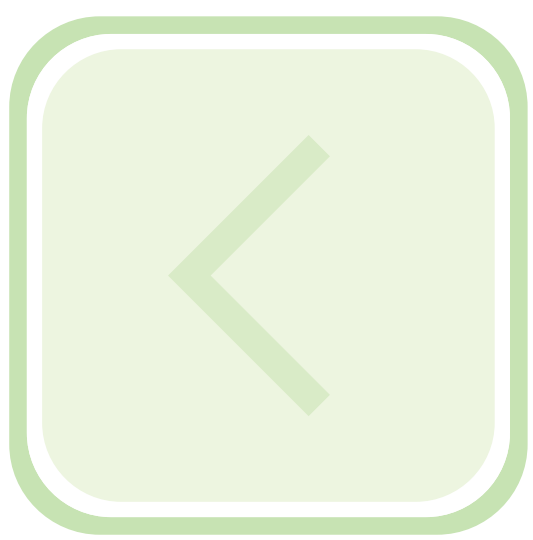
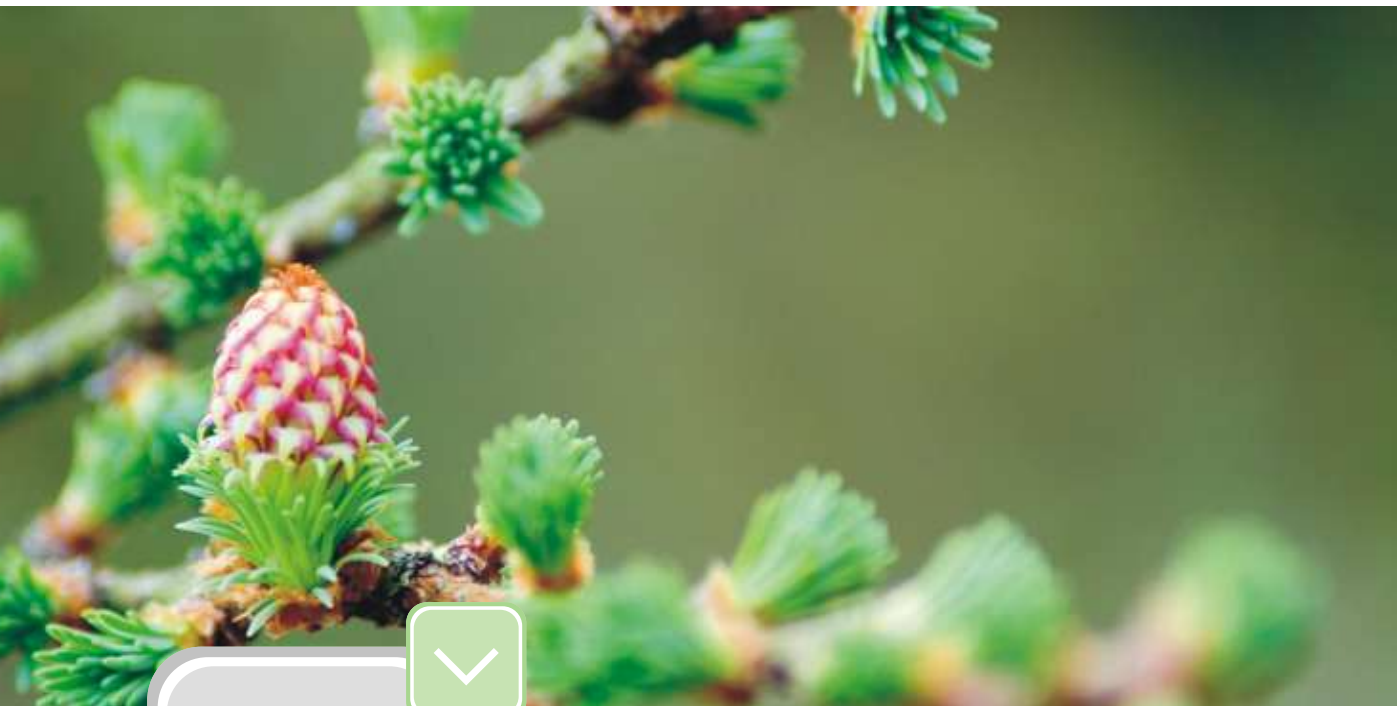


Annual Report 2006



Central Statistical
Bureau of Latvia





Vision, Mission and Values

Vision:

The CSB is the main coordinator of statistical processes and producer of the statistical information in Latvia. The quality of information produced by the CSB corresponds to standards of the European Statistics Code of Practice. CSB data collection, processing and dissemination principles are appropriately documented, and correspond entirely to the international examples of best practice and are publicly available.

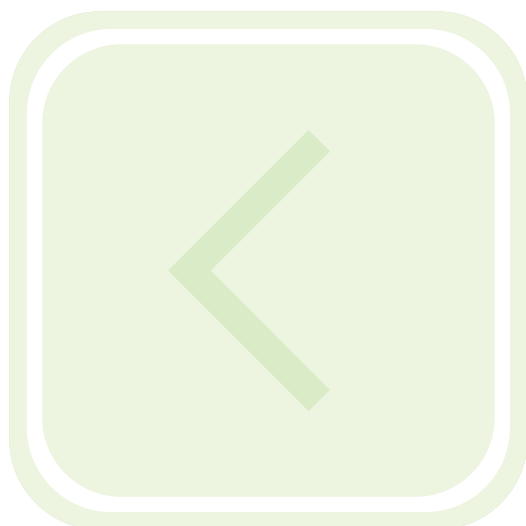
During the process of data preparation the CSB applies such data collection approaches, alternative data sources, data processing methods and mathematical models, which will enable reduction of burden on respondents for preparation of reports.

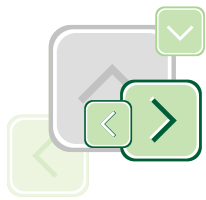
Methods convenient for the users are applied for dissemination of statistical data – the Web has become the primary form of data dissemination. The prepared statistical information is supplemented with statements on the quality of data.

The level of competence of the CSB's personnel allows expressing the interests of Latvia to international institutions. Methods applied for the training of personnel provide for rapid acquisition of skills, as well as ensure improvement of competence for current employees.

Mission:

The MAIN OBJECTIVE (MISSION) of the CSB is to provide domestic and foreign data users with timely, precise, complete, comprehensible and internationally comparable statistical information on the economic, demographical, social and environmental phenomena and processes using contemporary solutions of information technologies and best practices in the sector.

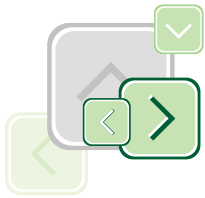




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Foreword



The Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) has released its fourth successive Annual Report the aim of which is to inform collaboration partners in Latvia and abroad, the users of statistical data and respondents about the work and results attained by the CSB.

In 2006 the previously started work to reduce the burden of the respondents has continued. Nevertheless part of the information from enterprises, organizations and institutions is obtained from the reports, but from general public – in the form of questionnaires – increasingly more data are obtained from the State administrative registers, data bases and information systems, in such way providing that data are retrieved from already existing data storage systems. In 2006 the CSB used information from more than 95 administrative data sources, including State Revenue Service, the Treasury, State Land Service National Real Property Cadastre Register, Population Register, Bank of Latvia, Financial and Capital Market Commission, as well as from the data bases of ministries and institutions under their supervision.

In the interests of data users, the home page of CSB has been rebuilt and now it is possible to find there more than 2 million statistical indicators online. The web-based public databases of the CSB are updated regularly by adding up new themes and indicators thus the number of indicators available in the databases is continuously increasing. The page has Content Management System and interactive elements like inflation calculator, feature "Ask us", discussions and question of the month. In comparison with 2005, in 2006 the number of home page visitors has doubled.

In 2006 the CSB has prepared and released 59 statistical publications, of which as most important and popular among the data users can be mentioned "Statistical Yearbook 2006", a collection of statistical data "Demography" and brochure "Latvia. Statistics in Brief 2006".

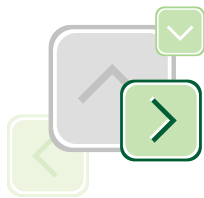
Implementation of the Total Quality Management system was in the list of major priorities for the CSB in 2006. Initially it envisaged to identify the statistical and managerial processes of the CSB, and to develop their descriptions according to the requirements of the quality management system with the aim to facilitate complete fulfilment of the needs and expectations of the statistical data users, with continuous perfection of the statistical institution activities, so as to comply with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice. The CSB coordinated also the implementation of the Code in the Statistical System of Latvia, that is, developed and implemented the plan of other statistical institution involvement in the development of the European Community statistics.

The CSB continued to perfect the Integrated Statistical Data Management System, which was introduced in 2002. This system based on the metadata and data processing standardization, which does not require additional programming. Within ISDMS there is established electronic system of statistical reporting (e-survey), which provides the filling in and submission of reports through Internet, in such way reducing the costs of data collection and speeding up the processing of the data. At the end of 2006 in the system of e-survey it was possible to fill 49 reports, and there were registered more than 5 thousand respondents (approximately 15% of the total respondent number). With the introduction of Data electronic archiving system, the CSB became one of the first State institutions transmitting the data in electronic form to the State Archives.

A new computer assisted personal interview system was launched and the CSB interviewer service started to use portable computers in the Labour Force and EU SILC surveys. As a result quality of the collected information and timeliness of data release was significantly improved.

At the end I would like to underline, that since no business project can be carried out without reliable, accurate and timely statistical information, data users consider statistics to be an important element in economic development. In order to obtain this, tight cooperation between respondents, statisticians and data users is necessary, and therefore facilitation of the cooperation between stakeholders of the statistical system is one of the CSB core objectives.

President of Central Statistical
Bureau ANA ŽIGURE



The Structure of Central Statistical Bureau



PRESIDENT



VICE PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

BUSINESS STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Trade and Services Statistics Section
Investment and Real Estate Statistics Section
Industrial Statistics Section
Enterprise Finance and Structural Statistics Section
Business Register Section

AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Agricultural Statistics Section
Environment and Energy Statistics Section
Transport and Tourism Statistics Section

SOCIAL STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Wage Statistics Section
Living Standard's Statistics Section
Population Statistics Section
Household Budget Statistics Section
Culture, Education, Science and Health Statistics Section
Interviewer's Coordination Section
Employment Statistics Section
Population Census Section

INFORMATION, PUBLISHING AND PRINTING DEPARTMENT

Publishing Section
Printing Section
Information Centre
Regional Information Centres

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

LEGAL DIVISION

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

INTERNAL AUDIT DIVISION

MATHEMATICAL SUPPORT DIVISION

STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY AND ORGANIZATION DIVISION

EU AFFAIRS COORDINATION DIVISION

MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Government Finance Section
Foreign Trade Statistics Section
National Accounts Section

PRICE STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Producer Price Indices Section
Consumer Price Indices Section

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

Financial Planning, Analysis and Accounting Section
International Project Coordination and Planning Section

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES DEPARTMENT

IT Technical Section
IT Technological Section
Regular statistics Processing Section
Application Software Development Section

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

Technical Operation and maintenance Section
Records and Archive's Section
Procurement Organisation and Supply Section
Document Circulation and Dispatch Section

DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING CENTRES

Central Data Collection and Processing Centre
Pierīga Data Collection and Processing Centre
Kuldīga Data Collection and Processing Centre
Valmiera Data Collection and Processing Centre
Preiļi Data Collection and Processing Centre



Management

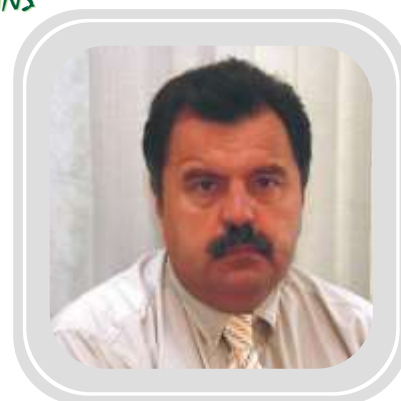
President of Central Statistical
Bureau ANA ŽĪGURE

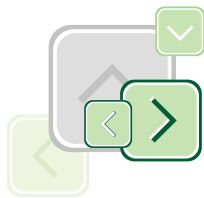


Vice President
KĀRLIS ZEĻĀ



Vice President
KASPARS MIŠĀNS

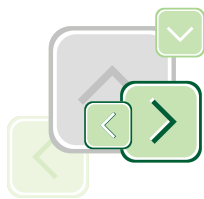




Finances in 2006



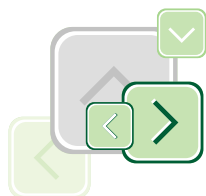
>	Subsidy from general income	LVL 4 569 846
	Programme "Statistics"	LVL 3 809 301
	Project "Strengthening of Foreign Trade Statistical Services (INTRASTAT)"	LVL 11 300
	Project "The CSB of Latvia Strengthening Capacity in Particular Subject Matter Divisions"	LVL 15 077
	Project "Production of Statistical Information for the Development of New EU Initiatives"	LVL 474 383
	Project "Improvement of the CSB Capacity"	LVL 21 545
	Programme "Transition Facility Multi Beneficiary Programme for Statistical Integration"	LVL 235 800
	Project "Adjustment to the Requirements of Common Agricultural Policy Reform and Improvement of the Quality of Underlying Statistics"	LVL 2 440
>	Foreign financial aid, project "Technical Supervision of the Implementation of Projects Financed by Foreign Countries"	LVL 940 298
	Project "Strengthening of Foreign Trade Statistical Services (INTRASTAT)"	LVL 164 976
	Programme "Transition Facility Multi Beneficiary Programme for Statistical Integration"	LVL 300 000
	Project "The CSB of Latvia Strengthening Capacity in Particular Subject Matter Divisions"	LVL 151 622
	Project "Improvement of the CSB Capacity"	LVL 250 000
	Project "Phare Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Co-Operation Programme 2003"	LVL 16 000
	Project "Farm Structure Surveys"	LVL 57 700
>	Revenue from market services (planned)	LVL 130 000
	Planned revenue, total	LVL 5 640 144



Central Statistical Bureau budget execution in 2006



>	Current expenditures	LVL 4 781 705
	Wages and salaries	LVL 2 919 282
	Compulsory social security contributions	LVL 610 842
	Business trip expenses	LVL 179 181
	Payments for services and purchased materials	LVL 1 072 400
	Expenditure for postal, telephone and other communication services	LVL 226 846
	- Expenditures for space heating, lighting and other purchase of energy materials	LVL 68 100
	- Expenditure for the purchase of goods and inventory	LVL 55 060
	- Current expenditures covered from the resources of foreign financial aid	LVL 423 769
>	Capital expenditures	LVL 387 428
	Office equipment and furnishings	LVL 122 340
	Other movable property	LVL 2 049
	Intellectual property	LVL 202 674
	Capital repair	LVL 60 365
	Expenditures, total	LVL 5 169 133
	Project implementation pre-financing re-paid in the State base budget	LVL 268 194



International Cooperation



The EU Affairs Coordination division ensures an active participation of Statistics Latvia in the formation of the EU policy in the area of statistics and drafting legislation, defending national interests of Latvia in the area of statistics, and promotes integration of the Latvian Statistical System into the European Statistical System, as well as coordinates realisation of different international projects and implementation of the new EU legislative acts.

At the beginning of 2007 the CSB had 23 grant projects under its supervision, of which 17 project agreements were signed in the previous year. In 2006 were prepared final financial reports for 14 projects, but for 16 projects – final technical reports. The biggest grant projects in 2005-06 were EU-SILC, data collection surveys on the use of information and communication technologies in enterprises and households, as well as the grant project on the Farm Structure Survey 2007.

Within the **Multi-Beneficiary Transition Facility programme 2004** were run 21 projects with an aim to further implementation of the requirements of the EU legislation in the area of statistics and to provide society with topical and comparable information. As the most significant projects can be mentioned: "Production of inward and outward FATS", "External trade and Intrastat (improvement of data quality)", "Structural Business Statistics". In 2006 were concluded five projects: three in the area of social statistics, but two in the area of agricultural and environment statistics. Implementation of other projects will be continued in 2007.

The CSB employees took an active part in meetings of Eurostat and EU Council committees, working groups and task forces and training courses organized within the European Statistician Training Program. 156 employees participated in 160 activities in 2006. In its turn, in the CSB took place nine visits of

foreign experts on questions concerning agricultural statistics, the European Comparison Program and transport statistics.

Within the **National Transition Facility programme 2004** was concluded the Twinning project with Statistics Finland and Statistics Denmark "The CSB of Latvia strengthening capacity in particular subject matter divisions". In the course of the project was drafted Operational Strategy for Social Statistics (2006-2010); was started data collection with the help of laptop computers for the Labour Force Survey and Income and Living Conditions Survey; was improved the quality of environment statistics and for the first time were produced environment accounts. Besides, in 2006 took place 11 training workshops, where about 150 employees improved their skills.

In 2006 in cooperation with the Federal Statistical Office of Germany was launched the National Transition Facility 2005 Twinning Project "Administrative capacity of the CSB of Latvia. Introduction of Total Quality Management (TQM) system for the CSB of Latvia". Within this project took place a study visit to the Federal Statistical Office of Germany to get acquainted with quality matters there; training on statistical data users' satisfaction survey, production of quality reports and indicators.

The CSB employees continued to participate in activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE),



At the Baltic Steering Committee meeting, evaluating the results of cooperation in 2006 and discussing plans for the future.

International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) – international seminars, conferences and meetings.

The CSB continued an active cooperation with colleagues from the Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (Statistics Lithuania) and the Statistical Office of Estonia in the area of coordination of different common projects and activities as well as in exchanging views and coordination of them on the implementation of projects and preparing materials for submission to Eurostat and other EU institutions. The Steering Committee of the three Baltic statistical offices determines main directions for cooperation and it is convened once a year. In 2006 the Steering Committee meeting took place in Lithuania. In the reference period within the framework of trilateral cooperation the Baltic statisticians met in 13 activities, of which 6 activities took place in Riga.

The bilateral cooperation with statistical offices of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was continued. The CSB hosted a high level delegation from the Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia that got acquainted with Latvia's experience in the area of statistical business register and employment statistics. Moldavian experts in statistics came on a study visit to the CSB on questions regarding employment statistics and household budget statistics.

Besides, representatives from the State Property Information Centre of Malaysia visited the CSB to get acquainted with basic issues of information and communication technologies.

THE CSB EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATED ALSO IN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES:

- Conference of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) in Ottawa, Canada;
- 54th session of the Conference of European Statisticians in Paris, France;
- 37th session of the UN Statistical Commission in New York, USA;
- Annual conference of PC-AXIS software users in Reykjavik, Iceland;
- Geostatistics forum of Nordic countries in Kongsvinger, Norway.

Two CSB employees worked as national experts in Eurostat.

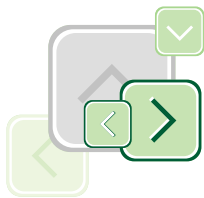
The president of the CSB Aija Žīgure was elected to the Bureau of the Conference of European statisticians for two years and she was actively involved in its work. For the second year already she fulfilled duties of the vice president of the International Association of Official Statistics of the International Statistical Institute.

The annual Europe Day in the CSB was marked with an informative activity with presentation and dissemination of different publications related to the EU matters. This activity let the CSB employees to obtain more knowledge about what had been done in the CSB to get integrated into the European Statistical System and about integration of Latvia into the EU.

Projects

In 2006 was started the implementation of **Multi-Beneficiary Transition Facility programme 2004**. All in all, 21 projects; three of them were implemented in cooperation with the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency and the Health Statistics and Medical technologies State Agency.

- Evaluation of GNI inventories;
- Improvement of coverage and timeliness of quarterly national accounts;
- Quality improvements for the Harmonized Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP);
- Production of inward and outward FATS;
- R&D Statistics;
- External trade and Intrastat (Improvement of data quality);
- Improvement of the quality of the business register;
- Structural Business Statistics (SBS);
- Implementation of a survey on vocational training in enterprises;
- Implementation of the new STS Regulation;
- Improvement of the Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEI) quality;
- Transport statistics;
- A statistical Time use database;
- Quality improvement in unemployment statistics;
- Improvement of the quality for labour cost and earning statistics;
- Improving the quality and availability of international migration statistics;
- Implementation of the European Core Health Interview Survey;
- Improvement of statistics on the causes of death (COD);
- Improvement of the quality of meat statistics;
- Waste statistics;
- Water statistics – National adaptation of the Eurostat Manual for water data collection.



Personnel



At the end of 2006 there were 472 employees on the staff of the CSB administrative system: 210 officers and 262 employees working on the bases of the labour contract (hereinafter referred to as employees). 371 employees worked in the central office, 80 in the four regional Data collection and processing centres (Pierīga, Kuldīga, Valmiera and Preiļi), 21 employee in the district Information Centres.

The CSB employs also 100 non-staff employees – interviewers, price registrars, technical personnel. As the CSB develops many international projects, within the implementation of the projects the CSB employs additional personnel.

Staff employees by age and gender (at the end of 2006)

Year	Under 30 years		30 – 44		45 years and over		Employees, total
	women	men	women	men	women	men	
2004	69 16%	26 6%	90 20%	11 2%	220 50%	26 6%	442
2005	75 17%	23 5%	75 17%	13 3%	230 52%	28 6%	444
2006	88 18%	19 4%	69 15%	13 3%	245 52%	38 8%	472

With the formation of new staff positions and increase of the staff rotation, also the number of employees increases. In 2004 there were 81 new employee in the central office, in 2005 – 65 employees, and in 2006 – 58.

Staff rotation in last four years

	2006	2005	2004	2003
In all structural units of CSB	9,5%	14,9%	12,6%	7,7%
In central office	11%	17,3%	15%	8,3%

Personnel development



In 2006 72% of employees in the central office have higher education and 51% of employees in the regional structural units. 47 employees hold a Master degree, three – Master of Science degree. Many of them continue their studies in the higher education institutions and masters studies.

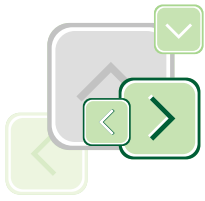
In 2006 37 employees were promoted, of which 14 for the leading positions. 10 employees working on the contract bases participated in the tenders and were appointed as officers.

With the integration in the European Statistical System, one of the significant fields of knowledge and responsibilities necessary for the personnel of the CSB is good knowledge of the EU legislation in the field of statistics, as well as the ability to apply these skills in practice. For this reason during 2006 26 employees participated in 23 different training courses abroad – on data analyses and modelling, national account statistics, questions of the PRODCOM statistics, quality management in statistics, price indices and other subjects. These training courses were organized in Sweden, Norway, Luxemburg, Austria, Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, etc. 32 employees of the CSB took part in five visits to exchange the experience, of which three were financed from the Phare Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Co-Operation Programme 2004. The short-term visits of experience exchange noticeably increases the qualification of the employees, widens the knowledge on the working environment in the EU institutions, improves the methodological knowledge in the field of statistics, as well as widens the employee overall level of knowledge and allows

to learn the experience of the employees from the old member state statistical institutions in the practice. To participate in different work groups, during the reference period our employees were on 235 foreign business trips (106 employees).

The employees of the CSB actively used opportunity to study in the Latvian School of Public Administration, which is financed from the state budget, and implements the state strategy in the field of officer education. In 2006 342 human days were granted for the studies in the School of Public Administration. Mostly different training courses on EU matters, training on legal aspects, introductory course for new officers on the work in the state administration and personnel management were attended. The employees improved their language knowledge – the English language training courses of corresponding level and length were the mostly attended by our employees, they studied also French language. To obtain the knowledge necessary for the successful implementation of the position duties, 22 employees had possibility to attend 20 different paid training courses in other educational institutions.

Highly is evaluated the training in the field of IT, which is provided by the leading specialists from CSB. In 2006 the training in the field of IT constituted 500 man hours. Training and briefing of the employees from data collection and processing centres, as well as interviewers, price registrars on the running work are organized on regular bases.



Statistical Methodology and Organization Division



The main task of the Statistical Methodology and Organisation Division (SMOD) is overall coordination of the processes of statistical information in the state statistical system.

One of the main tasks of the SMOD in the reference year was the coordination of the CSB activities in the field of quality. In 2006 the CSB began the implementation of the twinning project aimed at identification of the statistical and organisational processes and development of their descriptions in accordance with the requirements of the Total Quality Management system. These activities were aimed to continuously improve the work of statistical bureau, to further satisfy needs and expectations of statistical data users.

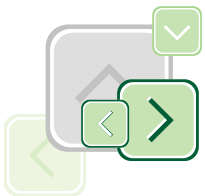
The SMOD coordinated the activities of the ESCP in the state statistical system: self-assessment of the CSB according to the ESCP principles, development of the plan of the extension of the implementation of the ESCP to other national data producers of European statistics and its implementation.

The SMOD performed centralized supervision of the CSB instruments for statistical observations, annual registration of official statistical questionnaires for data collection prepared by other state institutions, as well as prepared a project of the SPSI and submitted it for approval by the Cabinet of Ministers, as required by Official Statistics Law. Moreover the SMOD maintained the Unified classification system for economic information – the list of classifications and nomenclatures that

ensures the standardization of economic information on the state level and its circulation amongst state information systems. The catalogue of the Unified classification system for economic information has been maintained, which contains general information (developer, aim of implementation, structure, availability etc.).

The SMOD performed also several specialized tasks such as gathering of the information about respondents of business statistics, who were involved in statistical observations, a preparation of informative letters for the respondents on submission of official statistical questionnaires of the CSB as well as an update of the ISDMS metadata information. At the end of 2006 the ISDMS contained metadata on 72 statistical questionnaires.

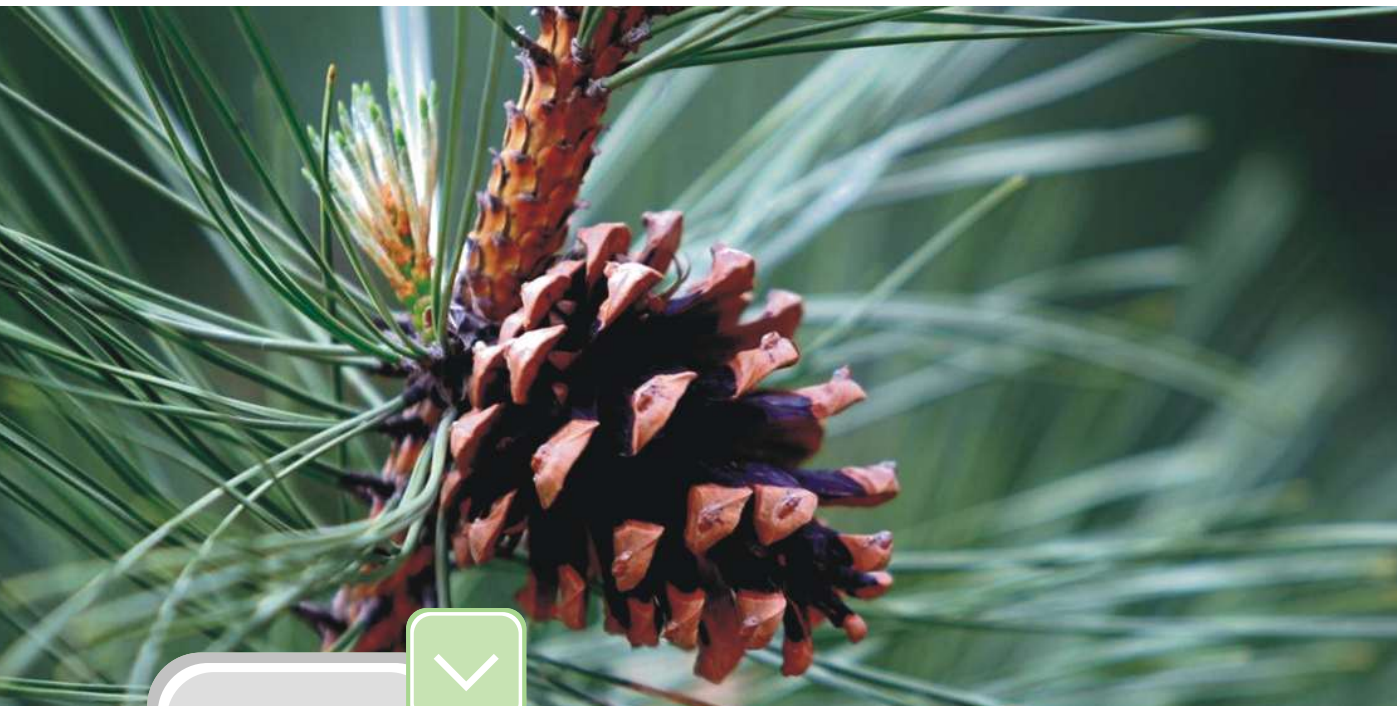
In order to enhance the collaboration between the structural units of the CSB for a resolution of complicated methodological issues, the SMOD continued successful coordination of the work of the CSB Methodological Board. The CSB experts who have considerable knowledge and experience as well as representatives from other institutions were involved in the activities of the CSB Methodological Board, hence guarantee effective and objective examination of topical issues.



Projects

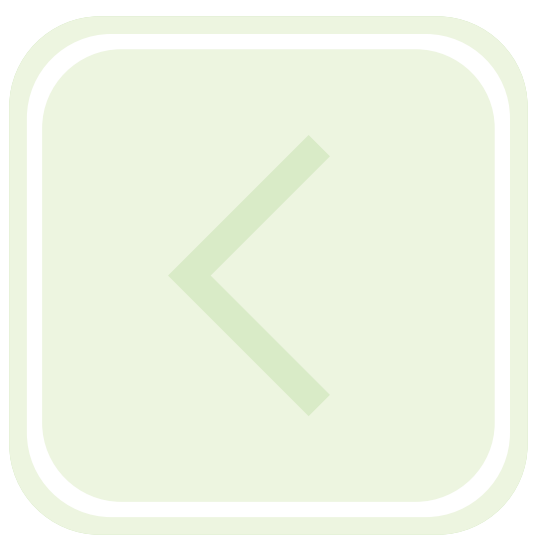


- In May 2006 the CSB started the implementation of Twinning project of EU Transition Facility National Programme 2005 “Administrative capacity of the CSB of Latvia”. The purpose of the project was to improve quality of statistical products and processes through introduction of principles and methods of Total Quality Management system and training of the CSB staff.
- Eurostat NACE/CPA working group elaborated the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 as well as certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains.
- The implementation plan of NACE Rev. 2 into the state statistical system was elaborated and approved by the CSB Methodological Board.
- The information for methodological database for regional statistics *MARS* was prepared and sent to Eurostat.
- The CSB database *COMPENDIUM* was completely rebuilt in order to gather necessary information for assessment of the compliance of statistical data and methodology used by the CSB against the EU requirements.
- The CSB database *QUESTIONNAIRES 2007* was developed and fully adjusted for description of the official statistical questionnaires of the CSB.



Macroeconomic Statistics Department

Director DACE TOMASE



Macroeconomic Statistics Department has two main tasks- compiling National Accounts of Latvia in accordance with the methodology ESA 95 and the compilation of the state foreign trade statistical data, by using statistical information obtained from the CSB, as well as from other data sources.

The macroeconomic statistics is used for recognition and evaluation of the state economical development level, and for analysis of common development direction and separate sector development. This statistics is base for the forecasting of the macroeconomic development.

The annual indicators on macroeconomic statistics are used to evaluate fulfilment of such European Community social and economical programme parameters as Maastricht criteria and guidelines of Stability and Growth Pact, as well as the requirements of the Economic and Monetary Union. By using macroeconomic statistics information, calculations of own resource are being made, which is basis for determination of Latvian payment in European Community budget. Special attention is also paid to the compilation of macroeconomic statistics short-term indicators not only for a country as a whole, but also for separate institutional sectors, which gives opportunity to users – state administration institutions and EU institutions, finance sector analysts, as well as scientists and other users – to make analysis of economical processes more effectively.

< NATIONAL ACCOUNTS SECTION >

Taking into account requirements of ESA 95, which are included in the EU regulations, National Accounts Section regularly compiles information on the results of economics activities, finance resources and flows in national economy as a whole and in its institutional sectors.

In accordance with the requirements of the Eurostat the section compiled and submitted to the EU institutions methodological description of the Gross National Income indicator calculation from production, expenditure and income approaches as well as description of the methods and activities used in calculations of transition indicators from Gross Domestic Product to Gross National Income.

The section carried out a calculation of the Gross National

Income, which together with quality report on the accomplished methodological changes was submitted to the responsible EU institutions.

Taking into account great personal interest of users, task on flash GDP estimation method introduction was carried on. In the result, flash GDP estimation for second and third quarters of 2006 was accomplished in the 40th day after end of the quarter.

In 2006 National Accounts Section took over responsibility for regional GDP calculations.

< GOVERNMENT FINANCE SECTION >

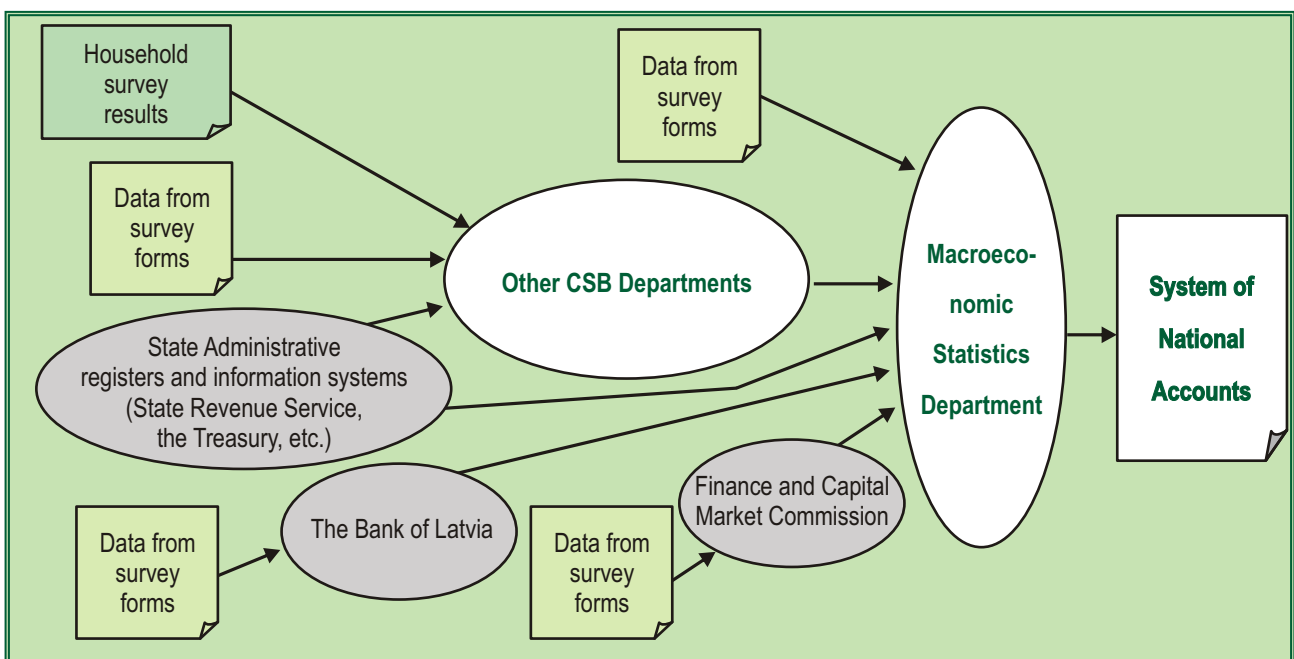
In 2006 in accordance with the ESA 95 requirements, there is compiled information on the government finances, made calculations of national account system finance account, government and finance sector and financial intermediation services indirectly measured. Compiling of government budget deficit and debt notification and its submission to the EU institutions was organized in compliance with the ESA 95 methodological principles.

In 2006 there were taken over obligations from the Bank of Latvia on calculating and submitting general governmental sector quarterly finance account to the EU institutions.

At the end of year publication of data on governmental sector calculated according ESA 95 methodology in CSB online databases started, thus replacing previously published budget indicators compiled by other institutions.

In 2006 the section created new source of statistical information- quarterly report on the financial assets and liabilities is collected from government controlled and financed enterprises in order to use the obtained information for general government sector quarterly finance account composition and government budget deficit and debt level characterizing data.

Scheme of the System of National Accounts composition



FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS SECTION

Foreign Trade Statistics Section collects, compiles, analyses and publishes statistical information on Latvian foreign trade both with the EU Member States, and with the rest of the world.

In compliance with the EU legislation requirements every month foreign trade statistical data is being sent to the Eurostat, and hence are accessible for interested parties in Eurostat foreign trade statistical database COMEXT.

In 2006 to ensure shorter data processing terms, reduction of respondent burden, better data accuracy and user friendly data submission system, work on improvement of INTRASTAT system was continued:

- Significant investment in data processing was ensured by ISDMS introduction for the INTRASTAT report data collection and processing. In ISDMS there is also created the EU INTRASTAT trading operators register.
- To ensure support to respondents, there is created a self-aid web page „WEB Helpdesk” which allows respondents to solve report filling in difficulties independently.
- Since 2006 it is possible to fill in INTRASTAT reports in the internet in e-survey system.
- Signed co-operation agreement with the State Stock Company „Maritime Administration of Latvia” about remote access to the information system „Integrated database of Latvian ships” which is indispensable in determination of the transfer of ownership of specific goods (ships), and further in ensuring ship buying and selling transaction reflection in Latvian foreign trade data.



PUBLICATIONS IN 2006:

- National Accounts of Latvia in 2004;**
- Macroeconomic indicators of Latvia;**
- Macroeconomics of Latvia in figures 2006;**
- Public Finances of Latvia 2006;**
- Foreign Trade of Latvia.**

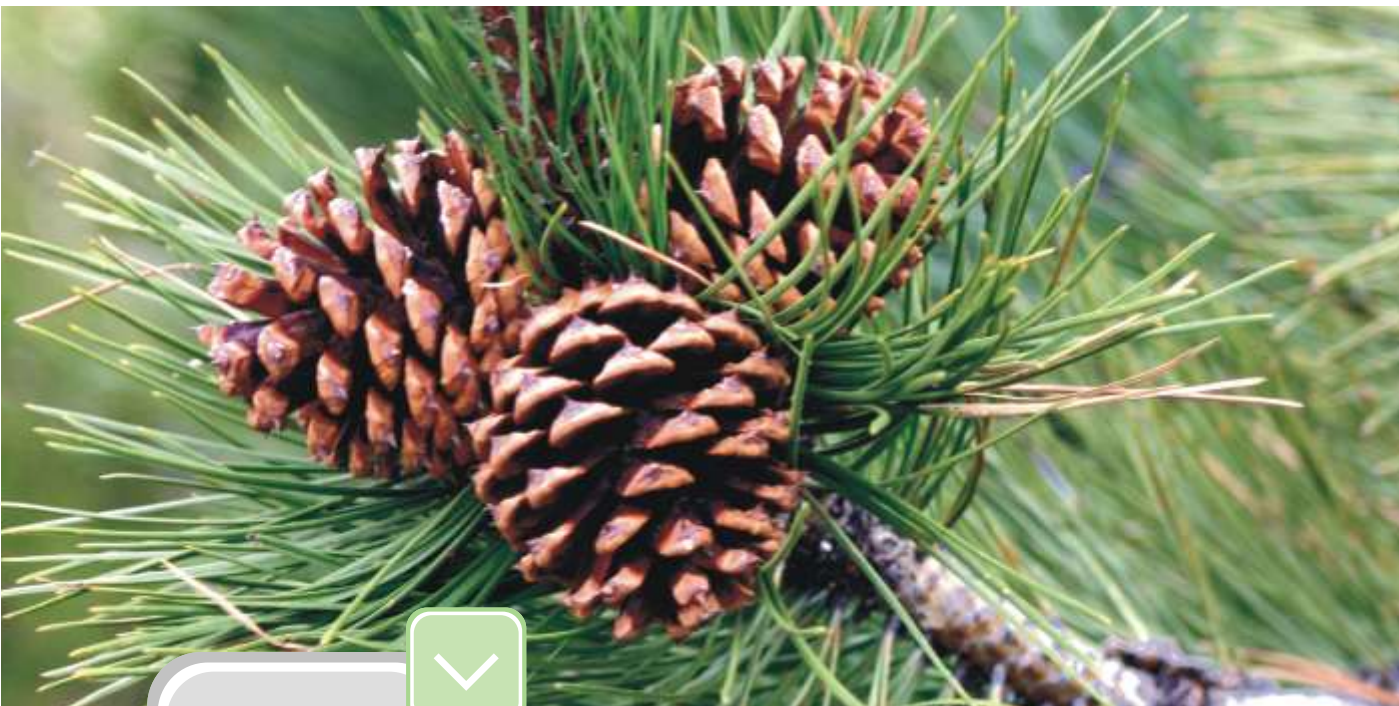
Projects

Multi-country Transition Facility programme 2004 projects:

- External Trade and INTRASTAT (Improvement of data quality);
- Improvement of Coverage and Timeliness of Quarterly National Accounts;
- Evaluation of GNI Inventories.

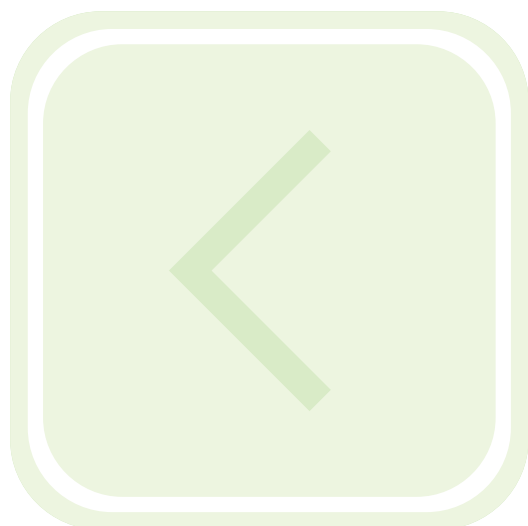
Grant projects of the participation programme "Production of statistical information for the development of new EU initiatives":

- Improved implementation of ESA 95;
- Quarterly national accounts (sector accounts and flash estimates);
- Assessment of the administrative burden of INTRASTAT and analysis of the satisfaction of users.



Price Statistics Department

Director INGA KUNSTVERE



Price Statistics Department calculates the Consumer and Producer Price Indices, as well as provides information within the framework of the European Comparison Programme.

In 2006 **Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices** of Constant tax rate, the aim of which is to estimate the impact of indirect tax change on average consumer price level, has been provided to users. At the beginning of the year the consumer price index basket and weights were updated. Considering the number of methodology changes in HICP calculation since 2000, as well as inclusion of the new member state indices into the total EU indicator, starting with 2006 the EU regulation has set a new base period to HICP: 2005 instead of previously set 2000. To introduce key data users with news regarding consumer price index calculation, CSB specialists have participated in several meetings.

In autumn of 2006 the Eurostat updated HICP compliance report for the needs of HICP convergence report. The evaluation was positive: the HICP of Latvia was admitted to be comparable with the HICP of euro zone countries, which means that HICP calculated by the Price Statistics Department corresponds to the requirements of the EC regulations and Eurostat recommendations.

Specialists of the Price Statistics Department continued to participate in the Eurostat HICP working group. In 2007, as regards to HICP, Eurostat has determined the following key tasks for the Consumer Price Section: calculation of Dwelling Price Index, implementation of quality adjustment methods for the selected product groups and evaluation of HICP compliance to the EU requirements.

At the end of 2006 for calculation of the **Producer Price Indices** the list of enterprises involved in price registration was revised as every year. For the sample of 2007 there were added data on 85 enterprises, and therefore, Industrial Producer Prices next year will be surveyed in 558 enterprises.

In 2006 in compliance with methodology for **Construction Cost Index** calculation 15 unified construction models were used, of which „multi-dwelling house” and „bridge” were included starting

with 2006. To ensure better index adequacy to current situation in construction branch, two new unified models „hotel” and „school annex”, which will be included in index calculation from 2007, were additionally prepared for Construction Cost Index calculation needs.

In 2006 in comparison with 2005 timeliness of release for **Export and Import Unit Value Indices** was improved by two weeks. In 2006 lists of enterprises and products involved in import price registration were updated. To improve data quality, the share of Combined Nomenclature items at 8 digit level selected for index calculation to the total export and import value in Latvia was increased: for Export Unit Value Index it increased from 82% in 2005 to 88% in 2006, for Import Unit Value Index- from 73% to 75%, respectively.

To ensure the compliance with the amendments of EU regulation on short term statistics, in 2006 improvement of Import Price Index and development of Business Service Price Index was continued. To ensure required Import Price Index level of detail and periodicity, the number of recorded import prices was increased and transition from quarterly to monthly index calculation was started.

In 2006 producer price survey inclusion in e-report system was started thus reducing the burden of respondents. The questionnaire on the construction costs was added to this system in June 2006.

In the framework of ECP and in compliance with the Eurostat plan two consumer price surveys were carried out: for foodstuff survey information on approximately 4 600 prices was collected, but for clothing and footwear- information on approximately 2 150 prices. At the end of the year preparation of consumer price survey consumption group „House and garden” was started. Work will be finished in 2007 and, in compliance with the continuous ECP survey plan, surveys in other consumption groups will start.

▼
Indices

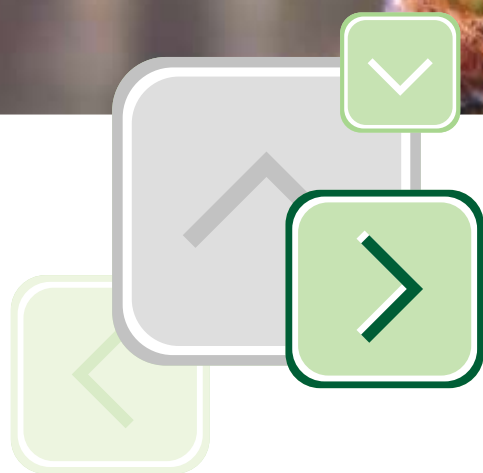
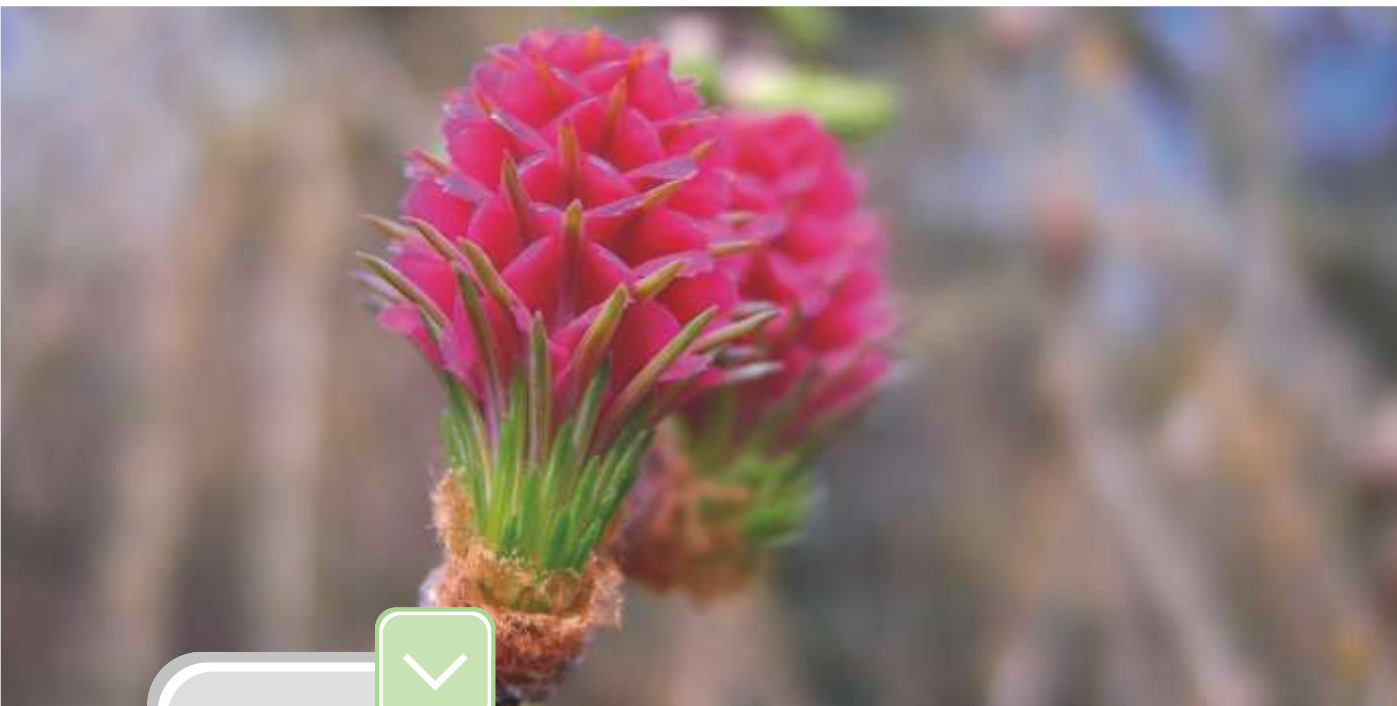
The following form calculates consumer price change in per cent for the selected time period. Time period „From” is month which is the basis for price comparison, while the time period „To” is month which is compared.

Time period:

from	Year ▼		Month ▼
to	Year ▼		Month ▼

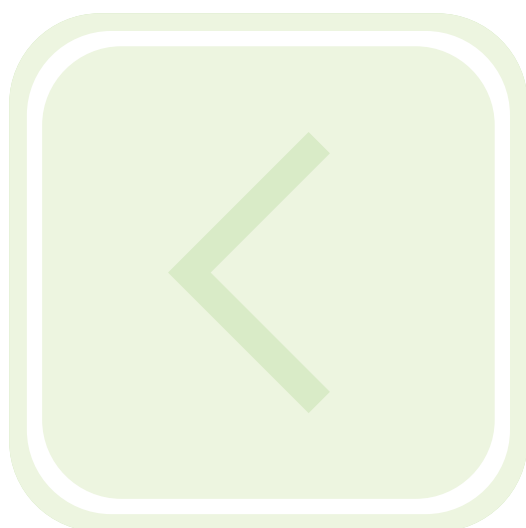
CALCULATE
RETURN TO ROOT PAGE

**Inflation calculator
in the CSB home page**



Social Statistics Department

Director MARANDA BEHMANE



The responsibility of the Social Statistics Department is to provide the statistical data users with the statistical indicators on social development, demographic situation, employment, wages and salaries, material welfare and science at the level of the country and its administrative units.

In 2006 the EU Transition Facility National Programme - "Administrative capacity of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia" Twinning project "The CSB of Latvia strengthening capacity in particular subject matter divisions" was successfully finished, it was implemented cooperating with Finland and Denmark statistical institutions. Within the project realization the Social Statistics Department developed operational strategy for 2006 – 2010, in the collection process of the labour force and EU-SILC survey data the Interviewer's Coordination Section begun to use laptop computers. As a result, the users of the data received the survey data much faster, as well as, compared to previous year, the quality of obtained information has improved. In order to reduce respondent burden, work was started to introduce usage of the administrative data in collection of population income statistics.

With the aim to compare State Revenue Service data and the data Social Statistics Department obtained in the interviews on the income from labour and self-employed, methodological research was started, the quality of the data will be improved, if necessary. In order to promote the cooperation with data users, there was organized a workshop, in which wide range of issues on the improvement of the social statistics were discussed. The results of the workshop prove the usefulness and necessity for such events.

WAGE STATISTICS SECTION

In accordance with the EU legislation enactments and State Statistical Information Programme, each quarter Wage Statistics Section sent short-term statistical data on employment, working hours and wages and salaries, as well as Labour Cost Index and job vacancy statistics to Eurostat. The publication of the job vacancy statistics in the data base, monthly bulletin and press releases was started.

EU structural indicators on gender pay gap and tax rate on low wage earners, as well as data requested by Eurostat on wage and salary components and tax rates according to the family structure were prepared.

Project "Improvement of the Quality for Labour Cost and Earnings Statistics" resulted in Labour Cost Index compliance with the EU requirements, and also usage of the local units in the wage and salary structure survey was started.

LIVING STANDARD'S STATISTICS SECTION

Living Standard's Statistics Section prepared data on social protection both for institutions in Latvia and Eurostat. Calculation of minimum consumer basket value was carried out on regular bases. The data base with Time Use Survey results was developed and sent for the inclusion in the Eurostat harmonized

Time Use Survey database.

POPULATION STATISTICS SECTION

In the field of population statistics the Population Statistics Section satisfied the user requirements in accordance with the range of indicators, periodicity of the data publishing and level of details included in the State statistical information programme. Methodological section for the CSB data base in the Internet was developed and passed to the Information, Printing and Publishing Department. According to the requirements of the Eurostat data collection programme data on demographic statistics were compiled and sent to the Eurostat. Arrangements for the next Population and Housing Census have been started. The employees of the Population Statistics Section actively participated in the development of the UNO ECE and Eurostat recommendations of the organization of the Population and Housing Census 2010. Evaluations and suggestions proposed by the staff involved in the Population and Housing Census 2000 activities were summarized in order to use them for the preparation of the next Population and Housing Census.

Special attention was paid to the popularization of the demographic statistics data among the state institution employees and scientists, as well as in the society generally.

CULTURE, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND HEALTH STATISTICS SECTION

The Culture, Education, Science and Health Statistics Section in the field of the education statistics prepared annual detailed tables for Eurostat on the work of education establishments. The second Survey on Vocational Training in Enterprises was also organized. At the end of 2006 the section has begun the preparation for the Adult Education Survey.

In the science statistics the section started running survey on the research work, as well as five national quality reports on the research and development statistics were prepared.

In the field of health statistics the project on the implementation of the European Health Interview Survey was realized, it includes questions on different aspects of health care, morbidity and lifestyle. The Latvian variants of the survey modules were also prepared, and performed cognitive (question perception) testing. At the end of the year, with the aim to develop the methods of the data acquisition, to establish the link between different registers of the health care institutions, to improve the IT solutions for the establishment of the complex system in relation with the expenditure for the health care, taking into account the development of the Community programmes, was started work on the establishment of the National System of Health Account. The work to obtain harmonized statistical information on accidents at

work and work-related health problems was begun.

HOUSEHOLD BUDGET STATISTICS SECTION

The Household Budget Statistics Section continued the organization of the Household Budget Survey, its methodological improvement and data analysis. The data base of the Household Budget Survey 2005 was sent to Eurostat. On the bases of the detailed survey analysis, starting with 2007 the time of the household diary note collection was reduced from four to two weeks, what will decrease the burden of the respondents, and terms of data publishing. The Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 2006 operation was prepared and implemented, EU-SILC 2005 survey data files were compiled and sent to the Eurostat, intermediate quality report on EU-SILC 2005 survey was arranged, as well as the section performed monetary Laeken poverty and social exclusion indicator calculation.

The EU-SILC survey individual data processing system was successfully registered in the Data State Inspection. The preparation works for the introduction of the methodological research within the EC grant project "EU-SILC Net/Gross/Net conversion for income data in Latvia" has been done.


EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS SECTION

The staff of the Employment Statistics Section, which in the Twinning project actively cooperated with the experts from the Finland and Denmark Statistics Offices, did necessary preparation works, so that at the beginning of 2006 Labour force survey interviews were conducted using laptops. As a result, the term of

data publishing was reduced by 20 days. The Labour Force Survey in the Data State Inspection was registered as individual data processing system. Additional form for Labour Force Survey was developed for year 2007 to obtain information on Latvia population working abroad, as well as was developed standard of the non-response reasons for the household surveys. On the bases of Eurostat suggestions, in cooperation with the employees from other departments, the section has prepared criteria of the micro data base anonymization for household survey, what allows ensuring the confidentiality of the individual data. Moreover, to provide the information for the middle- and long-term forecasting model for the labour market, the necessary works were done to enlarge the sample of Labour Force Survey 2007 more than two times.

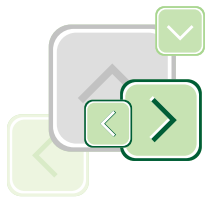
INTERVIEWER'S COORDINATION SECTION

The Interviewer's Coordination Section has achieved their main task – organization and realization of the household interviews. In 2006 computerized interviewing of the households was started. Totally 10 surveys were carried out, of which in 5 laptop computers were used. In 2006 almost 50 thsd households were surveyed. Moreover, there were organized five workshops for the interviewer training, of which two – with the participation of experts from Statistics Finland, and that provided the opportunity to enhance the quality of the interviewer work and to learn from the experience of the Statistics Finland experts in the computer usage in the interviews.



PUBLICATIONS IN 2006:

- Demography 2006;
- Labour force survey: main indicators 1996 – 2005;
- Labour force survey: main indicators 2005;
- Household budget in 2005;
- Children in Latvia;
- Crime and social deviance in Latvia;
- Research and innovation statistics;
- Women and men in Latvia;
- Results on the survey on occupations in Latvia;
- Labour costs in Latvia;
- Education institutions in Latvia at the beginning of the school year 2005/2006.



Projects



Multi-country Transition Facility programme 2004 projects:

- A statistical Time Use Database (2006);
- Improvement of the Quality for Labour Cost and Earnings Statistics (2006);
- Improving the Quality and Availability of International Migration Statistics (2006);
- R&D Statistics;
- Implementation of a Survey on Vocational Training in Enterprises (2006 - 2007);
- Quality Improvement in Unemployment Statistics (2006 - 2007);
- Improvement of Statistics on the Causes of Death (2006 - 2007);
- Implementation of the European Core Health Interview Survey (2006 - 2007).



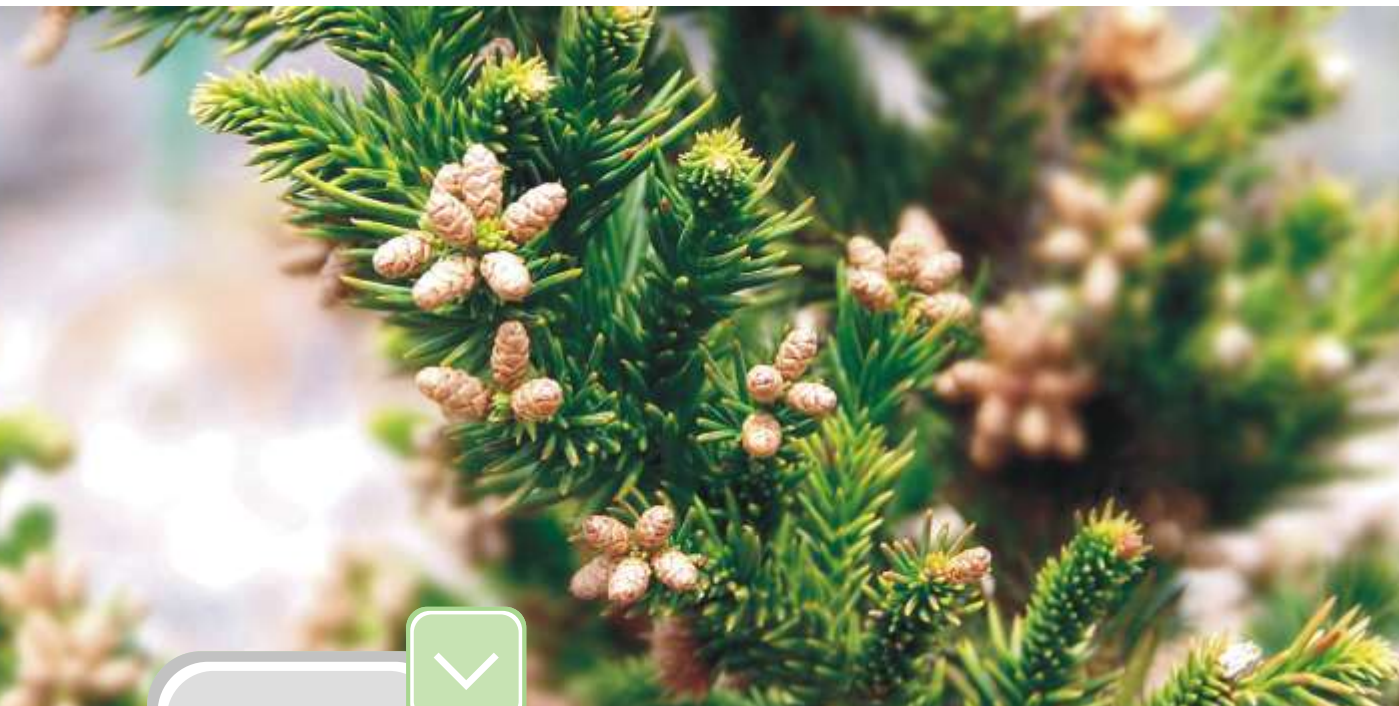
Participation programme "Production of Statistical Information for the Development of New EU Initiatives" grant projects:

- ESSPROS database - Year 2005 (2005 - 2006);
- Labour Force Survey ad hoc Module on Reconciliation of Work and Family Life (2004 - 2006);
- EU-SILC 2005 operation (2005 - 2008);
- EU-SILC 2006 operation (2006 - 2009);
- EU-SILC Net/Gross/net Conversion for Income Data in Latvia (2006 - 2007);
- Improvement of ESSPROS data (2006 - 2007);
- Adult Education Survey (2006 - 2007);
- Feasibility Study and ,Methodology of Variables "Hours worked" and "Wages and salaries" (2004 - 2006);
- ESAW Methodology for the Collection of the Data on Accidents at work (2006 - 2007);
- Support to the National Statistical Authorities for the Implementation of the System of Health Accounts (2006 - 2007);
- Labour Force Survey ad hoc Module on Transition from Work into Retirement (2005 - 2007);
- 2007 ad hoc Module on Accidents at Work and Work-related Health Problems (2006 - 2008).



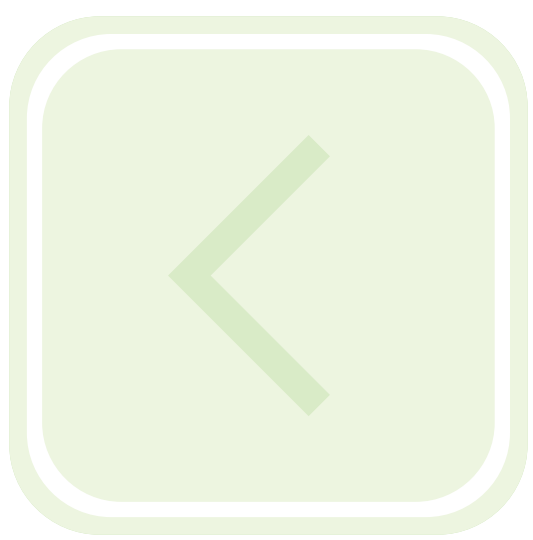
Twinning projects:

- The CSB of Latvia Strengthening Capacity in Particular Subject Matter Divisions (2005 - 2006);
- Introduction of Total Quality Management System in the CSB (2006 - 2007).



Agricultural and Environment Statistics Department

Director ILZĪTE GRAMBERGA



The Agricultural and Environment Statistics Department provide the statistical data users with the information on the economic processes in the agriculture, forestry, fishery, energy, tourism and in the field of environment.

In 2006 the improvement of Farm register was continued, the register is used as a base for the agricultural sample surveys and information from the State Land Service Cadastre Register, Population Register, Address Register, Agricultural Data Centre Animal Register and regular statistical surveys is used to update it.

To reduce the burden of respondents and to improve the quality of statistical information, data from different administrative registers are used for the statistical purposes and work is done to search for opportunities to ensure the data correspondence to the information in the Farm register.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SECTION

Agricultural Statistics Section completed the analysis of the "Survey on the Structure of Agricultural Holdings in Latvia" data, sent micro data set to Eurostat Eurofarm database and started to prepare for the "Survey on the Structure of Agricultural Holdings in Latvia 2007".

Within the Multi-country Transition Facility programme 2004 (MTF 2004) project "Improvement of the quality of meat statistics" the improvement of the statistical data on the slaughter (meat production) was carried out. The information received from the slaughterhouses was evaluated more precisely, and analysis was made for the volume of slaughtered agricultural animal meat.

Within the activities of the "TAPAS 2005" the sample size survey of the small farms was carried out, as well as the section implemented the project "Improvement of quality of Statistical Farm Register". In this project the farm register information on the farms, which were not surveyed since Agricultural Census 2001, or were inactive or newly established, was updated.

In 2006 Ministry of Agriculture and CSB Transition Facility Programme project "Adjustment to the requirements of Common Agricultural Policy reform and Improvement of the quality of underlying statistics" was launched. Within this project it is envisaged to evaluate the opportunity to use administrative data source (Agricultural Animal Register, Integrated Administration

and Control System and Register of Organic Farming) information for the purposes of the agricultural statistics.

In accordance with the Eurostat methodological requirements, in the field of fishery the report forms are improved for the survey "Report on Fishery" (includes information on economic indicators in breakdown by groups of fishing vessels and employment in fishery) and "Report on aquaculture" (includes information on indicators of economic activity and employment in the aquaculture).

TRANSPORT AND TOURISM STATISTICS SECTION


The Transport and Tourism Statistics Section began MTF 2004 project "Transport Statistics". In 2006 to obtain the statistics on freight turnover in international freight transport by rail in breakdown by countries, the section did first activity in this project, it analyzed the information received from the state joint-stock company "Latvijas dzelzceļš".

As the result of the project implementation, the CSB obtained opportunity to receive detailed information on international rail freight transport and freight turnover in breakdown by country of loading and unloading, thus providing the fulfilment of the requirements of the EU regulation on railway statistics.

In order to meet local and EU requirements in the field of transportation, the work on the lorries sample survey was continued and on regular bases Section received electronic data from the data bases of the airport and main ports (Riga, Ventspils, Liepāja), as well as it compiled this information in accordance to the requirements of the EU legislation.

In noticeably short time the transport statistics yearbook "Common questionnaire" tables on two year period received from the Eurostat, the Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) conference and UNO ECE were filled (the tables included 74 pages with approximately 900 indicators).

In the tourism statistics work on the calculation of the tourism satellite accounts was begun. Cooperating with the specialists



PUBLICATIONS IN 2006

- Farm Structure survey in Latvia 2005;
- Farms of Latvia 2005;
- Agriculture of Latvia 2005;
- Transport in 2005;
- Tourism in Latvia in 2005;
- Environment in indicators in Latvia 2005;
- Energy balance 2005.

form the Latvian Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics necessary preparation works to develop the table calculation algorithms were made. Next year this work will be continued within the project MTF 2005.

In order to meet the requirements of the European Union legislation and to satisfy the needs of local data users, the population survey on the trips was continued.

In the tourism statistics the information on hotels and other accommodation establishments, and travel agencies was processed with ISDMS that provided the opportunity for more detailed summaries.

developed – "Report on the timber purchase" and "Report on the forestry costs". The data included in the reports and compiled by the CSB is a part of the necessary information, which will be used for the calculation of the forest area cadastral value.

In collaboration with the LEGMA and the Ministry of the Environment corrections in the form "report on the agricultural waste" were made, what will provide opportunity to receive more precise information on the potentials of the bio-gas production. New form "Report on the oil product supply to ships and airplanes" was developed to provide the Eurostat and IEA with the information on bunkering.

According to the requirements of the Eurostat and IEA the energy balance of the previous years was re-calculated. Fulfilling the requirement of the Kyoto protocol, information on qualities used to generate the amounts of heat, which is sold and electricity production for time period since 1990 till 2005 is now available in breakdown by NACE sections. The Eurostat project "Temperature correction of final energy consumption" was provided with the necessary data on the usage of selected fuels for heating in breakdown by sectors (households, industry, and services).

According to the Eurostat request the section prepared detailed description of the collection of monthly energy resource circulation statistics. It included information on the regulatory acts of the data collection; data sources, cooperation with data suppliers, data processing, difficulties of data acquisition and improvements during last years.

The Environment and Energy Statistics Section cooperated with Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency (LEGMA) and participated in the MTF 2004 project "Waste statistics". Within the project the data on small merchant (less than 10 employees) produced and recycled waste were collected. As well as the project "Water statistics - National adaptation of the Eurostat Manual for water data collection" was implemented in cooperation with the LEGMA.

To provide the implementation of the Cabinet of ministers regulations No 305 "Rules of Cadastral Evaluation", in the cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture two new forms were

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY STATISTICS SECTION

Projects

Multi-country Transition Facility programme 2004 projects:

- Improvement of the quality of meat statistics;
- Transport statistics;
- Waste statistics;
- Water statistics - National adaptation of the Eurostat Manual for water data collection.

Participation programme "Production of statistical information for the development of new EU initiatives" grant projects:

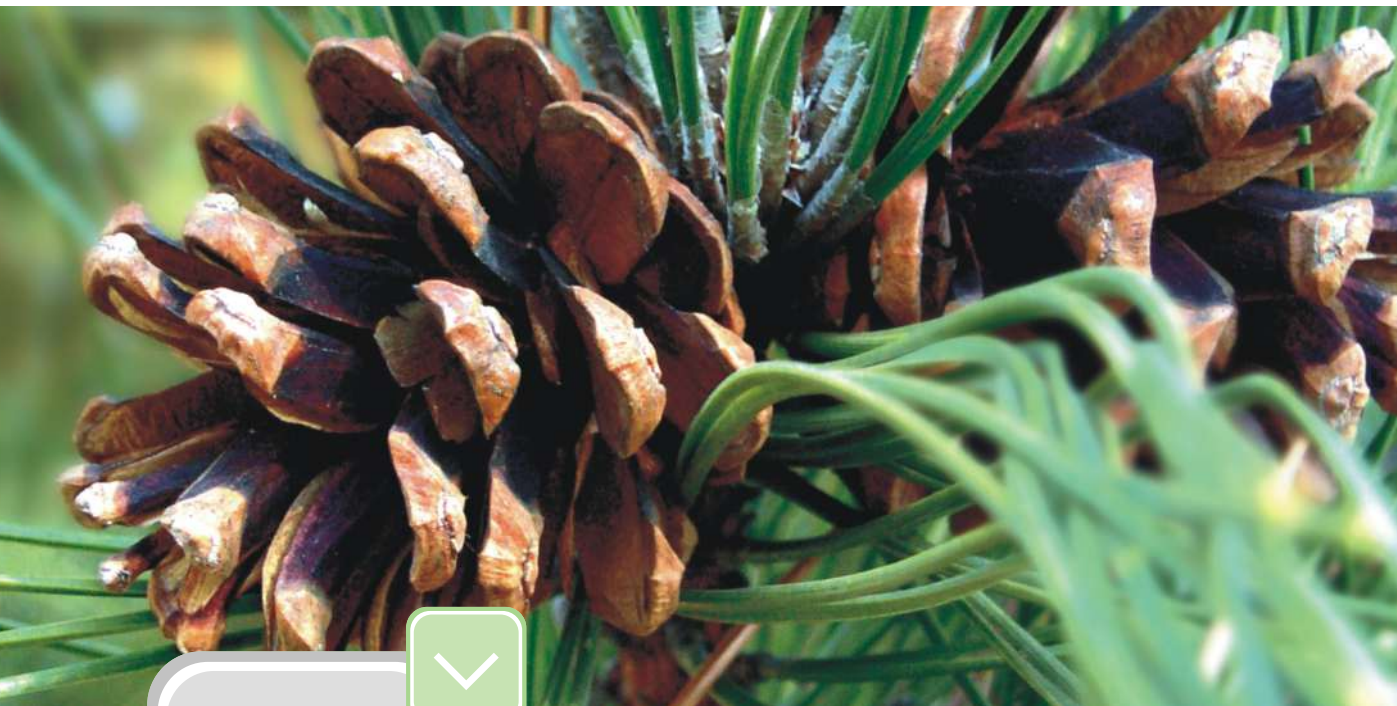
- 2005 Survey on the Structure of Agricultural Holdings in Latvia;
- 2007 Survey on the Structure of Agricultural Holdings in Latvia;
- TAPAS 2005 - "Sample Survey of Small Units in Agriculture";
- TAPAS 2005 - "Improvement of Quality of Statistical Farm Register";
- Environment Statistics and Accounts - Forest accounts.

Inter-institutional projects:

- Ministry of Agriculture and CSP Transition Programme project "Adjustment to the Requirements of Common Agricultural Policy Reform and Improvement of the Quality of Underlying Statistics".

Twining projects:

- The CSB of Latvia Strengthening Capacity in Particular Subject Matter Divisions (2005 - 2006).

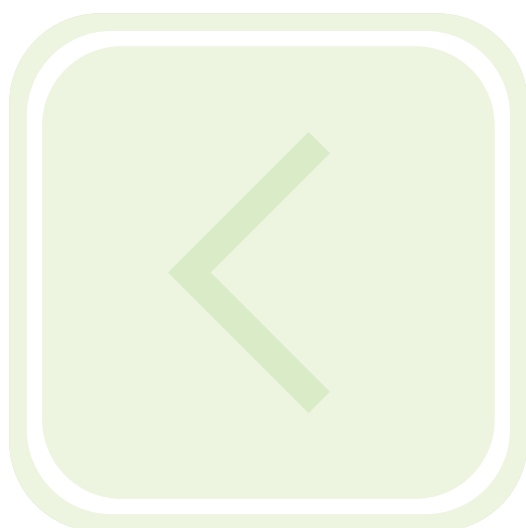


Business Statistics Department

Director ILZE SKUJENIECE



Business Statistics Department is responsible for the provision of the statistical information on industry, construction, trade, services, investments real estate transactions and information society, as well as for the maintenance of economically active statistical unit data base for the implementation of statistical surveys.



In 2006 the Business Statistics Department, in compliance with data publishing periodicity and level of detail, ensured users with range of indicators included in the State Statistical information programme. Department's representatives participated in the common project of the CSB „Introduction of the Total Quality Management System in the CSB" and in a project „Business Structural Statistics" conducted by Enterprise Finance and Structural Statistics Section.

In February 2006 Joint contract was concluded between CSB and SRS, the aim of which is to ensure wider usage of administrative information for the implementation of the State statistics programme, thus improving data quality and decreasing burden related to submission of statistical data.

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS SECTION

Industrial Statistics Section prepared national version of industrial production classification PRODCOM 2006, which data users can find in the CSB home page.

Industry survey testing was performed for the first time, where its structure and content were evaluated. In the evaluation process the most significant respondents participated - leading businesses of the branch and representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Latvian Central Union of Dairy Farmers.

Moreover, translation and edition of European Community Statistical commodity classification according to branches of economy (CPA 2002) industry branches (sections C, D, E) was performed.

In 2006 the project „Distinction Eurozone and non-Eurozone of the non-domestic indicators (Industrial turnover, new orders)", which was started in 2005, was accomplished. In the result, monthly data collection on enterprise self-produced commodity exports to the euro zone countries and received new orders from these countries was started.

INVESTMENT AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION

Investment and Real Estate Statistics Section in cooperation with the Bank of Latvia developed new quarterly report form „Report on Real Estate Market" which includes data collected from merchants working in the real estate market. Thus information on processes in the real estate market will be obtained - on the sales of residential buildings, dwellings and non-residential buildings; sales and rent of office and trade buildings, rent of dwelling and one-dwelling building, as well as on the transactions between residents and non-residents in the real estate sphere.

Projects

National PHARE 2002 project:

- „Intra Community Trade Statistics" project „Modification of Statistical Business Register".

Multi-country Transition Facility programme 2004 projects:

- Improvement of the quality of the business register- introduction of NACE 2007 (2006-2007);
- Production of Inward and Outward FATS (2006-2007);
- Structural Business Statistics (SBS) (2006-2007).

Grant projects

- Distinction Eurozone and non-Eurozone of the non-domestic indicators (Industrial turnover, new orders) (2005-2006);
- Factors of business Success (2005-2006);
- The Change of reference period from quarterly to monthly for turnover indicator for some activities in Other Services (2005-2006);
- Methodological development and data collection on Business Statistics - further development of statistics on Business Services (2005-2006);
- Data collection on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises 2006 (2006);
- Data collection on ICT usage in households and by individuals 2006 (2006);
- Inclusion of groups in the national registers and registration of complex enterprises - Implementation of cross border links of multi-national enterprise groups(2006).

TRADE AND SERVICES STATISTICS SECTION

Trade and Services Statistics Section finished grant project „Methodological development and data collection on Business Statistics – further development of statistics on Business Services” and sent the data to the Eurostat. Work on a grant project „The Change of reference period from quarterly to monthly for turnover indicator for some activities in Other Services” was finished. The result of the project is regular monthly information on turnover changes in certain kinds of services, which allows to obtain data about service sector turnover significantly faster, and to accomplish quarterly evaluation of macroeconomics development more rapidly.

In information society statistics area work on a grant project „Data collection on ICT usage in households and by individuals 2006” and „Data collection on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises 2006” was finished.

ENTERPRISE FINANCE AND STRUCTURAL STATISTICS SECTION

Enterprise Finance and Structural Statistics Section prepared Structural Business Statistics (SBS) final data on year 2004 and provisional data on year 2005 and sent it to the Eurostat, as well as evaluated collection of these data in order to obtain information on total costs for SBS data. Evaluation of total SBS costs will be included in the Eurostat report to European Parliament and Council on the implementation of SBS regulation. Within the Multi-country Transition Facility programme 2004 project Structural Business Statistics, SBS national manual preparation and database creation, including renovation of historical data series, was started.

In the area of enterprise finance statistics the finance indicators for 2005 and quarters of 2006, information on the enterprise finance assets and liabilities, as well as data on the balance indicators according to the kind of business (quoted joint stock company, unquoted joint stock company, other businesses) and on the finance leasing portfolio of leasing companies in breakdown by the institutional sectors were summarized.

BUSINESS REGISTER SECTION

Business Register Section has participated in several development projects, as well as it has continued to improve cooperation with administrative information database holders-State Revenue Service of the Republic of Latvia and Ltd „Lursoft IT”.

In compliance with the EU recommended methodology information on the creation, development and liquidation of enterprises in 2002-2005, based on historical files from the

Statistical Business Register was summarized and sent to the Eurostat.

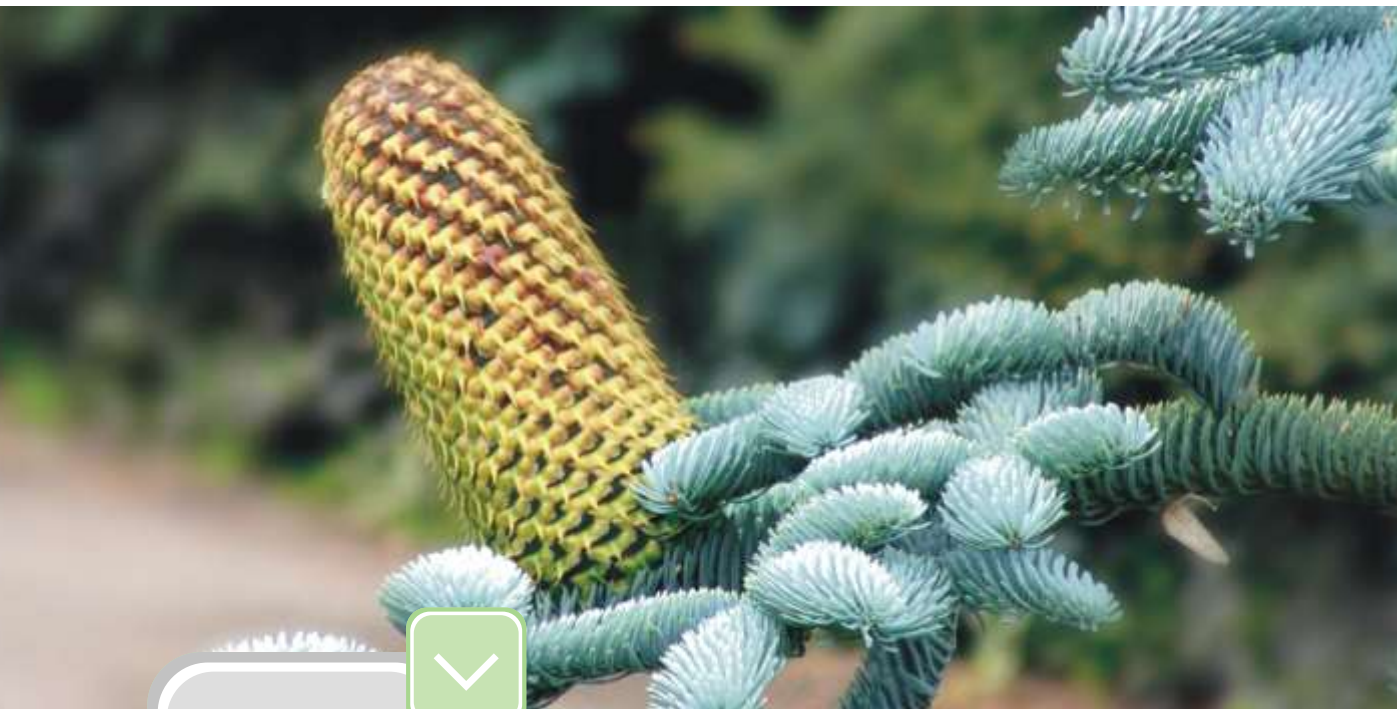
In compliance with the requirements of the European System of Accounts (ESA 95), special attention was paid to preparation and maintenance of list of General government institutions, which allows the institutions and enterprises to qualify the collaboration partner affiliation to institutional sector when preparing statistical reports on financial transactions correctly. Current version of the list is available on the CSB home page.

Statistic Business Register database functions in the ISDMS BR of CSB since 2003. At the beginning of the year project on modification of ISDMS BR module was finished. The main aim of it was provision of INTRASTAT needs in order to make information extraction from register database user-friendlier. Within the project significant improvements were made in functionality of ISDMS BR module regarding the quality assessment, i.e., additional control on data input processes was introduced. Taking into account that in 2007 new EU regulation for Business Registers will come into effect, and new requirements were already known, within the project, new information fields were introduced in the database thus information will be registered in compliance with new requirements. Wherewith, Statistical Business Register is ready to comply with new Business register regulation requirements.

Survey results of the implemented project „Factors of Business Success” were summarized and sent to the Eurostat, used in publications, as well as placed in the database. In this survey information on factors influencing business success and development in different EU countries was acquired.

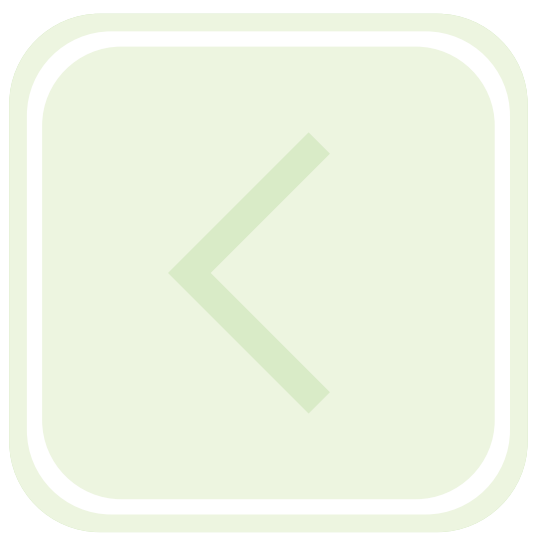
However, results of the project „Inclusion of groups in the national registers and registration of complex enterprises - Implementation of cross border links of multi-national enterprise groups” will ensure possibility to participate in the foundation of Eurogroup register, which is organized by the Eurostat, and to prepare for the implementation of new requirements of Business Statistics Register regulation. In compliance with the new Business register regulation, additional requirement is introduced-national statistical institutes of the EU member states are obliged to register enterprise groups and to ensure Eurogroup register with the information of economically active enterprises registered in the country, which belong to the international enterprise groups. Within the framework of the project, administrative sources of the country were studied, and potentialities of the CSB to acquire the data were evaluated, also 147 enterprise groups were registered.

In 2006 project „Quality improvement of the Business Register- introduction of NACE 2007” was started. The project aim is the introduction of common economical activity classification NACE 2 in the Business Statistics Register and in the statistical surveys.



Information Technologies Department

Director NORBERTS TĀLERS



Informatics Department is responsible for the development of the statistical data processing software and system, for the information processing and storing systems, as well as for the IT infrastructure maintenance in the CSB.

In 2006 computer assisted personal interviews were introduced, namely, the interviewer conducts individual interviews by using portable computer and specialized software Blaise. System operation is ensured by the software complex which is developed by the CSB specialists. For data transmission GPRS and mobile telephone networks are used, which ensures possibility for the interviewer to transmit the data and receive new information irrespective of his/her location.

Moreover, in 2006 data collection system development for the consumer price interviewers was started which ensures possibility to obtain and enter the data by using handheld computers and mobile telephones as data transmission tools.

APPLICATION SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT SECTION

In 2006 Application Software Development Section continued work on new statistical survey data collection and procession processes in ISDMS. This system, which is based on metadata and data procession standardization, and which doesn't require individual programming, at the end of 2006 included full data processing cycle consisting of 72 different statistical surveys.

At the end of 2006 it was possible to complete 49 surveys in the e-survey system, and more than 8 thousand respondents (15% of the total number of respondents) were registered in the system.

Application Software Development Section performed a survey microdata electronic archiving system implementation (developer SIA "Lattelecom Technologies"). The system ensures the possibility to file data in State Archive by means of electronic carriers. In 2006 in compliance with the State Archive requirements 85 survey data for 2003 were prepared and passed on to State Archive for further storing.

REGULAR STATISTICS PROCESSING SECTION

Regular Statistics Processing Section ensured processing of the statistical data, by maintaining survey data processing cycles

which are described in ISDMS, as well as developing data processing applications for surveys, with no data processed in ISDMS.

In 2006 an application for electronic archiving of external system data, which are not stored in the ISDMS environment, was developed.

Regular Statistics Processing Section has performed questionnaire integration into the Blaise environment for the computer assisted personal interviews, which gives the opportunity to collect the information using laptop computers. In 2006 work on the system expansion was continued. New modules, which ensure the addition of two more surveys to the system, thus increasing the number of surveys to four, were programmed.

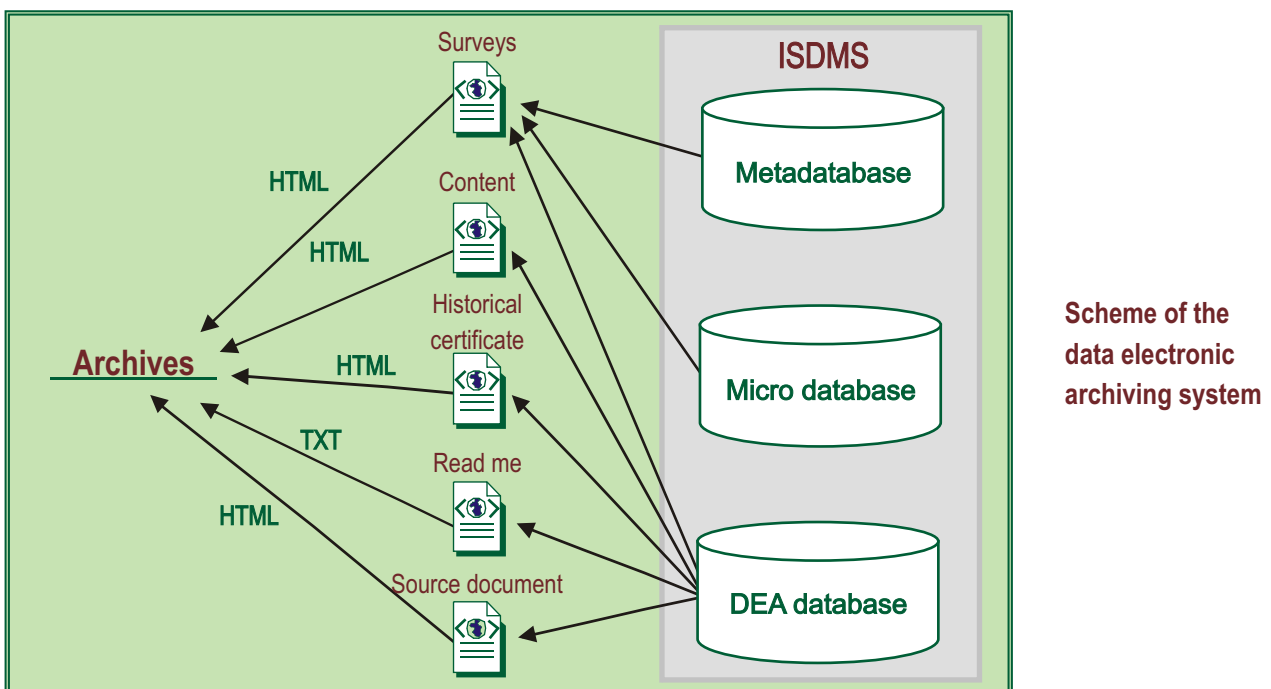
Six employees of the department performed programming work within the framework of international projects.

IT TECHNOLOGICAL SECTION

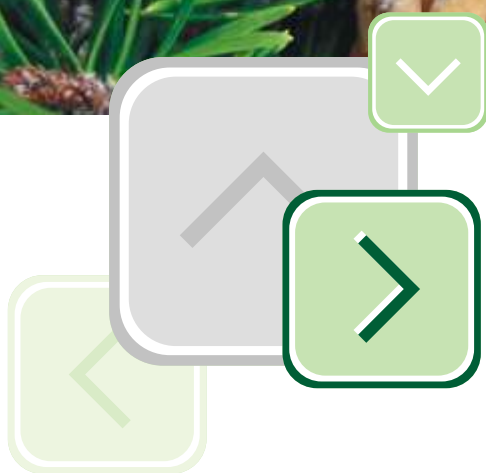
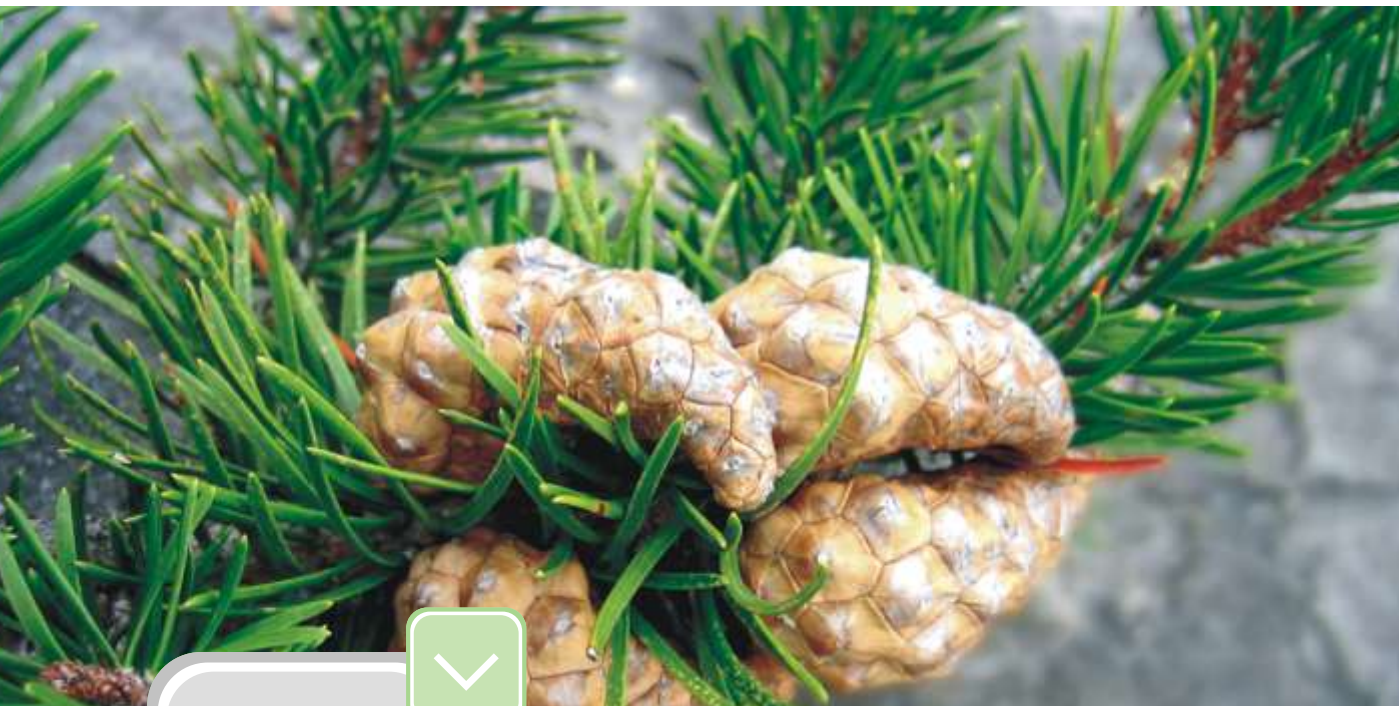
IT Technological Section has ensured the update of statistical registers and upgrade and modification of their structure, thus ensuring the users with additional conveniences and faster task accomplishment. Specialists of the IT Technological Section have accomplished qualitative changes in data transmission processes to the Eurostat, ensuring installation of the system eDAMIS which replaced former server STADIUM. Programmers of the IT Technological Section have developed interview system of Social Statistics respondents which is based on the usage of laptops, and have provided interviewers with the training on how to work with it. Employees of the section have provided services on system usage regarding paper form scanning and optical characters recognition.

IT TECHNICAL SECTION

IT Technical Section has ensured stable technical infrastructure work. During the 2006 four new servers, which boost high speed and stability of the data procession system, 12 printers, 64 new workstations were installed; also the section has started the work to change Pentium II workstations for more powerful ones.

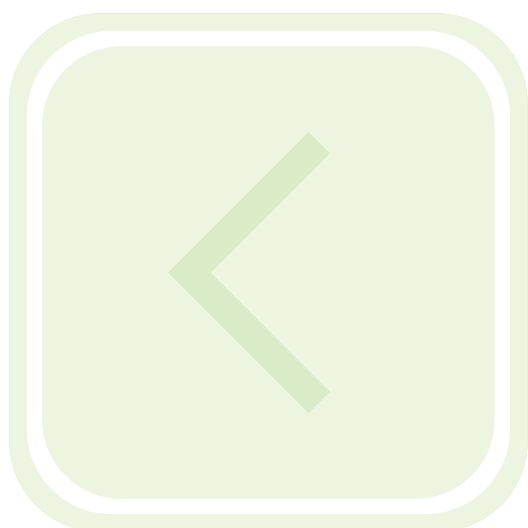


Scheme of the data electronic archiving system



Information, Publishing and Printing Department

Director ULDIS AINĀRS



The main aim of the Information, Publishing and Printing Department is to provide the availability of statistical information for state administration institutions, private persons and international organizations.



HOME PAGE



In 2006 was developed new, upgraded variant of the home page, which is noticeably improved technically and in the information content. The home page contains content guidance system (CGS) and public data bases, as well as lately developed automatized opportunity to use interactive elements.

CGS usage in the home page updating provides the decentralized upgrade of its content - the updates of sections questionnaires and public procurement is performed by Statistical Methodology and Organization Division and Legal Division.

In the aspect of the content, the home page is perfected with new thematic sections, what provides the possibility for users to find necessary information in more comfortable way.

THE HOME PAGE HAS SIX SECTIONS:

- **"ABOUT US"** – information on the activities, tasks, structure of the CSB; links to the home pages of the similar organizations;
- **"EVENTS"** – press releases prepared by the CSB, information on released publications, data base updates and activities of the CSB;
- **"DATA AREA"** – statistical data and methodological information of the CSB and other sources;
- **"FOR RESPONDENTS"** – information useful for respondents to fill the reports (questionnaire forms, instructions);
- **"CLASSIFICATIONS"** – covers the information on classifications used for the compilation and dissemination of the data - classification codes, labels and description of the codes;
- **"LEGISLATION"** – legislation, on which is based the system of Latvia statistics, as well as most important legislation of the EU.

Special system is established to improve the interactivity of the home page: the home page visitors can ask their questions and get answered in short period of time. In order to find out visitor attitude regarding different matters of the months is used. In 2006 on home page of the CSB question on aims why people visit Web Site was published, in total 2142 answers were received.

In the process of preparation of improved home page variant, there has been considered also subjects related to professional users of our data. With the registration in our home page, the person has opportunity to order the publications of events, e.g., to receive the press releases in e-mail, order statistical publications. During 2006, i.e., within the first months since the home page was updated, the number of registered users reached 700.



DATA BASE



The popularity of statistical data bases increase with every year. If in December 2005 in statistical data bases 17 thsd activities were done, than in December 2006 the number of them increased up to the 38 thsd.

It should be mentioned, that increase of the statistical data base popularity was furthered by wider amount of information available in the data bases, as well as better quality of statistical information, i.e., addition of data description, shorter updating terms.

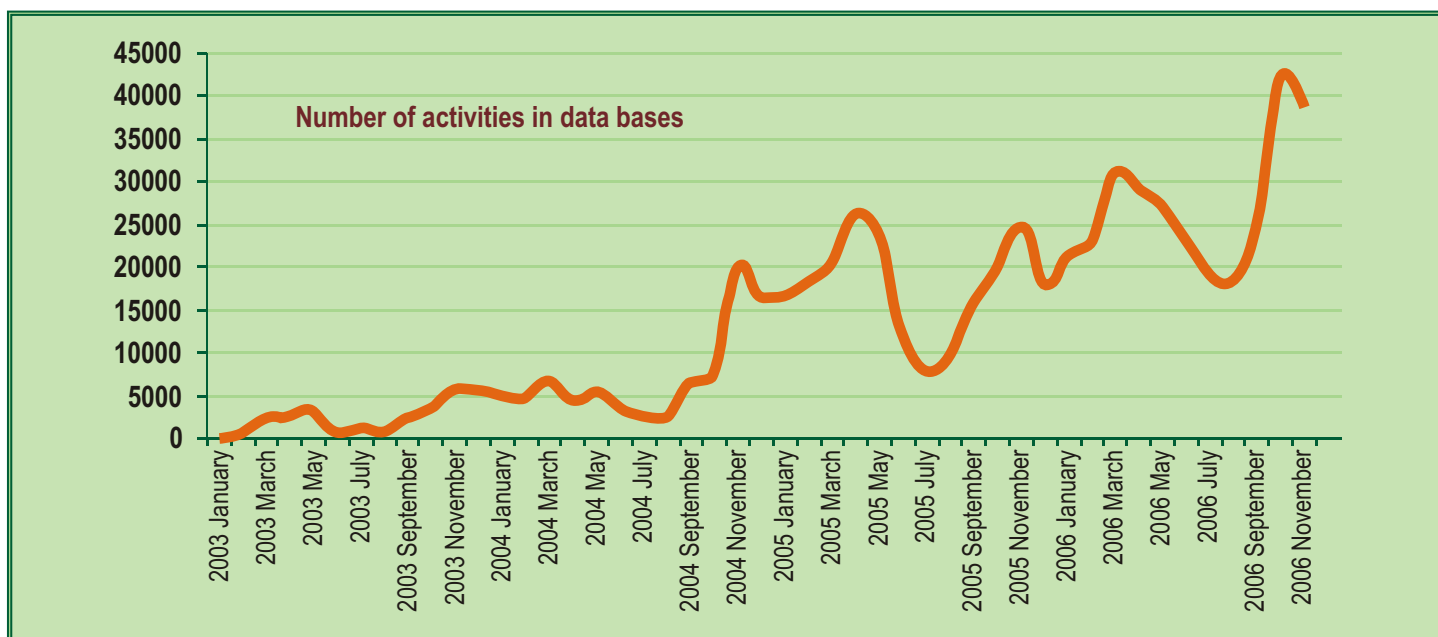
DURING 2006 THE DATA BASE ARE SUPPLEMENTED WITH INDICATORS OF SEVERAL FIELDS:

- In the section "Economy and Finance" monthly and quarterly financial indicators are regularly published;
- The section "Inhabitants and Social Processes" includes detailed statistical indicators on employment, as well as statistical information on personal income and labour costs;
- In the section "Industry, Construction, Housing and Services" range of short-term statistical indicators has been noticeably broadened.

Question of the month: In CSB website you are searching for?

Statistical indicators	1401
Statistical questionnaire forms	318
Statistical publications	161
Classifications	121
Legal acts	32
Other information	109
Total	2142

Subject of interest to website visitors




PUBLICATIONS

The Information, Publishing and Printing Department in collaboration with other departments of the CSB has done significant work to improve the content of the publications.

In comparison with the publications of previous years, in 2006 the number of short-term statistical publications has been cut down, only "Monthly Bulletin" and "Quarterly Bulletin on Foreign Trade" are still published. Still it should be mentioned, that the reduced number of statistical publications did not affect the availability of data, i.e., the indicators previously published in the paper form, now are available in the public data base of the CSB.

As every year, the "Statistical Yearbook 2006" was prepared also in the form of CD. In this version the scope of data is wider than in the book. Moreover, the CD includes not only information on longer time series, but also the breakdown is more detailed.



MOST POPULAR PUBLICATIONS IN 2006:

- Latvia. Statistics in brief 2006;
- Statistical yearbook of Latvia 2006;
- Tourism in Latvia;
- Monthly bulletin of Latvia statistics;
- Demography 2005.

Additionally to HTML format, the CD includes also data files in the PC-Axis programme, what provides the opportunity for the user to perform interactive activities - to chose necessary indicators, change layout, create new variables, develop charts, etc. With the installation of PX-Map software, which is available on the CD, the user of statistical data has opportunity to display the regional indicators on maps in selected breakdown. All previously mentioned opportunities are available also for the database users on the Internet.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Any legal entity or physical person has the rights to request necessary statistical information. The Information, Publishing and Printing Department in cooperation with other departments and sections prepares answers on particular information requests.

In total in 2006 1772 requests (of which 1487 from Latvia and 285 from abroad) were received.

15% of all information requests received come from different institutions of Latvia and 85% - from private sector. Approximately ¼ of all requests were on foreign trade statistical data. In 2006 high interest - one eighth of the requests - was also about completed construction and inflation indicators.

In 2006 of foreign countries the most of the information requests were received from Lithuania (16%), Germany (12%), United Kingdom (10%), Sweden (8%), and Estonia (6%). The first five countries were the same as in 2005.

It should be remarked, that the databases are often used to answer to the information requests. 30% of the answers were prepared using the data available in the CSB public data bases.

Information requests received in 2006

Information requests	
TOTAL	1772
of which:	
- Physical persons	494
- Business entities	850
- State administration	273
of which:	
- Ministries	109
- Local governments	54
- Foreign embassies	41
- Other	114

SUPPORT CENTRE FOR EUROSTAT DATA USERS IN LATVIA 2006

In 2004 in line with Eurostat new data dissemination strategy Grant contract with Eurostat on the provision of the support service for the users of European statistical data was concluded. The aim of the contract is to help Latvian population to obtain information on the EU and its member states, using the Eurostat resources of statistical information.

In 2006 the support centre for Eurostat data users in Latvia answered to 458 (15% increase compared to previous year) information requests from students and academics, enterprises and state institutions, as well as from the private persons and international organizations. The support centre for Eurostat data users has a section in the CSB home page (<http://www.csb.gov.lv>. In section data area->statistical data on EU countries), in which the services of the centre and the data available in the Eurostat home page and how to obtain these data are described. The support centre for Eurostat data users provides professional and detailed answers, and the requests will be answered within 24 hours from

the moment when the request was received. The questions are received and answers are provided in Latvian and English.

If the employees of the centre cannot provide answer, the question is forwarded to the Eurostat Central Support Centre.

Within the framework of the project European statistics have been promoted on the CSB home page, in training courses and leaflets "Statistical Data on European Union Countries" and "Latvia and European Union in Figures". These leaflets were sent to the state institutions, ministries, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and other persons concerned.

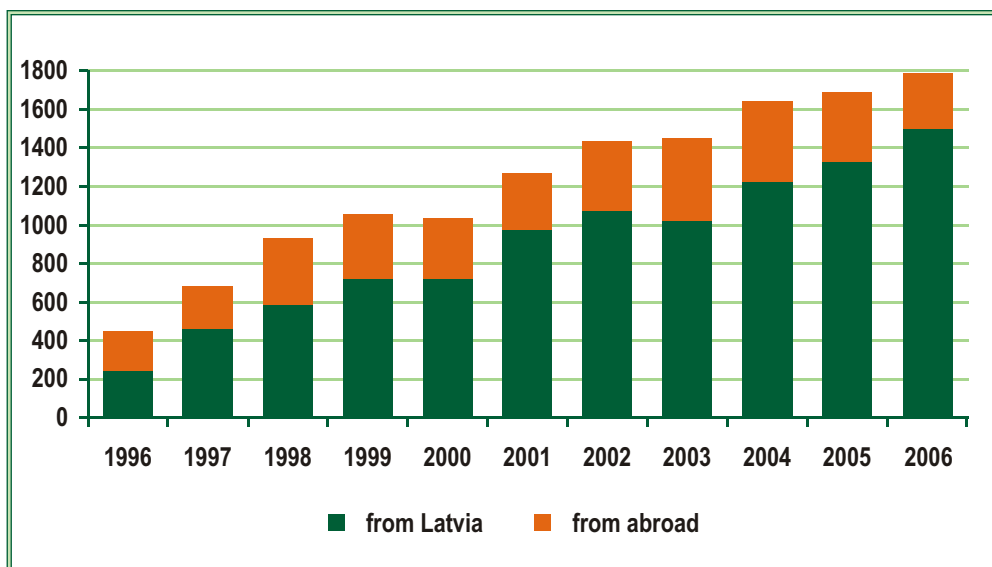
In 2006 Support Centre for Eurostat data users in Latvia received maximum points when support centers in the EU countries were evaluated. And the decision has been made to continue this project also in 2007.

INFORMATION CENTRE

The aim of the information centre activities is to provide all persons concerned with the opportunity get acquainted with, order and purchase the publications of the CSB, to execute the requests for the specific information, consult on the opportunities to get receive information, as well as to guarantee the services of the search room.

In 2006 there were 7.5 thsd visitors in the Information Centre. As more and more information becomes available in the Internet data bases of the CSB, in comparison with the previous years, the number of visitors in the Information Centre decreases. On the other hand the number of persons consulted on how to use the data bases has increased noticeably.

Almost all publications on Latvian statistics are available in the Information Centre, as well as people can find there statistical publications exchanged with the other countries, UNO, Eurostat, IMF, World Bank, OECD and other international organizations. The information centre stores the widest collection of the foreign



Number of received information requests.

statistical publications in Latvia. The fund of books at the end of 2006 reached 12.7 thsd copies, within a year the number has increased by thousand copies.

In 2006 the CSB Information Centre registered 295 subscribers to the statistical publications, what constitutes 60 subscriptions less than in 2005. More and more private persons and enterprises opt to purchase publication upon release instead of subscribing to the titles at the beginning of the year; the trend has been evolving through the last years. This makes more difficult to set the edition of the publications. In 2006 the total number of sold publications has also decreased what could be explained by a wider scope of statistical information available on the Internet.

representatives of the private sector.

Several projects are developed with the involvement of the regional information centres, which provide statistical information. The Information Centre of Alūksne district participated in the development of the project "Euro-region Pleskava - Livonija", Information Centre of Madona district in cooperation with evening and part-time secondary school and prepared project "Time planning" for the adult education program contest, which was supported, and currently the project is in the realization, the Information Centre of Liepāja prepared the information for the project "Seacoast development and environmental evaluation" for the Environment Institute of the University of Latvia.

< REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTRES >

In 2006 the Regional Information Centres had served more than 7770 visitors. Of which 43% were students and pupils, 23% - employees of the state and local government institutions, and 10%



Central Statistical Bureau
Information Centre



Data collection and methodological support



Statistical data are collected according to Official Statistics Law, which states that respondents are obliged to prepare and submit within the specified time and in full amount, individual statistical information on economic, demographic and social phenomena and processes characterising activities of the respondent as well as on environmental situation and utilisation of natural resources so as to ensure the preparation of information as provided for by the State Programme of Statistical Information, laws and regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers and directly applicable legal acts of the European Union.

Primary data from respondents – businesses, organizations, population and households – are obtained through regular (yearly, quarterly, monthly) and one-off surveys. Sampling method has been used for identification of respondents.

The information of the Statistical Business Register about the principal economic activity of an enterprise, its address, form of ownership, number of employees and turnover is used as bases for survey sampling. In 2006 145 different statistical questionnaires (66 yearly, 5 half-yearly, 25 quarterly, 29 monthly, 4 weekly and 16 one-off) were used by the CSB to collect statistical data.

Statistical information from enterprises is obtained mainly by means of official statistical questionnaires, but from the population and households with the help of the interviewer service. The

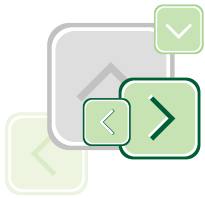
interviewer service carries out about 12 surveys per year, questioning more than 50 thousand households.

In order to lighten the respondents' burden and to raise additional data verification possibilities, information for the implementation of statistical surveys is increasingly drawn from the country's administrative registers, databases and information systems.

The extensive promotion of a system for electronic collection of statistical questionnaires (e-survey) allows respondents to fill in and submit statistical questionnaires via Internet, reduces costs of data production and accelerates data processing. At the end of 2006 there were 49 e-surveys and more than 5 thousand respondents (approximately 15% of the total number of respondents) were registered in the system.



In 2006, in the household surveys, the interviews were conducted with the help of portable computers.



List of Abbreviations



C

CD	compact disk
CPA	Classification of Products According to Activities
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSB	Central Statistical Bureau

E

ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECP	European Comparison Programme
ESA 95	European System of Accounts
ESCP	European Statistics Code of Practice
ESSPROS	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics
EU	European Union
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Communities
EU-SILC	EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
EUVI	Export unit value index

F

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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G

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GPRS	General Packet Radio Service

H

HCPI	Harmonized consumer price index
HTML	Hyper Text Markup Language

I

ICT	Information and communication technology
IEA	International Energy Agency
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INTRASTAT	Intra-Community Trade Statistics System
ISDMS BR	Integrated Statistical Data Management System Business Register
ISDMS	Integrated Statistical Data Management System
IUVI	Import unit value index

M

MTF	Multi-country Transition Facility
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N

NACE	General Nomenclature of Economic Activities in the European Community
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O

OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
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P

PRODCOM	Community Production
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S

SBS	Structural Business Statistics
SMOD	Statistical Methodology and Organization Division
SPSI	State Program of Statistical Information
SRS	State Revenue Service

U

UN ECE	The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund



CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU OF LATVIA

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