



Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

annual report 2019





annual report
2019

Foreword



A year of our 100th birthday has passed. Over the century, we have grown, perfected ourselves, accumulated a lot of data used for various statistical measurements, received significant support and gained practical experience from statistical production leaders in Europe, shared our experience with colleagues from other countries, digitized key statistical publications as well as results of population and agricultural censuses conducted during the period of first independence and made them publicly available.

On a smaller scale, everyone is collecting statistics on daily basis – calculating income and expenditures, choosing products to purchase, evaluating and comparing prices, estimating possible yield from the kitchen garden. We may call it personal or individual-level statistics. Central Statistical Bureau is producing and publishing statistics at national level, thus providing data users – politicians, analysts, general society – with business confidence results, information on population living conditions, as well as other indicators characterising our inhabitants and economy. We produce numbers characterising latest events in the society and economy allowing everyone to get information on many aspects of our lives. Language of digits is very rich and depicts economic and social processes in summarised form.

Our everyday work has been improved by new data collection methods, and nowadays statistics is produced based on international standards and methodologies. Data are internationally comparable, which makes them more valuable for data users. Our specialists can learn from the best practices of other countries and share our own experience. Work of a statistician has changed a lot. As have the indicators, since we need to make objective assessments of economic activities taking place on global market. Our work is very interesting, it motivates us to gain new knowledge, allows to make our own contribution to the development of statistics at international level.

In 2019, we have made several important steps allowing us to produce, process and disseminate high-quality statistics, upgrade processes of statistical production, reduce response burden, and facilitate personal growth of our employees.

We are proud that we have succeeded to transform our statistical system into modern institution oriented towards latest technologies. Our team is gaining advantage from the new specialists who take active part in introducing latest technologies in basic processes of statistical production. Moreover, they may present their knowledge in international projects and specialist forums. I have always emphasized the importance of positive representation of our country, therefore I am very proud that CSB achievements have been recognised internationally.

I would like to express my gratitude to all respondents, our cooperation partners, and I am very proud of our team.

Let the next centenary come with new and remarkable achievements!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'A. Žigūre'.

Aija Žigūre
President of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

Content

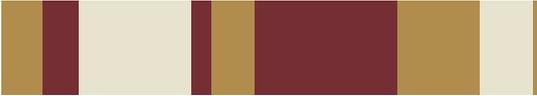


FOREWORD	3
CONTENTS	5
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	7
VISION, MISSION, VALUES AND ACTIVITIES	8
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019	9
CSB KEY PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN 2019	17
STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS	21
FRAMEWORK REGULATION INTEGRATING BUSINESS STATISTICS	28
GETTING READY FOR THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2020	32
PREPARATORY ACTIONS FOR POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2021	35
DEVELOPMENT OF PORTAL OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS	38
STATISTICS 100	41
COMMUNICATION WITH SOCIETY	44
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	47
MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES	52
KEY PRIORITIES IN 2020	57



CONTENTS,
ABBREVIATIONS, MISSION

List of Abbreviations



UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
CCI	Construction cost index
CIS	Construction Information System
SCCB	State Construction Control Bureau
CSB	Central Statistical Bureau
ECOICOP	European Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose
EDV	Electronic Data Collection System
EM	Ministry of Economics
EU	European Union
ESBRs	European System of Interoperable Statistical Business Registers
ESP	European Statistical Programme
ESS	European Statistical System
EUS Regulation	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Business Statistics
EU-SILC	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
Eurostat	statistical office of the European Union
FRIBS	framework regulation integrating business statistics
GDP	gross domestic product
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
ISDMS	Integrated Surveillance and Data Management Services
IZM	Ministry of Education and Science
LAD	Rural Support Service
LDC	Agricultural Data Centre
LIKTA	Latvian Information and Communication Technology Association
HICP-CT	harmonised index of consumer prices at constant tax rates
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONAs	statistical institutions providing Official European Statistics
HICP	harmonised index of consumer prices
VAT	value added tax
CSSP	Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy
SBR	Statistical business register
IMF	International Monetary Fund
VARAM	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
SRS	State Revenue Service
SLLC	State limited liability company

Vision, Mission, Values and Activities

Aim

The main aim of the CSB is to provide official statistics and coordinate official statistics production system in line with internationally recognised principles, to provide users of statistical information with independent and high-quality official statistics, as well as to implement reporting line on other statistical institutions in the field of production of official statistics.

Mission

The mission of the CSB is to provide users of statistical information with independent and high-quality official statistics for decision-making, research and discussion.

Vision

CSB is modern, innovative statistical institution, leader in providing qualitative statistics at national level.

Strategic aim of the CSB - to modernize provision of official statistics by implementing e-solutions, to develop methodology and to raise level of compliance with quality requirements by 5 %.

Values

CSB bases its activity on the following values: knowledge, cooperation, openness, the rule of law and responsibility.



knowledge



cooperation



openness



justice



responsibility

Activities

The CSB provides statistics and development of process-oriented production thereof, provides innovative solutions for development of data availability, modernizes information systems for collection and processing of data and dissemination of statistics, coordinates the official statistics system.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019



Calendar of Events 2019

January

- Another two statistics institutions (SLLC "Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre" and State Plant Protection Service) join Memorandum of understanding among statistical institutions on cooperation in introduction of Quality Policy in System of Official Statistics, thus confirming their commitment to implement and promote quality standards in their statistical institutions.

February

- Participation in World Bank project on the national strategy for development of statistics in Armenia.
- Participation in International Conference on Real Estate Statistics in Luxembourg organized by *Eurostat*.
- Participation in the workshop of European Union research grant project "Third Network for the Analysis of EU-SILC (Net-SILC3)", where report on practice of application of methods for weighting used in EU-SILC survey in the European Union and on use of administrative registers in calibration were presented.

March

- 4 March. A. Žīgure, the President of the CSB, takes part in the 50th Session of the UN Statistical Commission in New York (USA).
- New form of communication with data submitters was introduced online (chat) in Electronic Data Collection (EDC) System.
- Participation in the second EU Big Data Hackaton in Brussels, where teams from different EU member states compete with each other and elaborate tool (for example, mobile or web application) with the help of which it is possible to solve some previously defined official statistics problem.
- 12–14 March. Experts of the CSB take part in NTTS (*New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics*) conference organized by *Eurostat* on the use of innovative methods and technologies in official statistics.
- CSB experts present results and trends in trade statistics at the Council meeting of the Latvian Traders Association.
- 14–15 March. CSB representatives take part in European International Comparison Programme Group II countries meeting on purchasing power



The NTTS 2019 conference took place from 12 to 14 March 2019 in Brussels, with satellite events on 11 March 2019 (Big Data Hackathon presentations) and on 15 March 2019 (Measuring Digital Economy and MAKSWELL).

The NTTS Conference

Calendar of Events 2019

parity calculations in Lisbon.

- From 20–22 March *Eurostat* information visit on GNI data and description of GNI sources and methods takes place in Latvia.
- 22 March. A. Žigūre, the President of the CSB, takes part in the 71st Partnership group meeting in Copenhagen (Denmark).
- From 26–27 March Baltic Steering Committee meeting on compilation and processing of statistical data takes part. Heads of regional centres of the CSB from Kuldīga and Valmiera take part. There we discuss and share our experience on how to improve cooperation with respondents, how to promote more efficient data collection and processing by updating systems, processes and developing competencies and skills.
- From 27-28 March, within the framework of IPA 2015 (*Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance*) Multi-Beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme (EU financial and technical support in implementing reforms, of which in statistics area, for enlargement countries), study visit in the CSB on production of business short-term statistics with participation of representatives from statistical institutions of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia. ISDMS system, Statistical business register (SBR) and that how this system and information from SBR is used in production of short-term statistics was introduced to participants.
- 28 March. Customer Support Centre was presented to Statistics Council.
- 29 March. In award ceremony of most responsive institutions to enterprises organized by the Ministry of Economics the CSB received awards in to out of six nominations – "Choice of enterprises" and "Leader in provision of information and consulting".

April

- 08-09 April. In extraordinary meeting of Price statistics working group in Luxembourg, CSB expert actively participates in discussion and gives suggestions in improvement of the text of new implementation act of Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices, House price index and Owner-occupied housing price index.
- 8–10 April. Annual Baltic Steering Committee meeting takes place in Riga.

May

- 15 May. A. Žigūre, President of the CSB, takes part in ESS workshop of

Calendar of Events 2019

the heads of the national statistical institutes on sharing economy in Luxembourg. Discussion of heads of the national statistical institutes of EU member states on political dimensions in the increasing sharing economy.

- 16 May. A. Žigūre, the President of the CSB, takes part in the 40th meeting of the European Statistical System Committee in Luxembourg. In the meeting one comitology issue was voted and topical ESS issues were discussed.
- From 21–22 May Baltic Steering Committee Meeting on foreign trade statistics issues takes place in Vilnius (Lithuania).
- Annual data collection workshop takes place with participation of heads, deputy heads, senior officers of regional centres and heads and deputy heads of sections of Statistical Data Processing Department. Aim of the workshop is to improve work efficiency of data collection and processing, to share experience and take over good practice
- 28-29 May. Representative of the CSB takes part in Nordic workshop on statistical issues of Services producer price indices and Producer price index in industry in Stockholm.
- In Methodological council sitting of the CSB material on the use of administrative data in trade and services short-term statistics was presented, which shows current progress in this area and analyses broader potential impact of administrative data use on the quality of results.

June

- 3–4 June. Representative of the CSB takes part in *Eurostat* workshop on real estate statistics and presents results of the research on compilation options of more detailed/additional breakdown of House price index.
- 6-7 June. Kaspars Misāns, the Vice President of the CSB, takes part in working group meeting for implementation of *Eurostat* Vision 2020 in Lisbon (Portugal).
- 13–14 June. A. Žigūre, President of the CSB, takes part in a high level workshop for Directors Generals of the national statistical institutes "Determination of Priorities for European Statistical System" in Krakow (Poland). The workshop was organized in connection to the next European statistical programme planning period for 2021–2027, which gives opportunity to renew discussions on criteria and mechanisms for determination of sustainable priorities, taking into account the growing

Calendar of Events 2019

needs of data users.

- 16-20 June. CSB experts take part in the 5th Baltic-Nordic Conference on Survey Statistics. Aim of the conference is to present development, methodology and use of the survey of statistical theory in broad sense.
- Material on the use of administrative data in trade and services short-term statistics was presented to representatives of the Ministry of Economics, which shows current progress in this area and analyses broader potential impact of administrative data use on the quality of results.
- 24-25 June. A. Žigūre, President of the CSB, takes part in the 16th meeting of Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP) of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris (France).
- Participation was started in *Eurostat* meetings of two special working groups on "Use of ICT in households and among population", as well as on "Use of ICT and e-commerce in enterprises". Previously, representatives of the CSB have not participated in ICT statistics area working groups of this level.
- 6-27 June. Expert of the CSB takes part in a seminar in Tbilisi (Georgia) on the use of administrative data in social statistics (of which, in Population Census) and on survey methodology organized by *Eurostat* for Eastern Partnership countries.
- 26-28 June. A. Žigūre, President of the CSB, takes part in the 67th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians held in Paris (France). Subjects of the conference: access to new data sources and new role of national statistical institutes.

July

- 01-02 July. Experts of the CSB take part in the European Union hackaton "Seasonal Adjustment Center of Excellence", aim of which is to improve and supplement package RJDemetra of programme R.
- 02-03 July. Representative of the CSB takes part in OECD and *Eurostat* meeting on compilation of price and volume indicators in digital world.
- 08-09 July. Representatives of the CSB go to experience exchange visit to Belgian statistical office in Brussels on issues related to Purchasing Power Parities programme.
- 28-29 July. CSB takes part in conversation festival "Lampa".

Calendar of Events 2019

August

- 18-23 August. Expert of the CSB takes part in 62nd ISI World Statistics Congress 2019 in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), which dealt with issues related to challenges statistical institutions face nowadays, of which also social statistics area – demand for new data, new data sources (for example, big data), search, use and processing of these data, reduction of the responsiveness in household surveys, Population Census, etc.
- 30 August. Scientific conference "Into the Future – Statistics in Modern Society" takes place.

September

- 01 September. 100 years since the CSB foundation.
- 06 September. A. Žigūre, the President of the CSB, takes part in the 72nd Partnership group meeting in Copenhagen (Denmark).
- Survey on Satisfaction of respondents takes place. Results of the survey show that 50 % of respondents have contacted employees of the CSB by telephone, e-mail or online chat, of which 90 % totally agreed that employees are kind and polite, responsive, concerned and are professional and competent when solving issues.
- 11 September. In sitting of the board of Latvian Traders Association material on the use of administrative data in trade and services short-term statistics was presented, which shows current progress in this area and analyses broader potential impact of administrative data use on the quality of results.
- Within the framework of initiative "Functionary shadows an entrepreneur", Ramona Skakunova, department director of the Statistical Data Processing Department, with experts from "Swedbank" discussed reports on local kind-of-activity unit and structure of wages and salaries submitted to the CSB by the bank
- CSB representatives take part in European International Comparison Programme Group II countries meeting on purchasing power parity calculations in Vienna.
- Expert of the CSB takes part in Eurostat special working group meeting on measuring collaborative economy and tourism statistics, where shared own experience on the use of data of accommodation reservation platforms for statistical needs and involved in project management group, which will develop use of new data sources for Eurostat needs.



A. Žigūre, President of the CSB,
opens a conference
" Into the Future – Statistics in
Modern Society"

Calendar of Events 2019

- New indicator "Wholesale enterprise turnover indices at constant prices" was calculated and sent to *Eurostat*. Publishing in the CSB website will be started in February 2020.
- 30 September–3 October. CSB expert takes part in the 34th meeting of Voorburg Group on services statistics in Paris (France).

October

- On 4 October 2019, in cooperation with the EU House, the CSB organized separate video conference with representatives from the EC Directorate-General for Translation in Luxembourg to tell about meaning of better translation of EU legal acts in Latvian in CSB work with data submitters.
- 08-09 October. CSB experts group takes part in *Eurostat* workshop in Olsztyn (Poland) organized by Poland-Finland-Latvia on modernisation of agricultural statistics. Representatives of the CSB give two presentations and chaired a session on the development of statistical farm registers.
- 22-23 October. Baltic Steering Committee Meeting on price statistics takes place in CSB.
- 28 October. Representative of the CSB speaks in Association of Latvia's Statisticians with a reading on the occasion of European statistics day about complying with requirements of European Statistics Code of Practice in statistical institutions providing European statistics.

November

- 12-15 November. Expert of the CSB takes part in a seminar in Kiev (Ukraine) on the use of administrative data in social statistics, of which, in Population Census, and on survey methodology organized by *Eurostat* for Eastern Partnership countries.
- In the TOP 500 Largest Latvian Companies Award Ceremony organised by newspaper "Dienas Bizness" CSB President Aija Žīgure awarded SJSC "Latvijas dzelzceļš" with annual special award for excellent cooperation in producing high-quality statistics.
- Annual Employees Satisfaction Survey (in electronic form) takes place with an aim to improve process of data collection and processing, as well as cooperation among statisticians, respondents and form supervisors.
- 25-26 November. Representatives of the CSB, as members of Latvian delegation, meet Norway partners of Norway financial instrument project "Climate change policy integration in regional and sector policy" in Oslo



A. Žīgure, President of the CSB, presents annual special award

Calendar of Events 2019

(Norway). During the meeting agreement was reached on cooperation in implementation of the project in 2020–2023.

December



CSB receives award
"Leader in Customer-Oriented Service"

- On 2–4 December dialogue visit of representatives from *Eurostat*, European Commission Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs and European Central Bank takes place in Latvia on issues related to government budget deficit and debt notification.
- In award ceremony of most responsive institutions to enterprises organized by the Ministry of Economics the CSB received award "Leader in Customer-Oriented Service".
- 9–10 December. A. Žīgure, the President of the CSB, takes part in the 73rd Partnership group meeting in Copenhagen (Denmark). Aim of the meeting is to discuss current issues of European Statistical System, such as determination of ESS priorities; multi-annual plan of European statistical programme, implementation ESS Vision 2020, etc.
- 10-11 December. Expert of the CSB takes part in workshop on household survey methodology, of which on organization of EU-SILC survey, organized by *Eurostat* for Eastern Partnership countries in Minsk (Belarus).
- 10-12 December. The CSB hosts Kosovo Agency of Statistics delegation with its CEO Mr. Isa Krasniqi to share CSB experience on coordination of national statistical system, elaboration of basis for statistical legislation, provision of quality requirements in official statistics, as well as elaboration and development of IT infrastructure.
- Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics joins memorandum of understanding among statistical institutions on cooperation in introduction of Quality Policy in System of Official Statistics.

CSB KEY PRIORITIES AND
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
IN 2019





CSB Key Priorities and Performance Indicators in 2019

In 2019, main activities of the CSB are related to implementation of strategical aim determined in the CSB activity strategy – to upgrade provision of official statistics introducing e-solutions, to develop methodology and increase level of conformity to overall quality requirements by 5 % –, as well as of priorities confirmed and tasks to be done

Key CSB activities in reference period:

- implementation of *Official Statistics Programme 2019–2021* within the framework of CSB competence;
- advanced data availability and higher statistical value added: development of innovative statistical products by implementing geospatial data publishing tool, where indicators characterizing economic activity at territorial level and other data are published;
- activities for improvement of quality of publicly available information were introduced ensuring and maintaining feedback with entrepreneurs, main users of indicators of national accounts system and other users of official statistics;
- interactive solutions with aim to improve accessibility and comprehensiveness of thematic statistics were created;
- improvements were made in publishing educational statistics – website *School corner* was upgraded in cooperation with teachers;
- interests of statistics producers and users in process of elaboration of portal of official statistics were ensured;
- coordination of system development processes of provision of official statistics determined in the *Statistics Law* and provision of elaboration, preparation and dissemination of European Statistics was carried out;
- cooperation with respondents was improved, within the framework of principle "Consult at First" client consultations online in Electronic Data Collection System was introduced, wider use of administrative data in provision of official statistics and reduction of respondent burden was ensured;
- new interdepartmental agreements were concluded on exchange of information with SRS, ADC, RSS, OCMA to reduce respondent burden and avoid duplication of statistical information to be submitted, as well as

CSB Key Priorities and Performance Indicators in 2019

work on system for quality assessment of administrative data was continued;

- statistical unit "enterprise" was introduced in structural business statistics accordingly plan of activities elaborated;
- implementation of plan of activities for preparation of Population and Housing Census was ensured;
- survey of doctorate holders in European Social Fund project "Participation in international educational researches" (OECD) was carried out;
- development projects on acquisition, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistics were implemented, to prepare final reports to *Eurostat* on projects implemented;
- CSB update process was carried out, elaboration of the project "Processing system of foreign trade statistics data" was started;
- equipment corresponding to infrastructure needs was introduced which ensures continuity of CSB activity to follow information protection requirements at national and ESS breakdown;
- innovative solutions were implemented to advance work efficiency and optimize management of CSB resources;
- active international cooperation was implemented.

CSB Key Priorities and Performance Indicators in 2019

Performance indicator	2018 Actual	2019	
		Planned	Actual
Statistical indicators published in on-line database (<i>million indicators</i>)	1 556	1 525	1 637
<i>Official Statistics Programme</i> for mid-term developed and implemented (<i>number</i>)	1	1	1
Level of compliance to European Statistics Code of Practice in 2019 reached by national institutions producing European statistics (level of compliance as %)	84	89	90
Innovative statistical products, specific target-oriented innovative solutions for publication of statistics, geospatial statistics produced (number)	1	1	1
Statistical data acquisition, processing, analysis, and dissemination development projects implemented, final reports on the implemented projects drawn up (number)	16	15	15
E-reporting (share of reports submitted to EDC system, per cent)	93	93	93
Improvements in publishing educational statistics were made – website School corner was improved (regular activities arising from communication with teachers)	10	4	11
Social statistics data warehouse (data types integrated, number)	20	22	63
Internationally comparable information on doctorate holders in Latvia was acquired (number of persons surveyed)	x	1 500	1 500

STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS



Statistical Dimensions

Provision of statistics

Developing elaboration of new methodology and activating participation in development processes of European statistics system, introduction of new requirements was supervised on a regular basis which is related to improvement of business statistics frameworks and acquisition of data of enterprises. One of the most significant tasks in improvement of acquisition of business statistics data last year was related to reduction of respondent burden and simplification of administrative requirements, simultaneously keeping high data quality.

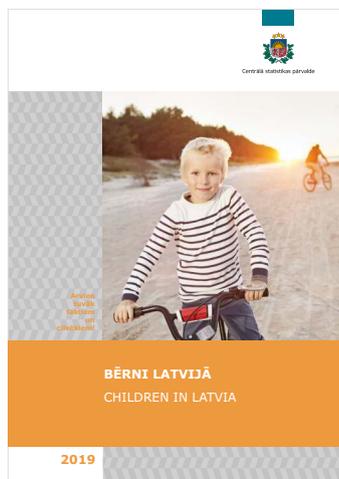
In 2019 assessment and analysis of short-term statistics requirements assurance process was carried out to reduce burden of enterprises in submission of statistical reports on turnover using information and administrative data that was already submitted in other statistical reports, as well as to ensure revision of sample of business survey in retail trade, trade and repair of motor vehicles reducing the number of respondents.

To ensure acquisition of new statistical information, more effective data submission, to reduce volume of data submitted and time spent on data submission, during a year working group estimating forms of enterprises carried out estimation of report forms of enterprises – 1 new form and was reviewed and 18 amendments to forms were carried out. During revision of forms 158 suggestions on improvements and clarifications needed were made. For improvement of work efficiency of working group new assessment questionnaire of forms was elaborated by updating and clarifying assessment criteria.

Key priority of social statistics department in the reference year was organization of Population and Housing Census 2021, which for the first time will be carried out using solely administrative data. Testing database of population census was prepared with demographic, family, household and housing indicators as on 01.01.2018. and 01.01.2019. Also Regulation No 588 of 10 December 2019 "Regulations on Population and Housing Census 2021 programme" were confirmed. Work on improvement of population number assessment methodology was started."

Last year, work was completed on implementation of "Survey on the careers of doctorate holders" that was ordered by the Ministry of Education and Science and carried out within the framework of ESF project "Participation in international educational research". Persons were surveyed within the framework of the project.

Methodology of higher education institution graduates monitoring was elaborated and data on higher education institution graduates 2017 were prepared.



Statistical Dimensions

In cooperation with the University of Latvia, within the framework of ESF project "Complex health promotion and disease prevention measures", data compilation for the research "Cross-sectional study on risk factors for cardiovascular and other non-communicable diseases" was completed.

Continuing active work on estimation of construction models, in 2019 experts from the state joint stock company "Latvian State Roads" handed over new project for the construction model "Road" to Producer Price Indices Section. Taking into account the previously made recommendations, 8 new unified construction models elaborated by a certified highest-category construction expert were received. Each model contain certain utilisation rates of construction materials, labour force and construction machinery, which will be used in calculations of Construction Cost Index (CCI) starting with 2020. In 2020 update of another three construction models will be continued – "Bridge", "Maintenance of private house" and "Maintenance of multi-dwelling building".

Development of statistical data availability

Within the framework of development project, experimental statistics projects were carried out in tourism statistics in the use of new data sources from *tax-free* purchase declarations, ticket and international accommodation reservation platforms, and data were also received from these platforms. Basing on analysis of these data, more precise statistics will be prepared, especially, on cultural tourism publications and use of apartment accommodations.

To enlarge use of information available in administrative data sources, activities were carried out that will make it possible in 2020 to acquire data on building permits, commissioning of buildings from Construction Information System, thus fully cancelling quarterly report "Report on building permits and commissioning of buildings" (1-BA)(120 respondents–

Enhancing cooperation with data users and respondents, information on current ways of acquiring statistical data and use of administrative data in various forums was provided. In 2019 meetings with representatives from associations and responsible institutions of economic sector. In the meeting of Latvian Traders Association Council information on work results and trends in trade statistics were presented, participation in informative event of regional partners "ALL Digital week 2019" organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development with presentation "E-skills of Latvian population".

Data users are provided with significantly wider range of information – now there is information in the CSB database on CPI, HIOP and HICP-CT to ECOICOP subclass level, as well number of available average retail trade prices of separate goods and services was enlarged. And, starting with September, flash estimate of Latvian HICP (monthly and annual changes) is available in *Eurostat* publication.

Statistical Dimensions

New activities were carried out in social statistics data analysis and preparation of publications. In cooperation with Statistics Lithuania and Statistics Estonia, interactive publication "Women and men in the Baltic States" was elaborated, which examines differences in social position among males and females in different breakdowns – demography, education, employment, power and decision-making, social security, IT and tourism.



Also section on equality was elaborated that is available in the CSB website section in English and in Latvian, and which offers to learn differences in education, employment, social security, power and health area. Along with data sources analytical descriptions on current trends of equality in Latvia are available. At the end of the year campaign #equality was started in social networks.

Modernization of information systems for collection, processing and dissemination of CSB statistical data

Within the framework of modernization of statistics, information in Statistical Farm Register was updated on farms that are not included in administrative data sources, and will be used in Agricultural Census 2020 and Agricultural integrated statistics surveys 2023 and 2026. Main tasks were carried out for elaboration of statistical system for provision of grain and oil plants balance calculations and 30 crop coefficients were updated for plant nutrient balance calculation needs.



In cooperation with statistical institutions of Poland and Finland, two presentations were given on Modernization of agricultural statistics and Use of administrative data in Latvia, and session "Development of statistical farm registers in EU" was held in Eurostat conference "Modernization of agricultural statistics" (8–9.10.2019.) (Olsztyn, Poland).

To ensure preparation of Agricultural Census 2020, a list of census indicators was elaborated and agreed with interest groups, opportunities of administrative data source information use were assessed, development and communication plan was prepared. Eurostat grant project application "Integrated farm statistics 2020" and Draft information report of the Cabinet of Ministers "On European Commission Eurostat grant project financing and co-financing needed for agricultural census" was elaborated and agreed with Eurostat and the Cabinet of Ministers.

Central Statistical Bureau regularly estimates needs of data users and all administrative data sources available to reduce entrepreneur burden that is caused by filling in statistical reports. To inform society on population surveys, explaining data acquisition from respondents and use of administrative data, the CSB prepared and published infographics "How statistics is generated".

Statistical Dimensions

To ensure various opportunities in providing answers in questionnaires and to promote responsiveness, in 2019 it is possible to fill in the questionnaire "Recreational and business trips of Latvian residents" in the CSB website.

In macroeconomic statistics area activities for qualitative provision of European System of Accounts (ESA 2010) requirements were implemented. Activities of modernization and methodology development are carried out on a regular basis. In August 2019 work on European Union initiative development programme project "Implementation of modified and modernized "Intrastat" system" was completed.

In October 2019 work on European Union initiative development programme project "Intrastat mirror statistics analysis between Latvia and EU countries". Within the framework of the project greatest foreign trade statistics data asymmetries between Latvia and European Union member states will be found, described and analysed. In the result of the analysis reasons of data discrepancies will be established and ways to eliminate them in the future. Contribution of this project will be improvement of data quality in trade statistics data both in Latvia and in the EU.

On 13 November 2019 work on European Union fund project "Foreign trade statistics data processing system" was started. Within the framework of the project it is foreseen to create new foreign trade statistics data processing system "VIESIS" that will consist of interconnected modules. The system mentioned will ensure more effective, high-speed processing, collection, analysis and dissemination opportunities of data needed for provision of foreign trade in goods statistics, including preparation and transmission of microdata on intra-EU export trade in goods. Optimizing statistical data preparation process, in system where it will be possible and useful, automatization of processes and procedures will be included to save time on activities to be carried out on a regular basis.

On 30 December 2019 for the first time data of the fiscal sector data category "General government transactions" was disseminated, accordingly requirements of IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus.

Work on creation of variable audit database of macroeconomics statistics was continued, planning to make it publicly available, which previously was ensured only in some EU member states.

Within the framework of the grant project, use-supply tables at prices of the previous year for 2015 and 2016 are prepared. Taking into account that this is done for the first time in of national accounts in Latvia, also in 2020 work on improvement of national methodology will be continued.

Statistical Dimensions

In 2019, implementing Price collection and index calculation system, procurement of tablet PCs was made. Price registrars, using tablet PC and specially designed software, **will carry out data input in online regime**, but in areas with no Internet connection, – in offline regime. Data arrives in central database and are available for further data processing. Such approach will improve productivity avoiding doubling. Previously prices were registered using “Pen and Paper” principle when data collected had to be entered in programme, where data integrity check might be carried out. At the moment, using new data input software, data input control is carried out as soon as they are entered.

CSB is becoming more client-oriented towards enterprises that have to submit statistical reports. Call centre gives opportunity to faster answer questions topical to respondents and ensure that each of them receives consultation needed already after the first call. Improving service-oriented customer service culture, in 2019 intensive communication with respondents took place on the need of submission of reports, on inclusion of respondents in surveys, on prolonging terms, answers were provided on respondent letters regarding refusal to submit reports. During the last year 8 797 user registration applications of electronic data collection system (e-report) were reviewed and processed, of which 3 514 were processed automatically. In 2019, there were made 22 548 incoming and outgoing calls to consultative telephone, answers to 7 708 e-mails sent with respondent questions were reviewed and provided, as well as 380 connections in online chat were made where quality of communication was assessed with 8.53 points out of 9. In statistical business register changes were made to 10 448 enterprises. To save costs, communication with respondents on submission of reports takes place electronically sending them a letter with reminder. Process of sending letters has been automated using opportunities provided by ISDMS.



A. Žigare, President of the CSB, receives award "Choice of enterprises"

The CSB continues implementing “**Consult at First**” principle for achieving better results and improvement of cooperation with respondents. **The CSB implements flexible client-oriented cooperation, promoting maximum individual approach and fast communication. Cooperation forms with respondents are improving continuously, and it is important to find opportunities to reduce entrepreneur burden, but simultaneously to obtain high quality statistical data. In this process activity of principle “Consult at First” is a significant contribution.**

Assessing work done in implementation of principle “Consult at First” during a year – improvement of service, cooperation, knowledge, work efficiency and system and environment – it must be concluded that customer service in *Anywhere365* system may be considered a success story of the CSB. For more effective communication with respondents online chat was implemented in Client Centre, which is working since the 1st quarter of 2019.

Statistical Dimensions

oriented service” for assessment of “Consult at First” results in 2019. As stated by the Ministry of Economics, #consultatfirst initiator, persons surveyed recognized that CSB is carrying out its work with professionalism, courtesy and responsiveness. The CSB has elaborated and successfully implemented principles for communication between employees and clients and assessment of competence of employees. Also CSB is carrying out customer satisfaction survey to improve their achievement.

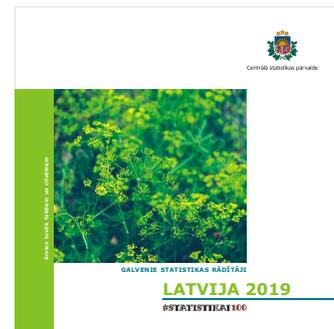
On 29 March, in award ceremony of most responsive institutions to enterprises organized by the Ministry of Economics the CSB received awards in 10 out of six nominations – “Choice of enterprises” and “Leader in provision of information and consulting”. Within the framework of assessment of “Choice of enterprises” out of 22 institutions to be assessed the highest appraisal enterprises surveyed granted to cooperation with Central Statistical Bureau. But nomination “Leader in provision of information and consulting” distinguishes activity of client-oriented institution – excellence in provision of information and consulting.

Coordination of system for provision of official statistics in the country

Function of leading institution in system for provision of official statistics was implemented: Statistical Council is functioning, activities were carried out to assess development of national statistical institutions producing European statistics, conformity to requirements of European statistics Code of Practice. The CSB implements functions of contact point in European official statistics issues, maintains list of national institutions producing European statistics (ONAs) up-to-date.

All works in area of competence of CSB in *Official statistics programme for 2019–2021* were carried out accordingly Work plan. OSP project was prepared for submission to the Cabinet of Ministers, sent to the Ministry of Economics on 14.11.2019. and OSP confirmed by the Cabinet of Ministers on 17.12.2019. (Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No 644 “Official Statistics Programme for 2020–2022”).

In January 2019 another 2 statistical institutions (State limited Liability Company "Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre" and State Plant Protection Service) joined Memorandum of understanding among statistical institutions on cooperation in introduction of Quality Policy in System of Official Statistics. On 20 December 2019 also Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics joined Memorandum which had not signed it, as new director was assigned. Thus, the goal planned is achieved and Memorandum is signed by all 8 statistical institutions providing official European statistics.





FRAMEWORK REGULATION
INTEGRATING
BUSINESS STATISTICS

Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics



New regulation for improvement of business statistics collection processes

Until now European business statistics compilation system was fragmented in separate specific area regulations, which created discrepancies in data collected and did not ensure efficiency of acquiring them.

Therefore, to ensure coherence between European business statistics areas and to relieve integration of statistical processes, a common legal framework was elaborated¹ **that determines new approach and implementation of interconnected integrated processes in ensuring business statistics information** and which includes better quality ESS business registers, common definitions, exchange with identifiable microdata and integrated data structure, as well as prerequisites to streamline processes for preparation of statistics, to ensure better use of existing data sources and reduction of statistical respondent burden, common data quality standards which will allow to link various business statistics making information compiled even more valuable.

To develop **Statistics business register (SBR)**, as main source of information in statistical analysis of business population and business demography, for building link with administrative data sources, as well as to ensure availability of timely and credible information in *EuroGroups* register (main infrastructure for data collection and compilation for European business statistics), **Business Statistics Department involved in activities for elaboration of European statistics business register system (further – ESBRS) organized by Eurostat** – in improvement of processes for European business statistics information processing and dimprovement of data quality, ensuring availability of microdata and exchange between member states, participated in special working group on ESBRS business architecture, as well as voluntarily – in elaboration of methodology, revision of data processing cycle, testing data exchange and preparation of suggestions.

Reduction of respondent burden

Adopting EBS regulation, significant attention is paid to reduction of administrative burden in business, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). To reduce respondent burden for enterprises, there should be an option to determine various data requirements depending on the size of enterprise and meaning in economy of member states. Following these suggestions and continuing work taken up in previous years, in 2019 data on

* Sometimes this regulation is called FRIBS, but more often – EUS regulation. Why? – Name of FRIBS regulation dominated until it was elaborated and adopted. Now in all documents it is abbreviated as EUS regulation (regulation on European business statistics)

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics was adopted, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (further – EBS Regulation)

Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics

positive and negative aspects of use of administrative data (from VAT declarations) in trade and services short-term statistics were compiled and analysed.

With 2019 calculation of construction production index was started according to improved methodology, thus improving both data quality and ensuring conformity with EBS requirements. Thus changes were also carried out in statistical form "Report on construction carried out by enterprises on own account" (1-construction), reducing amount of information requested from enterprises.

In short-term construction statistics elaboration of survey sample criteria were reviewed to reduce burden of small and medium-sized construction enterprises – volume of sample that includes enterprises with the number of employed less than 20 was diminished by 200, but of enterprises with the number of employed less than 5 – assessment of construction volume was obtained from administrative data (VAT data).

But for assessment of industrial output produced and sold, foreign trade data compiled by the CSB are used and reports are not asked to submitted by a part of enterprises exporting at least 90 % of their production. **Thus, in 2019 the number of respondents was reduced by 9 %.**

Globalization

Activities determined by EBS regarding globalization indicators are ensured by Business Statistics Department providing information to *EuroGroups* register on a regular basis and, in cooperation with other departments, involving in update of information on multinational enterprises that are significant in Europe, in maintenance of information on enterprises profiled in Europe, as well as assessing impact of economically important cases.

To elaborate new statistical indicators for evaluation of business globalization, EBS regulation, within the framework of statistics on international activities, includes new area – "global value chains" (GVCs).

In the past period active work was done on revision and assessment of EBS regulation project, providing suggestions on indicators included regarding foreign-controlling enterprises not to increase administrative burden of enterprises.

In cooperation with Statistics Estonia and Statistics Lithuania, agreement on data exchange in data compilation of foreign controlled enterprises area was elaborated and experimental data exchange was carried out.

New indicators

To assess productivity of enterprises, it is necessary to ensure structured business statistics by kinds of sectors. Demand for statistics on services sector is increasing, which is the most dynamic economic sector nowadays, especially, regarding potential of growth and creation of workplaces. To ensure development of statistics area of services sector, already in 2015 grant project "Development of Methodological Basis for the New Index of Service Production" was implemented by introducing **periodicity of services turnover index – a month** (instead of a quarter).

At the end of 2018 work on grant project "Provision of new trade and services statistics indicators and improvement of short-term statistics quality" was started. Within the framework of the project, in January 2019 sending **monthly indices of monthly turnover** of sector "Wholesale, retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles" to *Eurostat* was taken up.

Within the framework of the grant project, methodology was elaborated and calculations were carried out for the new indicator – **wholesale monthly turnover indices at constant prices**. This indicator is being sent to *Eurostat* on a regular basis since September 2019 and is available to data users.

Significant indicator that characterizes services sector is **index of services production**. Work on elaboration and calculation of this index were carried out in cooperation of several structural units of the CSB.

Preparing for the implementation of EBS regulation in **producer price indices area**, additional foreign trade data research and analysis was carried out in relation to import price index. Also, in 2019 data research and experimental calculations of Business services price index of new services sectors needed for requirements of FRIBS regulation were continued.



GETTING READY FOR THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2020

Getting Ready for the Agricultural Census 2020

The first Agricultural Census of Latvia took place exactly 100 years ago – in 1920, together with the first Population and Housing Census.

Agricultural Census 2020 (AC 2020) will be the third one conducted in independent Latvia (previous two were held in 2001 and 2010).

It has been intended to acquire 288 indicators on approximately 75 thousand agricultural holdings, including:

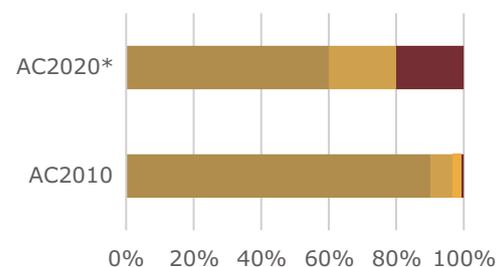
- key agricultural indicators:
 - general holding characteristics,
 - land use,
 - number of livestock,
 - organic farming,
- module data:
 - labour force in agriculture and other gainful activities of holding,
 - rural development,
 - animal housing facilities and manure management techniques.

Information for the AC 2020 will be acquired in two stages: in April–June and September–December. During the first stage, the data will be collected electronically. It has been planned to start electronic data collected on 15 April when farmers are applying for EU direct payments at the Rural Support Service (RSS), at the same time respondents are asked to give information via CSB Electronic Data Collection System (EDC) e.csb.gov.lv. Information on the rest of the holdings will be acquired in the second stage (from 28 September to 22 December) when it has been intended to conduct face-to-face interviews and continue collecting data electronically.

Optimisation of data collection methods means that EDC will help to collect information on 20 % of respondents (19 % more, compared to 2010), telephone interviews on 20 % (13 % more), and face-to-face interviews on 60 % (30 % less).



**Data collection methods
used in Agricultural Census**



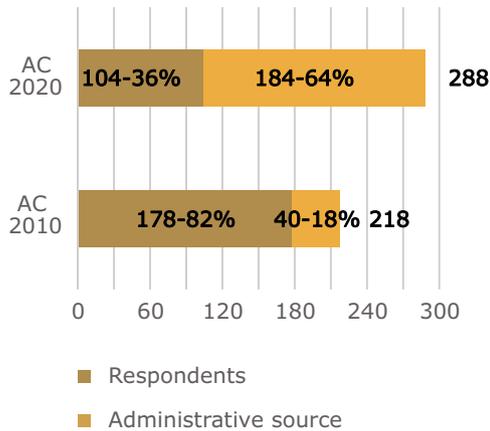
*planned

- Face-to-face interviews
- Telephone interviews
- Mail
- Internet

Getting Ready for the Agricultural Census 2020

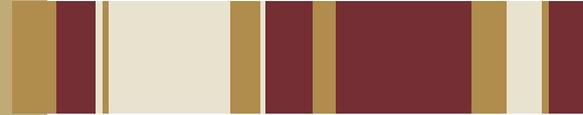
Aiming to reduce response burden it has been planned to acquire 64 % of the information from administrative sources (18 % in 2010). The administrative sources used for the AC 2020 will be:

Number of indicators and share of data source



- EU Direct Payment Database of the RSS Integrated Administration and Control System,
- RSS information on support for rural development,
- Livestock Register of the Agricultural Data Centre (ADC),
- ADC Organic Farming Information System,
- ADC Animal Housing Infrastructure Register.

PREPARATORY ACTIONS
FOR POPULATION AND
HOUSING CENSUS 2021



Preparatory Actions for Population and Housing Census 2021



Logo of
Population and Housing Census
2021

In 2021, already 11th Latvian Population and Housing Census will be conducted, however for the first time no residents will be interviewed, and no interviewers will be recruited (Census 2011 engaged 1 600 interviewers).

The first Population and Housing Census was conducted in Kurzeme in 1863. In cities and towns located in Vidzeme, Census was carried out in 1867, whereas in 1881 it covered whole Kurzeme and Vidzeme. First Population and Housing Census covering all current territory of the country was conducted in 1897. The following Censuses took place in 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989, 2000 and 2011.

On 10 December 2019, Cabinet of Ministers reviewed regulation on Population and Housing Census 2021 that covers list of indicators to be published, level of detail thereof, territorial breakdown and publication schedule of the data, as well as information on types of administrative data to be processed, data volume, and data processing methods. In 2021, Latvian Population and Housing Census for the first time will be conducted based solely on administrative data (registers, databases, information systems and other data sources) thus following the practice of the Northern countries.

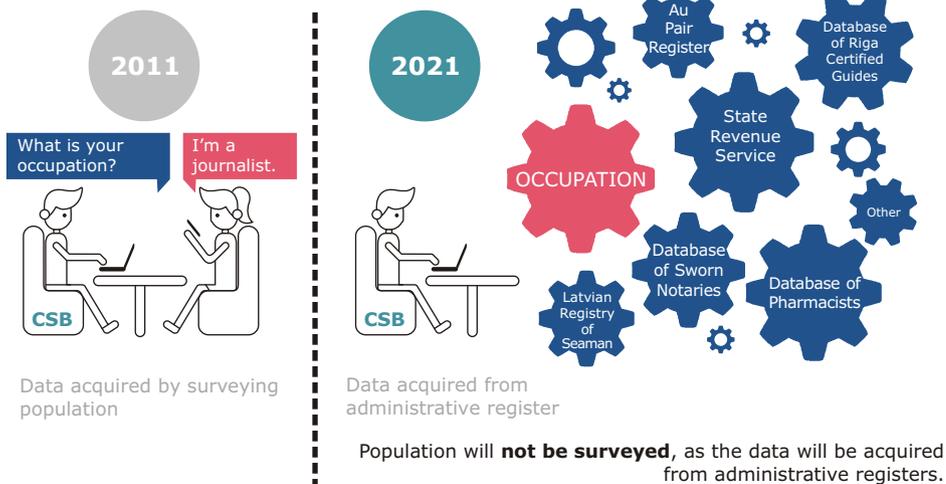
In 2019, an experimental Census database (on situation at the beginning of 2018) was developed, further work still covers evaluation of the quality of administrative data and options to extend the list of data sources. Social Statistics Data Warehouse was supplemented with the demography, family, household, and housing data needed for the Census. The latest data covering population educational attainment, labour status, occupation, employment indicators were also placed in the data warehouses, and all imputations needed in the experimental Census database were done and evaluated. Thus, the data warehouses include all indicator groups necessary for the Population and Housing Census. Based on the mentioned data, we have drawn up experimental Census multidimensional tables meeting EU requirements.

In 2019, we have worked on analysis of administrative data regarding housing indicators of the Census. Nevertheless information on housings is available in State Land Service and Construction Information System, there still are some problems with the update of it, therefore we have contacted largest water and heat supply enterprises in local governments to acquire additional information on amenities available in dwellings. Moreover, local governments are asked to give information about residential houses in their territories that do not meet the status of residential house anymore (e.g., slums).

Some more preparatory actions are needed to get information on inhabitants the occupation whereof is not available in the SRS database. For example, to get data on veterinarians, we need to attract Ministry of Agriculture, Food and

Preparatory Actions for Population and Housing Census 2021

Expected changes



Veterinary Service, as well as Latvian Veterinarian Association.

Benefits of the new Census method:

- **Swift results** – population and indicators characterising population will be published already in the 2nd quarter of 2021 and economic indicators in the 2nd quarter of 2022.
- **Three times cheaper** – use of administrative data will allow to reduce Census 2021 cost down to EUR 2.9 million (of which EUR 2.6 million will be spend by the CSB, EUR 0.2 million by the Ministry of Education and Science (to develop register of university and college students and graduates) and EUR 0.1 million by the Ministry of the Interior (to improve IS software of OCMA Population Register)), while traditional Census where population survey is conducted would need EUR 10 million.
- **More efficient** – the results will also be used in routine sample surveys, thus reducing the burden on respondents.



DEVELOPMENT OF PORTAL OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Development of Portal of Official Statistics

In 2019 one of main development tasks of the CSB was project "Portal of official statistics", aims of which are:

1. To increase efficiency of the use of resources in publishing official statistics.

Involvement of many institutions in provision of official statistics and non-existence of sharing solutions for publishing statistics has caused situation that every institutions has to spend time and resources to ensure publication of statistics and metadata. Creating common publication and visualization solution, resources of statistical institutions will be used more effectively and rationally.

2. To comprehensively inform society and to enhance use of official statistics in taking decisions.

Availability of official statistics will raise awareness of society on national socio-economic processes. Easily accessible and detailed statistics in public administration, regional politics and business will promote use of statistical data in taking decisions.

3. To ensure equal treatment towards all users of official statistics.

When publishing official statistics at the prearranged time, accordingly data publication calendar, equal treatment will be ensured to all users of statistics in a way accessible to society.

4. To enhance correct data interpretation.

When documenting metadata and informing data users on collection of statistics, methodology of calculations, quality indicators, comparability of time-series and inter-comparability of various statistical indicators, international comparability, correct interpretation of the data and meaningful conclusions will be promoted.

5. To ensure users with convenient reuse of official statistics, machine reading option.

6. To enhance conduction of scientific experiments and use of research results.

In open competition SIA "Wunder Latvia" became a developer of the portal, and on 1 March 2019 agreement was concluded on development of portal of official statistics.

Development of Portal of Official Statistics

One of key principles, when developing portal, is to use and improve the already existing systems without developing new ones, therefore, the following components will be used in the project:

- Data base (Sweden statistics),
- Map viewer (Slovenia statistics),
- Content management (Drupal content management system),

The portal will also contain the newly developed functionality

- Development of data management – separated management of structural metadata from data;
- single structural metadata within the framework of the portal, data delivery validation;
- data submission channels (xls, csv, SQL, API);
- work place of the data provider;
- data publication, accordingly calendar;
- data publication on data.gov.lv.

#STATISTICS100



#Statistics100

In the month of centennial anniversary – in September – a book “First centenary of statistical bureau in memories and documents 1919–2019” was published. It gives insight in activities of the Bureau and various statistical areas during the first independence, during Soviet years and nowadays. It compiles memories of employees, fragments of historical publications and findings from archives that characterize statistical work in each period of time.



Book of the CSB
“First centenary of statistical bureau
in memories and documents
1919–2019”

In contrary to daily work of statisticians – complicated terms and methodology, permanent neutrality and impartiality – the book is anti-encyclopedia and is easy-to-read. Special atmosphere is made by quotes from historical publications which characterize past times very well. The source of inspiration and historical pride for statisticians is "Statistical Atlas of Latvia" prepared by M. Skujenieks and issued in 1938, which contains infographics and maps with a special touch as they were made by hand of some artist-draftsman in a drawing room of the CSB. Part of visualisations of the historical data in the book are supplemented with the latest data and were reborn in computer graphics version.

“We are here and now for good things to multiply and bad things - never to repeat. So that we learn from mistakes made in the past. So that we are proud of predecessors' success. So that we have interest to explore and find out more, to understand more deeply,” in the introduction wishes Aija Žigare, President of the CSB.

In digital format the book is available in the CSB website section “Publications”, but historical infographics – in section “#Statistikai100”. In the CSB website and social networks *Facebook* and *Twitter* campaign #Statistikai100 that was started in November 2018 was continued – comparison of various historical data with nowadays. During 11 months 43 visualisations were published, reaching half a million views in social network *Facebook*.

Also video “Statistics Latvia - feeling the pulse of Latvia for the past 100 years” was made, which can be found in website section “About us”

Centenary conference “Into the Future – Statistics in Modern Society”

On 1 September the CSB celebrated its centenary, on the occasion of which conference for data users and data providers “Into the Future – Statistics in Modern Society” took place in VEF Culture Palace. Two sessions – “Around an Individual” and “Untamed Statistics” – engaged data enthusiasts telling their statistical stories.

#Statistics100

The conference was attended also by the President of Latvian Academy of Sciences Ojārs Spārītis, UN Economic Commission for Europe representative Andres Vikat, Rudīte Spakovska journalist at Latvian Television, Head of the Latvian Centre of Cardiology assoc. prof. Andrejs Ērglis, Dean of Turība University Faculty of Business Administration Zane Driņķe, professor from the University of Latvia Signe Bāliņa, machine learning lab lead at "Emergn Latvija" Aldis Ērglis, and software developer at University Medical Centre Groningen Kārlis Zālīte.

"Along with the economic development and globalisation of the economy, classical methods based on the direct data acquisition do not allow collecting data without excessive administrative burden, therefore they have to be changed. Nowadays, statisticians use administrative data, alternative data sources, web scraping, merging of alternative data with survey results, as well as experimental statistics, moreover our future plans will engage also mobile operators and satellite data. CSB has become a dynamic, innovative institution employing professionals willing and able to face these new challenges," said Aija Žigure, President of the CSB.



Statistics Latvia  @CSP_Latvija Sep 1, 2019 

On this day 100 years ago – on 1 Sepbetmer 1919 – Statistical Bureau was founded. This is how we looked like (on the left – in 1937) and how we look like now (on the right – in 2017)

[#Statistikai100](#)



 3

 10

 75





EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS ON DENSILY POPULATED TERRITORTIES

Experimental Statistics on Densely Populated Territories

In September for the first time CSB released statistics for densely populated areas of Latvia which is an alternative to the existing administrative areas and territorial units, i.e., cities and villages.

In 2019, there were 1 319 densely populated areas in Latvia, 131 of which had fewer than 50 usual residents but at least 50 people were working there. Since 2000, the number of such areas has dropped in all statistical regions with the largest reduction in Latgale and Vidzeme (of 25 %) and smallest in Pierīga (2 %). Decline in the number of areas in Latgale and Vidzeme is related to the depopulation, while in Pierīga vice versa – by merging of several areas over the years due to the population increase.

The data and all explanatory information is available in the Latvian Open Data Portal.

Interactive export and import data analysis tool

Which are the main export goods of Latvia? To what countries are they exported? It can be fast and easily found in export and import data tool. All that has to be done is to enter Internet address <https://eksports.csb.gov.lv/en/years/landing> in telephone or computer, and interactive data analysis tool, which shows export and import of goods at different degrees of detail starting with 2005 up to current month, is in front of you. Value added of the tool is convenient search engine of goods and instant data representation in a graph or a chart. Export and import statistics is available for every country of world. Such tool is available to data users since October.

Recognition for high performance in digitalization of public administration

In December in award of e-index winners the CSB received recognition for excellent contribution in digitalization of national services in Latvia and availability in group of national institutions. Performance of the CSB was assessed with 72.5 points out of 100, lagging behind State Land Service, who received the highest assessment, only by 0.7 points. Total index in the group of 195 institutions assessed was 35.7.

“We have invested resources both in provision of data resources and in tools of data analysis eksports.csb.gov.lv, migracija.csb.gov.lv. Thanks to the organizers for recognition!” said Uldis Ainārs, director of the Information and Communication Department.



**dienas
bizness**
Tirdzniecība 2019. gada 25. septembrī
Baltic House, Rīga, Latvija
Tālrunis: 67086642, e-pasts: info@dienasbizness.lv



Centrālā statistikas pārvalde pirmo reizi publicējusi datus par blīvi apdzīvotām teritorijām Latvijā. Tās ir ar administratīvo iedalījumu nesaiņstas, nošķirtas teritorijas - apmetnādas vai darba vietas, kurās viens otram kalpojos dzīvo vai strādā vienz 50 pastāvīgie iedzīvotāji.



U. Ainārs, director of the Information and Communication Department of the CSB, receives recognition for investment in digitalization of public administration

Experimental Statistics on Densely Populated Territories

Conversation festival "Lampa" in Cēsis

What are technological solutions offered in public administration and how digitally advanced is Latvia? Invitation to learn about various digital tools under guidance of usability expert and to try them in action was offered on June 29 in a tent "Digitalization of my country" of conversation festival "Lampa", where CSB participated with several public institutions. The CSB invited visitors to try data visualisation tools on top 100 Latvian names of past 100 years, birth rate in the past 100 years and migration in Latvia since 2000. All day long visitors could try these tools in their smart phones or on tablet that was offered in a stall. Feedback was received from visitors, which is useful in improvement of these tools.



CSB invites visitors to learn about various digital tools in conversation festival "Lampa"

Publicity in media and social networks

In 2019, CSB published 134 news releases and other information on the latest CSB activities. Media have mentioned CSB 8 840 times, more than a year ago (8 060): 76 % of mentions were in Latvian, 21 % in Russian and 3 % in English. Half of mentions was observed in online media (52 %), followed by radio (16 %), news agencies (11 %), national newspapers (10 %), regional newspapers (7 %), television (2 %) and magazines (2 %). Name of Aija Žīgure, President of the CSB, appeared in media 87 times. Also, other CSB employees and public relations managers were quoted. Hottest topics of the CSB news are: demography (17.4 %), wages (12,4 %), inflation (11.0 %), GDP (8,3 %) and employment (7.4 %).

At the end of 2019, @CSP_Latvija account had more than 5 600 followers, @CSB_Latvia account in English had 2 600 followers, *Facebook* account had 1 800 followers.

Information requests

In 2019, CSB replied to 1 000 information requests from individuals, public administration institutions and enterprises, and 23 data users received regular tailor made datasets. CSB also sent answers to 255 media requests/questions. Latvijas Radio (38), Latvijas Televīzija (25), Dienas Bizness(20), Latvijas Avīze (14), TV3 (14), Diena (12), LNT (11) and Delfi (11) were the media requesting statistics or CSB comments the most often.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



International Cooperation

Europe Day

Celebrating 15-years anniversary of participation of Latvia in the European Union, Agnese Dagile, economic adviser of the European Commission Representation in Latvia, visited CSB and gave presentation "Latvia's 15 years in the EU" and together with employees of the CSB looked back at the work done during these years and *future perspectives*. Also Andris Gobiņš, president of the Association "European Movement in Latvia", took part in the event and shared his experience on how it is to be active citizen not only in own country, but also in the EU.

In the conclusion of the event employees of the CSB participated in a competition, where they were invited to refresh their knowledge on the European Union.



A. Žigare, President of the CSB,
opens event "Europe Day"

European Statistical System

As a member of European Statistical System, the CSB participates in regular activities on issues related to elaboration of methodology in various statistics areas. In addition to that, CSB experts have contributed to 29 special working groups on social, transport, energy, macroeconomics, information society, as well as architecture of the European Statistical Business Register, ICT and statistics quality issues.

At management level president of the CSB represents Latvia at European Statistical System Committee, which gives professional guidance in elaboration, preparation and dissemination of European statistics. In 2019, Latvia was represented by the CSB president Aija Žigare also in Partnership group, aim of which is to support development of ESS at the highest level, mainly providing effective functionality of European Statistical System Committee. Latvia acted in it as one of member states elected, taking into account professional experience and contribution of the CSB president, which she can provide in development of European Statistical System.

Within the framework of EU decision-taking procedure, experts of the CSB defended interests of Latvia regarding issues to be reviewed in Council Working Party on Statistics. In 2019, two significant EU legislative acts were adopted – framework regulation in social and business statistics. Aim of the framework regulation is to bring together all regulations of certain statistics areas, as well as to enhance harmonization and comparability of European statistics.

International organizations

CSB president Aija Žigare represents Latvia in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on topical issues of elaboration and



Andris Gobiņš,
president of the Association
"European Movement in Latvia",
shares his experience

International Cooperation

improvement of statistical methodology, sharing her experience and best practice with experts of OECD member states in elaboration and use of new, innovative statistical methods.

Central Statistical Bureau represents Latvia also in UN Statistical Commission and European Statistical Conference of Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). In 2019, during Conference of European Statisticians on 26–28 June in Paris (France), A. Žigūre, in response to a request of Bureau of a Conference of European Statisticians, and as a most experienced head of statistical institution in the region, was engaged in establishment of bureau of a conference. Within the framework of election of bureau, A. Žigūre addressed all heads of UNECE member state institutions to find out their point of view on the suggested composition of bureau of a conference. This duty of honour is international recognition for contribution of A. Žigūre and Central Statistical Bureau in development of statistics.

Cooperation in the Baltic region

In 2019, within the framework of trilateral cooperation, colleagues from the Baltic countries shared their experience on work in social statistics, foreign trade and business statistics area.

On 8–10 April Annual Baltic Steering Committee meeting took place. On a basis of a rotating system, this year the meeting was organized in Latvia.

Traditionally during the meeting cooperation of the previous planning period was assessed, directions of cooperation were determined for the next planning period, opinions on main issues of the development of European Statistical System (ESS) were agreed, as well as, if required, united position of statistical institutions of three countries was established regarding challenges in discussions at Statistical office of the EU (*Eurostat*) and working groups. Also, National Statistical Institutes shared their experience and told about implementation of new projects in each institution. CSB presented improvements of processes for data collections in reduction of respondent burden and provision of client support. Statistics Estonia presented work of institution in connectivity with state decision to make statistical institution as a united data centre. Statistics Lithuania presented Population Census system and its functionality in preparation for the next Population Census.

In total, there were 6 Baltic Steering Committee Meetings during the reference period.

Experience exchange

The CSB appreciates meaning of international cooperation and contribution its



A. Žigūre, President of the CSB, addresses UN Statistical Commission in New-York



Members of the Annual Baltic Steering Committee Meeting

International Cooperation

experts can give to National Statistical Institutes that at the moment are only on their way to adjustment of statistics preparation processes to international requirements.



Kosovo Agency of Statistics
delegation visits CSB

On 17–23 February, in Yerevan (Armenia), Dita Zemīte, senior officer of Transport and Tourism Statistics Section, as international tourism statistics expert, participated in World Bank project on development of national strategy for national statistics in Armenia. Within the framework of the project, CSB expert presented tourism statistics of Latvia, international tourism methodology, assessed tourism statistics reports of Armenia and elaborated methodological suggestions for development of tourism statistics and report on readiness to calculate tourism satellite accounts.

On 27–28 March, 2019 study visit of statistics experts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia took place in Riga on preparation of business short-term statistics within the framework of Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). Aim of the study visit was to share knowledge and best practice in production of business short-term statistics, which is related to use of Integrated Statistical Data Management System (ISDMS) and Statistical business register.

On 26.-27.06. in Tbilisi (Georgia) Baiba Zukula, deputy director of Social Statistics Department, participated in working group meeting of statistics representatives from Eastern Partnership countries (Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova) organized by *Eurostat* on Population Census, where presentation was given on main challenges in transition from traditional to register-based Population Census in 2021.

On 8–9 July, 2019 CSB experts from Price Statistics participated in experience exchange visit in Statistics Belgium on issues related to purchasing power parities programme. During the meeting representatives of both countries compared work methods in organisation of surveys and exchanged their experience. Each country had prepared presentation on structure of the institution and work organisation. It was useful to learn about experience of Belgium in the use of scanner data for price statistics needs.

On 10–12 December in Riga the CSB hosted Kosovo Agency of Statistics delegation with its CEO Mr. Isa Krasniqi to share CSB experience on coordination of national statistical system, elaboration of basis for statistical legislation, provision of quality requirements in official statistics, as well as elaboration and development of ICT infrastructure.

Other activities

On 06.-07.06. Lisbon (Portugal) Kaspars Misāns, vice president of the CSB, participated in *Eurostat* working group meeting for implementation of Vision

International Cooperation

2020, aim of which was to discuss pace of implementation of Vision 2020 of European Statistics System and to identify problems in their implementation in member states. During the meeting the following subjects were discussed: communication with data users, role of statistical institutions in the use of new data sources (big data, administrative data sources), particular attention paying to assessment of quality, improvement of cooperation among participants of European Statistical System, development of strategies of National Statistical Institutes and improvement of cooperation with academic sector, as well as cooperation at international level to balance national and international strategy aims.

Baiba Zukula, deputy director of Social Statistics Department, participated in 62nd World Statistics Congresses organized by the International Statistical Institute that was organized with an aim to support and enhance understanding about statistics, its development and good practice all around the world. Experts from various countries and international organizations, representatives of international institutions participated in the congress, who ensured opportunity to exchange with new ideas. Within the framework of the congress, cooperation of National Statistical Institutes and banks was promoted, which is basis for preparation of qualitative, detailed national statistical data.

On 15 May 2019, in ESS workshop of heads of National Statistical Institutes on sharing economy discussed political dimensions in the increasing sharing economy. Being aware of the importance of the fact and potential impact, during the high-level workshop it was agreed on the next ESS steps for further provision of comparability of statistics, starting with determination of internationally comparable definition to coordinated cooperation with services platforms.



MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

Management of Resources

Employee of the CSB is motivated, result-oriented, endowed with competencies needed and appropriate skills and knowledges, able to introduce new solutions.

On 31 December 2019 there were 509 positions in the CSB, of which 258 were positions of general state civil service officials and 251 – position of employees. In 2019, the average number of persons actually employed in Riga structural unit of the CSB comprised 433 persons, but in regional units (in Kuldīga, Valmiera and Preiļi) – 49 persons.

Carrying out several structural reforms, accordingly Cabinet order No. 701 of 24 November 2017 “On the 2020 Strategy of the Public Administration Reform”, the total number of posts in 2019 was reduced by 16 posts.

The CSB pays special attention to enhancement of professional development of employees to the fullest extent possible ensuring both horizontal and vertical career growth, for example, by transferring to another post, involving in implementation of grant project, etc.

The core value of the CSB is highly-educated and professional personnel– 77 % of employees are with higher education.

In general long-term employment is characteristic to the CSB personnel, which suggests about loyalty of officials and employees to the CSB as a place of work – average service increment of employees in the CSB is 15 years.

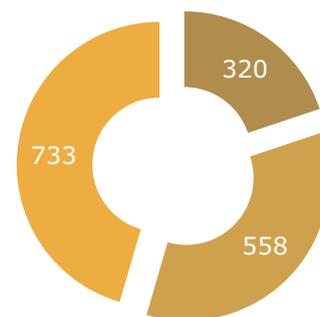
In 2019, there was selection announced on 87 job posts (71 – on posts of officials and 16 – on posts of workers). In the result of selection, 31 applicant was chosen for work in official and worker posts.

Last year 31 employee started job in the CSB. In performance appraisal at the end of probation period 39 % of new employees received assessment “very well”, 61 % – “well”.

To accelerate integration of new employees into the collective, united integration process of new employees has been implemented, within the framework of which guidelines for heads of structural units, introduction programme for new employees (of which “Guide of new employees”) have been elaborated, also workshops are organized for new employees on the activity, strategy and values of CSB, personnel-related issues, current issues in protection of personal data.

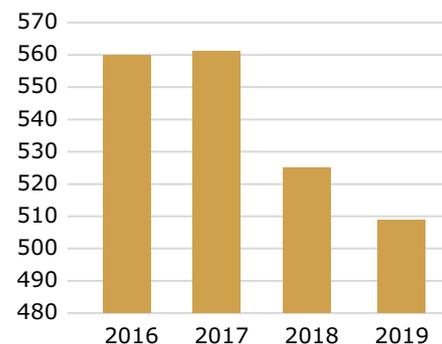
In 2019, 52 employees terminated work in the CSB, which, compared to 2018, is slightly less, however, due to non-competitive remuneration in public administration, it is still difficult to keep and attract high-level professionals for work in the CSB.

Total number of participants in training provided by the CSB in 2019



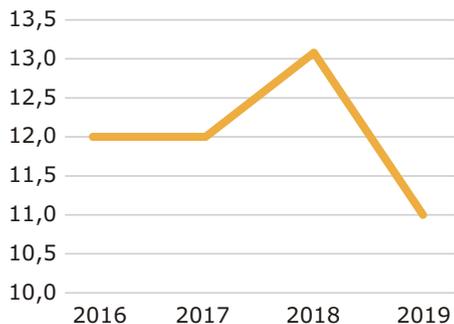
- In-house training
- External training
- E-learning

Dynamics in number of posts planned in the CSB in 2016–2019



Management of Resources

**Dynamics in personnel turnover
in the CSB in 2016–2019
(as %)**



The CSB assesses and determines need for studies, taking into account strategic direction of the institution, functions of structural units and other criteria which justify need for studies for more effective performance of job duties, when approving study plan for the current year. In organization of study process, the CSB continues searching for better solutions in enhancing professional development and competitiveness of employees using balanced combination of theory and practice and various approaches (workshops, group discussions, lectures and exercises), as well as ensuring groups of employees with options of adapted studies and individual studies.

Within the framework of European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP), employees of the CSB had 17 suitable training courses abroad. In Riga ESTP course "ESA 2010 National Accounts" was organized, ere 24 employees of the CSB participated.

In 2019, the CSB restarted organization of informative seminars, where participants of ESTP courses present knowledges gained in courses and latest trends in statistics area to other employees of the CSB.

During a year the CSB purchased hardware, licences, support services to ensure employees of the CSB with respective ICT infrastructure, thus enhancing implementation of CSB work plan.

CSB appraises employees who show their activity and come up with new ideas and suggest improvements on how to enhance work process, or demonstrate extensive knowledge and analytical approach in solving various issues, take responsibility and think beyond their direct official duties. We are proud of our colleagues!



In 2019 certificate of recognition of the Ministry of Economics was presented to Dace Tomase, Dita Zemīte, Ilona Millere and Ilona Kallione.

Certificate of gratitude of the Ministry of Economics was received by Ance Ceriņa and Zane Matveja.

Ceremony of recognition and gratitude certificate award of the Ministry of Economics

Management of Resources

Certificate of recognition of the CSB was handed to Inguna Magone, Vida Lukaševiča and Vizbulīte Karzubova.

Certificate of gratitude of the CSB was received by: Sigita Šulca, Silvija Eisaka, Irina Butorina, Maija Graudiņa, Ieva Stangaine-Ozoliņa, Lilita Laganovska, Inta Vanovska, Mārīte Baranova, Pēteris Nalivaiko, Vija Vizule, Ilga Puisāne, Dana Zariņa, Guna Graudiņa, Inese Jēkabsons, Anna Komara, Anna Stegura, Ilze Ķerus, Inese Balode, Ēlvijs Siliņš, Ieva Pauļuka and Linards Ozoliņš.

Ceremony of recognition and gratitude certificate award of the CSB employees



Personnel

Budget of Central Statistical Bureau in 2019

(euro)

1. Total revenues	11 341 704
1.1. Subsidy from general revenue, total	10 964 001
of which:	
programme "Provision of Statistical Information"	9 816 561
programme " Implementation of European Community initiative projects and activities"	914 251
programme "Implementation of European Regional Development Fund projects and activities"	233 189
1.2. Revenue from chargeable services and other own revenue	331 208
1.3. Trānsfers, total	46 495
of which :	
programme "Implementation of Other Projects and Activities of European Union Instruments"	307
programme "Eiropas Sociālais Fonda (ESF) projekti (2014–2020)"	46 188
2. Total expenditure	11 389 061
2.1. Current expenditure	10 571 627
of which:	
wages and salaries	6 871 420
compulsory social security contributions	2 206 489
business trip expenses	171 215
payments for services, purchase of materials	1 322 503
2.2. Subsidies and dotations	79 766
2.3. Maintenance costs of transfers	35 271
2.4. Capital expenditure	702 397
of which:	
intangible assets	510 665
hardware, communication, and other office equipment	186 112
other fixed assets not classified above	5 620
3. Financial balance	-47 357
3.1. Money	47 357

KEY PRIORITIES IN 2020





Key Priorities in 2020

In 2020, the main activities of the CSB will be oriented towards production of official statistics and coordination of the national official statistics system by providing data users with independent high-quality official statistics.

Priorities:

- production of official statistics in line with the Official Statistics Programme 2020–2022 within the framework of the CSB competence;
- comprehensive research of data user needs and accordingly-oriented production and dissemination of statistics, active informative support for analysts of societal processes and promotion of partnerships within the research sector;
- coordination of the official statistics production system development processes provided for in the Statistics Law and production, collection, processing and dissemination of European statistics;
- improvement of cooperation with respondents within the principle “Consult at First” and wider use of administrative data, thus reducing response burden;
- serving data producer and user interests when developing portal of official statistics;
- introduction of equipment meeting the needs of the specific infrastructure and complying with the national and ESS information protection requirements and thus ensuring continuity of the CSB activities and actions;
- successful implementation of the Agricultural Census activities;
- successful implementation of the measures needed to get ready for the Population and Housing Census 2021;
- implementation of statistical data acquisition, processing, analysis, and dissemination development projects, drawing up of final reports on the projects implemented;
- continuous work of the CSB modernization within the project “Foreign Trade Statistics Data Processing System”.

CENTRAL STATISTICAL BUREAU OF LATVIA

Report developed by:

Ilze Ločmele

Information for the report was provided by:

Anita Raubena, Armands Plāte, Baiba Alksnīte, Baiba Zukula, Guna Graudiņa, Gundega Kuzmina, Ieva Začeste, Ieva Zemeskalna, Ilze Skujeniece, Intars Abražuns, Janina Dišereite, Jolanta Minkevica, Kaspars Vasaraudzis, Laura Vīna – Balode, Maranda Behmane, Pāvels Onufrijevs, Ramona Skakunova, Uldis Ainārs

Design, typesetting:

Maija Graudiņa

Photographs by:

Kaspars Vasaraudzis, Liene Strole, the Ministry of Economics

www.csb.gov.lv
Lāčplēša iela 1, Rīga, LV-1301
Phone +371 67366850
e-mail csb@csb.gov.lv

