e.g. foreign trade data, financial key ratios etc). Compared to last year (346), the number of orders was smaller. The total cost of the non-programme statistical actions was 0.6 million euros.

There were 38 new actions in the statistical programme: 29 were featured for the first time ever and 9 were re-established actions (carried out at an interval of several years). Only one action was left out of the programme: the pocket-sized reference book “Keskkond arvudes. Environment in Figures” (published annually) will not be published any more at the proposal of the Ministry of the Environment. Below, new statistical actions and recurring actions in 2011 are outlined by subject area.

- ENVIRONMENT**
- In 2011, Statistics Estonia started to develop the registration of emissions into air and to create a new statistical domain – agri-environmental indicators.
- ECONOMY**
- In 2011 Statistics Estonia started again to calculate and publish labour accounts indicators under national accounts.
 - To improve the energy balance sheet, energy consumption in households was studied in 2011. The data collected will be used in the preparation of the energy balance sheet in 2012.
 - To make the collection of data for price statistics more efficient, Statistics Estonia launched a development project for price registrars to start using electronic data collection instead of collecting price data with paper forms.
- POPULATION**
- Preparations were made for the implementation of the population projection model in 2012. The 1919–1989 time series of population statistics were restored and published in the Statistical Database. At the request of the Tallinn City Government, a population projection for Tallinn until 2050 was prepared and also published in the Statistical Database. Indicators of regional education statistics were revised.
- SOCIAL LIFE**
- In addition to the main part of the Social Survey, data are also collected with extra modules that vary each year. In 2011, the extra module was “Inter-generational transmission of poverty”. Statistics Estonia started to publish pension indicators based on the data of the Social Survey.
 - In 2011, the data of the civil society module of the Time Use Survey were validated and analysed. The results have been published as an e-publication. An analytical publication will be prepared based on the Time Use Survey; it will be published in May 2012.
 - In 2011, statistical actions concerning hobby education and the activities of professional concert organisers were performed again. Also, surveys on adult training in enterprises and on the individual level (conducted once every five years) were carried out. The results of the surveys will be published in spring 2012.
 - As a one-off project, Statistics Estonia created internationally comparable time series for Estonian museums for publication on the EGMUS website. The harmonisation of the pan-European culture statistics methodology and the development of comparable culture statistics (ESSnet culture statistics) were also one-off projects. At the proposal of the Ministry of Culture, preparations were started for reflecting literature sales.
 - The time series for social protection expenditure (which had been omitted in 2009 due to budget cuts and changes in the programme) were restored. The restored time series for 1997 and 1998 will be published in the Statistical Database in autumn 2012, after their validation by Eurostat. Also, Statistics Estonia prepared the social protection expenditure calculation methodology (ESSPROS), which had not been published in 2009 due to budget cuts and the termination of the relevant position.
 - The production of statistics on the integration of the disabled was developed, and Statistics Estonia started to develop the methodology for calculating disability-free life expectancy by region.
 - In 2011, the main part of the Labour Force Survey was supplemented with the one-off module “Health and capacity for work”. Also, preparations were made for the use of the one-off module “Transition from work into retirement” in 2012. The quality of the Labour Force Survey was improved according to the recommendations of Eurostat’s Task Force on the quality of the Labour Force Survey.
 - Development of labour policy indicators began. This will continue in 2012. The data will be published in 2013.

- At the request of the Tallinn City Government, Statistics Estonia started to determine the need for regional education indicators. The project will continue in 2012. The indicators are planned to be published in 2013 the latest.

OTHER AREAS

- Indicators of sustainable development were developed. Expert groups analysed the indicators' compliance with Eurostat's quality requirements, and chose the indicators for reporting on areas not included in the Sustainable Development Strategy.
- The Urban Audit on the period 2005–2009 was carried out. The audit data will be published on Eurostat's website and in publications. Similar audits have been carried out on the reference years 2001 and 2004.
- Statistics Estonia adopted the new version of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) developed by the International Labour Organisation. The aim of the new version is to provide countries with a more contemporary and effective classification of occupations, for use in the census and in 13 other statistical fields.
- A data acquisition application was created for transition to register-based statistics production (ADAM). The goal was to consolidate the data collected in state databases (Commercial Register, Population Register, register of taxable persons) into statistical registers, thereby creating a reference database for the production of register-based official statistics – this way, there would be no duplicate collection of data and the data would be ready for statistical analysis. Statistics Estonia started to set up the System of Statistical Registers (SRS) for the administration of persons, economic units, agricultural holdings and buildings, and dwellings in a common statistical registers system. Statistics Estonia developed the information system (VVIS) for the effective planning and conduct of surveys of residents and economic units of Estonia through the fieldwork network.
- Guidelines on the creation of harmonised pan-European population grid maps (ESSnet Geostat) were prepared in cooperation within the European Statistical System Network.
- Statistics Estonia continued the creation of iMeta, an integrated metadata management system. With this system, all the metadata related to the statistics production process can be managed at the same location. The administrative system covers statistical metadata (which describe statistics) as well as process-related and technical metadata.

In addition to the regular annual publications, in 2011 Statistics Estonia also issued the publications "Mehe kodu on maailm, naise maailm on kodu? Man's Home is the World, Woman's World is her Home?", "Ettevõtlus. Business" and "Säästva arengu näitajad. Indicators of Sustainable Development" as well as methodology publications on the Time Use Survey, Household Budget Survey and Immigrant Population Survey.

PUBLICATIONS

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Collection of population and housing census data began

Last year, the largest and most important statistical action was the 2011 Population and Housing Census which Statistics Estonia started to prepare for in 2006. The preparation process and the census itself were significantly different from the ten previous censuses conducted in the territory of Estonia.

For the first time in the 130-year history of censuses in Estonia, the census was a paperless census and two data collection methods were used. During the first month (31 December 2011 to 31 January 2012), there was an e-census where the permanent residents of Estonia could complete their questionnaires online. Those who did not use this opportunity were visited by enumerators in February and March 2012. There were also big changes in the enumerators' work set-up – they used laptops for data collection, instead of the traditional pen and paper. As a result, the number of enumerators (2,000) was about three times smaller than in the previous census of 2000.

The 11th population and housing census in Estonia began on 31 December 2011. In the twelve months before that, the census information system was tested and configured, the census personnel was recruited and trained, the necessary tools and premises were obtained, and there was a national publicity campaign. Also, the last changes were made to the census questionnaire, which had been prepared in cooperation with various stakeholders – scientists, the representatives of organisations and citizens' associations, and local governments and state agencies. Statistics Estonia also made preparations for the publication of the census results – the survey analysis information system (VAIS) was developed, output tables were planned, and a consumer survey on census output was organised.

The census questionnaire consisted of three parts – a Household Questionnaire, a Dwelling Questionnaire and a Personal Questionnaire – and included questions (regarding the population and living conditions) that are the most important for Estonia. The census information system, the methodology and the general census process were tested on two occasions – in the pilot census conducted in 2009/2010 with more than 10,000 participants, and in the mini-pilot (28 Aug to 13 Sept 2011) with almost 600 voluntary respondents across Estonia.

Although the enumeration personnel required for the 2011 census was nearly three times smaller than in the 2000 census, Statistics Estonia did recruit more than 2,000 people in total – 15 district heads, 132 supervisors and 2,000 enumerators (plus back-up enumerators). Since all these people had to be recruited by Statistics Estonia's in-house staff, 25 personnel specialists were first employed all over Estonia – they were in charge of recruiting all the other personnel. A recruitment campaign was organised over a period of nearly six months. During the campaign, anyone interested in becoming an enumerator could submit their details on Statistics Estonia's website. Almost 5,000 people had notified Statistics Estonia of their interest by autumn, i.e. the time when the recruitment of supervisors and enumerators began. There was great interest in working in the census team. For example, the competition rate for the supervisor position was 27.9 persons per one position.

The slogan of the publicity campaign, which began on 1 December 2011, was "Everyone counts!"; to emphasise the importance of every single person for Estonia. The three-stage advertising campaign lasted for four months and focused on either the e-census or interview census, depending on the census stage in progress at the time. By February 2012, 99% of the population of Estonia aged 15–74 were aware of the census taking place, according to a survey by Faktum & Ariko.

The e-census, which began on the last day of 2011, was very well received by the people of Estonia – according to preliminary data, the Personal Questionnaires were completed online for more than 880,000 permanent residents, that is, almost two thirds of the population. This rate of online participation is higher than any other country has ever achieved in a census.

The households that did not participate in the e-census were visited by enumerators in February and March. The preliminary results of the census will be published in May 2012, and full results will be published by the end of 2013.

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<http://www.stat.ee/phc2011>



Publication of the results of the Agricultural Census

At the end of 2011, Statistics Estonia published the final results of the 2010 Agricultural Census in the Statistical Database. Agricultural censuses are conducted every ten years in most countries of the world, and they are obligatory for the Member States of the European Union (EU). Other countries are strongly advised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to conduct these censuses. The 2010 Agricultural Census was the sixth in Estonia. Previous agricultural censuses were conducted in 1919, 1925, 1929, 1939 and in 2001 (the first census after the restoration of independence).

The Agricultural Census is a comprehensive farm structure survey that considers the activity of holdings as a whole, incl. form of ownership, management, crop and livestock farming, labour force and other gainful activities. In addition to that, the 2010 Agricultural Census also gathered information about agricultural production methods, in order to obtain additional data on environmental protection and to improve the overview of the environmental indicators of agriculture. A common methodology is used to collect the agricultural census data, and these data are the basis for developing a common EU agricultural policy.

The data of the Agricultural Census are used to determine the economic size and production type of holdings – the basis of the common EU classification of holdings. Since 2010, standard output is used to determine the economic size of a holding, instead of standard gross margin. Standard output is the monetary value of gross agricultural production at average farm-gate prices. It reflects the economic size of a holding better than standard gross margin, since it does not include agricultural supports which vary by country and therefore distort the results. Standard output has also been retroactively calculated for the 2007 Farm Structure Survey, in order to analyse trends.

The results of the 2010 Agricultural Census are fully comparable and published in the Statistical Database together with the results of the 2001 Agricultural Census and selected results of the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Farm Structure Surveys. In addition to earlier data, the database includes new tables on the structure of the main indicators of agricultural holdings, on other gainful activities of holdings and employees, and on the use of equipment for renewable energy production. A new sub-field has been created for agricultural production methods. To meet users' needs, the size classes of agricultural area have been expanded in the published data tables. This helps to analyse the concentration of agricultural production into large holdings in Estonia.

The organisation of the 2010 Agricultural Census was supported by the EU.

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<http://pub.stat.ee/px-web.2001/dialog/statfile1.asp> 

Preparations for the Register-based Population and Housing Census continued

In 2010, Statistics Estonia started preparations for the Register-based Population and Housing Census (REGREL), to be conducted in the next census round of 2020–2021.

On 1 October 2010, Statistics Estonia concluded an agreement with AS Ernst & Young Baltic and the Estonian Institute for Population Studies at Tallinn University for the development of the REGREL methodology, since their joint tender had won the public procurement. Thus, in 2011, the main focus was on the project "Development of REGREL methodology" (hereinafter the methodology project).

The main aim of the methodology project is to analyse the suitability of the data in registers for the production of official statistics, and to make suggestions for supplementing the databases of registers with a view to organising register-based statistical actions, incl. the population and housing census. The methodology project also analyses the legislation in Estonia and its

impact on the databases of registers, and makes recommendations for the creation of adequate preconditions for organising register-based censuses and producing register-based official statistics.

The REGREL methodology project lasts until August 2013 and is financed from the state budget and the EU Structural Funds.

The analysis is carried out in three parts.

- The aim of the meta-analysis is to analyse the definitions of census variables and compare these with the variables in the databases, in order to assess whether a census variable can be created. In case of each census variable, the team will determine the relevant international census standard (definition, classification etc.) for this variable, and to what extent the census variable is covered in databases. Then a proposal will be made for creating a register-based variable. Data analysts will rely on these proposals in the creation of variables in the stage of data quality analysis.
- The terms of reference for detailed analysis are defined. The proposal specifies the goal of detailed data analysis and the datasets to be used, and describes the method of analysis.
- The detailed data will be analysed jointly by experts and the data analysts of Statistics Estonia. Methods of data quality analysis will be used (analysis of dataset coverage, analysis of the consistency of the internal and external logical of datasets etc). During the detailed analysis, comparisons will be made between databases and between the databases and Statistics Estonia's personal questionnaires.

By the end of 2011, most of the variables were in the stage of detailed analysis. The proposals – regarding the creation of variables, the coverage of databases, improvement of quality and the need to update legal regulations – will be formulated in 2012.

Collection of data for SHARE was completed

SHARE (The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe) is a pan-European panel survey on health, ageing, employment and retirement of persons aged 50 or over. One of the essential tasks of the Survey, which was impelled by the continuing ageing of the population in Europe, is to collect information on the condition and health of the population. SHARE provides Europe as well as Estonia with an opportunity to make international comparisons and helps to shape social policies in order to prevent problems related to population ageing. SHARE is the most wide-scale survey on the elderly population ever undertaken in Estonia. The Survey is financed by the European Commission and the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs.

Before SHARE, there have not been any in-depth surveys on the older population in Estonia. Nevertheless, some information on their health, employment, coping and expenses can be gained from other surveys that do not have an upper age limit for respondents. However, an increase in the percentage of senior population in the society has given rise to a need for more detailed studies on their economic and social coping. Society should adapt to population ageing, because an ageing population entails a growing need for social and health-care services, an increase in social protection expenditure, and a decrease in working-age population. SHARE should help to resolve some of these issues.

The data collection was carried out from 18 November 2010 until March 2011, with 4,200 respondents participating in the main survey. From March to May 2011, data were collected using an additional sample of 1,800 respondents. The total sample of the Survey included 6,000 persons aged 50 or over. Statistics Estonia interviewed the respondents and also their partners (cohabitee or spouse) living in the same household, irrespective of the latter's age. Statistics Estonia conducted SHARE in Estonia in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Tallinn University and the National Institute for Health Development.

19 European countries – such as Germany, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy

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<http://www.share-project.org>



etc. – take part in this pan-European survey. Estonia is the only Baltic country participating in the Survey. According to the international schedule, the first results of the Survey will be published in November 2012. More information about the Survey can be found on SHARE's website.

The international survey on adult competencies continued

The survey "Tean ja oskan" (in English: I Know and I Can), internationally known as PIAAC (Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies), is one of the most comprehensive surveys of adult skills in the world. Over 135,000 persons from 25 countries (incl. Australia, Japan, Korea, the USA, Russia and most of the European Union countries) take part in the survey. PIAAC focuses on the population aged 16–65 and measures their key competencies needed to cope with challenges in the social and economic sphere in the 21st century.

This Survey has been referred to as the PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) survey of adults. PISA has been conducted among students already for years and the students in Estonia have achieved extremely positive results.

The international scope of the survey "Tean ja oskan" is one of its great advantages. The questionnaire and assessment system of the Survey have been set up in a way which enables the conduct of the Survey in countries with different cultural, ethnic and language backgrounds. All countries participating in the Programme follow common standards and procedures in the conduct of the Survey. Thus, the Survey data can be used for a harmonised comparison of adult skills across all 25 participating countries. As a result of the Survey, the competitiveness of countries can be compared and we will see how good the competencies and knowledge of the Estonian population are in comparison with other developed countries of the world. We will also find out whether the work we do suits our competencies, whether our skills are valued, and where the competencies are acquired (e.g. from school, work, everyday life).

By measuring the key competencies and level of education of adults, the Survey provides a significantly better overview of adult competencies than the policy-makers in the participating countries have been able to rely on so far.

The Survey was ordered by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and it is coordinated by an international consortium with the USA-based Educational Testing Service at the head. In Estonia, the Survey is carried out by the Ministry of Education and Research in cooperation with Statistics Estonia. The conduct of PIAAC in Estonia is funded by the European Social Fund (ESF).

In Estonia, the main survey is conducted from August 2011 until April 2012, with a sample of 7,500 persons.

Development of regional statistics

In 2011, the Regional Statistics Council set to work. Its most important tasks were the preparation of the strategy "Future directions of official regional statistics" and the development of the analytical publication on regional statistics.

All employees of Statistics Estonia had the opportunity to make suggestions for the development of regional statistics. Also, the suggestions of the users of regional statistics were taken into account in the planning of the strategy. Statistics users were directly involved in the preparation of the strategy document via the Regional Statistics Council. The document was completed by the end of 2011 and was approved at the Council's first meeting in 2012.

The increasing online focus of information channels means that the content of publications must be constantly developed. In 2011, the Regional Statistics Council thoroughly reviewed

see also:

<http://www.stat.ee/pp>



see also:

<http://www.stat.ee/59237>



the concept of the analytical publication on regional statistics and made significant changes. As a result of the modified concept and the implementation of new ideas, the regional statistics publication published by Statistics Estonia in November 2011 was the most thorough publication of the last decade on regional development in Estonia.

The regional statistics portal was opened on Statistics Estonia's website already in 2010, but most of the data were published in the portal in 2011. This was a laborious task, but the work was fully completed before the deadline thanks to process automation. The e-publication "Piirkondlik portree Eestist. Regional portrait of Estonia" (which is an essential part of the portal) was supplied with statistical data on all local government units, and all the time series in the portal were updated with new data. There were several cooperation offers when the portal was presented to local governments. As a result of the cooperation, the portal now includes overviews of six local government units. In the context of the portal, the launch of Statistics eXplorer at the end of 2011 was an important development – this statistical visualisation tool will definitely bring new users of regional statistics. With this application, users can get a quick overview of regional differences and find connections between different indicators. For now, Statistics eXplorer includes the main population indicators.

Revision of GDP data

In autumn 2011, Statistics Estonia published the revised time series for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2000 onwards. Three necessary revisions were simultaneously made:

1. The GDP time series were revised pursuant to the Estonian classification of economic activities (EMTAK 2008, which corresponds to NACE Rev. 2), and the new version of the Statistical Classification of Products by Activity in the European Economic Community 2008 (CPA 2008); and the real GDP by production approach was recalculated using double deflation. Pursuant to the Commission Regulation (EU) No 715/2010, the EU Member States had to (starting September 2011) adopt the new classification of economic activities NACE Rev. 2 in national accounts – this classification also serves as the basis of the Estonian classification of economic activities EMTAK 2008. Under the new classification, the distribution of economic units into economic activities has changed. The distribution of value added between activities changed; the reclassification did not change the total GDP at current prices.

Previously, single deflation was used in the calculation of GDP at previous year's prices by production method. According to ESA 95 (European System of National Accounts), double deflation is the best method for calculating value added at constant prices, i.e. output and intermediate consumption are deflated separately and value added is found as the difference between the two deflated flows. Double deflation enables a much more precise calculation of value added at constant prices. The GDP time series up to 2007 were revised according to the annually compiled and double-deflated Supply and Use Tables (SUT) and according to the deflators used in these tables.

2. The 2007 GDP was revised according to the Supply and Use Tables (SUT), and the 2009 GDP was revised according to the EKOMAR questionnaire (Comprehensive Annual Enterprise Report).

3. The reference year of the chain-linking method was changed from year 2000 to 2005. The transfer to the new reference year changed the chain-linked indices and chain-linked values, but the growth of GDP and its components remained the same as in case of the previous reference year. The need to change the reference year was mainly caused by the non-additivity of components characteristic of the chain-linking method, which means that the sum of single chain-linked absolute values does not equal the same aggregate. Additivity is possible only in the reference year and in the following year, whereas the farther we get from the reference year, the more significant the non-additivity becomes.

Statistics Estonia will publish the revised GDP data for earlier years (1995–1999) in April 2012.

Response burden in 2011

Statistics Estonia uses two indicators to assess response burden: the number of reports per respondent and the time spent on completing a report. To achieve a more even distribution of burden between respondents, sample surveys are used if possible, because in case of a sample survey data are submitted only by a part of the reference group. Also, survey samples are coordinated, which prevents an overlap between survey samples. Enterprises bear the largest response burden. In 2011, 34,787 enterprises (50.4%) were required to submit statistical reports – this is 1,500 enterprises less than in 2010. The reason for this decrease is the reduced response burden of small enterprises (1–9 employees). The average number of reports per respondent was 2.6, which is higher than in 2010 (2.5). One enterprise had to submit 26 statistical reports at most.

Samples can be coordinated better in the group of small enterprises (1–9 employees), which comprises a large number of enterprises and relatively small samples will suffice. In 2011, 55% of small enterprises did not have to submit any reports, while 45% submitted 1–5 reports and only a small proportion had to submit more than 5 reports. The average number of reports in this group was 1.8 per respondent. In the next group by size (10–19 employees), as many as about 95% of enterprises were required to submit a report of some kind. The burden is considerably bigger for enterprises with 50 or more employees – two thirds of these enterprises (i.e. much more than in 2010) submitted more than ten reports to Statistics Estonia in 2011. The reason for the increase in response burden was that the survey periods of several non-regular statistical actions were scheduled for 2011. These statistical actions were Structure of Earnings, Community Innovation Survey and Continuing Vocational Training Survey. For the first time, enterprises had to complete the report “Wages and salaries. Additional report on October”, which is used to calculate the gender pay gap.

In 2012, the overall response burden of enterprises will decrease a little, but the burden for small enterprises (1–9 employees) will increase. The reason for this is the methodological changes in the selection of samples for statistical actions, and also the increase in the number of active enterprises in this group. The number of reports to be submitted in 2012 is a preliminary estimate, because over the course of the year new persons will be subjected to reporting (for example, an enterprise may be added to the Intrastat reporting sample if the enterprise’s exports or imports turnover exceeds the set threshold). Also, the samples for some reports are drawn at a later time.

Enterprises by size and the number of reports submitted, 2010–2012



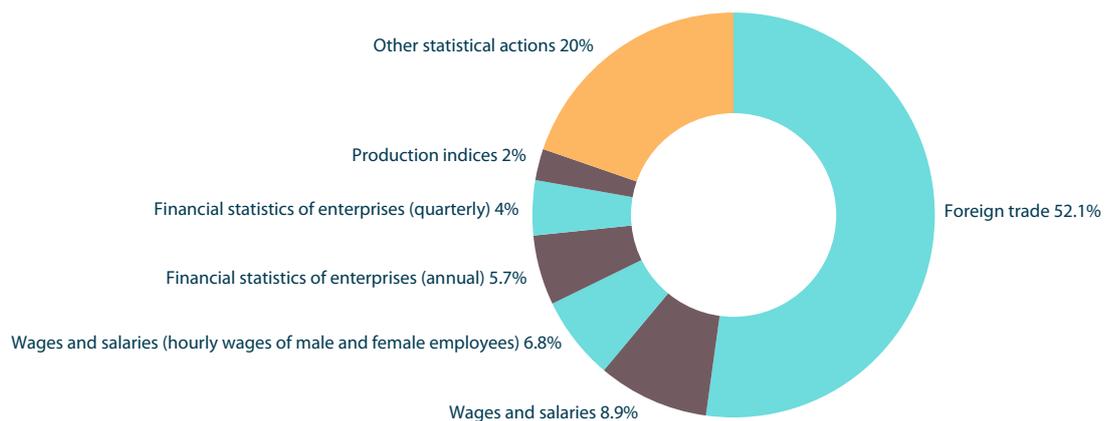
To facilitate the assessment of response burden, Statistics Estonia has since 2008 asked respondents to indicate the time spent on completing a questionnaire – this question is included in the questionnaires submitted through the electronic data transmission channel eSTAT. Since the response rate for this question has been relatively low (10–20%), Statistics Estonia uses imputation to calculate the total burden. Reports are grouped by the volume of the report, and the time spent on the completion of every report submitted is estimated. Intrastat reports are an exception, because a major share of these reports are received through a special channel where respondents are not asked to specify the time spent on completion. The total time spent on completing Intrastat reports has been estimated based on the Intrastat burden survey conducted in 2007, as well as on the number of reports received and the number of records. From 2008 to 2010, there was a steady decrease in the response burden, whereas in 2011 the average time spent on completing a report and the aggregated burden increased (compared to 2010).

Average time spent on completing a report by reporting frequency, 2008–2011 (minutes)

Reporting frequency	2008	2009	2010	2011
1–2 times per year	161	173	142	165
4 times per year	53	47	37	38
12 times per year	120	110	114	125
Total	112	104	99	110

On average, the completion of a report took almost 2 hours in 2011. Annual reports take more time, while quarterly reports are less time-consuming. The average time spent on completing monthly reports is most of all influenced by the extensive Intrastat reports. The average completion time of other monthly reports was 45 minutes in 2011. All in all, Estonian enterprises, agencies and organisations spent 67,200 working days on completing statistical reports in 2011, which is 10,000 working days more than the year earlier. The main cause of the increase in response burden in 2011 was the collection of data for the aforementioned three large-scale non-regular statistical actions. Structure of Earnings was the most burdening survey, requiring 4,550 working days in total, followed by Continuing Vocational Training Survey (1,200 working days) and Community Innovation Survey (500 working days). In case of the Intrastat reports, the upturn in the economy has also meant an increase in the number of respondents and in the volume of the reports – this also contributed significantly to the increase in response burden in 2011. The burden of the report “Financial statistics of enterprises (annual)” (previously EKOMAR) has slightly decreased, probably due to the pre-filling of reports which has been partially implemented. A more detailed analysis of the impact of pre-filling will be carried out next year. The figure below outlines the statistical actions that required 1,500 or more working days in 2011.

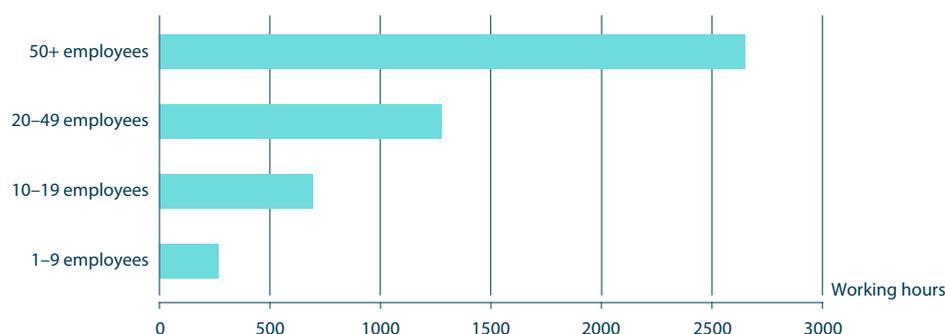
Division of response burden by statistical action, 2011



In terms of economic activities, the response burden is the biggest for mining and quarrying enterprises and manufacturing enterprises and for public administration agencies – they spend more than 1,000 working hours per year on average on the completion of reports. The response burden is the smallest for enterprises with real estate activities and other service activities – 200 hours per year on average.

The average response burden depends on the size of the enterprise/institution: the average burden of large companies/institutions (50 or more employees) is more than ten times higher than the burden of small enterprises/institutions (1–9 employees).

Average working time spent on completing statistical reports by size of enterprise, 2011



Overview of the database quality assessment

In 2011, Statistics Estonia analysed the quality of the Population Register, the Estonian Education Information System (EHIS), the register of taxable persons of the Estonian Tax and Customs Board, the health insurance database of the Estonian Health Insurance Fund and the database of the Social Insurance Board. The aim is to use the data of the databases in statistical actions, thereby reducing the response burden of respondents.

The databases containing information on persons' income were analysed in order to determine which of the variables in the personal and household questionnaires of the Estonian Social Survey can be replaced with data from state databases. For this, the data in the databases of the Estonian Tax and Customs Board, the Estonian Health Insurance Fund and the Social Insurance Board were analysed. In case of the Social Insurance Board's database, the analysis indicated good overlap with variables related to parental benefits, different types of pension, and child benefits. There is also good overlap with variables related to maternity benefits in the health insurance database of the Estonian Health Insurance Fund. In case of incomes, taxes, redundancy payments and unemployment insurance benefits, the overlap between the register of taxable persons and the database of the Estonian Social Survey was not as good, but this does not necessarily mean the inadequacy of the register and could be caused by the specific and individual nature of the aforementioned variables. An additional analysis of the overlap of these variables will be carried out in Q1 2012.

With a view to using the data of the VAT returns of the Tax and Customs Board in the statistical action "Financial statistics of trade enterprises", the quality of these data in the period 2009–2011 was assessed. Enterprises are required to submit VAT returns by the 20th day of the month following the reporting month. An average of 80% of all enterprises in the survey population usually submit the VAT return by the 24th day, 5% of enterprises submit the return later than that, and no VAT return is received from the remaining enterprises. On average, 70% of enterprises with one employee submit the VAT return by the 24th day, with 5% of enterprises submitting the return later. By the time the estimates are published, 88% (on average) of total net sales is known for companies with one employee; this varies from month to month, ranging from 75 to 96%. Net sales figures unavailable by the date of publication of the estimate are calculated based on the enterprises that have submitted the VAT return by the due date. Turnover is sometimes declared

as negative, but the number of such enterprises is relatively small. As a result of the analysis, it was decided that, starting 2012, the data for the statistical action will be collected not only with the report “Net sales”, but also using the VAT return data of the Tax and Customs Board for enterprises with one employee. Net sales are calculated based on the indicators of the VAT return.

The data of the Population Register (PR) and EHIS were analysed as part of the development of the methodology for the Register-based Population and Housing Census (REGREL). The main results of the analysis are outlined below.

The data in EHIS on completed education cover graduations since 2005. More than a half of these data concern the completion of basic and general secondary education. The available information refers mainly the younger generations, with fewer data available on older generations. The oldest graduates were born in the 1930s. 0.3% of the people in EHIS do not have a personal identification code of the Republic of Estonia – most of them have completed a Bachelor’s level or higher degree programme.

In the PR, marital status is specified for 92.5% of the people, whereas marital status is documented for 87.2% and undocumented for 5.3%. Marital status is unspecified for 7.5% of people. Among people aged 15 and over, marital status is undefined for 6.1%. The distribution of missing data by age and citizenship is uneven. The ‘marital status’ variable in the PR must be modified and regularly updated, so that it could be used for a register-based census in the future.

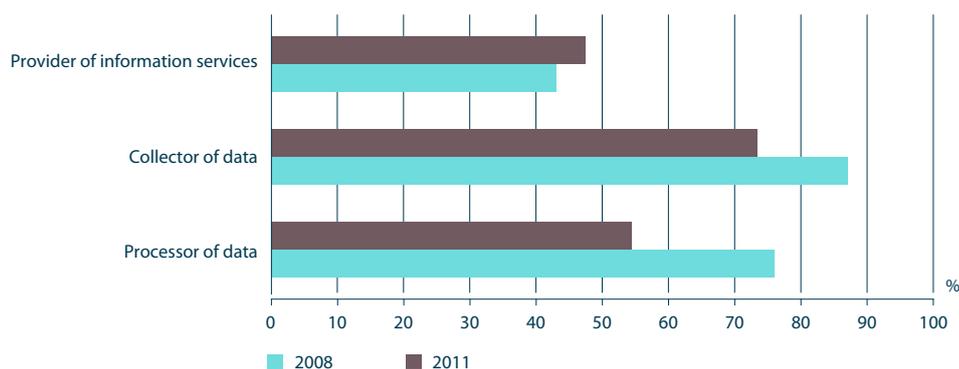
In the PR, the variable ‘citizenship’ is missing for 0.1% of the people and 6.9% have undefined citizenship. For the remaining 93%, citizenship is defined, but there are quality errors. There are cases where the valid International Standard Codes for the Representation of the Names of Countries (ISO 3166) have not been used, and the use of umlaut occasionally causes text to be garbled. Based on available data, it can be said that the citizenship details of persons registered in the PR are sufficient for a register-based census.

Consumers are satisfied with official statistics

The main goal of Statistics Estonia is to provide statistical information to all persons who need it. In order to establish how satisfied consumers are with official statistics, how they rate Statistics Estonia and how actively they use statistics products and services, Statistics Estonia conducted the User Survey of Official Statistics from 2 to 25 November 2011. The online questionnaire consisted of 10 questions regarding the user’s assessment of Statistics Estonia, satisfaction with statistical products and Statistics Estonia’s services, the reasons for using statistics, and assessment of the quality of statistics. Also, users had the possibility to make suggestions for the development of statistics, for example. 510 users of statistical information participated in the survey – of these, 25% were research and education institutions, 20% were county governments and local governments, 13% were ministries and other state agencies. The remaining share was made up of enterprises and also some private individuals.

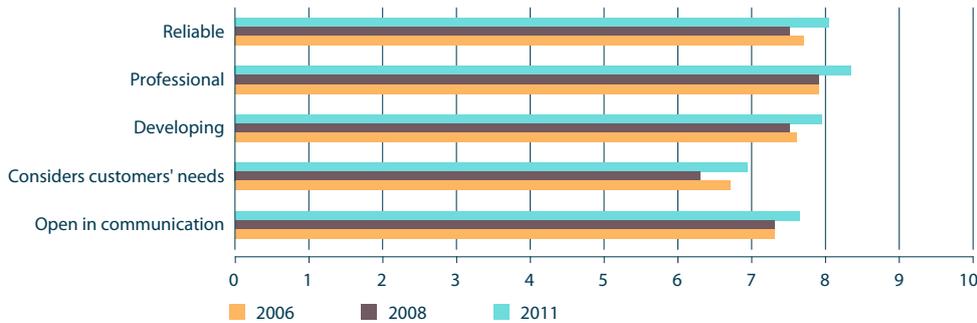
The survey indicated that Statistics Estonia is making steps towards the goal set for the 2008–2011 strategy period – to develop from a data collector into an information service provider. Compared to 2008, there has been a significant decrease in the number of those who see Statistics Estonia as a collector or processor of data. Still, only roughly half of the respondents see the provision of information services as one of Statistics Estonia’s roles. Thus, the goal has not been achieved yet.

The role most characteristic of Statistics Estonia, 2008 and 2011



The consumers' assessment of Statistics Estonia as a provider of statistical information has improved compared to the previous survey of 2008. The highest rating was given to the organisation's professionalism (an average score of 8.3 on a scale from 1 to 10). Consumers consider Statistics Estonia to be reliable and developing; openness in communication with customers was also rated high. Consideration for customers' needs achieved a lower rating (6.9), but it does represent an improvement over previous surveys.

Assessment of Statistics Estonia, 2006, 2008 and 2011 (on a scale from 1 to 10)

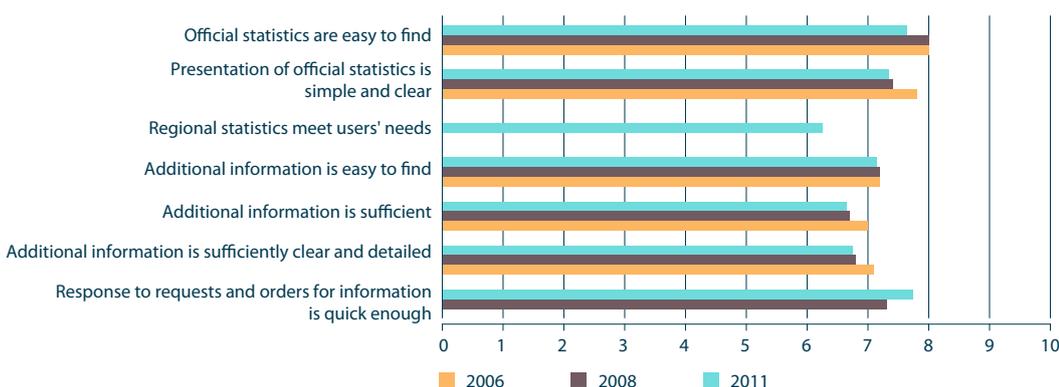


As expected, the most frequently used source of statistical information is the Statistical Database, which has been used by more than 90% of the respondents. 80% of the respondents have used Statistics Estonia's publications and pre-defined tables, and news releases are also popular (used by 75%). The consumers' satisfaction with statistical products is quite high – most products are rated above 7.5 (on a scale from 1 to 10). Users gave the highest ratings (8 points) to the population pyramid (used by 61%) and the Information Centre of Statistics Estonia (used by 39%). A high rating (7.9 points) was also given to statistical publications, the consumer price index calculator and the information hotline. The regional statistics portal was rated below the average, but a rating of 7.3 can be considered a good result for a new product that is not completely finished yet. In the first year, the portal has already been used by over half of the consumers, which shows that the product has been well received. The subject areas that consumers use most often are population statistics, labour market statistics and statistics on wages and personnel expenses.

The consumers' assessment of the findability and comprehensibility of statistics, and of the findability, clarity and adequacy of additional information has decreased a little, compared to the 2008 survey (the 2011 ratings were between 6.6 and 7.6; the 2008 ratings ranged from 6.7 to 8.0). One of the reasons for this is the constant increase in the volume of statistics published – the more information there is, the harder it is to find what you need. The assessment of the speed at which orders are fulfilled has improved (from 7.3 to 7.7). For the first time, we also studied the suitability of regional statistics for consumers' needs – this was rated at 6.2, the lowest score of the entire survey. The reason is that consumers would like to have more detailed information about local government units as well as smaller units (settlement, city district).

Overall, the most positive ratings were given by media, financial and insurance companies, while local governments, country governments and other enterprises were a little more critical.

Assessment of official statistics, 2006, 2008 and 2011 (on a scale from 1 to 10)



The reasons for using official statistics are the same as in previous years – the most common reasons are the use of statistics for analysing the current situation and making decisions; for determining the general economic environment; and for identifying the trends (cited by 60%, 54% and 43% of the respondents respectively).

Respondents made a great number of helpful suggestions for improving the publication of statistics. Based on these suggestions, Statistics Estonia will be able to develop its products and services in the future.

The media’s interest in statistics has increased

The media’s interest in statistics has increased each year, including in 2011. Media channels reported on Statistics Estonia or official statistics on more than 7,600 occasions, which is 15% more than in 2010. On average, there were 21 media mentions per day, based on or reporting on statistics. In 2011, the main dissemination channel for official statistics was again online news which accounted for more than half of all media mentions. Online news was followed by national and local print newspapers. It is noteworthy that, in 2011, the number of mentions in local (county-level) newspapers exceeded the number of mentions in national newspapers for the first time in the last four years.

In 2011, Statistics Estonia issued 171 news releases that were all covered in the media. According to media monitoring data, each news release received 25 media mentions on average. The media was most interested in price trends and developments on the wages and salaries market, but also in economic growth, changes on the labour market, and the standard of living of households. The media monitoring results of several years reveal that more than half of the references to official statistics in the media are based on news releases. In 2011, 57% of media mentions were based on news releases. At the same time, the share of news releases in the total number of media mentions has slightly decreased in recent years. One of the reasons is definitely the fact that overviews of various fields of statistics are now also published in Statistics Estonia’s blog (i.e. not just in news releases). 70 posts were published in the blog last year, generating more than 400 media mentions in total.

Statistics Estonia organised several press events in 2011. There was the traditional presentation of the Statistical Yearbook of Estonia as well as a press launch of the publication “Mehe kodu on maailm, naise maailm on kodu? Man’s home is the world, woman’s world is her home?” and a press conference upon the start of the 2011 Population and Housing Census at the end of the year. A new initiative was the press conference organised in cooperation with Enterprise Estonia to present the results of the tourism sector in the first six months. Since the media showed great interest in this, a similar event was held at the start of 2012.

The media’s interest in statistics is further proved by the fact that there were two media companies in the top three organisations that contacted Statistics Estonia the most in 2011.

One of the reasons for increased media coverage was the 2011 Population and Housing Census – pieces and articles on the census accounted for more than a tenth of all media mentions. In 2011, the media had a significant role in the communication of census information and official statistics to the general public.

Launch of new and interesting statistical products

In 2011, official statistics became available via smart devices. “Minifacts about Estonia 2011”, a popular pocket-sized reference book published by Statistics Estonia, is now available on iPad and iPhone, and can be downloaded from the App Store for free. This publication was chosen as the first to be made available for smart devices, since it is one of the most popular publications by Statistics Estonia and is used by embassies and diplomatic missions of Estonia around the world to provide information about Estonia. The reference book includes the most important data about Estonia in comparison with other EU countries. Making the publication available on smart devices will definitely help to promote Estonia and to reinforce our e-state reputation. The reference book has been downloaded from the App Store by 1,400 users since its launch there.

To celebrate the start of the 2011 Population and Housing Census and 130 years from the first census in Estonia, Statistics Estonia published a book by Ene-Margit Tiit at the end of the year. Titled “Eesti rahvastik. Viis põlvkonda ja kümme loendust” (The Estonian Population: Five Generations and Ten Censuses), the book is the most thorough publication so far to discuss all

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the censuses in Estonia and to outline the history of the population of Estonia. The successful book launch was held at the Rahva Raamat bookstore in Tallinn on 29 December 2011 – the day that marks 130 years from the first census in the territory of Estonia. In January 2012, book presentations were also held in Tartu and Rakvere.

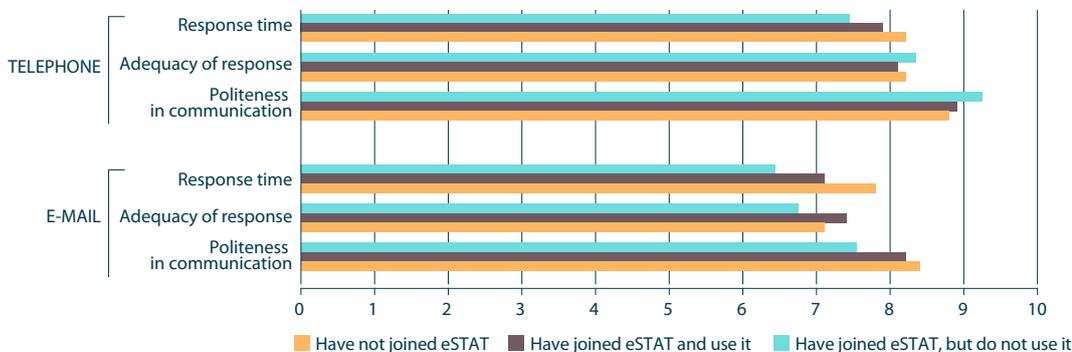
The year 2011 was eventful for Statistics Estonia: Statistics Estonia participated in 57 seminars and other events. 23 of these events were related to the provision of information about the upcoming census to various stakeholders. Also, training seminars were organised for consumers – employees of state agencies, university students, employees of libraries, and other users of statistics – as well as data providers.

Respondents' satisfaction survey

Respondents are important partners for Statistics Estonia, as statistics could not be produced without them. Therefore, one of Statistics Estonia's priorities is to make the process more convenient for respondents. That is why Statistics Estonia has set up eSTAT (the electronic data submission environment) and customer support to help respondents with the completion of questionnaires. From 25 May to 17 June 2011, Statistics Estonia conducted a respondents' satisfaction survey, in order to study the respondents' level of satisfaction with the customer support and eSTAT, and to ask for suggestions for improving the collection of data.

The target group of the survey comprised enterprises and institutions required to submit reports, divided into three groups: those that submit data via eSTAT; those that have joined eSTAT but do not submit data via eSTAT; those that have not joined eSTAT. The web questionnaire was completed by 1,543 respondents. Of these, almost a half (46%) were accountants and chief accountants and a third (29%) were top-level executives. The survey revealed that the respondents' level of satisfaction with the service of the customer support is high – 7.8 on a scale from 1 to 10. Customer service by phone was rated especially highly, with the speed of response, adequacy of response and politeness all rated above 8 points.

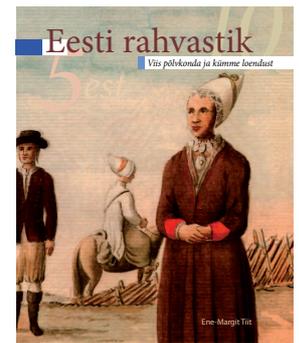
Satisfaction with customer support, 2011 (on a scale from 1 to 10)



The convenience of using eSTAT was rated with 7.2 points on average. Lower ratings (an average score of 6.5–6.6 points) were given to the clarity of instructions on the questionnaires and the clarity of eSTAT user manuals, and to the convenience of completing questionnaires. Respondents were most critical of eSTAT's error messages – the clarity of these received an average rating of 5.7.

According to respondents, the biggest shortcoming of the statistical reporting system is the amount of time needed (cited by 9% respondents). Other problems mentioned were the fact that the data submitted to Statistics Estonia do not coincide with the data submitted to the Estonian Tax and Customs Board or the Commercial Register, or with similar data on which the enterprise's accounts are based. The complexity of the report forms was also pointed out as a problem, i.e. complicated questions and definitions, complex form structure etc. More than a third of the surveyed respondents did not answer this question or said that they do not have problems with the submission of reports.

The respondents' awareness of Statistics Estonia's products (database, publications, news releases) was relatively high (more than 2/3 of the respondents). Nevertheless, the amount of users of the products was much smaller, because a majority of the respondents of the satisfaction survey (and of data respondents in general) were accountants who do not have a constant need for statistical information in their work.



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Statistical actions to be added to the programme over the next five years

The most important/extensive new statistical actions planned for 2012–2016 are as follows:

- ENVIRONMENT**
- In 2012 and 2013, material flow accounts will be developed with the help of a Eurostat grant. The first data submission in 2013 must cover the period 2008–2011. Starting 2014, the action will no longer have financing. In 2012, a new action will begin according to Eurostat's requirements, designed to provide information about the quantities of pesticides marketed in Estonia. In 2013, Statistics Estonia will start the development of energy accounts and the accounts of the environmental protection services and products sector; the plan is to produce these data as main statistics in the future.
- ECONOMY**
- Statistics Estonia will start preparations for the collection of 2012 data for the statistical action "Employer's labour costs". The data will be collected in 2013 and published in 2014. This action is carried out once every four years, with data last collected in 2009 (on the year 2008). Under the EU Structure of Earnings Survey, Statistics Estonia will collect data from enterprises on the intermediate years, i.e. the periods 2011–2013 and 2015–2016, including data about the wages and hours worked of both men and women. These data will be used to calculate the gender pay gap.
 - In 2012, preparations will begin for the Farm Structure Survey. The survey will be conducted in 2013, with the data to be published in 2014. Data were last collected with the Farm Structure Survey as at the census moment of 11 September 2007. To facilitate the estimation of land use and the number of livestock of agricultural holdings, the data of the 2011 Population and Housing Census will be used for the calculations in 2012.
 - At the request of the Bank of Estonia, Statistics Estonia will start a development action in 2013 for the collection of data on real estate rental rates.
 - The statistical programme for 2011–2015 included a development action, scheduled for 2012, for producing more detailed statistics on service enterprises, but this action was omitted from the 2012–2016 programme, since the funding application was not accepted. Regulation (EC) No 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2005 also concerns business services statistics (specifically, producer prices) – the producer price indices of industrial output and business services must be calculated. According to the Regulation's provisions on the producer prices of business services, it is obligatory to regularly publish twenty producer price indices for business services. At the moment, ten indices exist and four are being developed. The six remaining indices must urgently be developed, but this work has had to be postponed due to a lack of resources.
 - The lack of financial resources also caused the omission of the following actions from the statistical programme: development of a satellite account for research and development and for pensions (originally scheduled for 2012), implementation of the new ESA data transmission programme, and preparation of the statistical actions "Use of passenger cars", "Foreign visitors in Estonia" and the Border Survey.
- POPULATION**
- In 2012, the population projection model will be implemented and preparations will be made for calculating population size based on the Population Register.
- SOCIAL LIFE**
- In 2012, Statistics Estonia will begin the statistical action "Material deprivation", in order to provide an overview of social exclusion in the society.
 - In addition to the main part of the Social Survey, data are also collected with extra modules that vary each year. These modules will be "Living conditions" in 2012, "Well-being" in 2013 and "Social participation" in 2014. In 2012, Statistics Estonia will publish the statistics based on the "Inter-generational transmission of poverty" module of the 2011 Social Survey. The Social Survey module "Social participation" scheduled for 2013 in the 2011–2015 statistical programme has been postponed until 2014, and the module "Indebtedness" scheduled for 2014 has been taken out of the programme, since Eurostat's programme schedule has changed.

- In 2012, Statistics Estonia will collect data with the Labour Force Survey module “Transition from work into retirement” and will make preparations for the module “Accidents at work and work-related health problems”. In 2015, preparations will begin for the module “Adapting to employment and work organisation”.
- In 2012, Statistics Estonia will test the Social Survey and Labour Force Survey in the new data collection system (VVIS).
- In the period 2012–2015, development of an integrated social survey system will begin, based on Eurostat’s development plan for social surveys. This should be continued as main statistics in 2016.
- In 2012, preparations for the development of a system of well-being indicators will begin.
- The statistical action Safety Survey carried out in 2009 will be included in the list of statistical actions of 2012 as a Council of Europe survey. Methodological works are planned for 2012. The statistical action Work-life Survey, first conducted in 2009, will be added to the list of statistical actions in 2013 (after data analysis), when preparations for the 2014 data collection will begin.
- In 2012, to improve the collection of income data for the Household Budget Survey, Statistics Estonia plans to test linking to registers that contain income data. In 2012, Statistics Estonia also plans to start a development action for collecting data on living conditions from registers.
- In 2012, Statistics Estonia will launch a development action in order to obtain more detailed data on the social protection expenditure of local governments.
- In 2012, the statistical action “Integration of disabled persons” will be added to main statistics. Preparations for the action were carried out in 2011.
- In 2012, Statistics Estonia plans to start publishing data on registered accidents at work in the Statistical Database and in the Statistical Yearbook of Estonia – so far, these data were only submitted to Eurostat.
- In 2012, the 1995 and 1996 time series for social protection expenditure will be restored.
- Statistics Estonia will implement auxiliary indicators of labour reserves developed by Eurostat; these will be published at the end of 2012.
- The production of statistics (once a year) on labour market policy measures for Eurostat’s labour policy database is included as a separate action in the list of statistical actions.
- In 2012, the Statistical Database tables on social life and population will be analysed in order to determine whether the statistics published satisfy the consumers’ need for information.
- The conduct of the Household Budget Survey in 2014–2016 has been added to the statistical programme, including preparations in 2014, data collection in 2015 and data processing and publication in 2016. The survey will include questions needed to improve the statistical action “Agricultural domestic holdings”. In the years when the Household Budget Survey is not conducted, Statistics Estonia plans to survey the population on domestic and international tourism and to project consumption expenditure using a statistical model.
- In 2013, Statistics Estonia will study the population’s consumption of culture and the media, and cultural activities (hobbies) and volunteering activities. The data will be collected with modules added to personal questionnaires, with an interval of 1 to 3 years.
- A Health Survey will be conducted in 2014, as requested by the Council of Europe.

In 2012, in addition to the regular annual publications, Statistics Estonia will also publish the pocket-sized reference book “Ettevõtlus Eestis. Business in Estonia”, the publications “Põllumajandusloendus. 2010. Agricultural Census”, “Eesti rahvastiku ajakasutus. Time Use of the Population of Estonia” and “Kultuur. Culture”. In the Statistical Database, environmental trends will be published under the sub-area “Environment” > “Environmental pressure”. In 2013, a publication on child well-being will be published. In 2014, analytical publications on the census results and on the well-being of disabled persons will be published.

PUBLICATIONS

Statistical Council re-established in Estonia

From 1922 until the Soviet era, there was a Statistical Council set up under the State Statistical Central Bureau and headed by the Secretary of State. The tradition of a statistical council was legally re-established in Estonia with the revised version of the Official Statistics Act which entered into force on 1 August 2010. The establishment of the Statistical Council ensures greater compliance of the official statistics system of Estonia with the European Statistics Code of Practice. Namely, an expert team, which assessed the implementation of the principles of the Code of Practice in Estonia in 2006, had stated in its final report that it is important to stipulate the role and functions of a statistical council in a law, in order to ensure the professional independence of Statistics Estonia in practice.

The job of the Statistical Council is to advise the producers of statistics – Statistics Estonia and the Bank of Estonia – and to give its opinion to the Ministry of Finance, which is responsible for the institutional organisation of official statistics. All EU Member States (except Latvia) have a body with these functions.

According to the established practice in the world, a statistical council should help to ensure the independence of official statistics and the producers of statistics from the interests and influence of political or other groups, and support their dependence on the needs of the society as a whole. In this process, the council serves as an intermediary between the producers of statistics and the users of statistics; controls the response burden of enterprises and private persons; and assesses the society's means to finance the production of official statistics. For that reason, all major stakeholders – producers of official statistics, users of statistics, data respondents, and experts in statistics, demography, social affairs, environment, economy and agriculture – are represented among the 13 members of the Statistical Council of Estonia.

On 13 January 2011, the Government of the Republic of Estonia approved the rules of procedure and members of the Statistical Council for the next four years. At the first meeting on 28 February 2011, the Council elected Ms Luule Sakkeus (the director of the Estonian Institute for Population Studies at Tallinn University) as its chair. Over the year, the Statistical Council met seven times. Minutes of the meetings are published on Statistics Estonia's website.

2011 was the first year of operation of the new Statistical Council. The Council members learned the principles of official statistics and the principles and contents of the official statistical programme in Estonia. Already in its first year in office, the Council was able to give its professional opinion to the Ministry of Finance regarding Statistics Estonia's planned list of statistical actions for 2012–2016. This time, all the statistical actions approved by the Council could not be added to the list, due to the limited resources of the Ministry of Finance. The Council started to map the subject areas of official statistics with a view to extending the principles of official statistics to environmental and healthcare statistics, for example, which in Estonia are to a great extent also produced outside of the official statistics system.

Each calendar year, the Statistical Council prepares a report on its activities. The report must be finished by 30 April 2012 and will be submitted to the Government of the Republic by the Minister of Finance. At the same time, the report will also be published on Statistics Estonia's website.

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Celebration of the 90th anniversary of Estonian statistics

In 2011 Statistics Estonia had reason to take a look back in time. Nine decades ago, on 1 March 1921, the State Statistical Central Bureau was established in the young Republic of Estonia. This day is considered the birthday of Estonian statistics, as the production and development of official statistics began with the foundation of this state bureau. The State Statistical Central Bureau was run by Mr Albert Pullerits, a driven and capable man. Under his leadership, a strong foundation was built for the Estonian statistical system and Estonia was soon among the countries with high-quality statistics.

Statistics Estonia launched a young statistician's grant

To celebrate the anniversary in style, Statistics Estonia launched the Albert Pullerits young statistician's grant in 2011. The aim is to promote statistics as a crucial branch of science, to encourage young people interested in statistics to apply and develop statistical methods, and to strengthen the cooperation between Statistics Estonia and research institutions.

The grant will be awarded every year and the eligible applicants include anyone who has applied or developed a statistical method to a significant extent in a Master's, Bachelor's or diploma thesis, in a term paper or in a publication, completed in the same or preceding year. Each year, Statistics Estonia will choose a specific subject area for the competition. In 2011, the subject area was population and social statistics, in connection with the approaching 2011 Population and Housing Census.

Only one paper was submitted to the first competition. Even so, the grant committee did not hesitate to award the grant, given the high quality of the applicant's work. The first Albert Pullerits grant was awarded to Ms Piret Avila for her Master's thesis "Statistical Analysis of the Stochastic Super-exponential Growth Model" defended at Tallinn University. For more information, please visit Statistics Estonia's website.

23rd Conference of the Estonian Statistical Society

The 23rd Conference of the Estonian Statistical Society was organised jointly by Statistics Estonia and the Estonian Statistical Society. Since 2011 was also a census year, the conference focused on population issues and had the intriguing title "Kas Eesti rahvas jääb püsima?" ("Will the Estonian Population Survive?").

Over two days, more than twenty presentations were made on the present and future of the population of Estonia, including topics like population ageing, internal and external migration, health, family policy, regional differences of the population, population registration, the 2011 Population and Housing Census and new trends in population censuses. The conference was opened by President of the Riigikogu and academician Ms Ene Ergma. The first day of the conference ended with the debate "Will the Estonian population survive?" between demographers and other experts.

The conference presentations are available on Statistics Estonia's website (in Estonian only). The articles based on the presentations have been published in the booklet "Eesti Statistikeseltsi teabevihik nr 22" (published in March 2012).

Focus on the history of Statistics Estonia

Since 2011 marked 90 years from the birth of Estonian statistics, there was good reason to study the organisation's history. For example, a brief overview of the life of Albert Pullerits, the head of the State Statistical Central Bureau, was published. A summary of the most important events at Statistics Estonia in the last 20 years was published, and articles on the organisation's history were published in the Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics Estonia. It was proposed to install a commemorative plaque on the building where the State Statistical Central Bureau founded in 1921 was first located (the building's current address is Toom-Kooli 13, Tallinn). Both the Tallinn City Centre Administration and the Tallinn office of the Embassy of Canada (which occupies the building today) have supported Statistics Estonia's initiative. The plaque will be installed in 2012 after receiving the approval of the Culture and Heritage Department.

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<http://www.stat.ee/albert-pullerits-grant>



read more:

<http://www.stat.ee/estonian-statistics-90>



Statistics Estonia participated in the public sector quality competition

“Developing State Agency 2011” is a public-sector quality award. The aim of the competition is to improve the performance of state and local government agencies and to raise awareness of the main principles of management quality. The competition is organised by the Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the Estonian Association for Quality. It is based on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), a common European quality management instrument and self-assessment model for the public sector developed by the EU and widely used in EU public administration. The model combines the main features of EFQM and the Speyer model.

29 public sector agencies filed an application to enter the competition. 15 of them (incl. Statistics Estonia) submitted the application form by the deadline. At the beginning of May, there was a two-day visit to Statistics Estonia. During the visit, independent evaluators met the organisation’s key personnel and an employee focus group, and studied various documents. The purpose of the visit was to gather information, in order to verify the claims made in the application form and to check compliance with the award criteria. 27 employees of Statistics Estonia participated in the interviews.

The independent evaluators prepared a feedback report based on the application form and interviews. The report includes a comprehensive assessment of Statistics Estonia’s strengths and areas for improvement, and outlines the evaluators’ recommendations for the development of the organisation. The report was presented to Statistics Estonia’s employees in June 2011.

The final decision was made by a jury, which included representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Network of Estonian Non-profit Organizations, Enterprise Estonia, Estonian Association for Quality and the Tallinn University of Technology (Chair of Quality Engineering and Metrology). The jury decided not to present the main award for various reasons – the assessment methodology had been updated, the best agencies achieved relatively similar results, and this was basically a pilot project. Honourable mention for excellent results was given to (in alphabetical order) the Estonian Health Insurance Fund, the Estonian Tax and Customs Board and the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund. Among small organisations, the three best ones were Suitsupääsupesa kindergarten in Tallinn, the Tallinn Upper Secondary School for Adults and Tartu Health Care College. More information about the public sector quality award is available on the website of the Ministry of Finance (in Estonian only).

A new level in metadata description

In 2010, Statistics Estonia started to modernise the statistical information system that supports its main activity, incl. the meta-system that integrates all the subsystems of the information system. The first stage of the new metadata management system was completed in 2011. As a result, it was possible to transfer most of the functions of the old meta-system to the new system, but the old system cannot be completely discarded yet.

The new metadata management system is based on the Neuchâtel Terminology Model for variables and classifications (which was tested during the pilot project in 2009) and on other standards. The goal of the new meta-system is to support the creation of a metadata-driven statistical information system and to supply all its subsystems with metadata. The statistical information system consists of many parts and in order to integrate these it is necessary to have

the common metadata described only once, always in the same place and immediately after the generation of the metadata for all purposes. This will ensure the uniform presentation of metadata, regardless of the time, place, medium or format used. The meta-system provides an overview of all the statistical actions carried out by Statistics Estonia, of the data collected and the statistics published, of the classifications used and the administrative data captured, and so on. Based on the meta-system, a five-year statistical programme is prepared together with annexes. A metadata-driven information system requires the description of a huge amount of metadata at first – meaning that the implementation of the meta-system is a time-consuming and gradual process. In the following years, the described metadata will only have to be modified from time to time.

Since it is not possible to create the perfect metadata management system in one year, the development of the system must continue.

Implementation of ISKE by Statistics Estonia

ISKE is a three-level IT baseline security system. Its goal is to ensure a security level sufficient for the data processed in IT systems. The system was developed for the security of the information systems and information assets used in the maintenance of the databases of the state and local governments, above all. But ISKE can also be used by enterprises to ensure the security of their IT assets.

ISKE has three levels of security: low (L), medium (M) and high (H). The suitable security level is assigned to data by determining the security classes (security subclasses). The determination of security classes is based on the confidentiality, integrity and availability of data, and on the potential consequences of information being delayed.

As a rule, the implementation of ISKE is compulsory for national databases in Estonia, but not for Statistics Estonia because the official statistics datasets are not databases as defined in the Public Information Act. These datasets are created for the sole purpose of official statistics. On the one hand, implementation of all the measures of the required ISKE level would not be reasonable; on the other hand, these measures might not be sufficient.

Statistics Estonia is implementing ISKE voluntarily, since ISKE is the best information security framework available that comprises organisational, IT and physical security measures. The use of a well-known and approved information security system increases the trust in Statistics Estonia, and trust is the foundation for fulfilling Statistics Estonia's main task.

In September 2011, Statistics Estonia started to assess its datasets and to determine the required security levels and the corresponding security measures. This work will be finished by the end of May 2012. The project "Implementation of ISKE at Statistics Estonia" is financed by the European Regional Development Fund. As the winner of the related public procurement, OÜ KPMG Baltics is Statistics Estonia's partner in this project.

The implementation of ISKE is not a one-off project. It is a continued process, as there will be changes in the IT environment, security threats and measures, and in the implementation guide.

Strengthening of statistical governance

European Statistical Governance Advisory Board interviews Estonia

The financial and economic crisis, which began in 2008 and developed into a debt crisis in Europe, has highlighted the importance of reliable statistics. In 2011, the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB, established in 2008) focused on three of the 15 principles of official statistics. These are 'Professional independence', 'Adequacy of resources' and 'Quality commitment'. Very importantly, ESGAB analysed the extent to which the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP), adopted in 2005, are observed in reality and how quickly improvement actions are implemented. About 60% of the action plans prepared on the basis of peer reviews of Member States (2006–2008) has been fulfilled, but commitment to eliminating the remaining problems has wavered in recent years. If we also consider that the violations of CoP principles within the European Statistical System and the consequences of these violations have affected the reliability of the whole system, it is clear that the governance of the system needs to be strengthened.

ESGAB relied on data from its own independent surveys and the data from Eurostat's annual monitoring of compliance with CoP principles and improvement actions. In addition to that, ESGAB invited the representatives of eight countries and Eurostat for an interview in spring 2011. Estonia was among these eight countries and the Director General of Statistics Estonia had an interview in Brussels on 28 April 2011. The transcript of the interview is not public.

The reasoning behind this sample of interviewees was that the sample should represent both big and small countries and both old and new Member States. The reason why Estonia was one of the interviewees may have been the recently drafted and adopted brand-new Official Statistics Act.

The in-depth interview lasted for 90 minutes and was only attended by the members of ESGAB, a secretary and the representative of the Member State. In case of Estonia, the interviewers included very experienced and renowned former heads of national statistics offices. The first main topic was the legislation on official statistics in Estonia, the birth of the new Official Statistics Act and the impact of this act on the institutional organisation of the statistical system, especially on the professional independence of Statistics Estonia. Another matter discussed under the same topic was the principles and procedure of appointing and removing the head of Statistics Estonia, since this had been done in Estonia pursuant to the new law in the first quarter of 2011. The 2011 report of ESGAB (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/esgab/documents/EN_2011%20ESGAB%20report.pdf) states that many countries need to modernise the legal basis of official statistics. Estonia realised this already at the end of 2006, after a review of compliance with CoP principles. Implementation of the principle of equal treatment of consumers, and the operation and composition of the Statistical Council were also discussed in the context of professional independence.

The second main topic concerned Statistics Estonia's capabilities and resources for the fulfilment of the statistical programme, and the impact of the sharp budget cuts in 2009 on data quality, on the amount of statistical actions planned and on investments. ESGAB was interested in the sharp budget cut in the middle of the fiscal year and its consequences as well as how Statistics Estonia responded to the cuts.

The third main topic concerned the systems and procedures used to ensure the quality of statistical data processing, and the implementation and publication of data quality indicators. The existence of systems that support quality commitment, and the actual use of these systems was a general focus area for ESGAB. In case of Estonia, the interest in this aspect was highly justified also for the reason that, even though the action plan based on the results of the 2006 CoP review stipulates the necessary tasks, Statistics Estonia has had to admit (in its yearly report) that not all things have been implemented at the speed originally planned.

With this interview, Estonia contributed to the improvement of the governance of the European Statistical System, by helping to determine potential problem areas and by promoting the modernisation of statistical legislation, thereby strengthening the institutional environment. Nevertheless, the summary of the interview also highlights some risks that could, in certain circumstances, threaten the actual or perceived reliability of official statistics in Estonia.

read more:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/esgab/documents/EN_2011%20ESGAB%20report.pdf



Personnel

Number of employees, structure and trends

At the end of 2011, Statistics Estonia had 358 staff positions. In 2011, an average of 432 public servants (incl. 76 persons in support staff positions, 16 non-staff public servants and 43 non-staff officials) worked for Statistics Estonia. Compared to 2010, the average number of public servants increased by 24, due to the persons employed for the 2011 Population and Housing Census (PHC 2011) and for the Register-based Population and Housing Census (REGREL).

Most of the officials (83%) working at Statistics Estonia are women, although the number of female officials has decreased slightly in recent years (86% in 2009, 84% in 2010). The majority of officials (84%) have higher education (of these, 16% hold a Master's degree or equivalent qualifications, and 2% have a doctorate degree), 6.5% have professional secondary education and 10% have secondary education.

At the end of 2010, persons aged 51–60 had the biggest share among support staff and officials (38% and 28% respectively). At the end of 2011, the age group 51–60 was still the most dominant among support staff (38%), while among officials persons aged 21–30 had the biggest share (23%), followed by persons aged 51–60 and persons aged 31–40 (both 22.7%). Compared to 2010, the greatest changes have occurred in the group of officials aged 51–60 (their share has decreased by 5%) and aged 31–40 (their share has increased by 4%). The proportions of other age groups have not changed so much. Since 2009, the share of officials under 40 has increased and the share of officials over 40 has decreased.

In 2011, labour turnover at Statistics Estonia increased significantly among non-staff officials, which had a great impact on overall labour turnover. Among senior officials, who make up the biggest group among all the officials at Statistics Estonia, there was also a remarkable change in labour turnover (from 7.1% to 9.2%). The turnover of higher officials decreased. Compared to 2010, people are not as afraid to change jobs.

Labour turnover^a, 2006–2011 (percentages)

Group of public servants	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Higher officials	2.4	12.0	11.1	0.0	6.4	4.2
Senior officials	12.9	16.0	17.1	5.6	7.1	9.2
Junior officials	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Support staff	13.6	25.6	20.7	9.6	0.0	0.0
Non-staff (NS) officials (excl. NS support staff)	11.7	37.5	50.0	23.5	7.1	23.3 ^b
Total of regular staff and NS officials (excl. NS support staff)	11.7	17.6 ^c	17.7	6.3	5.7	8.4
Regular staff	... ^d	16.9	16.6	5.6	5.6	6.7

^a The 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 are included. The table does not include those who have been dismissed (e.g. released from service due to age), i.e. employees who have resigned from service by agreement of the parties or due to the expiry of a term, unsatisfactory performance in the probationary period or unsuitability for the position (qualifications, health), and deceased persons.

^b Non-staff officials do not include the following PHC 2011 officials: operators, personnel specialists, supervisors, district heads, regional heads, data collection consultants, non-staff interviewers hired for a few months (e.g. for the pilot census of PHC 2011, SHARE etc.). Specialists hired under contracts of employment are included.

^c Compared to the data published in Annual Report 2007, the labour turnover calculation methodology has been revised and, for the purpose of accuracy, non-staff officials who have worked for Statistics Estonia temporarily (i.e. for some months) under a contract of services have been excluded from these turnover calculations in 2007 and onwards.

^d Data not available or too uncertain for publication.

As of 31 December 2011, the majority of officials (25%) had 1–5 years of in-house service. Compared to 2010, the share of this group has decreased by 8%, while the proportion of public servants with less than one year of in-house service has increased from 8% to 16%. This

continues the trend of 2009 and 2010. The share of officials with 5–10 years of in-house service has increased from 17% to 21%, whereas the share of officials with 10–15 years of in-house service has decreased (from 20% to 17%). There have been no significant changes in the group of officials with 15 or more years of in-house service.

Distribution of Statistics Estonia's officials by length of in-house service as at 31 December, 2008–2011



Changes in structure

The following structural changes were made in Statistics Estonia at the beginning of 2011. The former Information Technologies Department was restructured and renamed as the Data Processing Systems Department – it consists of the Data Warehouse Service, Development Service and Statistical Systems Service. In the Methodology Department, three services were established – Mathematical Statistics Service, Metadata Service and Statistical Registers Service. The Statistical Profile Service was renamed as the Statistical Registers Service and transferred from the Enterprise Statistics Department to the Methodology Department.



Anne Remmel and Tuulikki Sillajõe at the celebration of service milestones

Training

In 2011, the main focus of training offered to Statistics Estonia's employees was on activities that support the production of high-quality statistics. The employees of Statistics Estonia attended several training courses in the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP). The most resource-intensive and also the most influential training project was the basic course in national accounts. It was conducted in Estonia by lecturers from Statistics Finland, who teach the same training course as part of the ESTP programme. The six lecturers shared information about national accounts during a three-day training that was attended by 40 employees of Statistics Estonia as well as employees of the Bank of Estonia and the Ministry of Finance. The training was useful for both employees who deal with national accounts on a daily basis (for refreshing and repeating the basics) and also for officials who cooperate with the statisticians of this field and provide the input for statistics.

As in several previous years, Statistics Estonia applied for additional resources for employee development from the European Union Social Fund measure "Training and development of employees of the State, local authorities and NGOs", in order to carry out the project "Development of the mentoring and supervision skills of Statistics Estonia's executives". The project foresees the organisation of a two-day training course and several seminars for 30 executives and specialists, and the preparation of guidelines for mentors and content supervisors (to be prepared in cooperation with consultants). The goal of the project is to create a mentorship and supervision system at Statistics Estonia that follows the organisation's values and the principles of career management. An effective system helps new employees to get settled more easily and provides systematic and relevant support to rotated employees, thereby contributing to the development of both management skills and statistics production. The project continues in 2012, when the main focus will be on practical mentoring and supervision activities and on seminars (to share experiences and improve the guidelines).

In 2011, preparations were also made for the 2011 Population and Housing Census. This included training in information technology, marketing, human resources as well as methodology. 15 district heads, 25 personnel specialists, 90 operators and 132 supervisors completed a training programme in their relevant field before starting work. Also, guidelines and study materials were prepared to train 2,200 enumerators in 2012.

Staff events

The 2011 Winter Day was organised by the Price and Wages Statistics Department. On 18 March, 78 employees visited the historic passages under the Toompea bastions. These secret passages are unique in Europe and can only be visited with a guide.

On 5 August, a great number of Statistics Estonia's employees headed to the Kõrtsitalu tourist farm in Mustjõe village to celebrate the organisation's Summer Days (organised by the Data Processing Systems Department). The weather was really nice and 80 employees (with partners and families) participated in the event. In connection with the approaching Population and Housing Census, the theme of the Summer Days was "PHC 2011 Training Camp". The event was interesting and well-organised, with many activities for both adults and children, such as a tour of the farm premises and fun games. The Data Processing Systems Department, Enterprise Statistics Department and General Department had also prepared some entertainment for the audience. A song-book containing famous songs provided excitement until the early morning.

There was no Christmas party for children in 2011, because the National, Financial and Environmental Accounts Department (the chosen organisers) counted all the children of Statistics Estonia's employees and found that the number of children was much bigger than in previous years, due to the additional employees in the PHC 2011 team, while financial resources were limited. Instead of the customary party, all children received a present containing a game or children's book and sweets. The busy elves prepared 378 packages in the week before Christmas and presented these to parents for a song or little poem – and some children were also spotted around the building.

Instead of the traditional staff party at the end of the year, the Enterprise Statistics Department organised a New Year's party. This idea was well received and a record number of people attended – 170. The event took place on 5 January in the White Hall of the Estonian National Opera. Before the party, attendants were given an exciting tour of the backstage of the opera theatre, where they saw the practical side of opera magic and could also step on the stage. After that, there was a reception in the White Hall. Director General Mr Priit Potisepp made a speech, which was followed by a theatre-themed entertainment programme. The zither ensemble Kukulind (supervised by Laura Linnaks) played zither music while the soprano Keiti Kaustel sang. The duo Marielle Borthwick and Per Eeljõe performed beautiful opera numbers accompanied by a piano and a show dance group performed. After cake and coffee, guests enjoyed a concert by Uku Suviste.

Financing

The operating expenses of Statistics Estonia in 2011 amounted to 6.3 million euros. Compared to 2010, there was a 3.5% increase in expenses, mainly due to the costs of PIAAC, which is a survey financed by the Structural Funds.

The expenditure on the preparations for the 2011 Population and Housing Census (PHC 2011) and on the Register-based Population and Housing Census (REGREL) was 4.7 million euros in 2011.

Statistics Estonia's operating expenses and investments, 2007–2011 (thousand euros)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total expenses (excl. PHC 2011 expenditure)	6 836.7	8 272.1	6 246.6	6 285.2	6 307.5
Operating expenses	6 602.2	7 585.6	5 958.3	6 132.9	6 201.3
IT investments	234.5	686.5	288.3	152.3	106.2
Expenditure from the state revenue	5 912.3	7 692.7	5 730.2	5 359.2	5 121.8
Operating expenses	5 677.8	7 006.2	5 441.9	5 322.1	5 121.8
personnel costs	4 416.5	5 538.7	4 444.4	4 180.8	4 042.8
administration costs	1 261.3	1 467.5	997.5	1 141.3	1 079.0
IT investments	234.5	686.5	288.3	37.1	0.0
Expenditure from the revenue of economic activities	68.2	39.9	38.0	62.7	34.1
Operating expenses	68.2	39.9	38.0	62.7	34.1
personnel costs	28.2	17.9	9.5	52.3	33.7
administration costs	40.0	22.0	28.5	10.4	0.4
Expenditure from supports received from the EU and Structural Funds	856.2	539.5	478.4	863.2	1 151.6
Operating expenses	856.2	539.5	478.4	748.0	1 045.4
personnel costs	603.7	249.2	286.0	524.8	755.1
administration costs	252.4	290.3	192.4	223.2	290.3
IT investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	115.2	106.2
PHC 2011 and REGREL expenditure	0.0	0.0	1 196.8	1 156.2	4 742.5
Operating expenses	0.0	0.0	604.2	875.2	2 008.5
personnel costs	0.0	0.0	296.4	559.7	1 111.1
administration costs	0.0	0.0	307.8	315.5	897.4
IT investments	0.0	0.0	592.6	281.0	2 734.0

Financing sources, 2004–2011



Costs, 2004–2011

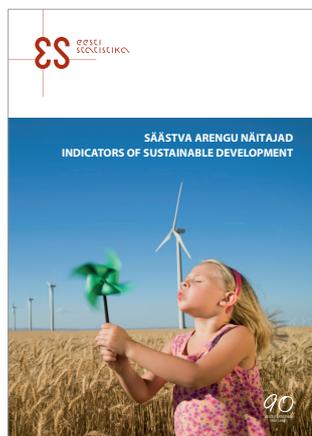


Publications 2011

- „Eesti piirkondlik areng. 2011. Regional development in Estonia“
- „Eesti rahvastik. Viis põlvkonda ja kümme loendust“
- „Eesti statistika aastaraamat. 2011. Statistical Yearbook of Estonia“
- Eesti Statistika Kvartalikirj. Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics Estonia
- „Eesti. Arve ja fakte 2011“
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