Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

annual report
2022

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Foreword

Dear reader,

Today, statistics – accurate, up-to-date, and relevant indicators – is a pillar of social and economic development. Regardless of various external factors, Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia has been able to provide up-to-date indicators guiding decision makers, policy makers, and general public into the right direction. Prompt production of high-quality statistics requires continuous improvement of our efficiency as well as introduction of new methods and technologies.

Data processing is no longer possible without advanced digital tools, therefore last year we made several improvements (e.g., to the Statistical Business Register as well as Content Management System for Statistical Classifications) and introduced some new systems (e.g., Common Production System of Producer Price Indices to be used for more efficient calculation of producer and import price indices and Unified Import-Export Statistical Information System used in foreign trade statistics (introduced with the European Regional Development Fund support)).

In 2022 we completed work on two major activities – Population and Housing Census 2021 and Agricultural Census 2020. We are very proud, and rightly so, to be the first national authority of the European Statistical System that published results of the Population and Housing Census 2021. In addition, we are very satisfied with the fact that the target-oriented events (academic breakfast, meetings, conferences) organised within the framework of these activities have resulted in new forms of cooperation with our data users and partners.

In the operational planning cycle, last year marked the end of our triennial strategic plan. Both the results achieved and performance indicators show that our work has been very targeted and productive, moreover our strategic objectives were met despite the new challenges, changing working environment, and restrictions imposed due to the emergency. Operational strategy for the next period is based on introspective – assessment of our strengths and weaknesses as well as joint choosing of future pathways, setting of priorities and objectives.

Knowing the challenges we face today, I would like to express my gratitude to each and every employee of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia for being responsible, professional and decent in the performance of work duties as well as for the effective and development-oriented production of international and national statistics. Growth, development, and engagement of our employees are among the key priorities also set for the upcoming years. We are very proud of the skills acquired and shown by our employees as well as their growing professionalism, therefore we are dedicated to maintaining the high level through expanding capacity, promoting growth as well as encouraging development of skills and knowledge.

The report gives insight into the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia activities – work directions, tasks completed, the most significant changes – and resources available in 2022 as well as priorities set for 2023.

Aija Žīgure
President
Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

Contents

CONTENTS, ABBREVIATIONS, MISSION

List of Abbreviations

the Cabinet	Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia
CAWI-mobile	Computer Assisted Web Interviewing system for data input on small screens
CFCA	Central Finance and Contracting Agency
COICOP	UN Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose
COVID-19	coronavirus disease, an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus
CSB	Central Statistical Bureau of the Republic of Latvia
EBS Regulation	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics
EC	European Commission
EM	Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESS	European Statistical System
EU	European Union
Eurostat	statistical office of the European Union
Extrastat	system for collecting information and producing statistics for the trade with non-EU countries
GDP	gross domestic product
Intrastat	system for collecting information and producing statistics for the trade in goods between EU countries
ISDMS	Integrated Statistical Data Management System
MoEPRD	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
NACE Regulation	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
NUTS Regulation	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONAs	other national authorities. Statistical institutions producing official European statistics
SDGs	UN Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals
SIA	limited liability company. A private company shares whereof are not publicly traded; it is a legal person
SRS	State Revenue Service of the Republic of Latvia
UN	United Nations Organisation
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
VAT	Value Added Tax

Background Information

Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB) is a direct administration authority operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia. The Statistics Law stipulates that CSB is an advisory body of the system of official statistics and functionally subordinates statistical institutions providing official Latvian and European statistics.

Mission, vision, values and priorities

Mission

Production of reliable statistics used for socio-economic analyses and decision-making.

Vīsion

A modern statistical institute being a leader of innovative approach in statistical production.

CSB is working based on the following values:

Independence

CSB performs its functions single-handed, independently, equally, and fairly.

Professionalism

CSB defends interests of Latvia by contributing to the development of international methodological requirements, EU legislative procedure and work of international organizations in a professional manner. It produces statistics with new and innovative technologies and methods. CSB is not afraid to experiment, seek for and use new data sources, and has undertaken to achieve high quality and efficiency in each stage of its work.

Openness

CSB communicates in an open, inquisitive, explanatory manner and listens to the users' needs. It engages in national and international public debate on various aspects of statistical production.

Overarching strategic goal: provision of up-to-date statistical information during the strategy period by building partnerships providing new data sources and methods for the statistical production.

Strategic priorities of the reporting period:

- higher professionalism, operational efficiency and quality;

- better cooperation with data providers, owners and users allowing to develop statistical production process;

- timely production of statistics meeting changing needs of data users and new economic phenomena;

- production of up-to-date and user-oriented experimental statistics and ensuring sustainability thereof by including in the routine production processes;

- development of organizational information systems to ensure full life cycle of the data used to produce statistics;

- strengthening of official statistics system by introducing high-level general quality requirements for Latvian official statistics institutions.

Directions and aims of CSB activities

To fulfil CSB functions, its activities are organised in four directions according to the aim to be achieved:

Directions	Aim
Development of partnerships to create efficient and secure data ecosystem	Greater integration of various, incl. private, data sources into statistical production
User-oriented approach in production of statistics by expanding its usability	Wider possibilities to publish and use statistics based on the data user demand
Enhancement of the institution's technologies and personnel performance	Better working environment in the CSB and higher efficiency of its activities
Coordination of the official statistics system in the country	Improvement of production environment in Latvian official statistics institutions

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRIENNIAL OPERATIONAL STRATEGY OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU

Implementation of the Triennial Operational Strategy of the Central Statistical Bureau

Overall budget

Implementation period of the triennial (2020-2022) operational strategy was concluded by year 2022. Total expenditure over a triennial period reached EUR 36.6 million, of which 77 % were used for wages and salaries.

Total expenditure of the CSB including expenditure on wages and salaries; 2020–2022

	2020	2021	2022
total expenditure, million EUR	11.5	11.9	13.2
expenditure on wages and salaries, million EUR	9.2	9.5	9.5

■ total expenditure, million EUR ■ expenditure on wages and salaries, million EUR

Results achieved in breakdown by activities

The operations' results planned for the achievement of aims of activities set for 2020–2022 have been achieved in CSB operations strategy.

It is characterized by the following performance indicators:

Aim of the activity: to promote the integration of various, including private, data sources in the processes of providing statistics				
Result	Performance indicator	Unit of measure	Planned value	Reached value
Cooperation with data providers has been developed	Within the framework of data storage, the data from external data providers/users has been integrated	number	77	77
	Cooperation agreements with the most important administrative data holders have been concluded/updated	number	10	11
	Informative events on research and development and innovation data recording for merchants	number	3	6
	Average response (collection) level of enterprise statistics reports has been ensured	%	90	91
Data collection environment has been improved for the convenience of respondents and to improve the quality of data processing	For a more effective cooperation with data providers, descriptions of statistical reports have been placed on the website	% of the number of forms	100	100
	Basic indicators in household and personal surveys have been standardized within the framework of social statistics modernization activities	number	38	38
Aim of the activity: to improve options of publishing and using statistical data in accordance with data users' request				
The statistical literacy of data users has been promoted and data quality – improved	Activities for educating data users and promoting statistics, of which conferences and presentations	number	12	14
	Activities for improvement of quality of publicly available information by providing and maintaining feedback with users of official statistics	number	12	12

Result	Performance indicator	Unit of measure	Planned value	Reached value
Advanced use of statistical data	At a prearranged time and in a way accessible to the society, in accordance with the official statistics programme, the official statistics and descriptive metadata of the statistical institution are published on the official statistics portal	%	90	90
	Geospatial statistics download services on the OSP comply with the requirements of Annex III topics 1 and 10 of INSPIRE directive	%	100	100
	Share of statistical institutions that publish statistics following open data standards	%	100	100
Up-to-date data and indicators have been provided	Innovative statistical products, specific target-oriented innovative solutions for publication of statistics, geospatial statistics	number	3	3
	Monitoring of the employment and income of graduates of Latvian universities over an increasing period of time	number of graduates	60 000	60 000
	Monitoring of the employment and income of graduates of Latvian vocational education institutions over an increasing period of time	number of graduates	24 000	24 000
	Data on the availability of dwellings by type of household	number of dwellings	1 100 000	1 100 000

Aim of the activity:
improved working environment and increased operational efficiency of the CSB

Result	Performance indicator	Unit of measure	Planned value	Reached value
Increased personnel motivation and improved competencies	Job posts subject to audit of functions and scoring	% of the total number of job posts	15	100
	Portfolio of personnel capabilities	number of capabilities defined	4	4
	Competency-based recruitment process	athe number of function groups for which the competency interview model has been developed	15	15

Result	Performance indicator	Unit of measure	Planned value	Reached value
Core business processes have been optimized	Number of surveys added to the framework of standardized anonymization requirements for social statistics data	number	3	3
	A system for processing statistics of foreign trade in goods based on the system of interconnected modules	number	1	1
Aim of the activity: **improved environment of official statistics production in statistical institutions of Latvia**				
Increasing the competence of statistical institutions of Latvia in the field of official statistics	Compliance of statistical institutions of Latvia producing European statistics with the requirements of the European statistics Code of Practice	%	90	91
	Meetings of statistical institutions of Latvia on current operational issues	number	9	10
	Level of compliance to general quality requirements reached by Latvian institutions producing international and national statistics increases every year	%	90	87,4

ONAs compliance level in 2022: 87 % were fully implemented, 9 % – partially, total = 96 %. The planned volume of 90 % has not been reached, because the list of institutions has changed, as well as implementation of the initiative of State Chancellery providing for the use of the Unified Web Platform (UWP) in state administration is still ongoing (when switching to the UWP, the information that was prepared and posted on institutions' websites is still not fully restored).

STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS

Statistical Dimensions

Improvements to the official statistics environment in Latvian official statistics institutions are constant focus area of the CSB. It monitors progress towards meeting general quality requirements through individual cooperation with each statistical institution, and institutions share their experience and discuss current developments in this field in joint meetings. Requirements of the European Statistics Code of Practice were met in 87 % of institutions producing national and international statistics and in 91 % of institutions producing European statistics.

Mutually successful **cooperation with respondents** is actively encouraged by providing support and implementing their recommendations. Being a customer-oriented authority, CSB is working based upon principle *Consult First*. Great attention is devoted to the production of high-quality statistics and continuous availability of information – information on the CSB website is clear, easy to find and understandable, invitational letters to respondents are sent in good time, target audience is reached with modern tools and technologies, and advice on methodologies and data validations is professional.

Aiming to reduce response burden, CSB specialists continuously work on the **integration of administrative data into the statistical production**. For example, the information in the list of public persons and establishments maintained by the Register of Enterprises is used by the CSB for initial identification of State and local government authorities and analysis of demographic indicators. Information in annual reports of political organisations (parties) received from the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau is used to calculate GDP. State Revenue Service data from special VAT returns and import customs declarations for postal items in value up to EUR 150 are used in foreign trade statistics. Data on registered agricultural machinery (at the level of owners/holders) available in register of tractor machinery maintained by the State Technical Control Agency will be used in the Integrated Farm Statistics 2023.

CSB sees the use of alternative, including **private, data sources** in statistical production as one of the development directions, thus reducing response burden even more. Further modernisation of statistical production also covers exploration of the possibility to use, e.g., information on **purchases of persons having loyalty cards** which is then used to develop algorithms for data transcoding and using in the Household Budget Survey. Work has been started on the transition from the purchase database (codes and commodities) transcoding algorithm to the UN Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP 2018), so that the data can be used to calculate household consumption expenditure.

CSB also kept exploring use of the **bank card** data, therefore took part in international ad hoc groups and bilateral meetings with countries that have

integrated the data into other statistical products. To be able to use this source in tourism statistics, the merchant category codes included under the item Travel in the Balance of Payments were analysed in greater detail, expenses on accommodation services were compared to those available in accommodation statistics, moreover experts from the Latvijas Banka received the resultant recommendations regarding use of the data source as well. In the first half of 2022, CSB was actively cooperating with Latvijas Banka to research bank card data, link classifications, develop methodology and thus use the data in the Balance of Payments and GDP calculations. As a result, methodology and classification transitions were developed so that the bank card data may be used to estimate household final consumption in GDP (for e-commerce – purchases made by residents over the Internet from abroad), expenditures of residents abroad and expenditures of non-residents in Latvia, as well as include the data in national accounts imports and exports calculations. As a result, bank card data is already used to calculate the respective GDP items starting from the data on 2020. Currently, national accounts are assessing use of the bank card data to calculate household final consumption in GDP regarding the purchases of residents made in Latvia.

Within the framework of Eurostat project, 2018–2021 data (in breakdown by municipalities) from international **accommodation booking platforms** (received to analyse users of the tourism market) as well as provisional information on the quarters of 2022 was studied and analysed. Data on several cities (Riga, Daugavpils, Jelgava, Jūrmala, Liepāja, Ventspils) were published on the official statistics portal (based on the agreements concluded with the platforms). CSB shared the experience with reusing private data gained in this project in an International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) conference session in Kraków, Poland. The booking platform and accommodation data were popularised in the events aimed to increase attendance of tourist sites and cultural events via digital marketing solutions held in Latgale, Kurzeme, Zemgale and Vidzeme.

Production of up-to-date and user-friendly **experimental statistics** and ensuring sustainability thereof, including in production processes, was one of the priorities set out in the triennial operational strategy. By expanding range of statistics and its level of detail that would meet user needs, CSB has provided data users with new sources of information and published various experimental statistics, e.g., on the educational attainment and economic activity of remigrants and activities of and bookings at short-term accommodation establishments made on digital tourism platforms (*Booking, Airbnb, Expedia* and Tripadvisor).

Dita Zemīte with colleagues in conference held in Kraków, Poland

In 2022 CSB also concluded work on **publishing results of Population and Housing Census 2021**. Economic, geographical (location of a workplace) and educational attainment indicators were published based on the Official Statistical

Statistical Dimensions

Programme as well as territorial division in force after the administrative territorial reform introduced on 1 July 2021. The informative report on the implementation of planned measures intended for the preparation and organisation of the Population and Housing Census 2021 which concludes meeting of the Cabinet of 5 July 2022 was noted, stipulating in the protocol decision that, within the scope of the resources allocated to the institutions referred to in the informative report, the development of administrative data and improvement of the quality thereof shall be continued, including by taking into account the needs of official statistics.

Academic breakfast (aimed at exchanging ideas on the possibilities to use the statistics produced and information about the needs of researchers) with representatives of Latvian academic environment has become a good tradition. Also the event organized in October 2022 in cooperation with the University of Latvia and Employers' Confederation of Latvia involved further discussion about the educational attainment and economic activity indicators (published in June) resulting from the Population and Housing Census as well as latest social statistics and other data available to the CSB. On 17 November 2022 a think tank devoted to the closing of the Population and Housing Census 2021 and publication of its key results was organised. It also served as a tool to exchange views on further activities towards development of the Census data collection.

In line with the Cabinet regulation, in December 2022 a summary data on the **higher and vocational education institution graduates** (graduate monitoring containing information on graduate income in 2021 and economic activity at the beginning of 2021) were produced and submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science. Data on graduates of 2017 were compiled for the fourth time, thus allowing to analyse change in the employment and income thereof over a longer period.

In 2021–2022, within the framework of Eurostat grant project, CSB for the first time conducted **EU survey on gender-based violence against women and other forms of inter-personal violence** (EU-GBV). Data users have often pointed to the lack of such statistics, therefore CSB issued a publication *Prevalence of Violence in Latvia 2021*, published press releases 'Each fourth female and each fifth male has experienced violence' and 'Sexual harassment at work is more common among women' on the official statistics portal, as well as published an infographic with the EU-GBV results on social media. Thus, the results produced may be used to analyse national situation and will contribute to further policy planning in this respect.

In 2022 voluminous work was done on the new official statistics portal section *Social inclusion*. It covers social exclusion indicators (material deprivation, monetary poverty, employment, educational attainment, health and public participation) as well as summarises statistics for the population groups at risk of

Sigita Purona-Sida and Aija Žīgure in Population and Housing Census think tank

social exclusion defined by the Ministry of Welfare (persons with disabilities, persons in need, unemployed persons, ethnic minority Roma, people at pre-retirement and retirement age, etc.). Thus, with easily accessible and comprehensible information, CSB has contributed to regular and systematic monitoring of the progress towards UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In respect of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, CSB also provides information needed to develop and take European Green Deal initiatives at national level. Participation in the development of a system for regional indicators on greenhouse gas emissions, mitigation of climate change impacts, and adaptation to climate change provided information base for further development and implementation of regional climate policies and plans. To promote regional climate change policy planning and implementation, CSB has identified opinion about regional climate indicators of the institutions engaged in the development of regional data collection and reporting system. CSB is working on the methodology used to estimate regional indicators (emissions) in energy, transport, and agriculture. In 2022 CSB published the first regional statistics for produced heat in breakdown by the type of fuel consumed. CSB reported the work done in defining climate indicators and methodological developments at a project mid-term conference held on 29 September which was attended by 267 participants from 39 institutions – ministries, public authorities, scientific institutions, local governments, and non-governmental organisations.

Armands Plāte giving presentation in the mid-term conference

Norway grants

The **Agricultural Census 2020** was concluded on 31 March 2022 with a press release showing the key results thereof – main characteristics of economically active holdings, data on land use, livestock, labour force in agriculture, organic farming – at both national and regional level of detail. Some indicators on 2020 were also published in breakdown by municipalities and municipality rural territories as well as broken down by administrative division in force after the administrative territorial reform of 2021. In this Agricultural Census CSB not only was able to reduce response burden on farmers and data collection cost by increasing use of administrative data, but also introduced innovative dissemination methods. Results of the Agricultural Census 2020 were presented to data users, respondents and media at an online seminar *Results of Agricultural Census 2020 – Contribution to the Agricultural Development* given by the CSB, Ministry of Agriculture, and representatives of various agricultural organisations on 31 March 2022. Link to the seminar was available on the CSB website, CSP Facebook account, and news agency LETA website.

Anita Raubena, Armands Plāte and Aija Žīgure in seminar

To predict food and animal feed supply to the world market following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, from July 2022 Member States should prepare quarterly reports to the European Commission on the **stocks of strategically important products** (grain and rapeseed). To provide the information at the requested regularity, the companies purchasing grain, pulses and rape grown in Latvia are

Statistical Dimensions

Vidējais attālums personai dienā

32,2 km
Latvijā

21 km
pilsētās un to svārstmigrāciju zonās

Vidējais pārvietošanās laiks personai dienā

80,1 min.
Latvijā

75,3 min.
pilsētās un to svārstmigrāciju zonās

Visilgaka un garaka parvietošanas diena

ar vilcienu

82 min.
58,9 km

Skatīt vairāk datus šeit

Slide from presentation given in the press briefing on mobility

asked to provide information on stocks on a quarterly basis, thus relevant changes to the periodicity of the questionnaire submission were made. In addition, to ensure that European Commission can monitor implementation of gas consumption reduction measures, provisional data on natural gas consumption during the 2022 heating season were reported every second month.

*"Overall **mobility in Latvia** has reduced, however, the number of trips made per day has increased"* is one of the main conclusions made based on the survey results presented in a press briefing held by the CSB together with Grupa 93 SIA expert on mobility data analysis and Rail Baltica representative on 23 September.

In 2021, following a four-year gap, as a part of Eurostat grant project a survey on passenger mobility was conducted. It was aimed at finding out mobility habits of population and providing EU-comparable indicators by applying common methodological framework and definitions. As response to the data user needs, the survey also included new questions allowing to analyse carsharing and carpooling, new micromobility solutions, and the impact of COVID-19. National-level mobility indicators are rather unique and characterise movement of people from various aspects – modes of transportation used, trip frequency, duration and length – and thus may be used by the field experts when planning and modelling passenger flows based on user requirements. Data tables with mobility indicators on 2017 and 2021 are published on the official statistics portal.

The survey on passenger mobility was concluded with a hybrid seminar for mobility statistics users on 27 September. There Grupa 93 SIA told both national and international participants about Riga and Pierīga data user point of view and their mobility challenges and expert from Italian enterprise TRT TRASPORTI E TERRITORIO srl explained how results of the survey are used in Rail Baltica network modelling in the Baltic states. The need for data on active commuting, cycling, and walking is continuously emphasized by the traffic and infrastructure developers. Since Latvia was one of the few EU countries that conducted survey on passenger mobility, CSB shared its experience at several international events: UN Working Party on Transport Statistics 73rd Session in Geneva, International Transport Forum at the OECD in Paris, annual meeting of the Party on Transport Statistics, and Mobility Survey Conference in Lisbon. On December 16, CSB experts presented the results of the 2021 survey and availability thereof for various researches to the master programme students of the University of Latvia, Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences.

Fulfilment of **user needs for new indicators** requires continuous production of new statistics and alteration of the existing one. For the most part, this is possible with foreign grants. Upon request from and financial support of the

Commission's Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs, by using the business tendency data, CSB calculated new business tendency indicator – labour hoarding, moreover indicator time series are available starting from January 2010. The indicator is also now calculated in construction, manufacturing, retail trade and services.

For the first time CSB on the official statistics portal published experimental statistics for **global value chains** obtained in the survey conducted within the framework of the grant project. Statistics for global value chains is an important tool to monitor trade, job sustainability and economic development policies. It may serve to measure organizational patterns in local, regional, and global value chains and monitor their influence on employment, earnings, value added, innovation, skills, survival and turnover of enterprises. From the EU perspective, the data are vital to see the mobility of jobs from EU to abroad, dependence upon foreign parts of the chain as well as EU integration into global value chains, in particular because of the recent speculations about shortening of global value chains and deglobalization due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the **fluctuating costs of building materials**, in addition to the existing aggregations of the construction cost index a new level was introduced over a very short period. It allows to calculate total construction cost index for building materials in breakdown by building material group. Indices of construction costs by type of resources and group of building materials on monthly basis are published on the official statistics portal starting from 12 July 2022. They are available starting from the data on January 2021, and 2021 is used as the base period. The new breakdown of construction cost indices by building material group is only available for the total construction cost index.

Work on **innovative statistical products** aimed to develop statistical production has resulted in a tool for analysing the spread of COVID-19. It allows showing the spread of COVID-19 infection in municipalities, municipality rural territories and Riga neighbourhoods. The tool depicts cumulative 14-day rate of COVID-19 incidence per 100 thousand inhabitants as well as comparisons to the national average rate and the rate day before. The data are available on the period between 12 March 2020 and the latest data available to the CSB.

CSB experts with students
after presenting mobility statistics

THE GROWING ROLE OF CLASSIFICATIONS IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The Growing Role of Classifications in Official Statistics

The Statistical Law defines classification as a systemized allocation of objects based on established characteristics where a code is assigned to each object or group of objects. In statistics, different objects (e.g., companies, cars, territories, people) are grouped by specific characteristics and afterwards each group gets a code that is used for further data processing. In addition, use of common characteristics and codes to group data on the same phenomenon over a longer period ensures data comparability.

The list of statistical classifications used in the production of official statistics is approved by the Cabinet. The list includes 56 classifications which are implemented, maintained, and published by 12 different public authorities.

Statistical classifications are aimed at ensuring comparability and circulation of official statistics through a certain economic space.

- At national level comparability is ensured by national classifications developed for national needs as well as EU and international classifications (if can be used directly).

- Comparability in the European Economic area is ensured by EU classifications developed by EU institutions.

- At international level comparability is ensured by international classifications developed by international organisations.

As significant amounts of data are accumulated in various national information systems and databases, information there (e.g., country codes, education levels, occupations) should also be arranged based on common international and national classifications, thus facilitating data interoperability and use, moreover system owners or managers should ensure use of the classifications provided for in legislation.

The greatest proportion of questions asked to the CSB is related to determining economic activity based on the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE). CSB provides advice on classifications to both data owners (institutions and organisations maintaining different registers or collecting statistics) and data users (businesses and individuals).

All classifications used in official statistics are included in the Classification Catalogue available on the CSB website. It lists all classifications provided for in the Cabinet regulations as well as details thereof, e.g., title, edition/version or the year of issue, responsible authority, status (national, EU, international), purpose of introduction, classification object, area of application, legal basis,
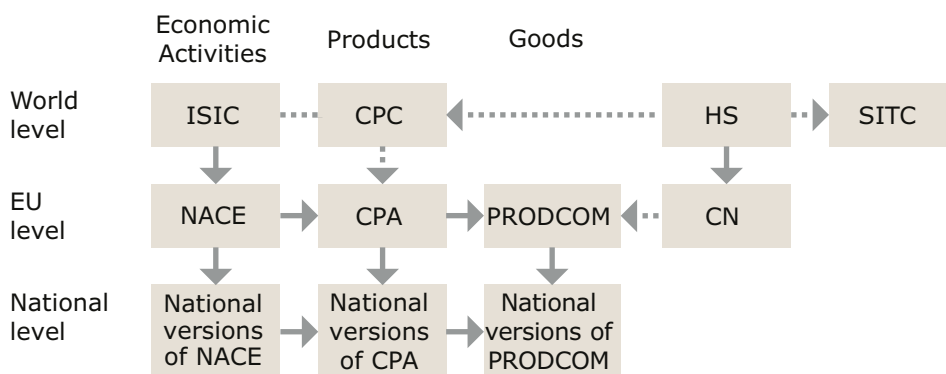
author, planned update or revision, availability, coding system, code length, number of levels, and contact person.

The catalogue is maintained by the CSB, and the information in the catalogue, in cooperation with the responsible authority or person, is reviewed at least once a year, thus ensuring veracity and validity thereof.

All classifications are interrelated.

CN
Combined Nomenclature

CPA
Statistical Classification of Products by Activity

CPC
Central Product Classification

HS
Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

ISIC
International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities

NACE
Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community

PRODCOM
List of PRODucts of the European COMmunity

SITC
Standard International Trade Classification

Interrelation of classifications used to describe economic processes

→ Is the reference classification.
Classifications are linked by the structure

⋯▸ Is the reference classification.
Classifications are linked by conversion table

⋯⋯ Classifications are linked by conversion tables

Ensuring that classifications are coherent and up-to-date requires a lot of work at international, EU, and national level. Several international and EU classifications have been under review in recent years. Now, the process is coming to an end, and it has been planned to implement their new versions. CSB takes part in this kind of development activities as well.

In 2022 CSB expressed national opinion on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev. 4) to the UN Statistical Commission.

In 2022 EU work on the second revision of NACE was continued. It also engaged CSB that represented Latvia and expressed national opinion on the NACE Rev. 2.1 structure and implementation plan. The classification is reviewed to ensure

its compliance with the significant structural changes undergone by economic activities over the past decade (e.g., trade was significantly influenced by notably larger proportion of mail order trade and energy produced from renewable sources had to be separated) as well as the rapid technological progress (e.g., introduction of nanotechnologies and other scientific achievements in manufacturing, growing digitisation). On 9 March 2023, amendments to the NACE Regulation entered into force. They stipulate that the new NACE Rev. 2.1 will be applied to the data transmitted to the EC from 1 January 2025 (taking into account transmission deadlines for each specific statistical domain set out in the delegated Regulation). Currently, work is continued on the development of NACE Rev. 2.1 explanatory notes and code transition tables.

Aiming to align statistical regions of Latvia with the existing planning regions, CSB was also engaged in the work on the amendments to the NUTS Regulation. On 26 December 2022, EC adopted a delegated regulation amending the existing NUTS Regulation by replacing the previous annexes (incl. Annex 1 that defines NUTS regions) with new ones. Data transmission to EC based on the new breakdown of statistical regions should be ensured starting from 1 January 2024 while time series shall be recalculated and transmitted by 1 January 2026.

To enhance efficiency of data processing and analysis at both producer and user side, in 2022 a Content Management System for Statistical Classifications was developed and is currently tested. It, in machine readable and linked open data format, will serve as a database for statistical classifications in use, provide information on their groupings and versions, other related classifications, and link to similar EU and international classifications. Use of modern technologies will also help CSB when consulting data owners and users on classification issues.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS
DEVELOPMENT
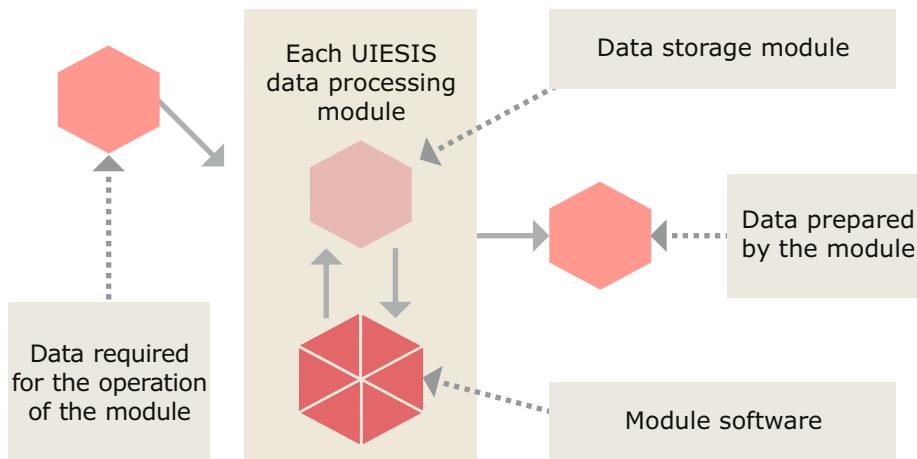
Information Systems Development

Last year CSB developed statistical information systems in several statistics sectors. The development of these systems will ensure processing of statistical data with a higher degree of automation and a higher overall level of digitisation. In addition, integrated statistical information systems ensure transparency of business processes and improve the efficiency of data processing.

In 2022 the CSB implemented such projects as Unified Import-Export Statistical Information System, Phase 1 of Common Production System of Producer Price Indices, Structural Business Statistics Aggregated Data Validation System, Classification Information System, Improvement of Statistical Business Register, Electronic Working Time Registration System for CSB Employees, Upgrading of the CSB Intranet and Data Input of Computer Assisted Web Interviewing System from Mobile Devices (CAWI mobile).

Unified Import-Export Statistical Information System (UIESIS)

Instead of using fragmented foreign trade data processing systems and websites, Unified Import-Export Statistical Information System has been implemented. It is a data processing system, so mostly all modules are related to data processing where only some modules serve as auxiliary modules or service modules.

A simplified scheme of the data processing module

Information Systems Development

Unified Import-Export Statistical Information System contains such data processing modules as Extrastat customs data, microdata of other Member States, Intrastat respondents' data, VAT data from the SRS, Latvian microdata for the exchange, assessment of the missing data, Exporter and Importer Register, analytics and production database.

In addition to the modules mentioned, the system has a Metadata module and an Administration module. Data from these modules is used to enable data processing. In the Unified Import-Export Statistical Information System all data processing structures, processing conditions and algorithms are described in metadata, thus the metadata module serves as a common repository where all processing algorithms, data structures and interconnections are stored and maintained. Also, the metadata module stores and maintains all the classifications used in the data processing modules. In data processing, these metadata are used to ensure processes according to algorithms defined in the metadata. Data on users and user access rights are stored in the administration base.
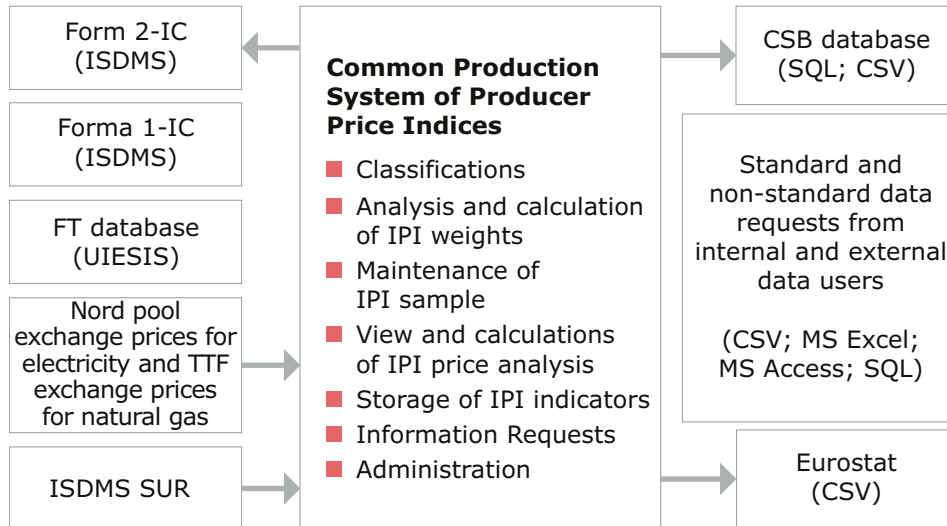
Phase 1 of Common Production System of Producer Price Indices

Common Production System of Producer Price Indices was developed to streamline the work of CSB employees, automate and improve calculation and storage of indices, preparation of data required for the requirements of external and internal data users, as well as publication of indices on the official statistical portal.

In the system separate flows of producer price indices (a total of five different indices), attaching the necessary data sources, calculations, summaries and publications to each flow, are maintained, data in a unified information system is collected, primary data from ISDMS and other data sources (*.xlsx, *.accdb, *.csv, SQL) is imported, weights, indices, changes and impacts are calculated, pre-processing of the obtained data, manual data input and corrections are carried out, raw data quality control, possibilities to analyse and use the imputation methods of the corresponding indicators are automated, the possibility to filter and export the selected data is provided, summaries in various formats are prepared (*.xlsx, *.accdb, *.csv), data for publication are prepared according to the needs of data users and the structure (adjustable structure) and possibility to change data sources by adjusting data attachment is provided.

In general, it is intended to maintain in the system such indices as Producer Price Index in Industry, Import Price Index, Export Unit Value Index, Service Producer Price Index and Construction Cost Index. Within the framework of phase 1 of the project, complete functionality of the system was implemented to ensure production of Import Price Index It is planned to include the remaining four index calculations in the system in 2023.

Import price index processing scheme in Common Production System of Producer Price Indices

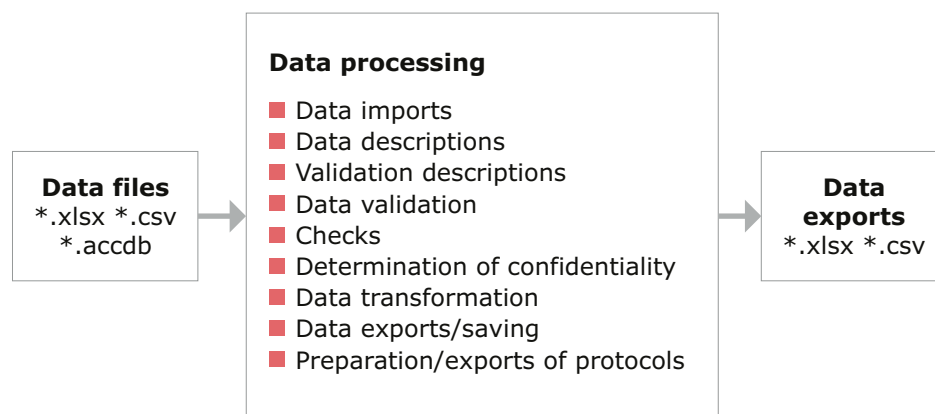| Form 2-IC (ISDMS)	**Common Production System of Producer Price Indices**	CSB database (SQL; CSV)
Forma 1-IC (ISDMS)	■ Classifications	Standard and non-standard data requests from internal and external data users
FT database (UIESIS)	■ Analysis and calculation of IPI weights	
Nord pool exchange prices for electricity and TTF exchange prices for natural gas	■ Maintenance of IPI sample ■ View and calculations of IPI price analysis	(CSV; MS Excel; MS Access; SQL)
ISDMS SUR	■ Storage of IPI indicators ■ Information Requests ■ Administration	Eurostat (CSV)

Structural Business Statistics Aggregated Data Validation System (SBS Valid)

Structural Business Statistics Aggregated Data Validation System provides CSB users with a tool for automatic validation of SBS aggregated data, descriptions of validation errors, identification of confidentiality features and data transfer to Eurostat. Within the framework of the system, an integration has been created with т-ARGUS, an aggregated data confidentiality check tool developed by Statistics Netherlands..

The flow of processes provided by the system

Data files	Data processing	Data exports
*.xlsx *.csv *.accdb	■ Data imports ■ Data descriptions ■ Validation descriptions ■ Data validation ■ Checks ■ Determination of confidentiality ■ Data transformation ■ Data exports/saving ■ Preparation/exports of protocols	*.xlsx *.csv

The system provides such functions as data imports, descriptions of validation conditions, application of validation conditions to a specific data flow (data series), determination of data confidentiality using the т-ARGUS software, creation of the structure description of technical format in which the data must be sent to Eurostat, data conversion to technical format by adding the result received from т-ARGUS, data export in various formats (*.xlsx, *.accdb, *.csv), preparation of validation protocols, data preparation for sending using the Edamis system created for sending Eurostat data, and saving data versions.

Classification Information System

Classification Information System was created to provide a convenient and intuitive solution where the user will be able to independently and quickly find the classification data of interest. In order to achieve the goal set, an in-depth analysis of user needs was carried out. According to the user goals, behaviour and needs identified within the analysis of user needs, planning of use, preparation of design sketches and development of graphic design samples of public part of the Classification Information System for main application views were carried out, for which testing of fitness for use was additionally carried out.
Classification Information System consists of public and internal use. Public access can be used by unauthenticated and unauthorized users to review classifications available in the system using a graphical user interface or application interface that allows retrieving classifications for reuse in data processing.

Internal use of the system is intended for system operators and internal CSB users. In this environment statistical classifications are prepared for use, relevant hierarchies are created, their versioning in time as well as content and publication management is ensured. The system provides links both between

versions of the same classification to track changes and between different classifications, providing the option to browse such links and use correlations available. In addition, the system provides an option of reflecting and retrieving classifications in the form of linked open data, as well as publication of classifications on the open data portal.

Improvement of Statistical Business Register

Metadata driven integrated statistical data management system (MDD-ISDMS) were integrated to ensure statistical processes based on determined uniform methodological principles, definitions and quality criteria, the functionality of the Statistical Business Register module has been revised to ensure harmonized statistics on the structure of units, economic activity, transactions and performance of the business sector.

In accordance with the binding regulation and methodological instructions, henceforth the information will be maintained in Statistical Business Register at the level of legal unit and statistical unit *enterprise*, thus separating the information available in administrative sources from statistical information. Within the framework of the project, interconnection and hierarchy of the legal entity and statistical entities maintained in Statistical Business Register has been revised, as well as data processing and updating options have been revised using administrative and open data.

Electronic Working Time Registration System for CSB Employees

The CSB has created an internal system that is intended for registering working time. Every employee is obliged to fill out the form for reporting the working time, which serves as the basis for calculating the salary on a monthly basis.

The working time report must be completed using the list of statistical products and the list of statistical business processes approved by the institution. Thus, each employee indicates the amount of working time spent on a specific statistical product, working with it in a certain business process.

The approach mentioned provides a detailed overview of the time spent not only on the specific statistical product, but also on the specific statistical processes. The data acquired provide opportunities to perform a detailed analysis of resources invested, as well as to automatically calculate costs for a certain statistical product and process.

CSB has been using this approach for more than 15 years. This project was implemented by CSB in order to replace a technologically obsolete working time registration system with a new, modern and more convenient solution.

Upgrading of the CSB Intranet

The aim of the project was to develop a modern, web-based Intranet system where CSB employees would have access to all sources of administrative information or links to other information systems. Intranet portal combined with the document management system Namejs, Horizon Web self-service portal of the financial management system Horizon and project management and application system PITS ensures transparent information flow in the organization and also serves as a knowledge base in the institution.

Data Input of Computer Assisted Web Interviewing System from Mobile Devices (CAWI mobile)

CSB uses the Electronic Data Collection System to obtain data from respondents who are both legal and natural persons. Within the framework of this project, the functionality for natural persons was improved – the possibility to fill in form data from mobile devices.

In order to ensure natural persons who are CSB respondents with an option of filling out forms using mobile devices, the electronic data collection subsystem ISDMS was modernized. Until now, the design of entry screens was only suitable for entering data from computers. Even though it was technically possible to do this from mobile devices, it was very inconvenient.

When using the Electronic Data Collection System of CSB from a mobile device, it is recognized and the respondent is offered a user interface that differs from the interface design intended for a computer. At the same time, work was also done with forms, formulating the questions as compactly as possible and presenting options for answers in a different way, making data entry as convenient as

possible from smaller screens and taking into account differences in web browser control as compared to computers.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM

Improvements to the Foreign Trade Statistics Data Processing System

Statistical data on foreign trade in goods are one of the most important statistical data at the national level – they are used in policy making for economic development at various levels, in all negotiations and agreements of transnational economic cooperation, and influence the adoption of various decisions in both state and private sectors. The high quality of these data is an objective requirement for the preparation of a reliable national balance of payments, calculations of the gross domestic product value and balancing of the system of national accounts.

In Latvia, the CSB is responsible for providing statistical data on foreign trade in goods. Statistical data is collected using both administrative data (customs declarations, VAT declaration data, register data) and data from statistical forms (Intrastat forms). Data from statistical forms filled in by respondents are used to provide statistics on trade in goods between EU member states. In order to determine respondents who have to fill out Intrastat forms, CSB uses SRS data from VAT declarations. It should be noted that SRS data from VAT declarations is also used for data quality control purposes. On the other hand, the CSB uses customs declaration data collected by the SRS Customs Board to prepare statistics on foreign trade in goods with third countries. An essential part in providing statistics is the assessment of missing data on the requested but not submitted Intrastat reports and the evaluation of enterprises that are exempted from submitting Intrastat forms because their trade volume does not exceed the threshold set for statistics.

The requirements for the preparation, dissemination, exchange and quality of foreign trade statistics data are determined by the EUS Regulation, which includes new, significant changes in foreign trade in goods statistics from 2022. The requirements of the EUS regulation provide for the exchange of confidential information – microdata on intra-EU exports of goods among statistical institutions of the EU member states, which is a fundamentally new source of data in foreign trade statistics, so it was already timely planned how to fulfil these requirements. It was decided that it is necessary to develop a new tool by attracting funding within ERDF projects.

Until the implementation of the ERDF project, the preparation of foreign trade statistics in the CSB was organized in a way that separate data sets of foreign trade in goods statistics were processed and maintained on different websites using different software.

Over time, there was a need to improve the data processing by supplementing data processing programmes with new data fields and functionality, as well as creating functionality for processing a new data source, microdata received from statistical institutions of other member states, and preparing Latvian microdata for sending to other member states.

Improvements to the Foreign Trade Statistics Data Processing System

On 13 November 2019, within the framework of ERDF operational programme 'Growth and employment' specific support objective 2.2.1 'Ensure increased re-use of public data and effective interaction between public administration and the private sector' activity 2.2.1.1 'Establishment of centralized public administration ICT platforms, optimization and development of public administration processes', the implementation of the project 'Foreign trade statistics data processing system' has been started.
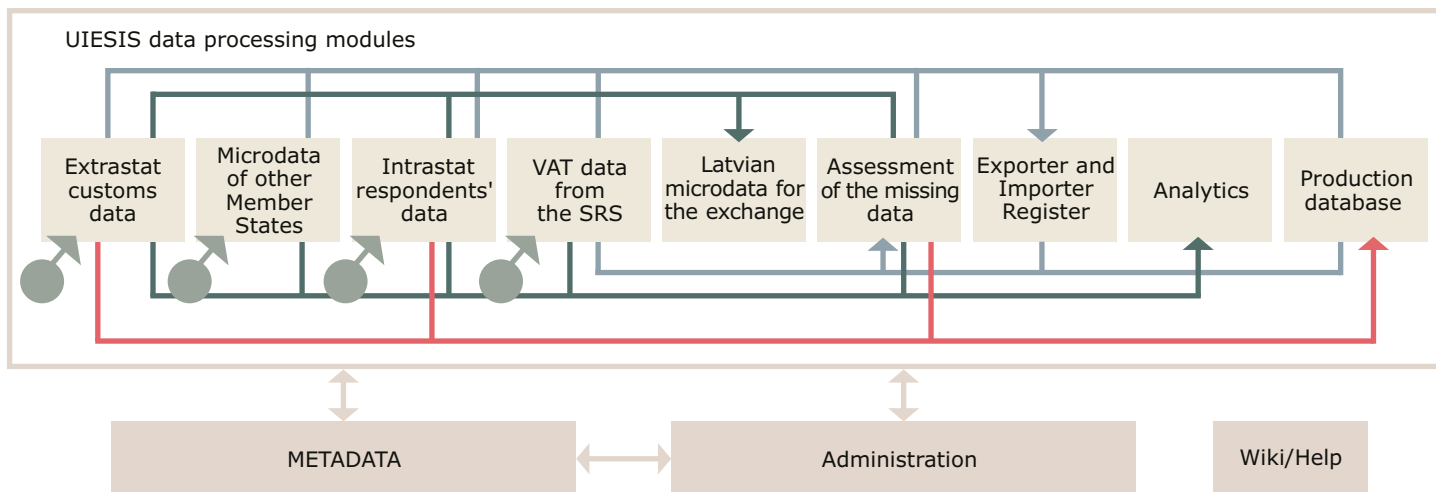
Within the framework of the project, it was planned to create a Unified Import-Export Statistical Information System for the processing of statistical data on foreign trade in goods, which would be based on an interconnected module system, which would create new, efficient and modern system functionality solutions for the processing and analysis of microdata on the export of goods received from other member states, and which would allow the use of additional data sources (information received from other member states on exports of goods to Latvia), reducing the workload of Intrastat respondents and at the same time maintaining the quality of foreign trade statistics data. With the implementation of the system, it is planned to increase the overall operational efficiency of the CSB by improving the possibilities of data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination.

Total costs of the project after the additional allocation of funding is EUR 559 600, of which ERDF funding is EUR 475 660 and state budget co-financing is EUR 83 940. The project was implemented from 13 November 2019 to 12 November 2022.

In order to ensure the development and implementation of the project, a detailed project description was prepared and then approved by MoEPRD, an agreement was signed between CSB and CFCA on the initiation of the project, as well as several procurements were announced and agreements were concluded on the development of the Unified Import-Export Statistical Information System and improvements to the ISDMS system.

Improvements to the Foreign Trade Statistics Data Processing System

UIESIS system

UIESIS data processing modules

| Extrastat customs data | Microdata of other Member States | Intrastat respondents' data | VAT data from the SRS | Latvian microdata for the exchange | Assessment of the missing data | Exporter and Importer Register | Analytics | Production database |

METADATA ↔ Administration

Wiki/Help

⬤ External system data

Project on the elaboration of Unified Import-Export Statistical Information System was organized using Agile methodology. In total, 33 deliveries were made during the project, of which 14 were deliveries of development functionalities carried out as a result of sprints, and the rest were deliveries of fixed errors discovered. In July 2022, elaboration of the system was completed.

The system elaborated within the framework of the project combines optimized data collection, processing and analysis processes and a series of data sets, which after processing create statistical data on foreign trade in goods, which are aggregated into various summaries, making them possible to be used for distribution to users. For example, monthly foreign trade statistics information at 8-digit level of the EU combined nomenclature by country has been prepared and published on the open data portal in November 2022.

The Unified Import-Export Statistical Information System will provide CSB employees with efficient, convenient and sequential data exchange and processing, data analysis and dissemination options, including the preparation and sending of microdata on intra-EU trade exports, as well as receiving microdata from other EU member states.

It is expected that in the upcoming years the new system will be able to meet the requirements of both Eurostat and CSB foreign trade statistics data preparation and microdata exchange.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International Cooperation

European Statistical System

CSB is an active member of the ESS and it represents Latvia's interests in Eurostat working groups and committees, as well as in meetings of the Council Working Party on Statistics.

CSB experts contribute to the development of internationally harmonized statistical methodology both in regular Eurostat working groups and special working groups. Special working groups are created at the request of Eurostat Directors' Group or ESS Committee for specific methodological research and development work, and a team of Member States' delegated experts participate in them. CSB experts are delegated to work in 22 special working groups:

- in the field of social statistics (for example, on population and housing development issues, digital employment issues, innovative tools for household budget surveys);

- in the field of macroeconomic statistics (for example, on classification of government functions, distribution of household accounts, exchange of foreign trade microdata);

- in the field of environmental statistics (for example, on the development of tourism statistics);

- in the field of business statistics (for example, on the development of productivity indicators, information society statistics in e-commerce and households).

CSB experts continue to represent Latvia's interests in the Council Working Party on Statistics as a EU decision-making process on proposals for EU legislation in the field of statistics. CSB experts also continue to provide opinions on proposals for EU legislation, which are considered by other Council Working Parties and whose conditions may affect the work in the field of statistics (for example, the Data Act proposal, the Regulation on Privacy and Electronic Communications, the Regulation on the European Health Data Space).

CSB is proud of its experts, whose work and experience is valued internationally. As a result of the competition for Member States' delegated experts, Jolanta Minkevica participates in the work of the expert team of Eurostat's Detailed Expertise Visits, assessing the compliance of work of national statistical institutes of other EU member states with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Continuing development work in accordance with the CSB strategy, CSB experts continue bilateral cooperation projects with internationally recognized statistics experts. In the field of social statistics, CSB continues to cooperate with Li-Chun Zhang, a professor from the Southampton University, in improving the population estimation method developed by CSB, and promoting this experience in various international events in field of statistics.

International Cooperation

CSB experts continue regular multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the exchange of experience on various current issues in field of statistics. The exchange of experience is organized with the help of international cooperation network of experts of EU national statistical institutes or by directly addressing experts of a specific national statistical institute. CSB experts also share Latvia's experience on current ESS issues and development projects implemented at ESS meetings.

Europe Day in CSB

Continuing the Europe Day tradition in the CSB, the EU Affairs Coordination Division invited colleagues to fold a peace dove on 9 May 2022. The dove is the international symbol of peace that always returns home with good news.

Cooperation activities among the Baltic States

Experts of statistical institutions of the Baltic States share their experience on current regular and development work in statistical institutions. The directions and plans of cooperation among the Baltic States are determined by the heads of national statistical institutes during the Baltic Steering Committee meeting. Heads assess the cooperation of the previous planning period, determine the directions of cooperation and activities for the next planning period, as well as coordinate opinions on the most important issues of ESS development if necessary. During the extraordinary informal meeting of the Baltic Steering Committee on 27 October 2022, a cooperation plan for the period until April 2024 was approved, which includes 16 activities.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

CSB takes part in the regular work of the UN Statistical Commission. The expert delegated by the CSB will continue her work in the UN sprint sessions on measuring owner-occupied housing inflation. The delegated expert participated in the preparation of UN publication World's Women 2020, contributing both to the data preparation and giving recommendations on the design of the publication in accordance with the experience of CSB. Taking into account the experience, CSB experts are ready to continue their work in the preparation of various thematic publications upon request.

By taking part in the work of the UN regional structural unit – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – and in activities of the Conference of European Statisticians, organised under the auspices thereof, experts of CSB are involved in the seeking of solutions and responding to the challenges of the statistical community at international scale. After a successful and internationally appreciated work in organizing a session and leading a panel discussion at UNECE meetings on issues of modernizing statistical legislation, the CSB expert will continue her work in the Steering group of the working group of UNECE Modernizing Statistical Legislation. According to the delegation of Conference of European Statisticians, the head of CSB will continue to work in the office of Conference of European Statisticians. The office is responsible for

the preparation of Conference work.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

CSB takes part in the work of OECD working parties and committees, sharing experience and best practice with experts from OECD countries in the development and use of new, innovative statistical methods. CSB represents interests of Latvia in the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy. The OECD Statistics Directorate is one of the most important international cooperation partners of the CSB, and the CSB takes into account work priorities of the OECD when defining its development directions. Since the beginning of 2022, the CSB expert has been elected to the office of the OECD Working Party on Tourism Statistics, and will continue to work in this capacity, contributing to the preparation of the Tourism Working Party meeting.

CSB is not directly involved in bilateral OECD projects with Latvia. At the same time, at the request of the ministries and institutions of the sectors involved in bilateral projects, CSB experts provide an assessment of the survey questionnaires planned in them. Thus, for example, the CSB expert was involved in the advisory group of the OECD Trust Survey to provide an assessment of the survey questionnaire to be carried out within the framework of the study in the context of Latvia, of which regarding translation of questions into Latvian in accordance with the usual practice in the field of statistics. CSB recognizes the importance of studies carried out by the OECD for planning Latvian policies, therefore it is ready to continue cooperation with the responsible sectoral ministries in the evaluation of forms and other activities, taking into account the usual practice in the field of statistics.

Technical Assistance Activities

Assessing support received in the past and the responsiveness of the EU member states, sharing the experience of implementing EU requirements in the field of statistics in national statistical system, CSB implements technical assistance activities in accordance with the actual needs of target countries.

On 17-19 May 2022, Moldovan statistics experts visited CSB to get to know experience of CSB in collecting and processing social and business statistics data, developing methodology, as well as using administrative data and publishing statistics.

On 20-21 June 2022, Montenegrin statistical experts visited CSB to discuss the issues related to the compilation of the harmonized index of consumer prices, including collection and processing of information on prices, sampling, imputation technique, quality equalization procedure and also index compilation techniques for specific consumption groups.

CSB is always open to constructive cooperation in accordance with wishes of target countries and capacities of CSB.

COMMUNICATION WITH SOCIETY

Communication with Society

Trivia Quiz *You Know or Just Think You know?* at LAMPA Conversation Festival

On 2 July, the State discussion tent held a trivia quiz *You know or just think you know?* organized by the State Chancellery in cooperation with the CSB, Data State Inspectorate and Ministry of Culture. The teams of TV personalities Ilze Dobele and Kristaps Tālbergs tried to answer catchy questions about statistics, media literacy and critical thinking, while the game was moderated by Uģis Joksts.

CSB Award

On 29 December, President of the CSB, Aija Žigure, presented the annual CSB award for excellent cooperation in provision of statistics of high quality in 2022 to Rimi Latvia, SIA.

'We have a tradition at the end of the year to thank one enterprise with whom we have had excellent cooperation throughout the year. The choice is difficult, because there are a lot of enterprises that provide statistical reports. This year's selection is based on timely and accurate provision of reports. Enterprise Rimi submits 15 different statistical reports to the CSB, starting with data on retail sale in food stores and ending with the use of information and communication technologies in the enterprise and self-assessment of the business environment. That's a total of 44 reports a year,' said Aija Žigure, presenting the annual CSB award.

In 2022, the CSB provided 28 thousand or one fourth of all economically active enterprises in Latvia with various indicators. In total about 393 000 statistical reports were submitted from enterprises, central and local governments, self-employed and peasant farms.

Publicity in Media and Social Networks

In 2022, 220 news releases and other information on the latest CSB activities have been published. In terms of the audience reached, the most important media were internet portals Delfi, TVnet, LSM, nra.lv, jauns.lv, bb.lv, rus.Delfi, LA.lv, newspaper *Diena*, four radio stations – LR1, LR2, SWH, Skonto – and one television (LTV1), as well as TV3 portal tv3.lv.

Several media briefings have been held. An online media briefing on inflation in December and 2021 was held on 11 January. The media were represented by four television stations (LTV, TV3, ReTV, Kurzemes TV), as well as by representatives from the national news agency LETA, several portals and national and regional newspapers.

Trivia quiz
at LAMPA Conversation Festival

The annual CSB award is presented
to Rimi Latvia, SIA by Aija Žīgure
(second from the left) and
Ramona Skakunova
(first from the right)

A. Žīgure (from the left) and
D. Zemīte in press briefing

Intars Abražuns
on TV commenting inflation data

On 1 June, an online media briefing was held on population changes in Latvia in 2021. The media were represented by TV3 (television) and tv3.lv (portal), national news agency LETA, Dienas Bizness, Latvijas Avīze, LSM.

On 15 June, the regional television ReTV, the national news agency LETA, representatives from Cēsis City Council and Rīga Stradiņš University followed the online media briefing on the latest results of the census (employment by sectors and the education level of the employed).

On 23 September, an in-person media briefing on population mobility in 2021 was held. It was attended by two television stations (LTV and TV3) as well as the news agency LETA.

The CSB was mentioned in media 11 180 times. The breakdown in media segments returned to the pre-pandemic levels with slightly more than a half (56 %) in online media (68 % in 2021), 20 % on the radio, 8 % in national newspapers, 6 % in regional newspapers, 5% in news agencies, 3 % on TV and 1 % in magazines.

In 2022, when there was a two-digit inflation in 10 out of 12 months, and inflation was above 20 % for the entire last half-year, one in five or 19 % of all mentions were about inflation, followed by demographics (10 %), employment/unemployment (8 %), GDP (7 %), surveys (7 %), wages and salaries (6 %).

At the end of 2022, @CSP_Latvija Twitter account had 7 540 followers, @CSB_Latvia Twitter account in English had 3 640 followers, Facebook account had 3 700 followers.

Information Requests

In 2022, CSB replied to 1 150 information requests from individuals, public administration institutions and enterprises, and 27 data users received regular custom datasets. Also sent answers to 220 media requests/ questions, of which 62 were comments from the CSB officials on TV or radio. Latvijas Televīzija (44), Latvijas Radio (31), TV3 (22), Dienas Bizness (15), Re:Baltica (12), Delfi (10), ReTV (8), LSM (5) were the media requesting statistics or comments from the CSB officials most often.

QUALITY AND INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT

Quality and Information Security Management

Being a reliable statistical institution, CSB values quality of the services provided and data security. CSB information security management system is certified to the ISO 27001:2013 standard *Information technology – Security techniques – Information security management systems – Requirements* since 2017. Scope of certification: collection, processing and storage of information and data for functions of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia. Provision of statistical information for inland and foreign users.

Information security management is among the key priorities of the CSB. The classification of information and technical resources as well as information security risk management is ensured in accordance with confidentiality, integrity and accessibility requirements. Particular attention is devoted to the stability and reliability of information processing systems.

Introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation has not affected CSB data processing activities – compliance with both statistical confidentiality and personal data protection requirements is still ensured. Secure processing and circulation of personal data within the CSB is ensured through pseudonymisation of personal data.

The *Privacy policy and information security section* of the CSB website contains information notice concerning the protection of personal data, information security guidelines, information on confidentiality in the production of official statistics, and a list of restricted access information. The information security requirements established in the CSB are binding on both CSB employees and third parties insofar as they are relevant to the type and nature of the cooperation between the both.

Quality management system of the CSB is certified to the ISO 9001:2015 standard *Quality management systems – Requirements* since 2018. Scope of certification: development, production and dissemination of official statistics. The system was introduced with an aim to ensure constant compliance of our statistical products and services with the user needs and regulatory requirements via efficient use of options for improvement and resources available.

In November 2022 both management systems underwent monitoring audit. The auditors from BM Certification SIA admitted that CSB is maintaining and improving both management systems successfully. The opinion is also confirmed by the audit results where no inconsistencies were found. The audit assured that the systems comply with ISO 27001:2013 and ISO 9001:2015.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Financial Resources and Performance Indicators

Budget Programmes Implemented by the CSB

In 2022 the CSB budget consisted of the following **budget programmes (subprogrammes):**

- programme 24.00.00 *Provision of Statistical Information*;

- subprogramme 62.07.00 *European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) projects (2014–2020)* of 62.00.00 programme *Implementation of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) projects and activities*;

- subprogramme 63.07.00 *Participation in International Researches on Education* of programme 63.00.00 *European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) projects (2014–2020)*;

- subprogramme 67.06.00 *European Community Initiative projects* of programme 67.00.00 *Implementation of European Community initiative projects and activities*;

- subprogramme 70.06.00 *Reimbursement of Travel Expenses of Latvian Representatives when Going to EU Council Working Party Meetings and Council Meetings* of programme 70.00.00 *Implementation of Other Projects and Activities of EU Instruments*;

- programme 71.06.00 financed by the Norwegian Financial mechanism *Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Environment (LV-CLIMATE)*;

- programme 99.00.00 *Funding for Emergency*.

In 2022, within the framework of the mentioned budget programmes, main activities of the CSB were related to the implementation of strategic aim, priorities confirmed and tasks to be done through providing users of statistical information with independent and high-quality official statistics.

Budget of the CSB

In 2022, revenues from paid services were EUR 92 961. Compared to 2021, revenues have decreased by EUR 132 082 or 58.7 %, because the planned data transfer to users did not continue.

Transfer revenues in 2022 increased by EUR 3 221, the largest changes are in the open subprogramme 70.06.00 *Reimbursement of Travel Expenses of Latvian Representatives when Going to EU Council Working Party Meetings and Council Meetings*.

Financial Resources and Performance Indicators

Subsidy from general revenue in 2022 comprised EUR 13 053 980, compared to 2021, the increase comprised EUR 1 349 445 or 11.5 %. The increase is related to the funding allocated in the programme 24.00.00 *Statistical Information Provision* for the implementation of priority measures for modernization of statistics, reduction of the administrative burden of entrepreneurs and promotion of data availability.

General budget of the CSB comprised EUR 13 201 802 in 2022, which, compared to 2021, has increased by EUR 1 253 944 or 10.5 %.

	Financial indicators	2021 actual	2022	
			planned	actual
1.	Financial resources to cover expenses (total):	11 983 680	13 327 901	13 204 263
1.1.	grants	11 704 535	13 058 089	13 053 980
1.2.	revenue from chargeable services and other own revenue	225 043	204 562	92 961
1.3.	transfers	54 101	65 250	57 322
2.	Total expenditure:	11 947 857	13 339 901	13 201 802
2.1.	total accommodation costs	10 867 740	11 127 025	10 988 975
2.1.1.	current expenditure	10 860 815	11 069 025	10 931 819
2.1.2.	subsidies, grants and social benefits	1 425	———	———
2.1.3.	maintenance costs of transfers	5 500	58 000	57 156
2.2.	Capital expenditures	1 080 118	2 212 876	2 212 827

Performance indicators

The operations' results planned within the framework of budget programmes and sub-programmes for 2020–2022 have been achieved in CSB operations strategy.

Performance indicator	2021 actual	2022	
		planned	actual
Provision of statistics and development of process-oriented approach to statistics production			
Meetings with respondents for the implementation of new data collection/calculation methodology and improvement of the existing methodology (number)	1	X	X
Activities promoting the development of statistical production organized within the framework of partnership with respondents (number)	–	3	3
Average response level (%) of enterprise statistics reports	90	90	90
Cooperation agreements concluded/updated with the most important administrative data holders (number)	2	4	4
Total producer price indices calculated (number)	4	5	5
Technical specification for the Content management system for statistical classifications has been developed (number)	1	x	x
Technical solution for the Content management system for statistical classifications has been developed (number)	–	1	1
Implementation of Statistical Business Register (%)	10	50	50
Assessment of the availability of dwellings (number of dwellings)	–	1 100 00	1 100 00
Providing statistics and data availability to data users			
Activities for educating data users and promoting statistics (number)	4	x	x
Activities for informing data users on current statistics (number)	–	4	4
Interactive data visualisations have been used in dissemination of CSB data (number)	10	x	x
Prepared detailed territorial statistics (grid data, villages, densely populated areas, city neighbourhoods, parishes in detail) (number of topics)	–	2	2
Innovative statistical products (number)	1	1	1
Activities for improvement of quality of publicly available information by maintaining feedback with users of statistics (number)	4	4	4
Experimental statistics indicators published (number)	3	2	2

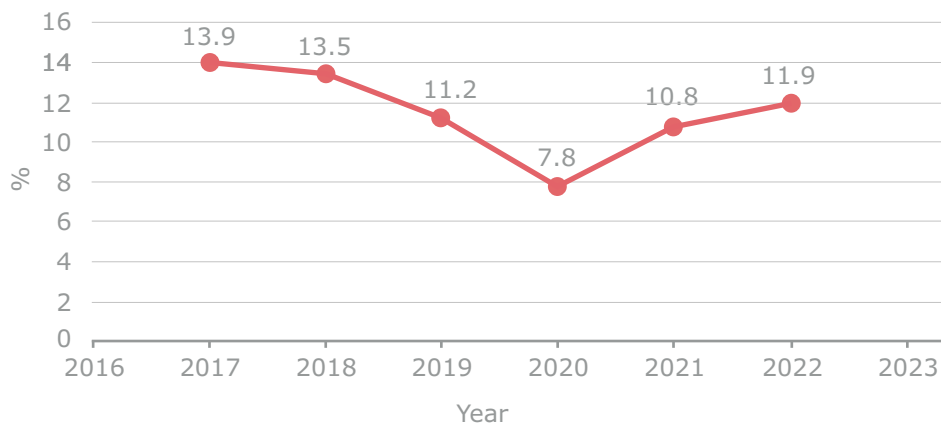| Performance indicator	2021 actual	2022	
		planned	actual
Development of information systems for collection, processing and dissemination of CSB statistical data			
Share of available electronic forms in the electronic data capture system (%)	94	94	94
Within the framework of data storage, the data from external data , providers/users has been integrated (number	63	70	77
A system for processing statistics on foreign trade in goods has been created, based on interconnected modules (number))	–	1	1
A micro-data exchange subsystem has been prepared, ensuring safe exchange of confidential information with other EU member states on export of goods (number)	–	1	1
Coordination of official statistics system			
Official Statistics Programme for mid-term has been developed and implemented (number)	1	1	1
Compliance of statistical institutions of Latvia producing European statistics with the requirements of the European statistics Code of Practice (%)	90	90	90
Meetings of statistical institutions of Latvia on current operational issues (number)	3	3	3
Statistical Council meetings (number)	4	4	4
Monitoring of graduates in higher education institutions and colleges			
Monitoring on graduates of Latvian universities (number of graduates)	45 000	60 000	60 000
Monitoring on graduates of Latvian vocational education institutions (number of graduates	16 000	24 000	24 000

PERSONNEL AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Personnel and Personnel Management

On 31 December 2022 the list of CSB posts included 497 positions (251 for civil servants and 246 for public employees). The number of people employed by the CSB varied during the year, but on average those were 463 people. At the end 2022, CSB engaged 445 employees – 387 women and 58 men. The proportion of women mong all employees has been high for several years and last year it reached 87 %.

In 2022 civil service and employment relations with the CSB were terminated by 55 employees. The most frequently it was based on mutual agreement, employee's notice, or reaching of the national retirement age. To gain insight into the reasons behind leaving and find out employee satisfaction with the work environment and CSB processes, employee is invited to complete *Exit* survey. The survey is voluntary and in 2022 it was completed by 30 employees. The *Exit* results (selection of several reasons was allowed) show that employees mainly left due to insufficient remuneration (17 responses), lack of career development (7), personal reasons (7), and as had reached the retirement age (6).

Compared to the year before, employee turnover rate has increased by one percentage point and reached 11.9 %.
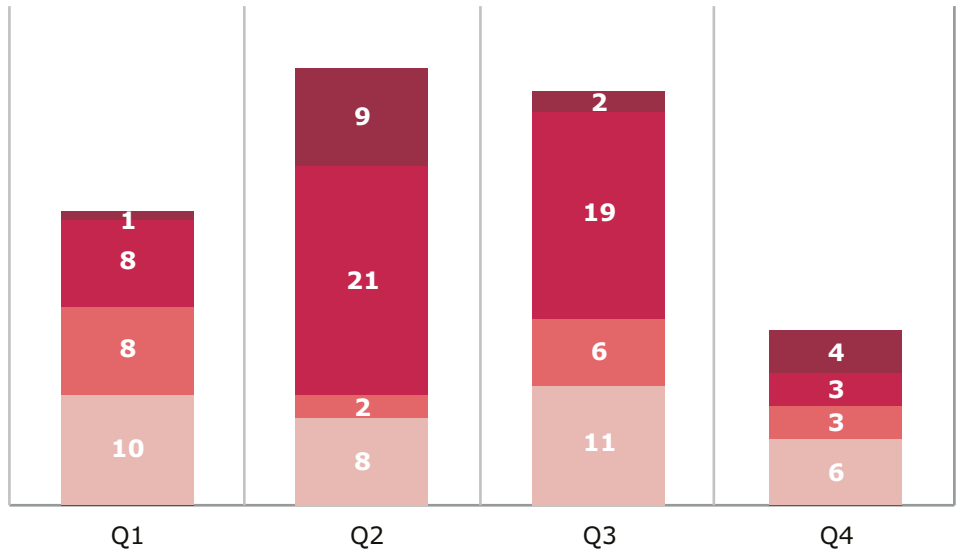
Employee turnover rate

Attraction of new employees and retention of the existing ones is a major and growing issue, especially as economic growth of Latvia is slowing down and the average age of CSB staff is growing rapidly. At the end of the year, 57 of the posts were vacant, four of which in leading positions. Some of the vacant posts were waiting for expert (22), interviewer (10), database analyst (3), database programmer (2), system analyst (2), accountant (2), etc.

The vacant posts are filled in by announcing a vacancy. In 2022 CSB opened 129 vacancies (91 for civil servants and 38 for public employees), and 138 applications to fill the announced vacancies were received. Most of the opened vacancies were not filled as no applications were received (51), none of the application met the requirements (19), or applicant was not willing to continue the process (16).

Vacancies opened by CSB in 2022 by result

Q1   Q2   Q3   Q4

- ■ Filled
- ■ Not filled as none of the application met the requirements
- ■ Not filled as no applications were received
- ■ Not filled as applicant was not willing to continue the process

In 2022 CSB attracted 44 new employees, of which 77.3 % had higher education. They mainly acquired education in economics, law, project management, accounting, computer science, business management, and environmental sciences. In addition, 15 employees changed their work position to another within the institution, nine of which took a chance of horizontal career growth.
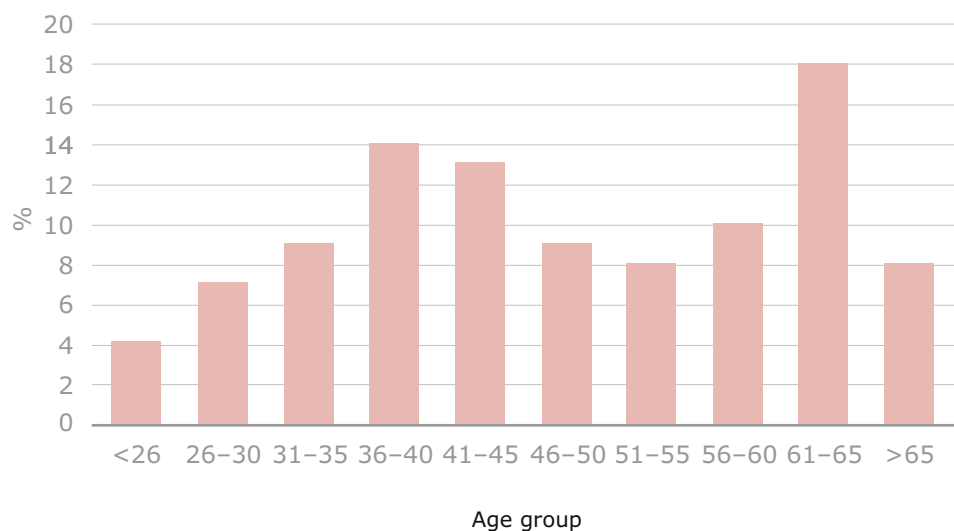
The reformed public administration remuneration system gives CSB a hope that gradually it will be able to offer competitive remuneration. However, it cannot be achieved without additional funding, as available CSB resources, even with radical staff cut and re-organisation of institutional processes, are too short to

increase monthly wages (even by 2027). CSB has developed and implemented an algorithm for determining monthly wage of new employees. It sets the initial monthly wage of new employee based on his/her qualification and competences.

The average age of CSB employees has been above 45 for several years, in 2022 it accounted for 48 years. More than a fourth (26 %) of CSB employees are aged over 61, moreover 14 % of the staff had reached the national retirement age on 31 December 2022.

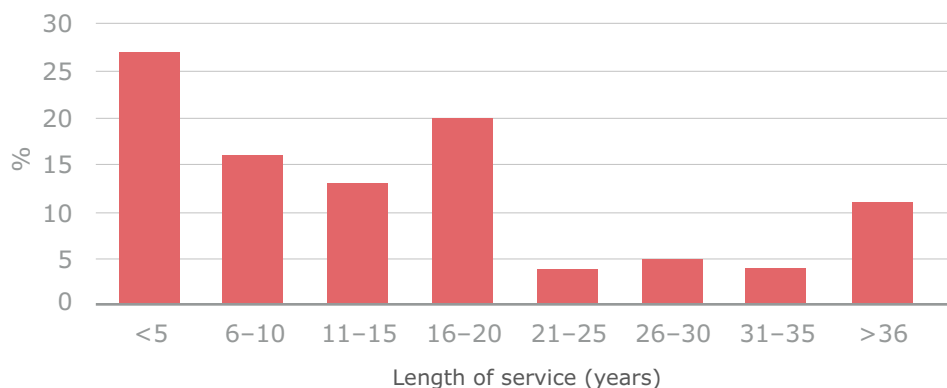**Age structure of employees (%)**

Age group

Age structure of personnel is closely related to the length of service. The vast majority (56 %) of employees has worked for the CSB for less than 15 years, followed by 29 % of those who have worked here for 16–30 years, and quite a significant proportion of long-time employees (those who have worked here for more than 31 years) – 15 %. The proportion of employees in each of the groups affects the average length of service, which has been rather high for several years and in 2022 accounted for 15 years.

Highly educated and professional staff is the greatest asset of the CSB – 77 % of employees have acquired higher education, of which 57.3 % have master's degree. In addition to formal education, CSB employees on regular basis can increase knowledge and improve skills in various trainings. Staff training in CSB is organised both for larger employee groups and individuals by seeking the best solutions for professional development and extension of competences.

Employees by number of years worked for the CSB (%)

Length of service (years)

Communication competence training for statisticians and interviewers, change management competency development for department directors and section heads, training for users of the Unified Import-Export Statistical Information System, training of project managers, professional skills training in IT, group English lessons, and professional training of European statisticians organised by the Eurostat (engaging 24 employees) were among the most important training activities undertaken in 2022.

CSB had flexible working hours and remote work options even before the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, due to the national epidemiological safety measures, almost all CSB employees worked only remotely, while last year working arrangements were transformed and CSB switched to a hybrid working time organisation model.

The significant work organisation changes taking place in the past two years caused uncertainty and reduced social interaction, thus forcing to focus on well-being in the workplace and look for even new ways to help employees cope with the mental, social and physical health challenges. One of the activities organised in this context was an online lecture on vision, in which lecturer shared practical exercises for reducing eye strain. Many well-being initiatives were already in place, e.g., water coolers on each floor of the central bureau, room for simple workouts, employee kitchen and lounge, informative materials on ergonomic workplace arrangement, e-courses for management of emotions and physical activities. CSB has undertaken to give greater attention to well-being initiatives in the coming years as well.

As a recognition of innovative contribution to improvement of statistical production processes and development of statistical planning, development, collection, processing, analysis and dissemination, in 2022 the Ministry of

Personnel and Personnel Management

Economics (EM) awarded Ance Ceriņa and Anželika Pavlova with a certificate of recognition. For the significant contribution to the development of statistical planning, development, analysis and dissemination as well as timely and detailed production and provision of data for government decision-making during COVID-19, the EM gave a certificate of gratitude to Intars Abražuns un Armands Plāte.

CSB certificate of recognition for significant contribution to the development and modernisation of statistical production was awarded to Guna Karlsone, Norberts Tālers and Jeļena Voronova. Celebrating contribution to the development of collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistics, CSB certificate of gratitude was given to Egija Biete, Vija Bunte, Irēna Cepliša, Anita Ernestsonei, Zane Grēna, Dace Kalniņa, Ilze Ķerus, Vida Lukaševiča, Sigita Meldere, Ilze Naumova, Baiba Pommere, Laura Pūpola, Kalvis Okmanis, Elita Ozoliņai, Jeļena Plikše, Agnese Šaltenei, Ieva Zabarovska, and Santa Zaļkalne.

CSB employees awarded
with the EM certificate of recognition

CSB employees awarded
with the CSB certificates of recognition
and gratitude

EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH AND
YOUTH IN CSB

European Year of Youth and Youth in CSB

In 2022, for the first time in the EU history, spotlight was turned to young Europeans as the European Commission declared 2022 to be the European Year of Youth. Events and activities for young people were organised both in Europe and Latvia, and youngsters themselves organised activities to propagate youth participation and raise awareness about their opportunities.

Sigita Purona-Sida, Head of the Social Statistics Methodology Section, participated in the discussion on declining youth population held in the EU House within the framework of the European Year of Youth to encourage knowledge-based discussions and investigative journalism on hot youth policy topics. Emīls Lukjanskis, moderator of the event, chaired an exchange of views about the impact of declining youth population on the Latvian economy, factors influencing youth emigration, and the importance of young people involvement and support.

On Europe Day held on 9 May CSB on its Facebook page posted an infographic showing youth economic activity, educational attainment and proportion of those having children (by age and gender) while on International Youth Day held on 12 August it published percentage of each generation making up today's society.

Being in constant development, CSB is learning to use new data dissemination tools, and young people can give great assistance in that. In one of the broadcasts on young people and labour market CSB was represented by the Social Statistics Data Compilation and Analysis Section Expert **Santa Zaļkalne** who told about the Labour Force Survey as well as employment and unemployment. Santa admits that is attracted to propagating data through more modern communication channels (broadcasts, Instagram live).

Santa has been working for the CSB for more than three years. She initially applied for an open vacancy which was related to the subject of her undergraduate research and chose CSB because when studying sociology often had heard of it as of a serious and professional statistical institution. Santa likes her work as the routine data analysis and dissemination activities may be refreshed with the work on different data visualizations. She can be very proud of the publications prepared since has managed to convey the complicated information in a comprehensible and visually appealing way.

We know that young people are lively, active, and attractive, they have many ideas and interests, more modern knowledge, and a desire to learn all new. During a cooperation event, students of the professional bachelor study programme Public Relations and Advertising Management at RISEBA University of Applied Sciences were asked to prepare proposals for communication with young people to emphasize the importance of participating in statistical surveys. CSB took the best out of it and implemented some of the recommendations.

CSB has also developed long-term collaboration with other universities and

Jauniešu skaita samazināšanās
KAD? 19. oktobris **KUR?** ES Māja **CIKOS?** 13.00 - 15.00

OĻEGS KRASNOPJOROVS
GINTS KLĀSONS
NILS MOSEJONOKS
SIGITA PURONA-SIDA

'Social statistics is really interesting as sometimes you may draw conclusions you immediately want to share with others,' says Santa Zaļkalne

'There also are some very interesting researching activities allowing to gain experience outside my direct work responsibilities,' says Liliāna Roze

offers apprenticeship to mathematician statisticians. CSB apprentices have made the first step towards their working life and sometimes may start career here. Statistical Mathematician **Liliāna Roze** working for the Mathematical Support Division underwent her undergraduate apprenticeship in the CSB as it offered both apprenticeship and practical work experience. Now Liliāna has been one of the CSB statistical mathematicians for more than two and a half years and mainly is building survey samples for population, business and agricultural statistics. Liliāna admits she started as a blank page as before did not have an opportunity for such an extensive use of the knowledge gained during bachelor studies in practice, however work for the CSB heightened her awareness in the field of mathematical statistics. Liliāna says that, apart from professional development, responsive and knowledgeable colleagues, forthcoming management, and the opportunity to participate in conferences or courses to enhance knowledge are the greatest benefits in this work.

Working for the CSB excites Liliāna as here she may participate in R&D activities, get much deeper insight into various statistical domains, gain new experience outside her routine work, and perfect oneself. Selection of the most appropriate method to build survey sample or develop imputations requires exploration of domain specifics and available data sources. To develop imputation methodology for Labour Force Survey Liliāna had to study survey data and information on response and non-response, test different imputation methods, and find the one that replaces the missing values with the closest true ones.

Ļubova Deņisova, Deputy Head of Enterprise Structural and Financial Statistics Section, started as a statistician at Preiļi Data Collection and Processing Centre where she was responsible for the collection of reports. She chose CSB as saw it as a good place for professional growth and new experience. While working at Preiļi Data Collection and Processing Centre as a statistician, Ļubova completed master studies in IT. In 2020 she was hired as a senior officer in Enterprise Structural and Financial Statistics Section and since January 2023 is Deputy Head of the section. Ļubova successfully ensures the fulfilment of the section tasks in implementing the requirements of the EBS Regulation in structural business statistics. She was project manager in the project aimed at developing a module for validation and transformation of summary data in structural business statistics and production of data on economic activities currently not covered by the Structural Business Statistics but required by the EBS Regulation.

Sintija Ancāne, Expert in the Environment and Energy Statistics Section, works on the national energy balance, namely, with the data on the purchase and consumption of energy resources collected from Latvian companies and administrative sources. The information is used in policy planning and allows comparisons among EU countries, incl. in respect to the progress towards SDGs. Energy domain requires continuous knowledge-building and monitoring of

'Actually, work with data is very interesting and not monotonous at all as every day comes with a different work,' says Ļubova Deņisova

sectoral changes. 'I love that I have to think, search, and analyse to complete the task, as no one will tell you how the works are to be done,' says Sintija.

Looking back at the time four years ago, Sintija admits that at first her work duties seemed to be quite sequential and pre-defined, but as time went on she found out more about both energy sector and statistics and every year gained new experience and more detailed knowledge. Sintija's sense of responsibility and receptive mind were the main reasons why she was entrusted to be manager in a major project on statistics for the European Green Deal. Project management requires not only knowledge about statistical production processes, but also a lot of administrative work, incl. attraction and coordination of sub-contractors, monitoring of work progress and finances, etc.

Toms Zaltāns, Expert in Statistical Planning and Standardisation Section, also notes that the skills acquired in project management are very useful for professional growth. He was project manager in a project aimed at collecting territorial and urban statistics and had to raise awareness of regional statistics, conduct survey on quality of life in State cities, and collect data on functional urban areas (large urban zones).

Over the three years Toms spent working for the CSB, he has gained extensive experience and diverse knowledge in the field of statistics – about ESS Code of Practice, general quality requirements for statistical institutes, the third ESS detailed expertise or audit. Tom sees the knowledge acquired in the field of regional statistics (regarding NUTS classification system, territorial typologies) to be the most significant benefits gained while working here.

Egija Biete, Project Manager in Resources Planning, Analysis and Coordination Section, joined CSB team as wanted to increase own knowledge and gain experience in public administration. She says that is attracted by the nice working environment and professional, collaborative, and responsible colleagues. Egija with satisfaction notes that in 2022, after the longer period of pandemic restrictions, she had finally managed to organise face-to-face training in project management. CSB employees had the opportunity to acquire valuable additional knowledge in implementation of existing projects and efficient preparation of new ones.

Daily duties of Egija cover administering of CSB projects – she supports colleagues in project planning and reporting, promotes knowledge sharing. The knowledge acquired when working as Information Systems Administrator is very useful when calculating unit costs and the costs of statistical products required by Eurostat. There are around 40 active projects under her supervision each year. Egija is convinced that solution in each and every situation may be found with a good, competent, and inquisitive team, moreover it allows enhancing work efficiency.

'Understanding is the thing that prevents work from being boring,' concludes Sintija Ancāne

'Skills acquired in project management encourage professional growth,' says Toms Zaltāns

'Every project is unique, and its team is its biggest asset,' says Egija Biete

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2023

Activities Planned for 2023

In 2023 CSB will start working on the tasks set in the Operational Strategy 2023–2029 by providing data users with objective and reliable high-quality official statistics.

Key activities of 2023

- Implementation of Official Statistics Programme 2023–2029 within the framework of CSB competence

- Calculation of producer price indices based on the requirements for the level of detail set by the regulation on European business statistics

- Monitoring of university and vocational school graduates

- Production of territorial statistics at a high level of detail (grid data, villages, densely populated areas, city neighbourhoods, municipality rural territories)

- Work on the development of Statistical Business Register functionality

- Seeking and analysis of new private data sources to be used in statistical production

- Development of an innovative statistical product – commuting flows based on economic and demographic indicators

- Production of experimental business statistics

- Provision of access to housing data by household type to the EM for a research project

- Publication of statistical classifications on the open data portal

- Establishing regional data collection and reporting system to facilitate planning and implementation of regional climate change policy

annual report
2022