



Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

annual report 2023





annual report
2023

Foreword



Photo by Aivars Liepiņš, Dienas mediji

Dear reader,

Last year, Statistics Latvia kept its central focus on new statistics and data sources as well as innovative solutions and modern technologies. Considerable attention was given to enhancing statistical production through new user experience-based technological solutions. We kept monitoring user needs and strived to provide governing bodies and the general public with a high-quality, accurate, and up-to-date statistics.

High process efficiency and data quality calls for continuous development and improvement of the data processing systems. Production of new statistics, among other things, requires more efficient use of existing data sources, integration of new administrative and private sources, and the employment of efficient data collection methods, all while reducing the burden on respondents and ensuring high accuracy of the data collected.

Functional improvements to the Statistical Business Register have ensured that it now fully complies with the requirements of European business statistics. It can serve as the primary source of information for analysing structural business and business demography statistics as well as for defining survey populations. The new unified system used to calculate producer price index allows us to provide both external and internal data users with higher-quality data, moreover, the produced variables meet the level of detail and breakdowns required by European business statistics. In the education statistics domain, comprehensive statistics was produced for adult participation in education and training as well as for the fourth time we prepared the latest information about labour status, occupation, economic activity, income and the emigration of graduates. The range of regional indicators has also been extended, providing data users with valuable statistics for infrastructure and the environment in municipalities and State cities.

Last year was also marked with the third round of the European Statistical System peer reviews in Latvia. The reviews form part of the strategy to monitor implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice, and Statistics Latvia, being the advisory body of the national statistics system, was the national peer review coordinator. We are pleased with the high evaluation received for our professionalism and national statistical system, and we are inspired to pursue further improvements.

Our professional staff, who do outstanding work every day, are our greatest asset and the key factor in our collective success. Also, most of the people participating in the respondent satisfaction survey considered Statistics Latvia employees to be friendly, polite, responsive, engaged, professional and knowledgeable. I would also like to express my gratitude to respondents for being responsive and making significant contribution to producing national statistics.

This report provides a more detailed account of the Statistics Latvia activities and the key developments that took place over the past year.

Raimonds Lapiņš
Director General
Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

CONTENTS, ABBREVIATIONS, MISSION





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List of Abbreviations

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| the Cabinet | Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia |
| CPA | statistical classification of products by activity |
| CSB | Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia |
| EBS Regulation | Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics |
| EC | European Commission |
| EDC system | electronic data collection system |
| ES CoP | European Statistics Code of Practice |
| ESS | European Statistical System |
| ES | European Union |
| Eurostat | Statistical Office of the European Union |
| EU SILC | European Union statistics on income and living conditions |
| GHGs | greenhouse gases |
| ISDAVS | Integrated Statistical Data Management System |
| MoCE | Ministry of Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia |
| MoEPRD | Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia |
| 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 |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| ONAs | other national authorities producing statistics |
| OSS | official statistics system |
| RSS | Rural Support Service of Latvia |
| SBR | Statistical Business Register |
| SIA | private limited liability company |
| SQL | Structured Query Language |
| UN | United Nations Organisation |
| UNCE | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |

Background Information

Legal status

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.

Vision

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

All CSB activities are based on the following **values**:



Independence

Single-handed, independent, equal, and fair fulfilment of the functions.



Professionalism

Continuous development of the knowledge. Persistent search for new data sources, innovative technologies and methods. Courage to experiment.



Openness

Open communication. Identification, clarification, and consideration of the data user needs. Engagement in national and international public debate on various aspects of statistical production.

Background Information



Cooperation

Efficient and respectful cooperation which is built on the respect towards the colleagues, clients and partners, their opinion, labour, and time. Having a cohesive team with common goals.

Strategic priorities and goals set for the reporting period

CSB has three priorities and 13 goals supporting its vision.

| Priorities | Goals |
|---|---|
| Expansion of statistical production and enhancement of innovative potential | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Streamlining the production of statistics ■ Wider and diversified use of various data sources ■ Continuous dialogue with data providers and owners ■ Greater availability and better accessibility of statistics and data as well as repeated use thereof ■ CSB being an established leader in data processing with state-of-the-art methods ■ Strong and modern national official statistics system |
| Wider and meaningful use of modern technologies in statistical production | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reliable solutions for the data collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination ■ Efficient and process-oriented information management and work organisation in production departments ■ Wider use and circulation of administrative data |
| Promotion of personnel growth and engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inclusive and growth-enhancing environment for employees; optimal and efficient use of human resources ■ Higher level of competence among employees ■ Stronger corporate culture ■ Green thinking |



STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS

Statistical Dimensions

Coordination of the national official statistics system

Under the ongoing development and the role of being the advisory body of the national statistics system, in 2023 CSB continued to coordinate other national authorities producing official statistics (ONAs) and to monitor compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP). Overall, the level of compliance with the ES CoP in 2023 reached 88 % among authorities producing national and EU-level statistics and 92 % among those producing EU-level statistics.

Usually, CSB and ONAs in their meetings discuss topical issues and share experiences. However, at the beginning of the year, CSB addressed the senior management of ONAs and invited them to meet and discuss compliance with the quality policy of the official statistics system (OSS) covered by the mutual memorandum of understanding through which the institutions have committed to implementing and promoting adherence to quality requirements in the field of statistics. In this meeting, as part of the ESS peer review implementation arrangements, CSB gave a presentation on the implementation of the ES CoP, emphasizing the need for continuous improvements. The most significant improvements highlighted include timely publication of data, establishment and communication of data release dates and times, and provision of methodological information. Meeting participants were also addressed by the members of the Statistical Council – Jānis Hermanis, representative of the Latvian Employers' Confederation, and Biruta Sloka, representative of the Latvian Statisticians Association – who shared their practical experiences in the use of statistics and data.

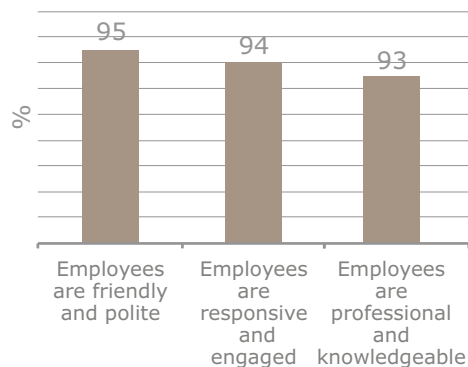
Development of statistical production

A great deal of effort was dedicated to fostering efficient **collaboration with respondents**. They were provided with support in submitting data and completing questionnaires, and, in response to their requests and needs, new initiatives were introduced. To ensure effective feedback, a survey on respondent satisfaction is conducted every two years. It aims to gather respondents' opinions on the communication with CSB and functionality of the Electronic Data Collection system (EDC system). In 2023, 94 % of the people participating in the respondent satisfaction survey considered CSB employees to be friendly and polite in communication, responsive and engaged in solving respondent issues, as well as professional and knowledgeable. Respondents also had the opportunity to leave comments and suggestions for improving collaboration, which are collected and analysed to enhance communication and make the EDC system more user-friendly.

In 2023 EU continued work on **introducing** revision 2.1 of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (**NACE Rev. 2.1**), and the CSB, by



Senior management meeting of ONAs



Respondent satisfaction with the communication culture and professionalism of the CSB staff remains consistently high

Statistical Dimensions

developing explanatory notes and code transition tables from NACE Rev. 2.0 to NACE Rev. 2.1, ensured Latvia's active participation in this process. To ensure successful national transition to the new NACE Rev. 2.1 as of 1 January 2025, the explanatory notes and code transition tables thereof, which are currently only available in English, are being translated into Latvian.

As part of the NACE revision project, the revision of the **version 2.2** of the Classification of Products by Activity (**CPA**) was also **initiated**. Its completion is planned by the end of 2024, so that the version 2.2 of the CPA can come into effect simultaneously with the new NACE Rev. 2.1.

The CSB has also contributed to the **amendments** to the **NUTS** regulation, addressing significant territorial disparities between planning and statistical regions. On 26 December 2022, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/674 of 26 December 2022 was approved, amending the annexes to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS). These amendments lead to changes in Cabinet Regulation No 911 of 7 December 2021 on the statistical regions of the Republic of Latvia and the administrative units included in them. The amendments came into effect on 1 January 2024, establishing that Latvia has five statistical regions – Riga, Zemgale, Vidzeme, Latgale, and Kurzeme – which now correspond with the planning regions.



Map of statistical regions of Latvia

The implementation of the EU Regulation has made an important contribution to the quality of **business statistics** and to the **introduction of new requirements**, in particular for short-term business statistics in the calculation of quarterly demography index and monthly services provision index. In statistical area of short-term business statistics, methodological explanations and descriptions have been prepared for the calculation of quarterly demography and monthly services provision index in line with the new requirements to ensure the successful implementation of the data transmission and other requirements.

Latvia is one of 16 countries that send **monthly data on services turnover and services production** to Eurostat. Since May 2022, they are published for selected service sectors in the Eurostat database. Since September 2019 official statistics portal stat.gov.lv publishes monthly wholesale trade data at constant prices, and since February 2020 – monthly services production indices. These indicators are available on the official statistics portal starting with January 2015, and they are also sent to Eurostat.

From April 2024 Eurostat plans to replace the current quarterly services turnover indicator with a monthly services production indicator in the list of key European economic indicators. Latvia has already prepared for this transition.

Statistical Dimensions

Based on the experience gained from participation in several grant projects over the previous years, work on **statistics on global value chains** is continued. Latvia has now applied for a grant project to obtain a more detailed information on global value chain arrangements, international sourcing, enablers and disincentives, in addition to the EUS Regulation.

Improvements have been made to the **functionality of the Statistical Business Register (SBR)** to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EUS Regulation. This has made it possible to organise and coordinate business surveys using a common sampling frame with harmonised definitions, enterprise structure and updating procedures. Maintaining SBR involves both the availability of coherent, timely, accurate and high-quality statistical information and access to up-to-date and reliable information from various external sources in one place, including automated solutions.

Improvements to this functionality included the availability of information at the level of statistical units (enterprise group, legal unit, enterprise, local unit, kind of activity unit), which are the main source for statistical analysis of the business population and business demography, as well as for defining the survey population and linking it to administrative data sources. Also procedures for SBR functionality were revised, including automatic data update options using open data and procedures for preparing information to be sent to Eurostat and others. The SBR also ensures more effective compliance with EU guidance on business statistics, in particular the identification of autonomous enterprises. SBR provides the basis for the provision of statistical information in the context of globalization. In addition, since the statistical classification of economic activities of the EU (NACE Rev. 2) has been almost completely revised, and the new one (NACE Rev. 2.1) should be implemented in SBR as of 1 January 2025, CSB has submitted an application and received approval for a grant project to ensure compliance with these requirements.

In order to reduce respondent burden in business sector, starting with the report for 2022 (data is collected in 2023), the number of indicators and the level of detail in the research form *Overview of R&D in business sector in 2022* have been significantly reduced – by 48 % of 494 on 258 cells. The form now includes only the minimum indicators as defined in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 and certain indicators relevant to the national interests (e.g. *Number of in-house researchers by age group*).

In order to facilitate the submission of reports by enterprises that submit a consolidated annual report to the State Revenue Service, groups of enterprises and complex enterprises have the opportunity to submit only one consolidated statistical report for the entire group of enterprises.

Starting from 2023, research data on institutions included in the Register of scientific institutions will be obtained from the National scientific activity



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Norway
grants

Statistical Dimensions

information system. Thus, only colleges will complete the report 1-Research Report on the performance of research and development activities in 2022 by higher education institutions, scientific institutions under their supervision, as they are not included in the Register of scientific institutions. This means that the number of respondents will decrease from 60 to 30.

Additionally, Structure of Earnings Survey 2022 (conducted once in four years) was prepared for the ISDMS and EDS system. Aiming to reduce response burden, information for respondents who had already submitted data was imputed from administrative sources (State Revenue Service).

In the Annual Business Survey 2023 on R&D investment, the questionnaire was half as short – information on the level of education of researchers and on scientific fields was simplified.

In line with the Eurostat strategy for agricultural statistics 2020 and beyond, CSB, in collaboration with the Rural Support Service and Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, is investigating **potential of satellite imagery in collecting data for agricultural statistics**. Within the Eurostat grant project, studies have been initiated on the use of satellite imagery to acquire data on grassland management. Early results suggest that satellite imagery can be used to identify grassland areas and determine their age (based on the analysis of historical data). Moreover, the imagery may be used to estimate grassland productivity. Rural Support Service (RSS) presented the initial results at a Eurostat webinar organised to share best practices in grassland data collection. Future studies will involve activities to refine the methods, thoroughly assess and evaluate data collection costs, and develop collaboration with other institutions on both technological and methodological aspects.

Under the Norwegian grant project *Integration of Climate Change Policy into Sectoral and Regional Policy*, CSB worked on the activity **Regional Data Collecting and Reporting System. Framework for the Collection and Provision of Regional Data to Facilitate the Planning and Implementation of Regional Climate Change Policy**. The project was launched in 2021, and in 2023 it was concluded with a release of regional climate change indicators on the official statistics portal stat.gov.lv. The statistics, which shows greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from different sectors, the share of renewable energy, and other indicators characterising transition to climate neutrality in planning regions, municipalities, and State cities, was not available before.

These national GHG inventory and energy statistics datasets will serve as a significant source of information for planning and monitoring regional policies in the energy and climate change sectors. Regional climate indicators will be used to develop individual GHG emission and energy system profiles for municipalities as well as to compare current state of affairs, priorities, and development trends at both regional and national levels. Under this activity of the project, the NGO

Statistical Dimensions

Green Liberty prepared an informative report titled *Regional Climate Change Indicators* and provided comprehensive information on the new indicators and their use for analysing current situation (incl. by analytical infographics about planning regions, municipalities and State cities). The activity was concluded with a closing conference held in the National Library of Latvia and attended by about 140 participants in person and on-line. Conference participants were representing various interested parties – ministries, planning regions, municipalities, State cities, CSB, and environmental non-governmental organisations. Presentations about regional climate change indicators from various aspects were given by the representatives of the CSB, Ministry of Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia (MoCE), Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia (MoEPRD), NGO Green Liberty, and Institute of Physical Energetics. Online presentations on the use of regional climate change indicators for reducing GHG emissions at municipal level were given by the experts from the Norwegian Environment Agency and municipalities.

In 2023, CSB worked on the Eurostat grant project *Statistics for the European Green Deal* which was aimed at collecting new data on electric vehicles, public charging stations, and future scenarios for electric transportation. This initiative greatly improves the methodology used for estimating electricity consumption in transport sector and allows for more accurate calculations of the national energy balance. The project resulted in the collection, compilation, and dissemination of statistics for electricity consumption by road vehicles and electric vehicle mileage (in kilometres) broken down by economic activity and households (for the period from 2017 to 2021). The project results were presented to the Ministry of Transport, MoEPRd and MoCE. At the international level, the results were presented at a UNECE session of the Working Party on Transport Statistics where Latvia's plans and achievements in the production of new transport statistics 2022/2023 were discussed.

Other key statistical products in 2023

On 29 March 2023, CSB held a seminar on **quality of life in cities and territorial statistics** (in person and online). It was informing data users about the results from the survey on quality of life in nine State cities – Daugavpils, Jelgava, Jēkabpils, Jūrmala, Liepāja, Ogre, Rēzekne, Valmiera and Ventspils – conducted in 2022 and the latest territorial statistics. The last survey on the quality of life in cities was conducted in 2017 in the eight cities under State jurisdiction – Daugavpils, Jelgava, Jēkabpils, Jūrmala, Liepāja, Rēzekne, Valmiera and Ventspils – thus the results of 2022 are comparable to those produced in 2017.

Survey results were used in maps showing resident satisfaction with various aspect of life in their city (excluding Riga). The survey about quality of life in Riga was carried out by Eurostat, therefore information on Riga and quality of life in other European cities is available on the [European Commission official website](#).



Participants of the panel discussion



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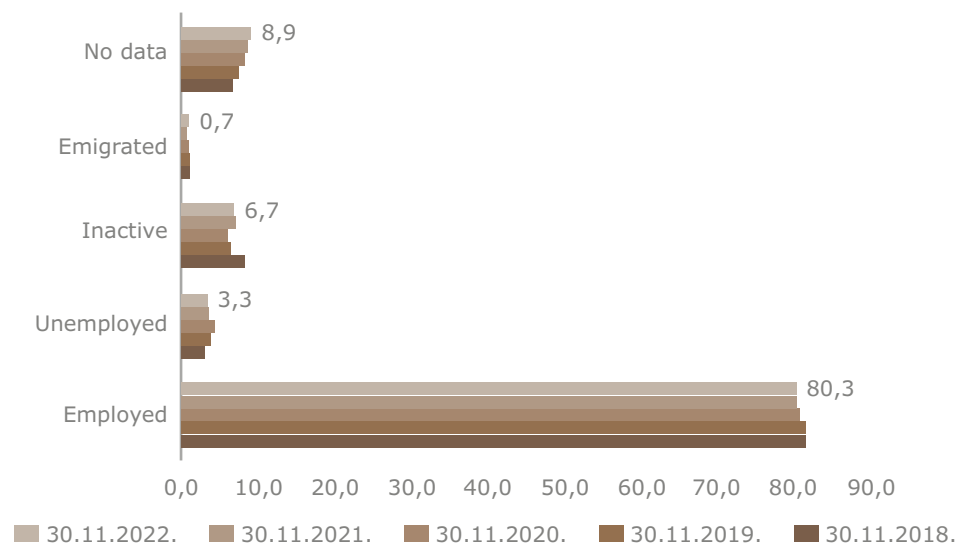


Speakers of the seminar on quality of life in cities and territorial statistics

Statistical Dimensions

The new policy initiatives of the Ministry of Economics mandate the CSB to conduct **monitoring of continuous education and qualification improvement programme participants**. To do that, CSB used data from the State Education Development Agency, State Employment Agency, and Central Finance and Contracting Agency and linked them with own data about educational attainment, employment, and income. To process the data, a relevant methodology was developed in 2023. The first datasets have already been received and successfully processed.

Additionally, as required by Cabinet Regulation No 276 of 25 June 2019 on the state education information system, annual **graduate monitoring** data (i.e., about people graduating from higher education institutions and vocational education establishments) were transmitted to the Ministry of Education and Science. For graduates from higher education institutions, monitoring results provide insight into the situation from 2017 to 2020 (in 2017 the data were reported for the fourth time) and, for graduates from vocational education establishments, the data cover the period from 2018 to 2020 (in 2018 the data were reported for the third time).



Activity status of 2017 graduates by year

Employment data, providing the latest information about graduates on the labour market, were compiled at the end of 2021. Statistics for the income of these graduates will reflect the income received in 2021. In general, the monitoring results provide a valuable basis for analysing graduate data trends from an employment perspective.

Statistical Dimensions

Development of information and communication technologies

In 2023, several projects for the development and improvement of statistical data processing systems were implemented in the CSB. The functionality of the *Metadata-driven Integrated Statistical Data Management System (ISDMS)* was enhanced to allow statisticians to work in the system without seeing the primary personal data, and improvements were made to the respondent communication module. When preparing the forms for data entry, non-standard solutions were found to make the forms easier to read.

Social Statistics Data Warehouse (SSDW) system includes functionality to store administrative summaries received in the system for further use. Significant improvements for users have been made in the system – from the user's point of view, information is stored in one place, it is stored in structured lists, and users are notified about the availability of new data in the system by informative e-mails.

Data security was strengthened in ISDMS and SSDW systems by incorporating additional functionality to allow pseudonymisation of data imported into the system.

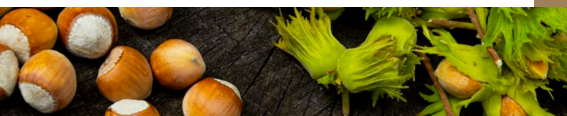
In 2023, in addition to the full data processing cycle of the Import Price Index already implemented in the **Producer Price Index calculation system**, which includes processes such as data loading, validation, calculations, publication, the functionality of the system was extended with a full automated data processing cycle of other indices – Industrial producer price index, Export unit value index, Services producer price index and Construction cost index.

The Producer Price Index calculation system provides automated index calculation, storage, production of the necessary data according to the requirements of external and internal data users, and publication of indices on the official statistics portal. The system maintains separate Producer price index feeds (a total of five different indices), linking the necessary data sources, calculations, summaries and publications to each of them, and aggregating the data into a single information system.

As part of the data processing system development activities, the **modernisation of the Statistical Farm Register was initiated**. Within the framework of the Eurostat grant project, initial proposals for system improvements were summed up as well as initial algorithms for automating register updates, maintenance, and information selection were developed. This helps to optimise automation of register updates and reduce manual labour. Modernisation of Statistical Farm Register will also enable harmonisation and improvement of data collection and processing within the CSB.



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THIRD ROUND OF ESS PEER REVIEWS IN LATVIA

Third Round of ESS Peer Reviews in Latvia

Peer reviews form part of the European Statistical System (ESS) strategy to monitor implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP). Their objective is to review the compliance/alignment of the ESS with the CoP and help statistical institutes and authorities to improve and develop national statistical systems.

The peer reviews cover all the Member States of the EU and European Free Trade Association, Eurostat as well as all national statistical institutes and other national authorities producing official statistics since they all are committed to comply with the ES CoP, which is the cornerstone of the common quality framework of the ESS. The third round of peer reviews took place from 2021 to 2023.

In the peer review, a team of independent external experts reviewed compliance of the CSB and three other national authorities producing EU-level statistics with each of the 16 ES CoP principles grouped under three main sections – institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical output. Each principle includes relative indicators covering international standards and good practice helping to ensure high-quality official statistics as well as compliance with common principles and requirements.

CSB is the advisory body of the national statistics system which functionally subordinates production of reliable official statistics used by policy makers, researchers, and general public at both national and European level, and thus it was the national peer review coordinator in Latvia. Several implementation arrangements were made before the peer review, e.g., national statistical institutes were filling in self-assessment questionnaires and giving their opinion on the compliance with the ES CoP as well as explaining how the principles are implemented in the official statistics system.

In Latvia, the third round of peer reviews took place from 20 February to 24 February 2023 (previous two in 2006 and 2014). It covered the CSB, being the advisory body of the national official statistics system, as well as Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics, and Latvian Centre for Environment, Geology and Meteorology. A peer review team interviewed various users and stakeholders to get their opinion about the Latvian official statistics system and the improvements needed. Altogether, the peer review engaged 29 CSB employees, 7 representatives from other national authorities producing European statistics, members of the Statistical Council, owners, holders and managers of administrative data, media, and data users.

The peer review was concluded with a report where the expert team concluded that, overall, there is a high level of compliance with the ES CoP throughout the national statistical system in Latvia.



Third round of peer reviews
in Latvia

Third Round of ESS Peer Reviews in Latvia

The peer review team emphasised that CSB is widely regarded as a reliable organisation, and the statistics it produces are well-received by the media and society as a whole. It promotes an open culture and emphasises transparency in all its operations, moreover is easily approachable by users, encourages them to ask questions and seek information, and maintains positive relationships with them. Additionally, CSB demonstrates a willingness to address sensitive issues and provide accurate information, even in the face of public criticism, thereby contributing to the establishment of a trustworthy national statistical system. Collaboration and the exchange of knowledge and expertise are fostered within the CSB, creating a team spirit that is crucial to its strength. The staff's dedication to delivering high-quality products and services is supported by excellent internal communication. The team also pointed to the fact that CSB has worked on improving statistical processes by reducing the response burden significantly, e.g., by using more administrative data, optimising sample sizes and defining a uniform approach for using administrative data, as well as asking companies about the time spent answering its surveys.



Peer review expert team
with the CSB Deputy Director General
Kaspars Misāns (in the middle)

Apart from the general overview of the statistical system in Latvia, the report also gives 19 recommendations for development: six for strengthening the institutional environment, four for ensuring adequate resources, three for improving statistical processes, four for improving accessibility of statistical releases, and two for strengthening the orientation towards users. The recommendations suggest that the CSB should develop and implement strategies to strengthen the influence of the Statistical Council, embrace new, more active roles within the national data ecosystems, as well as identify and use new data sources to reduce response burden.

CSB, in cooperation with other institutions, has developed a plan for implementing the recommendations and expects that it will contribute both to the CSB development and to the cooperation with other statistical institutes and public authorities.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



International Cooperation

International meetings and exchange of experience

Representing Latvia's interests at international level, CSB management and experts of fields not only present Latvia's experience, but also learn from success stories and the latest trends of other countries. This exchange of experience promotes the development of ideas, search for solutions and implementation of good practices; it also helps to strengthen the image of CSB as a leader in data processing, and contributes to increasing the reputation and recognition of CSB on the international arena. The exchange of experience in the international environment also contributes to the development of national official statistical system, ensuring its compliance with international standards and quality.

In 2023, CSB experts participated in 64 Eurostat working group/committee meetings. In 40 meetings CSB experts contributed to the work of Eurostat's special working groups for solving specific methodological issues. In 2023, a total of 83 international activities and 108 face-to-face meetings took place remotely, in which 263 CSB employees participated. In addition to regular activities, in the context of various written consultations CSB experts have also contributed to the harmonization of statistical methodology.

Between 27 February and 3 March, President of the CSB, Aija Žigure, participated in the 54th Session of the UN Statistical Commission, which takes place every year in New York. The agenda of the 54th Session of the Statistical Commission included issues of relevance to the international statistical community, such as progress of the work on global indicators for measuring the Sustainable Development Goals, direction of the development of social statistics and household surveys, future of economic statistics, development of national accounts, development of the methodology of environmental economic accounts and further work directions, timeliness for the application of framework of fundamental principles of official statistics, possibilities of using large-scale data and challenges in official statistics.

On 7-8 March 2023 Head of the Transport and Tourism Statistics Department of the CSB, Dita Zemīte, participated in the panel discussion *Private Data Reuse: Experimental Statistics on Online Accommodation Platforms* at the conference *New Techniques and Technologies* held in Brussels. At the moment, data from the four largest digital booking platforms in the world - Booking, Airbnb, Expedia and Tripadvisor - are available in tourism statistics. These data are compiled by Eurostat and transferred to Member States in accordance with the agreement. Then they are published on the official statistics portal, press releases are prepared and popularized among data users in municipalities, including Riga, Daugavpils, Liepāja and Jūrmala.



Aija Žigure with Jūratė Petrauskienė from Lithuania (in the middle) and Urmet Lee from Estonia (on the left).”



Dita Zemīte at the panel discussion

After a longer break, a face-to-face Annual Baltic Steering Committee Meeting was held again, which on a rotating basis on 27-28 April 2023 was held in Vilnius,

International Cooperation

Lithuania. Every year, this meeting brings together heads of the Baltic statistical institutions to share with each other experience of good practice in institutions and to discuss latest trends in statistics at the international level. During the meeting, the cooperation of the previous planning period was assessed, as well as an exchange of opinions on maintaining relations with the most important partners took place. A discussion on how international current events are reflected at the national level also took place. Future cooperation of statistical institutions was talked over at the meeting, and the Baltic cooperation plan for 2023-2024 was approved. Next meeting will take place in April 2024 in Latvia.

On 25-26 May, public relations manager of the Communication Section of the CSB, Sanda Rieksta, attended the meeting of communication specialists of the ESS institutions and Eurostat (PrESSnet) in Luxembourg, where every year communication specialists from different countries present good practice of their country and efforts in the field of statistical communication. Sanda Rieksta shared experience of the CSB on advertising and communicating the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) and the Labour Force Survey to the public, mainly highlighting the use of comics in communication with the public and visual changes in letters to respondents, making them more colourful and attractive. Such meetings give communication specialists the opportunity to gain inspiration and advice on how to make statistics more accessible and understandable to everyone.

On 12-14 June, a virtual meeting of UN experts on data collection was held to discuss latest statistical data collection methods and communication with respondents and data providers. Experts also had the opportunity to learn from the experience of other countries in introducing innovative and modern data collection tools, including the use of mobile devices and use of various robotic solutions. Director of the Statistical Data Processing Department, Ramona Skakunova, gave a presentation and participated in a question-answer discussion *Respondent care and communication strategies*, mainly emphasizing the CSB and nationwide activities aimed at motivating the provision of statistical information, such as the campaign Consult First or participation in the event *Shadow Day*.

At the 6th Baltic-Nordic Conference on Survey Statistics, which was held in Finland on 21-25 August, Anastasija Meļņičuka and Jeļena Voronova from the Mathematical Support Division of the CSB told about the CSB's experience in using adaptive sampling design in the organisation of social surveys and the analysis of irresponsibility with R-indicators in social surveys of Latvia.

After a break of more than a decade, the Baltic States Meeting on Tourism Statistics, organized by the CSB for the first time, was held again on 20-21 September. Experts from the Baltic States discussed news in tourism statistics: new data sources, use of payment card statistics, user needs, future development and much more.



From the left:
Deputy Head **Norberts Tālers**,
President **Aija Žigure**,
Head of the EU Affairs Coordination
Division **Ieva Zemeskalna**



Sanda Rieksta (in the middle)



Anastasija Meļņičuka and
Jeļena Voronova on the left

International Cooperation



Aija Žigure at the panel discussion
(from the left)



Agricultural and environmental
experts from the Baltic States

On 26-28 September, a high-level seminar for Eastern Partnership Region and Central Asia on issues of statistical modernization was organized by Eurostat/EFTA/UN EEC and held in Riga. Therein experts from the Agricultural and Environmental Statistics Department, Armands Plāte and Dita Zemīte, shared their experience on the achievements in CSB modernization – on the use of administrative data in preparation of agricultural statistics, as well as on new methods in preparation of tourism statistics and preparation of electric vehicle statistics.

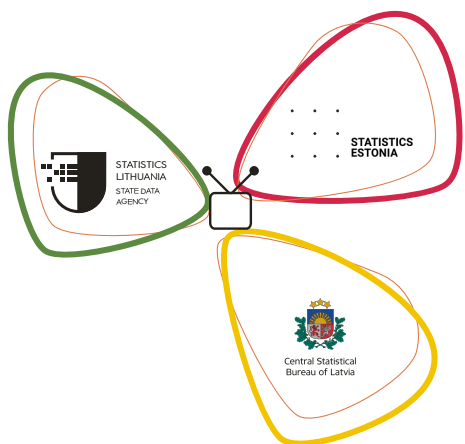
On 18-20 October, President of the CSB, Aija Žigure, attended the Annual Conference of the Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) and the 54th meeting of the ESS Committee in Cork, Ireland, where, at a panel on the future of the ESS, heads of the institutions discussed the strengthening of partnerships and possibilities of developing access to data sources.

On 8-9 November, during a meeting of the UNECE Working Party on Transport Statistics, Head of the Transport and Tourism Statistics Section of the CSB, Dita Zemīte, gave a presentation on the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Statistics in Latvia and the Light Utility Vehicle (LUV) Statistics in Latvia.

On 7-8 December, the management and experts of the Agricultural and Environmental Statistics Department of the CSB welcomed agricultural statistics colleagues from Estonia and Lithuania in Riga to share and exchange experience and good practice on agricultural statistics issues and latest trends. Topics discussed at the meeting included statistics on pesticide use and agricultural price statistics.

Radio Day

Continuing to strengthen CSB's international cooperation and communication, at the end of 2023 the Baltic Statisticians Radio Day was organized in the spirit of Christmas, where the main emphasis was placed on the friendship of neighbouring countries in an entertaining format. In addition to music and greetings, colleagues could take part in an educational quiz, trying their luck and wisdom about the Baltics and Europe and getting to know the culture of our neighbours. The Radio Day gives not only an opportunity for CSB employees to discover new music from our neighbouring countries, but also allows to feel the common values and enjoy the spirit of cooperation between the statisticians of the Baltic States. On this solemn day, radio interviews were given by heads of the institutions – Urmet Lee from Estonia, Aija Žigure from Latvia and Jūratė Petrauskienė from Lithuania – summarizing the events and achievements of the past year. Triinu Arak, representative of Estonia, shared a story about the social media campaign 24 questions held at Statistics Estonia, where everyone had a 24-hour opportunity to ask Estonian statisticians questions on and about the data. The purpose of this campaign was to educate the Estonian society, especially young people, about the important work carried out by statistical institutions.



COMMUNICATION WITH SOCIETY



Communication with Society

New content in statistics portal stat.gov.lv

In 2023 official statistics portal stat.gov.lv section Indicators of well-being and equality was supplemented with new content. It compiles statistics on social inclusion in various areas (education, health, employment, housing, etc.), on 13 groups at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion, on gender equality in various areas (education and science, decision-making, earnings, etc.) and on quality of life. These activities have been welcomed by policy-makers, confirming their importance and need for national decision-making.

The Ministry of Welfare has started publishing datasets on the official statistics portal about: persons with disabilities, municipal social services, local government social services and home care. The Court Administration has supplemented the content of the official statistics portal with data on judicial business and convicts. The portal's statistical themes have also been supplemented by other institutions, such as the State Railway Technical Inspectorate, the Latvian State Historical Archive, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Lotteries and Gambling Supervisory Inspection and the National Film Centre.

32th international Px-meeting

On 14-15 September Riga held the 32th international Px-meeting. This year the meeting gathered 40 onsite participants and 40 online participants. Since 2003, statistics portal database stat.gov.lv, which contains about 1 500 data tables, has been using PxWeb software, and this exchange of experience between developers and users provides information on the latest software and improves understanding of users.



Participants of the 32th international Px-meeting

Communication with Society

Education of young people

On 18-19 January, a remote presentation on the use of statistics portal was given to pupils of 12th grade of the Daugavpils State Gymnasium.

On 14 December, pupils of 10th grade of the private secondary school 'Patnis' visited the CSB to get an insight into the practical use of mathematics in statistics. Ieva Aināre, head of the Mathematical Support Division, demonstrated mathematical processes at the CSB to young people. Public relations specialists Elīna Kūliņa and Sanda Rieksta showed how to use the official statistics portal step by step, encouraging young people to find and select data of their own interest. In an interesting discussion, Uldis Ainārs, director of Information and Communication Department, highlighted the importance of statistics in understanding society's socio-economic processes and in making future decisions.

Certificates for successful communication in a public administration competition

On 30 November, in the competition of works among public administration communication professionals The most successful example of communication in the digital environment 2022-2023 the CSB received two certificates of recognition from the State Chancellery for applications Happy Animal Protection Day! and How many years does a man live in retirement?.

Publicity in media and social networks

In 2023, the CSB published 200 news releases and other information on the latest CSB activities. The first three most important media in terms of the audience reached were internet portals Delfi, TVnet, nra.lv. Four radio stations – LR1, LR2, SWH, Skonto – and two television channels – LTV1, TV3 – were among 20 the most significant.

Several press conferences were held: On 1 June on population changes in Latvia in 2022. Media was represented by TV3, LTV, Latvijas Radio, national news agency LETA, nra.lv. On 17 August, a press conference was held to provide a wider explanation to the media about the list of exporters to Russia and Belarus published on behalf of the Minister of Economics. Media was represented by TV3, LTV, ReTV, TV24, Latvijas Radio, national news agency LETA, Delfi, TVnet, LSM, Latvijas Avīze. On 19 September, a press conference on the launch of Integrated Farm Statistics 2023 survey was held, in which LTV, Dienas Bizness, LETA, ReTV, Zemnieku Saeima participated.

The CSB was mentioned in media 13 000 times. In 2023, the publicity leaders among the CSB representatives were Baiba Zukula (55 mentions), Director of



Pupils of 10th grade of the private secondary school "Patnis" visited the CSB



Gundega Kuzmina received the communication award



Caricature about the decline in birthrates

Communication with Society



The most read tweet from @CSP_Latvia

the Social Statistics Department, and Aija Žigure (46), President of the CSB. They were followed by Sanda Rieksta (28), public relations specialist, Intars Abražuns (18), Director of the Macroeconomic Statistics Department, Ance Ceriņa (15), Deputy Director of the Social Statistics Department, as well as other CSB officials (total of 27 mentions).

In 2023, demography (15.7 %) was the most frequently mentioned subject in the media. Inflation came in the second place (14.6 %), as the continuing decline in consumer prices also dampened media interest in the subject. The third place was taken by households (8.8 %), which was followed by such subjects as employment/unemployment (8.3 %), wages and salaries (7.8 %), GDP (7.4 %), foreign trade (6 %), other information (3.8 %), tourism (3.6 %), industry (3.2 %), trade (2.8 %), construction (2.8 %), education (2.8 %), energy (2.5 %), lists of exporting enterprises (2.4 %); this subject appeared in the second half of the year, starting with August, surveys (1.9 %), finances (1.6 %), agriculture (1.5 %), producer prices (1 %), etc.

At the end of 2023, @CSP_Latvija Twitter account had 8 530 followers, @CSB_Latvia Twitter account in English – 3 830 followers, Facebook account – 4 300 followers.

Information requests

In 2023, CSB replied to 1 000 information requests from individuals, public administration institutions and enterprises, and 22 data users received regular tailor made datasets. Also answers to 175 media requests/ questions were sent, of which 40 were comments from the CSB officials on TV or radio. Latvijas Televīzija (39), Latvijas Radio (21), Delfi (11), TV3 (10), Latvijas Avīze (8), nra.lv (8) TVnet (7), Dienas Bizness (5) were the media requesting statistics or comments from the CSB officials most often.

CSB award

On 28 December, Konstantīna Seile, unit head of the Preiļi Data Collection and Processing Centre, presented the annual CSB award to Preiļu siers, A/S for excellent cooperation in providing quality statistics in 2023.



Award presented to *Preiļu siers, A/S*

QUALITY AND INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT



Quality and Information Security Management

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.

Along with the update of CSB strategy, the Quality Policy of CSB was also revised and renewed in 2023. Several CSB Quality Management Group meetings have been held, where the impact of internal and external factors on the CSB Quality Management System, the level of fulfilment of quality goals and suitability of resources for achieving goals, CSB risk management, process performance indicators, external supplier performance, satisfaction of external and internal stakeholders, results of internal and external audits, etc. have been discussed.

In 2023, in accordance with the 3-year audit programme (2022-2024), as part of the internal quality audit, 49 interviews were conducted with the CSB employees and section heads of 16 structural units. Audit findings and final report have been prepared and no discrepancies have been identified.

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.

In 2023, an external auditor, commissioned by the Eurostat, carried out an assessment of the information security system of CSB to ensure that it is effectively established and maintained in accordance with the ESS IT security framework. ESS IT security framework is a significant tool in ensuring effective and reliable data compilation and analysis. This includes both technical solutions, such as data storage and data exchange platforms, as well as standards and protocols that ensure data security and compatibility between different research institutions and countries. The external auditor positively assessed continuous progress of the CSB in improving the information security policy and confirmed the compliance of information security system created by the CSB with the ESS IT security framework.

In October 2023 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 2023 the CSB budget consisted of the following **budget programmes (subprogrammes)**:

- programme 24.00.00 *Provision of Statistical Information*;
- subprogramme 63.07.00 *Participation in International Researches on Education of programme 63.00.00 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) projects (2014–2020)*;
- subpogramme 67.06.00 *European Community Initiative projects of programme 67.00.00 Implementation of European Community initiative projects and activities*;
- programme 70.06.00 *Reimbursement of Travel Expenses of Latvian Representatives when Going to European Union Council Working Party Meetings and Council Meetings*;
- programme 71.06.00 *Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Environment (LV-CLIMATE)* financed by the Norwegian Financial mechanism;
- programme 99.00.00 *Funding for Emergency*.

In 2023, 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

Revenues from paid services comprised EUR 191 640 in 2023, which, compared to 2022, has increased by EUR 98 678 or 106.1 %. Growth in revenues is comprised by the agreement concluded on conducting Household Finance and Consumption Survey in Latvia.

Subsidy from general revenue in 2023 comprised EUR 13 220 799 and, compared to 2022, the increase comprised EUR 166 819. The largest changes are comprised by the financing allocated in programme 24.00.00 *Provision of Statistical Information* for strengthening the capacity of public administration, ensuring remuneration of the strategically important job groups, and for improved management of human capital and employment in Latvia.

General budget of the CSB comprised EUR 13 431 274 in 2023, which, compared to 2022, has increased by EUR 229 471 or 1.8 %.

Financial Resources and Performance Indicators

Maintenance costs of transfers have reduced by EUR 41 156; they are made up by an interdepartmental agreement on exchange of information with the State Plant Protection Service concluded within the framework of programme 24.00.00 *Provision of Statistical Information*, the survey conducted on the application of pesticides to agricultural crops (cereal and leguminous crops and rapeseed) to ensure the harvest of 2022, as well as project *Pilot study on the use of geospatial information in the extraction of statistical data on grassland management* was taken up in 2022 and completed in 2023 and was carried out within the framework of the programme 67.06.00 *European Community Initiative Projects, for the provision of which an interdepartmental agreement has been concluded with the Rural Support Service on the provision of information.*

| No. | Financial indicators | 2022 actual | 2023 | |
|--------|--|-------------|------------|------------|
| | | | planned | actual |
| 1. | Financial resources to cover expenses (total) | 13 204 263 | 13 675 188 | 13 469 848 |
| 1.1 | grants | 13 052 980 | 13 400 542 | 12 220 799 |
| 1.2. | revenue from chargeable services and other own revenue | 92 961 | 211 562 | 191 640 |
| 1.3. | transfers | 57 322 | 63 084 | 57 410 |
| 2. | Total expenditure | 13 201 802 | 13 675 188 | 13 431 274 |
| 2.1 | total accommodation costs | 10 988 975 | 12 629 172 | 12 431 379 |
| 2.1.1. | current expenditure | 10 931 819 | 12 613 172 | 12 415 379 |
| 2.1.2. | maintenance costs of transfers | 57 156 | 16 000 | 16 000 |
| 2.2. | Capital expenditures | 2 212 827 | 1 046 016 | 999 895 |

Performance indicators

The operations' results planned within the framework of budget programmes and sub-programmes for 2023–2027 have been achieved in CSB operations strategy, which are characterized by performance indicators in the table below.

| Performance indicator | 2022 actual | 2023 | |
|---|----------------|---------|---------|
| | | planned | actual |
| Provision of statistics and development of process-oriented approach to statistics production | | | |
| Activities promoting the development of statistical production have been organized within the framework of partnership with respondents (number) | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Average response level (%) of enterprise statistics reports | 90 | 90 | 92 |
| Cooperation agreements concluded/updated with the most important administrative data holders (number) | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Total producer price indices have been calculated (number) | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Statistical classifications have been published on the Open Data portal (number) | – | 15 | 20 |
| Implementation of SBR (%) | 50 | 100 | 100 |
| Dwellings on which a housing affordability assessment has been carried out (number) | 110 000 | 110 000 | 110 000 |
| New data sources for the use in production of statistics have been estimated (number) | – | 1 | 1 |
| Participation in international conferences and seminars regarding the experience of CSB in implementing innovative data processing methods and the use of data sources (number) | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Providing statistics and data availability to data users | | | |
| Activities for informing data users on current statistics (number) | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Detailed territorial statistics (grid data, villages, densely populated areas, city neighbourhoods, parishes in detail) has been prepared (number of topics) | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Innovative statistical products (number) | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Financial Resources and Performance Indicators

| Performance indicator | 2022 actual | 2023 | |
|---|----------------|---------|--------|
| | | planned | actual |
| 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) | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Development of information systems for collection, processing and dissemination of CSB statistical data | | | |
| Share of available electronic forms in the electronic data collection system (%) | 94 | 94 | 94 |
| Within the framework of data storage, the data from external data providers/users has been integrated (number) | 77 | 70 | 70 |
| 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 ES CoP (%) | 90 | 90 | 92 |
| Meetings of statistical institutions of Latvia on current operational issues (number) | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| 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) | 60 000 | 75 000 | 75 000 |
| Monitoring on graduates of Latvian vocational education institutions (number of graduates) | 24 000 | 32 000 | 32 000 |



PERSONNEL AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Personnel and Personnel Management

High work quality and efficiency as well as successful accomplishment of the CSB goals largely depend on the competences and skills of the employees. Highly educated and professional staff is the cornerstone of the CSB – 80 % of employees have acquired tertiary education, of which 55 % have master's degree.

In 2023, there were 495 positions in the CSB (246 for civil servants and 249 for public employees) and on average it had 444 employees. The number of positions has reduced over the year. The proportion of women among all employees has not changed and was 87 %.

During the year, CSB attracted 56 new employees while civil service and employment relations with the CSB were terminated by 48 employees. The most frequently this termination was based on a mutual agreement, employee's notice, or reaching of the national retirement age. The exit poll results show that employees mainly left due to insufficient remuneration, lack of career development, personal reasons, and as had reached the retirement age.

Compared to the year before, the employee turnover rate has reduced by one percentage point and fell to 10.8 %. The new hire turnover rate (i.e., of employees who worked for the CSB for less than a year) was 2.7 %. Newly hired employees made a fourth (25 %) of those the civil service and employment relations whereof with the CSB were terminated in 2023.

In 2023, CSB opened 101 vacancies (80 for civil servants and 21 for public employees), and 300 applications to fill the announced vacancies were received. A total of 54 opened vacancies were not filled because for 17 of them no applications were received and for the rest none of the application met the requirements or applicant was not willing to continue the process. At the end of the year, 48 of the positions were vacant, most of which in expert positions (23). Some other vacant posts were waiting for a database programmer (3), statistical mathematician (3), and system analyst (2).

Aiming to improve personnel selection and make it more professional and objective, a uniform and structured criteria for the evaluation of applicants are applied by using a competence-based approach together with practical tasks. 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.

To attract talented professionals, CSB engages higher education institutions and communicates specifics of the statistics sector and career opportunities in it to students. Also, CSB, as a potential employer, actively engages in the accreditation of study programmes by giving an experience-based feedback and



Personnel and Personnel Management

assessment. This ensures the transferability of skills and knowledge and contributes to the continuous development and improvement of the training process.

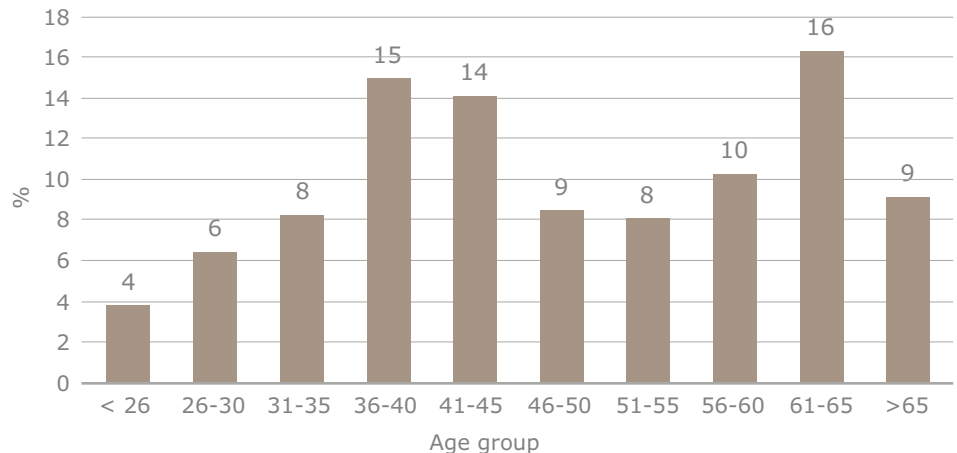
The general human capital trends in Latvia (driven mainly by the demographic situation and educational attainment of labour force) as well as uncompetitive salaries in public sector are challenging when attracting and retaining professionals, especially in data processing, data analysis and information technology. The remuneration reform in the public administration (launched in 2022) foresees a gradual shift towards more competitive remuneration, including for CSB employees. Professional development of employees via horizontal and vertical career development within the institution as well as public administration is one of the focal points in the CSB human resources management. Last year, 7 employees took a chance of horizontal career growth and changed their work position to another within the institution.



A still from a video promoting CSB as an attractive employer

The average age of CSB employees has been above 45 for several years, in 2023 it was 48 years. A fourth (25 %) of the CSB employees are aged over 61, moreover 13 % of the staff had reached the national retirement age on 31 December 2023.

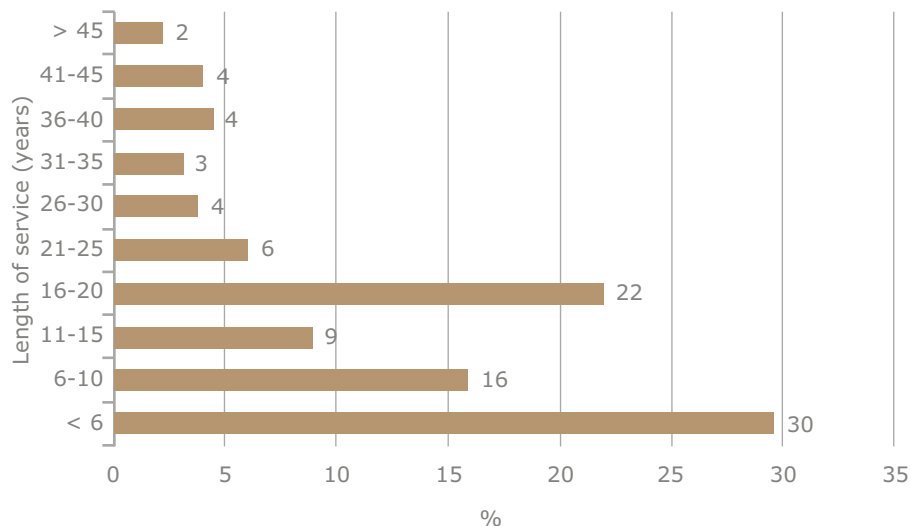
The vast majority (55 %) of employees has worked for the CSB for less than 15 years and quite a large proportion (32 %) for 16–30 years. In addition, the great number of people in this group has significant effect on the average length of service in the CSB, which has been rather high for several years (15 years in 2023).



Age structure of employees

Personnel and Personnel Management

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. In 2023, professional development was mainly focused on digital skills as well as



Employees by number of years worked for the CSB

competences of the employees in leading positions. The main training activities covered communication competences, project management, professional competences in IT as well as English skills; 19 employees attended European statistician training programme courses organised by Eurostat. Last year, 88 % of the employees had participated in at least one training activity organised by the CSB.

The latest labour market trends show that employee satisfaction largely depends on the microclimate of the workplace. In 2023, CSB employees continued to perform their tasks mainly remotely in an independently chosen working environment that is the most suited to the performance of work duties and ensures the most productive results. Aiming to promote staff satisfaction, engagement, and well-being, CSB organised several well-being lectures as well as Christmas celebration for children.

Lately, the events for building a team unity and spirit are becoming increasingly more popular. E.g., the Social Statistics Department has an annual team building

Personnel and Personnel Management



Social Statistics Department team building activities in Jelgava



Employees awarded with the CSB certificates of recognition and gratitude

activity which helps to learn more about the colleagues (incl., promote integration of new staff members) and discuss current issues (e.g., the latest data processing and analysis solutions, improvements to the department work, etc.).

For professional work within the statistical system, significant contribution to the development and improvement of data processing as well as significant contribution to the development of statistical methods, the Ministry of Economics awarded Līga Strūve, Kalvis Okmanis, Elita Orupa, Kristīna Bagočūniene, Inese Pereverteņa and Sintija Kintija Ancāne with a certificate of gratitude.

CSB certificate of recognition for contribution to the development and modernisation of statistical production was awarded to Zaiga Priede, Dace Krievkalne, Evita Kupče, Jānis Jukāms, Dina Brīdaka, Sanda Rieksta and Jovita Krēmane. Celebrating contribution to the development of collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistics, CSB certificate of gratitude was given to Inga Vanaga, Solveiga Apsīte, Ieva Nadziņa, Vilma Brice, Ināra Meluškāne, Marina Rumaka, Anitra Celma, Dace Drulle, Santa Kalniņa, Natālija Jeremina, Dace Baradaka, Jūlija Ivanova, Inga Pribitoka, Zanda Dukaļska and Vija Veidemane.

EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS



European Year of Skills

Continuing more than 40 years old tradition of determining the theme of the European Year, the European Commission declared 2023 the European Year of Skills. This step provides additional impetus towards achieving social targets by 2030 which foresees at least 60 % of adults participating in training each year and at least 78 % of adults in employment.

The skills acquired are essential for successfully adapting to changes in the labour market and for full participation in civil society and democratic processes. As part of the European Year of Skills, the European Commission has proposed to promote a lifelong learning throughout society.

In order to obtain comprehensive data on population participating in education and training, which is an important source of detailed information for participation in lifelong learning, in 2021-2022 the CSB conducted an *Adult Education Survey*. It covered information about mother tongue, language skills and educational experience of population of Latvia aged 18 to 69 in both formal and non-formal education environments, including informal learning activities. Results of the survey can be found in official statistics portal.

The results of Adult Education Survey were published in three press releases: "Latvian as foreign language known by 89 % of inhabitants", "Latvian is mother tongue of 64 % of the population", "37 % of Latgalian resident population use Latgalian language at home and on a daily basis". Visualisations about language skills of the population were also created on social networks.

The results of the survey were presented at the high-level conference *How to manage human resource development of Latvia?* organized by the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Education and Science and Riga Technical University. The conference emphasized the importance of quality data, data matching and data-based decisions in policy planning in general, as well as discussed the role of the CSB in this process.

Strengthening the partnership with the academic sector, the debate launched in 2021 was continued and highlights in education and social statistics **were discussed in an academic atmosphere**. Representatives of several ministries and universities participated in person as well as remotely. **In academic breakfast** issues of adult education were discussed, survey results on education and language skills as well as upcoming social statistics news were presented.

For several years on 9 May the CSB has been celebrating **Europe Day** with various information activities for the CSB employees. In 2023, the CSB celebrated Europe Day as part of the European Year of Skills, so CSB employees were invited to participate in a small photo and video project where everyone could creatively present their skills to the colleagues, thus tying this task to the theme of the European Year of Skills.

In recent years the population participation in adult education has increased – 52.2 % of respondents aged 25 to 64 gave positive answer to the questions mentioned (47.5 % in 2016)



Academic breakfast

European Year of Skills

Colleagues showed their talents – sewing, skiing, photographing, singing, cooking and cracking tough nuts. The unique skills and talents demonstrated by the CSB employees made participants feel proud about themselves, and it also created a stronger bond with their colleagues.

On Europe Day the video was published on the CSB intranet, and at the same time an invitation to CSB colleagues to participate in the erudition game with questions about the European Union and the CSB was disseminated.

Employees were also invited to take part in the European Exam to test their knowledge on the EU, its history and processes. The CSB was recognized as one of the most active state institutions, receiving recognition from the representative office of the European Commission in Latvia and the European Movement – Latvia.

On Europe Day – 9 May – three teams competed in the Europe Day erudition game *Show your skills!* and tested their knowledge on various questions about the EU and role of CSB in it. A team *Three Generations* won the quiz about EU history, culture, traditions and Latvia in the EU.

On 20 October, the European Society of Statistics celebrated the **European Statistics Day** for the eighth year. Continuing popularization of the Year of Skills, an infographic about various fields of education of CSB employees was published that day on the CSB intranet, revealing that our employees are not only talented and smart, but also deeply determined to always challenge themselves and develop – we have an art scientist, solid state physicist, chemist, primary school teacher, nurse, psychologist, historian and specialists of many other fields.

The CSB employs about 450 employees – representatives of various professions and specialities, who are united by an analytical and curious view on the world, precision when working with details, as well as the ability to see the overall picture. In order to effectively use information technology tools necessary for data processing, analysis and visualization, CSB employees mainly need mathematical and statistical knowledge, data analysis, data interpretation and programming skills to produce the statistics. Training focus of the CSB is the continuous development of employees' skills with an emphasis on promoting the development of employees' self-learning competence. In 2023, 63 employees developed more effective skills in using data processing tools, of which 28 employees took the SQL course.

Also the so-called soft skills, e.g., communication and cooperation are important. In 2023, 58 employees took part in communication skills training, while 53 employees learned presentation or communication skills in English and French.



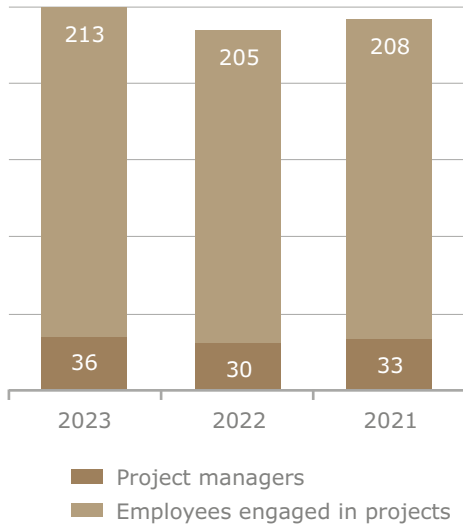
Our employee skills



Aija Žigare, receiving recognition for the performance of the CSB employees in the European Exam

European Year of Skills

In order to maintain a consistently high quality of grant project implementation, CSB took care of maintaining and developing project management competence. In 2023, existing and future project managers had the opportunity to participate in two-day courses specifically adapted to CSB project management practice. For experienced project managers it was an opportunity to strengthen their knowledge, and for potential project managers.



The number of project managers and the number of employees engaged in the projects

ACTIVITIES PLANNED
FOR 2024



Activities Planned for 2024

In 2024 CSB will keep working on the tasks set out in the Operational Strategy 2023–2029 by providing data users with objective and reliable high-quality official statistics.

Key activities of 2024

- Implementation of Official Statistics Programme 2024–026 within the framework of CSB competence
- Seeking and analysis of new private data sources to be used in statistical production
- Employment of innovative statistical production methods allowing to increase work efficiency and optimise resource management as well as development of innovative data dissemination tools improving user experience
- 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)
- Production of experimental statistics for the business and social statistics domains
- Work on the development of Statistical Farm Register information system
- Calculation of regional climate statistics for greenhouse gas emissions, mitigation of climate change impacts and adaptation to climate change as well as drawing up of the environmental economic accounts: environmental subsidies and similar transfers done within the framework of the development, implementation, and monitoring of the policies on adaptation to the climate change and mitigation of the effects thereof
- Active international participation in ESS, UN Statistical Commission, UNECE and OECD thus also increasing Latvia's international visibility and communicating CSB experience in introducing and using innovative data processing methods and data sources

CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU OF LATVIA

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