

Annual report 2010



Introductory words

With an aim to inform cooperation partners in Latvia and abroad, as well as each member of the society interested in events taking place in the area of statistics, the Central Statistical Bureau (henceforth – the CSB) has developed annual report on activities and contributions made in 2010.

In 2010 the CSB has accomplished all the tasks set within the National Programme of Statistical Information and endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

The most significant activities of the reference year were Agricultural Census and Survey on Agricultural Production Methods, as well as preparations for the Population and Housing Census 2011, including the Pilot Census. To implement these two activities the CSB developed and introduced modern solutions, of which online questionnaire and computer-assisted interviewing should be emphasised. These solutions not only simplify the data collection and production, but also increase the response rate and population participation in Latvian largest surveys. It is important to the Latvian society as a whole, because the results will allow evaluating changes taking place in agricultural and social fields in Latvia.

As information provided by the respondents is the cornerstone for ensuring data of trusted quality, attention has been paid to the reduction of respondent burden, making the data submission easier and saving the time of respondents. For this purpose the e-Survey was improved, and as a result at the end of 2010 this system contained already more than 70% of the total number of surveys to be submitted. The CSB feels delighted that also respondents support the e-Survey – on average 80% of respondents submit their reports using the system. Certain part of the respondents is released from the data submission, as the CSB spares no effort to use data available in the administrative registers increasingly more often, carrying out additional calculations and adapting the administrative records to the quality requirements for statistical data. Nevertheless, this still is a field of activities to be further improved for timely data collection and reduction of respondent burden.

To ensure availability of relevant statistical data, the CSB public database is updated on daily basis – so that the latest information is available to everybody interested in statistics.

Emphasis is laid on the significance of data quality and dissemination; however optimisation of our work, allowing the CSB to improve its future activities, is of no less importance. Development of methodology and statistical production, use of information technologies and widening of our expert and staff professional experience in various foreign and local cooperation activities and training, serve as a foundation for steady growth. Our experts are engaged in the development of European and national legislation regarding statistics, as well as within the framework of cooperation projects share their experience in international conferences receiving very positive feedback for their work.

On the 20th of October the CSB for the first time celebrated World Statistics Day, which hopefully will become an annual event for statistics to acknowledge our accomplishments.

To conclude, I would like to express my gratitude to our respondents for the good cooperation, and to specialists and partners of various fields working together with us, as well as to the CSB staff for being devoted to both – everyday work and intensive development projects and activities.



President of
the Central Statistical Bureau
Aija Žigūre



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Abbreviations



Classification of events



January

- With an aim to acquire information on changes in the welfare of households affected by the economic crisis, in cooperation with the World Bank experts the CSB launches new household survey

February

- On February 22-26 in USA, New York the management of the CSB takes part in a 41st meeting of UN Statistical Commission
- On February 23-26 in Riga the CSB experts in cooperation with the representatives from Eurostat Gross Domestic Product Control Mission improve the methodology used in the calculation of Gross Domestic Product
- On February 25-28 European Statistical Data Support Centre takes part in international education exhibition "Grāmata 2010" in Riga, Ķīpsala

March

- On March 2-5 in EU countries "e-Skills Week" takes place, the CSB as one of the national partners of the project takes part in the opening event on March 2 with a motto "Statistics may be exciting and useful!"

April

- The CSB experts open a round table discussion between data users – LIAA and other state institutions, experts and commercial banks – on foreign trade statistics issues
- The CSB launches Agricultural Census 2010 and Survey on Agricultural Production Methods

May

- On May 3 in solemn ceremony taking place in Riga Castle the president of the Republic of Latvia Valdis Zatlers awards the president of the CSB Aija Žigure with the Cross of Recognition
- On May 9 within the framework of Europe Week the European Statistical Data Support Centre takes part in the main event of the Europe Week – "EU Garden Party" – and introduce EU and EU Member State statistics to visitors in Vērmanes dārzs
- On May 25-27 with an aim to discuss issues related with the methodology and analyse reasons for discrepancies in foreign trade statistics data the experts from the CSB and Russian statistics meet in Riga
- On May 27-28 the Baltic Steering Committee meeting on cooperation planning and organisation issues takes place in Riga

June

- On June 1 the updated Classification of Occupations comes into force. Within the inter-institutional working group formed by the Ministry of Welfare active part was taken by the CSB experts, who were engaged in working out of national version of the classification and development of correspondence table between the previous classification and the new version
- On June 8-10 in France, Paris the 58th session of the Conference of European Statistician takes place, Statistics Latvia is represented by Aija Žigure, the President of the CSB

July

- On July 12-16 within the framework of the CSB project "Strengthening Institutional Capacity of Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) and Development of Legal Basis for Statistics in Egypt" the representatives from the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics of Egypt arrive at Riga on a training visit

Aija Žigure receiving Cross of Recognition in Riga Castle on May 3



The president of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia **Aija Žigure** was appointed an **Officer of the Cross of Recognition** for the merits in development of Central Statistical Bureau, and notable individual contribution to the improvement of statistical standards and methodology, thus promoting inclusion of Latvian statistical system in the European Statistical System

Aija Žigure: "...I perceive it as an appreciation for statistics and express my gratitude to all colleagues, who have worked, are working and will work here. [...] it is great appreciation for Central Statistical Bureau and our work."

9. May – 60th anniversary of the idea of a United Europe



During Europe Day event at the CSB representatives of the EU Parliament Information Office presented EU decision-making process and strategy statements

20.10.2010 World Statistics Day



Service • Professionalism • Integrity

To raise awareness of the many achievements of official statistics

*on October 20
for the first time*

the World Statistics Day
was celebrated

CSB published a press release
on average Latvian family and in
cooperation with the
representatives of the Latvian
Association of Statisticians
organised a panel discussion on
priorities and tasks of Statistics
Latvia

Average Latvian family

3 persons -
husband, aged 36,
wife, aged 33,
son, aged 9

owns dwelling with two rooms
and total floor space 61m²

during a year the average family
consumes
265 kg of potatoes
590 eggs,
120 l of milk,
93 kg of fresh meat,
12 kg of sweets

husband is
in paid employment
for 42 h per week
wife – for 33 h

20h per week son spends in
school

August

- On August 11-13 the 27th conference “Creating a Knowledge Base for Successful Cities and Regions, Along the Statistical Value Chain” of the International Statistics Institute (ISI) International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) Standing Committee of Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS) took place in Jūrmala

September

- On September 2-3 in Riga during a dialogue visit Eurostat and the CSB experts review the fulfilment of EU regulation requirements for collection, compilation and dissemination of foreign trade statistics data
- The CSB experts organise discussion with data users - experts from commercial banks, Bank of Latvia and other state institutions - on GDP calculation and publication issues
- On September 20 the CSB launches pilot Population and Housing Census
- On September 27-30 the CSB experts take part in the 22nd meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers — International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames organised by the Estonia Statistics in Estonia, Tallinn
- On September 29-30 Aija Žigūre, the president of the CSB, presents report “Statistics – Essential Tool for Multidimensional Analysis in Measurements of Social Processes during Crisis” in annual conference of Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes in Bulgaria, Sofia

October

- On October 1 in Riga the CSB representative Dace Tomase takes part in international conference on shadow economy organised by the Ministry of Finance and presents report “Calculation Methods and Assessment of Shadow Economy in Latvia”
- On October 4-8 within the framework of international project “Strengthening Institutional Capacity of Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) and Development of Legal Basis for Statistics in Egypt” the representatives from the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics of Egypt come to Riga for a training visit
- On October 5-8 the representatives of the National Statistics Office of Georgia come to Riga for experience exchange visit to find out about the CSB work on social and price statistics and achievements of the CSB in management of human resources and finances
- On October 20 Statistics Latvia together with the statistical institutions of all EU Member States and approximately 70 UNO Member States for the first time celebrates World Statistics Day

November

- On November 11-12 the management of the CSB takes part in 12th meeting of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics Governing Board in Canada, Montreal

December

- On December 2-3 Eurostat/Statistics Belgium conference SIMPLY 2010 (Administrative Simplification in Official Statistics) takes place in Belgium, Ghent, where Aija Žigūre, the president of the CSB, participates and gives a speech “Ways of Statistical Data Collection - the Key Element for Flexible Cooperation with Data Users”
- On December 7 the CSB releases provisional key indicators of Agricultural Census



Vision, Mission, Values and activities





*Building of the Central Statistical
Bureau in Riga*



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. The CSB data collection, processing and dissemination principles are appropriately documented, publicly available and correspond entirely to international examples of best practice.

In the process of data compilation the CSB applies data collection tools, alternative data sources, data processing methods and mathematical models, which in the development of reports enable the reduction of respondent burden.

User friendly methods are applied in dissemination of statistical data – internet has become the primary dissemination channel. Statistical information is supplemented with the quality reports.

The CSB experts defend national position and interests regarding statistics on international scale. Personnel training policy ensures rapid acquisition of new skills as well as improvement of current competences.

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 field.

VALUES

The core value of the CSB is highly-educated, professional, quality and goal oriented personnel.

ACTIVITIES

Social statistics

social development of the country and its administrative territories, population demography, employment and wages, material welfare and living conditions, health, education and science issues

Price statistics

consumer and producer price indices, as well as information for International Comparison Program

Business statistics

business activities in Latvia, finance and structural indicators of enterprises, production, real estate and information technologies, trade, industry, transport, tourism, communications and services.

Macroeconomics statistics

Gross Domestic Product, System of National Accounts, government finances, government budget deficit and debt, foreign trade of Latvia.

Agricultural and Environmental statistics

agricultural production and farm structure, fishery, forestry, environment and energy resources.



Statistical dimensions



CSB Homepage
www.csb.gov.lv

Daily work in 2010

7-digit codes of administrative territories and territorial units are introduced in Statistical Business Register to collect enterprise data at the most detailed administrative division level.

In 2010 EU legislation expanded by 32 new documents regarding macroeconomics, social, transport and business statistics. Production of statistics was governed by 309 laws.

The position of Latvia regarding the Proposal for Council Regulation on quality of statistical data in the context of excessive budget deficit procedure has been developed.

State budget deficit and debt notification has been worked out.

In the field of consumer price indices the experimental calculations to reflect seasonal prices have been made.

Enterprise financial indicators on 2009 have been calculated based on data submitted to the State Revenue Service.

Production of statistics

The CSB implements national statistical policy **regarding official statistics organisation, production, analysis and dissemination**. In 2010 national statistical policy was implemented in accordance with the National Programme of Statistical Information for 2010 and Work Plan 2010. The CSB ensured inclusion of national statistical information in European statistics and support for European statistical data users in Latvia.

The framework document governing the official statistics is the Official Statistics Law of the Republic of Latvia and Regulation on European Statistics No 223/2009, as well as other national and EU legislation on statistics – in total – 309.

The CSB commitment and hard work ensured the achievement of primary aims in accordance with the CSB policy and performance indicators. These activities were covered by the state budget programmes *“Provision of statistical information”* (24.00.00) and *“Implementation of European Community initiative projects and activities”* (67.00.00).

Main tasks in 2010:

- preparations for the Population and Housing Census 2010;
- the Agricultural Census and the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods
- reduction of respondent burden – optimisation of data collection and processing by technological solutions and improved of surveys;
- improvement of data quality and use of administrative data in production of statistical data.

A course of actions beginning with production and ending with dissemination of statistical data is the base for the achievement of goals and accomplishment of tasks, which determines the CSB daily work: collection of information for production of statistical data, data processing and analysis, dissemination of information to data users as well as improvement of data quality, methodology and indicators.

Statistical production begins with metadata description, sample formation and preparation of data input software. Data collection includes use of surveys and other methods to acquire necessary information – interviewers' service, price collectors, telephone interviews, administrative data, electronic system of data submission – as well as work carried out by data collection and processing centre specialists – support to more than 33 thousand respondents, data input and elimination of primary errors. Data processing includes activities like data compilation, storage, processing and analysis, calculation of indicators and verification. The next step in statistical process is dissemination which includes the provision of statistical information to data users in various formats and processing of user requests. Methodology work includes improvement of methods and standards used in statistical production and dissemination as well as drafting of quality reports.

Statistical data are significant source of information for strategic planning of national economy, development of economic, social and environmental policy, regional and infrastructure planning, scientific research, as well as for informing society on phenomena and processes ongoing in Latvia. Statistical information covers all – economic, demographic, social and environmental – fields.

Statistical data and information on the CSB activities is available on the CSB Homepage and statistical database, publications and reports, at the CSB Information Centre, press conferences and in press releases, mass media and informative events organised by the CSB.

For planning and performance evaluation purposes, the CSB makes Work plans at various levels of detail, setting deadlines and delegating the responsible persons for tasks to be accomplished, evaluating the implementation of planned activities as well as updating these plans in accordance with the operational aims.

In order to organise the official statistics production, the annual National Programme of Statistical Information lays down the following main tasks to be implemented in 2011:

- **organisation of surveys (in addition to running surveys):** the Population and Housing Census 2011; Wages and Salaries Structure Survey; Innovation Survey; Farm Survey on crop and livestock production;
- **data processing:** processing and analysis of the Agricultural Census 2010 and the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods data; determination of farm specialisation and economic size, integration of administrative data sources into Agricultural Census data base, development and dissemination of summary indicators,; maintenance and update of the Statistical Farm Register.
- **calculation of indicators:** structural and short-term indicators on industry, construction, trade and services; indicators of foreign affiliated enterprises in Latvia; annual and quarterly non-financial investment; production and sales of industrial goods at PRODCOM 10-digit level.
- **application of new legislation:** fulfilment of new laws in the field of foreign trade statistics; recalculation and publication of time series, in order to meet the requirements of the EU regulation on introduction of the NACE Rev. 2 classification in national accounts data; continuous monitoring and management of statistical product and process quality;
- **development:** introduction of quality management system in accordance with LVS EN ISO 9001:2001; providing support to international statistical system, development of new statistical indicators and introduction of new EU initiatives; implementation of grant scheme and cooperation projects; development of CSB strategy for 2011 – 2014.

Daily work in 2010

Introduction of centralised *Intrastat* report collection, thus the DCPC function was taken over by the Foreign Trade Statistics Data Collection and Processing Section

Survey on Rural Tourism 2010 was conducted using telephone interviews in new software environment ISDMS CASIS

In tourism statistics a Survey on Recreational and Business Trips in Latvia and Traveller Survey on Resident Trips to Foreign Countries and Foreign Tourist Trips to Latvia were conducted

Within the framework of the Labour Force Survey 24.1 thousand households were surveyed and 38.6 thousand individuals were interviewed, but in the Household Budget Survey data were acquired from 4500 households

Specialists of the business statistics have acquired data from 12114 companies

During a year interviewers have surveyed 77.6 thousand residents of Latvia and 41.8 thousand households.

The frequency of the Farm Survey has been diminished from semi-annual to annual.

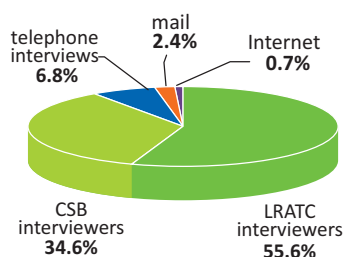
*The Agricultural Census 2010 is the **second one** conducted after restoration of the independence of the Republic of Latvia (the first in 2001) and*

*the **eight one** considering agricultural censuses conducted in Republic of Latvia (1920, 1923, 1929, 1935, 1937, 1939).*



In February the **Baltic-Nordic Country meeting** on agricultural statistics in Tallinn was devoted to **experience exchange** regarding the development and planning of Agricultural Census 2010 progress.

Number of surveyed farms by data collection methods applied



Agricultural Census

In 2010 Latvia and all other EU Member States, in accordance with the requirements of the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 carried out Agricultural Census and Survey on Agricultural Production Methods.

The Agricultural Census provides comprehensive information on situation in Latvia agriculture. This information will be used for analysis of situation and decision making within Latvia, as well as for further planning and implementation of EU Common Agricultural Policy.

The Agricultural Census provides data on:

- land use;
- number of livestock;
- systems of organic farming;
- agricultural buildings and technical facilities of farms;
- employed in agriculture;
- economic activities of farms;
- methods of soil treatment;
- soil fertility preservation activities;
- animal housing and manure storage facilities;
- irrigation methods used in farms.

It was planned that in the Agricultural Census information will be acquired from 90 thousand farms, of which 20 thousand were included in Survey on Agricultural Production Methods. The farms were selected by their economic size and specialisation. Information was obtained on 88.8 thousand or on 97% of farms, but data on 2.9 thousand or 3% of farms was not acquired, because respondents were not met or refused to answer.

In data collection of the Agricultural Census new methods were applied: to survey the respondents computer assisted interviewing and telephone interviews were used, moreover, respondents had an opportunity to fill in questionnaires on the Internet with the help of new CASIS CAWI system.

Census took place in several stages:

- in April and May CSB interviewers surveyed representatives of the farms, who applied for the EU Single Area Payment Scheme in Regional Agricultural Boards of the Rural Support Service (RSS);
- in July and August the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre interviewers conducted interviews in farms;
- from the middle of July till the end of the August it was possible to submit Agricultural Census information online;
- from July till the end of October small farms were surveyed by telephone.

Analysis and processing of the Agricultural Census data will be continued in 2011 – data will be compared with the RSS Integrated Administration and Control System indicators and information on number of livestock in the census database will be imputed from Animal Register of the Agricultural Data Centre.

On December 7, 2010 the CSB published a press release “On provisional results of Agricultural Census 2010”. More detailed provisional results will be published in May 2011 on the CSB Homepage, but final results will be available at the end of 2011.

Preparatory work for Population and Housing Census 2011

Population and Housing Census 2011 will be the first one after EU accession, thus it will be an important event providing precise information not only on the number of Latvian residents, but also on social processes after Latvia has become an EU Member State. Already in 2007, when preparation for the Population and Housing Census was started, the rapid technological changes and formation of new administrative registers were taken into account, as well as new principles and experience of other countries in provision of statistical data.

To carry out Population and Housing Census, the CSB developed and introduced **modern solutions**, of which ISDMS CASIS providing online questionnaires and computer assisted personal interviews should be emphasised. This system allows improving data acquisition and compilation of results, ensuring higher quality of input data and reducing time necessary for data entry and processing. Also automatic system for determination of census areas has been developed. In this system cartographic background has been merged with the information from Population Register, information system of the State Cadastre Register of Real Estate and State Address Register.

The Pilot Population and Housing Census was organised in two stages at the end of 2010 to verify the methodology, methods and technological solutions of the Census. The Pilot Population and Housing Census was organised in six enumeration areas – in three cities Riga, Kuldīga, Mazsalaca, as well as in counties of Preiļi, Riebiņi and Saulkrasti. During the first stage – from September 20 till 26 – residents could fill in questionnaires of the Population and Housing Census on the Internet. 7.4% of the residents living in Pilot Census enumeration areas and more than 1800 other persons completed Pilot Census online. But during the 2nd stage – from October 1 to 31 – residents of the enumeration areas, who did not complete online questionnaire, were visited by the interviewers at their place of residence. During the Pilot Population and Housing Census information on 1519 persons and 1177 dwellings was acquired. Wording of survey questions and answers as well as technological solutions were tested and deemed suitable. Main problems were related to incorrect or nonexistent addresses.

A decision **outsource** field work (computer assisted personal interviews at the permanent place of residence) of the Population and Housing Census, by announcing open tender for public opinion and market research companies in 2010, was a significant novelty inline with the government initiative to engage private sector in public services.

It is significant to count all residents of Latvia, therefore, with an aim to increase response rate and participation in the Population and Housing Census, at the end of 2010 a special **advertising campaign** was launched. The importance of advertising is emphasised in the recommendations for the Population and Housing Census 2011 adopted in the Conference of European Statisticians, and also experience of other countries proves it useful.

On December 9-10, 2010 in the **14th Baltic Population and Housing Census Seminar**, which took place in Riga, experts from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania informed on progress with Population and Housing Census activities, shared experience and discussed Census issues like online questionnaire, field work and quality report.

The aim of the Population and Housing Census is to acquire detailed information on population number, employment, migration, and housing; to check and update information on 2.2 million residents and 1 million dwellings.

Population and Housing Census 2011 will be

the **tenth** one since the declaration of independence of the Republic of Latvia as well as

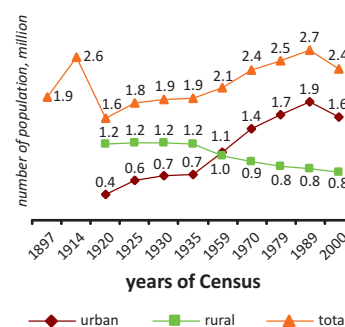
the **first** one after accession to the European Union.



Population and Housing Census is **the most important statistical project of the decade, and, in accordance with the UN recommendations, it is conducted once in ten years worldwide..**

The Cabinet of Ministers allocated funding for Population and Housing Census in the basic expenditure of the Ministry of Economics budget for 2010–2013: LVL 600.0 thousand in 2010, LVL 5.7 million in 2011, LVL 86.2 thousand in 2012, and LVL 79.7 thousand in 2013.

Number of population in urban and rural areas according Census data, million



2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

The EU is one of the richest parts of the world, but **17% of Europeans still do not have sufficient means to meet their basic needs**

Share of households indicating worsening of welfare in 2010 (%)

	1 st qtr	2 nd qtr	3 rd qtr	4 th qtr
Latvia	75	66	56	52
Urban Areas	76	70	58	53

Riga region round-table discussions on February 12 in Riga City Council



Informative newsletter "**Material deprivation in Latvia**" free of charge to download from CSB Homepage

www.csb.gov.lv

-> Data

-> Publications

-> Download

-> informative newsletters published in 2010

-> Material deprivation in Latvia

2010 – European year for combating poverty and social exclusion

The European Commission in its communication on the Social Agenda 2005-2010 put forward the idea of a European year for combating poverty and social exclusion in 2010. Coming up with such an initiative the EU Member States strongly undertook to solve poverty and social exclusion problems. One of the **aims** of the European efforts on combating poverty and social exclusion was to improve public awareness of these issues.

When informing society about population groups exposed to poverty and social exclusion risk, it is important to ensure timely and credible information on these issues. In this context especially significant is the survey "**Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions**" (EU-SILC), carried out by the CSB since 2005. This survey has become generally accepted data source not only for monetary poverty indicators, but also for research in social exclusion and material deprivation aspects.

Recognising the responsibility to provide timely and credible information on poverty and social exclusion, in order to meet the objectives of European year for combating poverty and social exclusion, the CSB **noticeably shortened the processing of EU-SILC survey data**, and as a result in January 2010 for the first time the EU-SILC database was transmitted to Eurostat **8 months earlier** than before. It was achieved through giving this project high priority, better organisation of survey planning and data processing, using administrative data and modern data collection technologies (CATI or telephone interviews), as well as improved coordination of the project partners. As a result at the end of January 2010 the CSB published a press release "Poverty and social inequality indicators in Latvia" updated the CSB public statistical database with monetary poverty and social inequality indicators of 2008. This information was widely used in **activities** of the European year for combating poverty and social exclusion:

- conference Solutions to Poverty and Social Exclusion in the Baltic States on May 27,
- conference Let us build together a better society for all – tackling poverty and social exclusion in Latvia on October 29,
- round-table discussions in Riga and regions of Latvia in February and March.

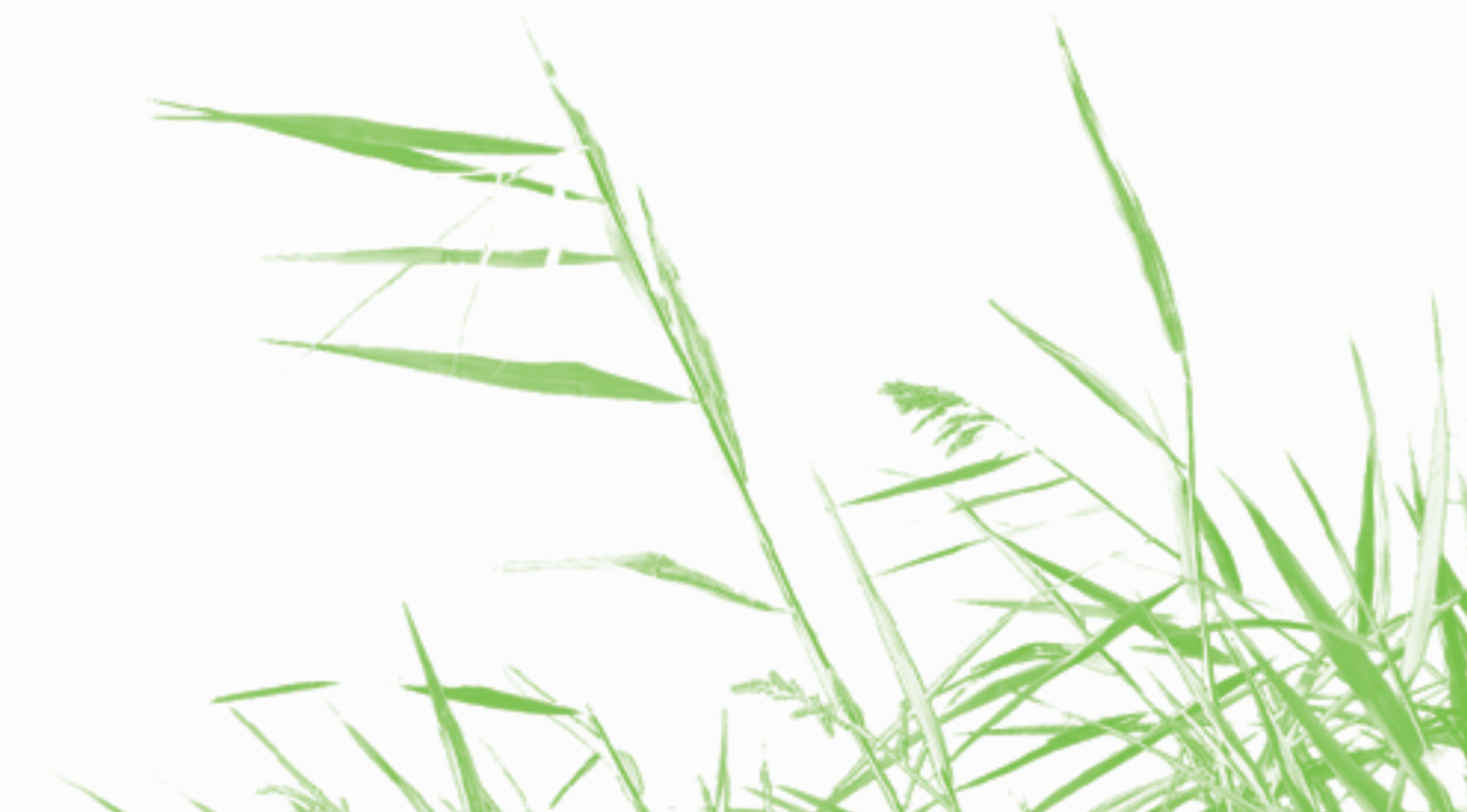
The CSB continued cooperation with the World Bank regarding the implementation of the social security network strategy. In response to the World Bank's initiative a **survey on changes in welfare of households under economic crisis** was launched. The aim of this survey was a better understanding of the problems, which poorer households have to face.

Poverty and social exclusion have various manifestations, and they may be characterised not only with monetary indicators, but also with questions on circumstances like lack of money or other conditions which are depriving households of various material goods or participation in social life at a degree commonly accepted in a certain society. Such a phenomenon is elucidated, and statistically characterised in the **informative newsletter "Material deprivation in Latvia"** released by the CSB in 2010.

Also in future the CSB will continue to focus on the production and analysis of poverty and social exclusion data. For example, EU-SILC 2011 survey is supplemented with a module on intergenerational transition of disadvantages, and survey on changes in the welfare of households under economic crisis is continued.



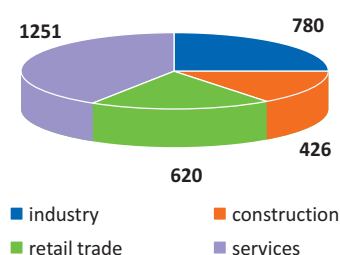
Research & statistics



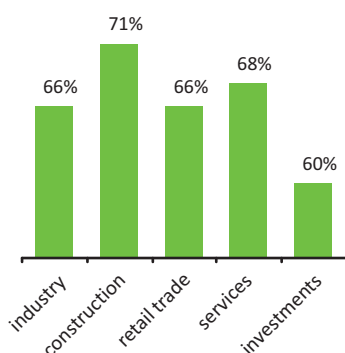
Business tendency surveys in Latvia have been conducted since:

- 1993 – on industry and construction;
- 1996 – on retail trade;
- 2001 – on investment field, industry and construction;
- 2002 – on services sector.

Number of business tendency surveys' respondents by sector of national economy, monthly average



Average response rate in business tendency surveys by sector of national economy, 2010



Business tendency surveys and territorial statistics

The CSB is the only institution in Latvia conducting **business tendency surveys**. The surveys are carried out within the framework of the Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys, and cover industry, construction, retail trade, services sector and investment. Business tendency surveys differ from quantitative statistics with **data collection and processing methods and purpose of use**, however information acquired in these qualitative surveys can be used to compliment results of traditional statistical surveys because it allows detecting turning points in business cycles and is used for short-term economic analysis and forecasts.

In business tendency surveys managers of the enterprises **evaluate the economic activity of the company**, its changes as well as current and future development trends. In business tendency surveys information from respondents is qualitative (not quantitative) - a choice of standard answers to qualitative questions. Acquisition of such information is one of the aims why the business and consumer surveys were introduced.

When summarising information provided by the enterprise managers, with the help of answer share and balance method the **qualitative information** is transformed into quantitative indicators on business sectors as well as factors limiting production (turnover, investment). For each business sector also a composite **or confidence** indicator is calculated, which characterises general business situation in a concentrated form. It is defined as arithmetical mean of balances calculated from answers to the key survey questions. Also a composite indicator of all sectors - Economic Sentiment Index - is calculated. It reflects socio-economic situation in the whole country.

Since May 2010 business tendency statistics in Latvia and other EU Member States is calculated in accordance with the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in European Union NACE Rev. 2, thus the aggregation of data and international comparability meets the latest classification. Information acquired in business tendency surveys is sent to the European Commission Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs on regular basis (48 data files of monthly periodicity and 2 semi-annual files).

In the reference year the comparison of Latvian composite indicators in dynamics with Lithuanian and Estonian indicators was carried out. The work concerning the revision of time series of conjuncture indicators was realised due to the transition to the NACE Rev. 2 classification. In 2011, the revised timeseries based on new classification will go back to 2001 for construction sector, on retail trade back to 2002, on industry, investment and services sector – 2004.

To reduce respondent burden as well as workload for statisticians, increase response rate and improve the quality of submitted reports, the number of business tendency survey respondents using the e-survey system has been increased.

Self-evaluation surveys of local governments performance

In 2010 the CSB carried out the fifth annual **self-evaluation survey of local governments**, in which statistical units are local governments of 109 municipalities (novadi) and 9 cities under state jurisdiction. In order to avoid overloading large cities with questions, which would require special calculations (e.g., increase of unemployment and emigration, development of economic activities), they were surveyed based on shortened questionnaire. The main attention in this survey was paid to the **influence of Administrative-Territorial Reform** on the performance of local governments and ability of local governments of municipalities to provide public services to their residents. In addition, the authorities of the local governments for the first time were asked to evaluate also the economic growth opportunities in their territory focusing on specific economic activities and contributory factors. Several questions from previous surveys were specified: broken down by performance areas of the local governments or supplemented with additional questions on EU structural funds, local government financial equalization system, usefulness of local taxes, structure of investments, local government financed construction objects, preferable functions of regional governments, local referendums and social activity of the population.

Authorities of the local governments for the first time were surveyed in 2005. At that time the only EU member state conducting such a survey was Sweden. To follow the development of the prospects and reality of local governments over time and under the impact of reforms, many core questions are repeated through out the years, e.g., on employment, finances, economy, investments, quality of local government services, population social activity and cooperation of local governments. But, to generate the interest among the survey respondents and data users, every year questionnaire includes a new block of questions – on electronic or e-services, recreation and culture events, cooperation of local governments, education, impact of Administrative-Territorial Reform on primary functions of local governments.

In 2010 the answers to the survey questions were compiled on the country as a whole and in breakdown by planning regions. Data were also published as timeseries covering five years, and analysis of the statistical data has been carried out focusing on the thematic breakdown – local territorial management after the Administrative-Territorial Reform, employment, finances, performance quality, etc.

As usual in opinion and business tendency surveys the majority of answers are neutral. Answers are likely to be more certain regarding focused and detailed questions. Answers to question blocks on specific issues clearly reflect this trend. Still there are issues regarding which only a few can give neutral answer and even less than these few – optimistic answer. In 2010 according to the latest produced statistics such problem areas in the municipalities were roads and health care.

It should be mentioned that local government authorities, in some cases their trustees, take very active participation in the survey. In 2010, 2009 and in the first survey in 2005, the response rate was 100%.

In future during the development phase more attention will be paid to peculiarities of evaluations in breakdown by region. In 2011 particular attention will be devoted to research on changes of factors influencing the territory of local governments in the result of the reform.

Evaluate your own performance



How do local governments feel?

As a strong gear-wheel transmitting energy from higher state institutions to businesses and people and vice versa? Or as a grain between two millstones...

This and many other, more certain and constructive questions are found out in annual self-evaluation surveys of local government performance.

Publication on the survey results



"Self-evaluations of local governments in Latvia, 2005-2010"

Reference of the LAS academic, Dr.habil.oec., professor Baiba Rivža on the book: „[...] analysis of the self-evaluations of the local government performance shows the significant changes, which in Latvia took place after the Administrative-Territorial Reform. And it is the first extensive research of such kind carried out after the reform, therefore this book is especially important. [...] analysis has gained a lot due the intriguing section titles: “Life within new boundaries”, “When comes the work, there will be an advice”, “If we had all this money”, “National economy and own economy”, “Functions are determined by the arguments. Obligations are fulfilled by people”. Readers will find it interesting to discover what centralised “land surveyors’ time” has brought, is it always better at home, is the money we have enough...”.



Significant contribution in the provision of statistical information is made by the respondents, and one of the tasks of the CSB last year was to improve the quality of statistical data and at the same time to reduce respondent burden, **using administrative data as widely as possible**. To meet this goal, in order to acquire the data for surveys, administrative data files of wide spectrum are used.

In social statistics:

- Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (OCMA), Population Register database,
- State Employment Agency, Information system on registered vacancies and the unemployed,
- State Land Service (SLS), Information system of the State Cadastre Register of Real Estate,
- State Social Insurance Agency, Information system database,
- State Revenue Service (SRS), Taxpayers database.

In business statistics:

- Data of the annual reports received by the SRS.

In price statistics:

- SLS information system of the State Cadastre Register of Real Estate.

In agricultural statistics:

- Use of Slaughter House Report System of the Agricultural Data Centre in 2010 to provide statistics on monthly livestock slaughtering.

The quality of administrative data does not always meet the requirements for the production of statistical information, and that interferes with further data processing – there are calculation mistakes in the reports submitted by the enterprises to SRS, data of the OCMA Population Register on population migration are not complete, because not all residents inform OCMA on the change of the place of residence when living abroad for more than six months. The CSB staff did hard work on elimination of methodological etc. discrepancies arising in data acquisition, carried out additional calculations, adjusted administrative data to the definitions of statistical indicators. Even after these additional activities the CSB does not have precise information on the number of emigrants, consequently on the number of population. The CSB will acquire precise information only after the Population and Housing Census 2011.

To acquire initial statistical information from respondents the CSB is using approximately 140 different official statistical reports and questionnaires. The collection of statistical data from most of respondents is done through electronic survey (e-Survey) system, which has following benefits:

- no need to fill in reports in paper form;
- previously submitted e-reports stored and available for the respondent;
- user-friendly functions (input checked for elementary mistakes, pre-filled cells and automatic sum calculation, NACE, PRODCOM etc. classifications).

At the end of 2010 the share of surveys available in the e-Survey system reached 72%, and the largest part of the respondents choose to submit reports electronically – on average 80%, but for some of the surveys even 90% of respondents.

- “Report on financial situation” (quarterly) – 90%,
- “Report on labour” (quarterly) – 83%,
- “Report on investments” (quarterly) – 90%,
- “Report on turnover” (quarterly) – 80%,
- “Report on industrial activity” (monthly) – 90%,
- “Report on industrial activity and volume of new orders in industry” (monthly) – 90%.

According to one of the key principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice - reporting burden should be proportionate to the needs of the users and should not be excessive for respondents.

E-Survey System



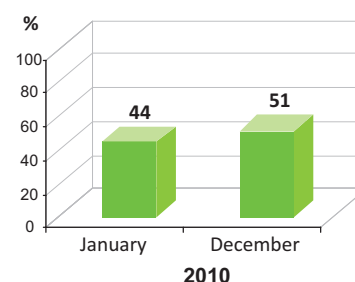
The CSB Homepage

Startpage or
section “For Respondents” ->
“Submit e-report”

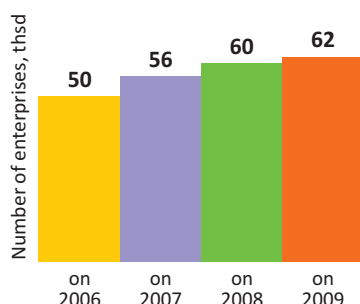
or

<https://eparskats.csb.gov.lv>

Share of respondents, which
submitted Intrastat reports,
using e-Survey system



Enterprises released from the submission of annual reports on financial activity (balance and profit/loss accounts), thousand



Intrastat reports have to be submitted by VAT payers which exceed the threshold of trade volume with EU countries set by the CSB, thus **63-65%** of the total number of enterprises having trade transactions with other EU Member States were excluded from the sample of enterprises submitting reports.

*By changing various reports, burden was reduced for at least **35.9 thousand** respondents*

*In the conference "Aplimat 2010" in Slovakia Ginters Bušs, the expert of the CSB Mathematical Support Division, presented his work "Economic forecasts with Bayesian autoregressive distributed lag model: choosing optimal prior in economic downturn", which is closely related with the development of **Gross Domestic Product flash estimate**.*

Starting from the 2nd quarter of 2010 the number of financial intermediation enterprises to be surveyed was reduced by 40%. The target population of financial intermediation enterprises was reviewed to select the enterprises with insignificant share in the total volume, which will not be surveyed directly.

With an aim to reduce respondent burden, the CSB is not requesting complex annual statistical report from approximately 10 thousand potential respondents (out of 57 thousand) - enterprises having up to 9 employees and not exceeding certain turnover threshold. To cover enterprises not surveyed, the **data of annual reports submitted to the SRS** are adjusted and used for the statistical needs.

The SRS data are also used for selecting the respondents for monthly and quarterly surveys on turnover in trade and services sectors. On the basis of the SRS data the enterprises are grouped by turnover, and – the smaller the enterprise, the lower the probability that it will be included in the sample. It should be emphasized that approximately 23% of enterprises with small turnover are not included in the sample selection at all. Thus, out of 53 thousand enterprises statistical reports were submitted by 15% on average.

Starting from 2010 the sample size of the survey on freight transport and road transport was reduced, surveying only 100 motor vehicles every week. The CSB sent the questionnaires to 5.2 thousand respondents in total, and the response rate comprised 79%.

With an aim to reduce respondent burden, the reports to be submitted were improved thus reducing the time, which respondents have to spend to fill in the questionnaire: the overlapping of indicators in "Report on production and sale of agricultural products" (21-ag) and "Crop production in 2010" (2-ag) was eliminated, and in annual and quarterly e-report on financial assets and liabilities and foreign affiliate enterprises, as well as in the complex reports on enterprise activity the data of previous periods and the description of the enterprise economic activity code was pre-filled.

Beginning with 2010 the input of annual farm survey data in **CASIS CAPI** environment was started, as well as respondents for the first time had opportunity to submit reports on crop production in electronic form by using **the new system CASIS CAWI**.

Continuing the work on the reduction of respondent burden, the use of administrative data in future may broaden and become more effective, provided the administrative databases and information systems of institutions were supplemented and improved. The CSB has repeatedly asked the SRS to add the number of hours worked and the occupational code of the employee to the questionnaire. These data are necessary also to other state institutions, including the Ministry of Finance.

The **application of mathematical methods** is important in the use of administrative data for the development of statistical information. To use the SRS data in annual investment statistics production missing data are replaced with the help of imputation algorithms, e.g. calculations are made using available data and various mathematical methods. It has been planned that for the calculation of quarterly Gross Domestic Product the information on water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (Section E, NACE Rev. 2) will be acquired from the SRS data. As the SRS data become available after the deadline for the flash estimate of the GDP, it is planned to estimate the missing time series with mathematical methods.

Increasing significance of information technologies

Statistical data production process and infrastructure is firmly based upon applied information technologies, which provide support for successful statistical information provision process.

The main task for 2010 was the development of IT infrastructure for the Population and Housing Census, the Agricultural Census and the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods. After the evaluation of the available resources, with an aim to incorporate the software modules necessary for computer assisted personal interviews in the Integrated Statistical Data Management System (ISDMS), the CSB decided to increase the current functionality of the ISDMS. The system includes several modules, which are used for corresponding statistical domains. The use of the ISDMS allows designing statistical questionnaires without programming tools, using elements and structures of the statistical questionnaires.

With the help of the ISDMS new functionality, the Agricultural Census **questionnaires for online interviews** on the internet were developed. The respondents, using a computer with the Internet connection, were able to fill in the Agricultural Census questionnaire online by themselves; whereas during the pilot Population and Housing Census, the residents of Latvia could fill in the online form of Census 2010 using the **CASIS CAWI** module. But interviewers, in turn, using laptop computers, conducted interviews and filled in the questionnaires in the **CASIS CAPI** module. New data collection solutions approved during the pilot Population and Housing Census, afterwards were analysed and tested, implementing the necessary improvements to the ISDMS system, and then introducing these changes to the working environment.

To carry out the Agricultural Census, the necessary technical infrastructure was developed. Development of the data processing system for the Agricultural Census was started at the end of 2009 and it was finished at the beginning of 2010. The Agricultural Census data were acquired in several stages: online, in telephone interviews, in field work with the help of the interviewers. Visual Studio.NET programming options ensured telephone interviewers and field work personnel with the data input programme CASIS CAPI, which has a tool to search respondents, cells are pre-filled with previously available information, logic checks and sequence of the questions is ensured. With the introduction of the CASIS CAWI module, it was possible to develop the electronic version of the questionnaire for online mode. For the analysis and processing of the acquired data, an administration programme for the Agricultural Census questionnaires was developed, which ensured follow-up data verification, progress reports, as well as data input from paper forms.

Majority of the reports available in the **CSB homepage** respondents can fill in and submit in electronic form. In the section "My reports" on the CSB homepage each respondent is able to check the list of reports, which he/she has to submit, as well as reports already submitted. This site is used both by respondents and the CSB staff at their daily work. During the testing of the ISDMS respondent registration and response module, with an aim to remind about not submitted reports and increase response rate, the reminders to the respondents were sent by e-mail. This reduced the volume of correspondence sent with "Latvijas pasts" and the total expenditure on postal services.

From March till October the CSB homepage was rebuilt, using Drupal content management system – an open source solution – main advantages of which are stability and option to adjust standard content modules, thus saving time and financial resources necessary developing equal module from scratch.

ISDAVS

*Integrated Statistical Data
Management System*

includes several **CASIS** modules
for computer-assisted
interviewing of persons in
general censuses



CASIS CAPI

*Computer Assisted Personal
Interviewing*

CASIS CAWI

*Computer Assisted
Web Interviewing*

CASIS CATI

*Computer Assisted Telephone
Interviewing*

ISDAVS CASIS

the development of the system ensures that the CSB will have a united system of computer assisted surveys, which will allow statisticians (not having programming skills) to design questionnaires, arrange them for data input, control the process of data collection, compile and process data. After data collection they are compiled in a data array and used for further processing. The system speeds up the time needed for data collection and compilation, improves data quality and precision, as system modules use various logic checks, as well as it provides architecture for data transmission to the state archive.

Drupal

the CSB homepage structure and modules were developed in an open source solution

Revision and improvement of statistical classifications and databases

Matter of opinion

relevance of minimum
consumer basket



In 2010 one of the most topical topics in the field of social statistics was the discussion on **relevance of minimum consumer basket calculations**. In the inter-institutional meeting organised by the CSB, the participants were informed that consumer basket content and consumption standard, set with Council of Ministers Decision No 95 of April 8, 1991, is totally outdated and therefore do not reflect current situation.

Evaluating the situation and international experience, the CSB suggested discontinuing the calculation of subsistence minimum based on methodology of 1991. The institutions represented in this meeting supported this opinion. The CSB suggestion caused a wide resonance, and representatives from both - trade unions and local governments strongly supported the continuation of the calculations, whereas the delegates from the responsible ministry pointed that they did not have the funding needed for the revision of methodology. Even though the calculation of minimum consumer basket is included in the National Programme of Statistical Information for 2011, the CSB still continues reminding about the necessity to improve the methodology for calculating the minimum consumer basket.

The methodological work is the basis for improving the quality of statistics. The main priority of this work for 2010 is **improvement of statistical classifications**.

Within the framework of the inter-institutional working groups organized by the Ministry of Welfare, the Classification of Occupations in accordance with ISCO 08 version of the International Classification of Occupations was updated. The CSB experts took active part in the development of national version of the classification and considering the significant changes in the classification of certain occupations a correspondence table between the old and the new, classification of occupations was also prepared. The updated classification came into force on June 1, 2010.

To compile business statistics, all economically active statistical units are classified according to the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities NACE Rev. 2. In more complex situations the code is assigned taking into account the Statistical Classification of Products by Activity (CPA). Developed NACE/CPA application contains these both classifications, their explanatory notes, information on Eurostat rulings and identification of unlikely NACE Rev.2 codes. The application ensures handy code search, allowing the CSB staff, engaged in the allocation of codes, quickly select and analyse information.

The CSB experts also participated in the development of International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 97), Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP), and List of Products of the European Community (PRODCOM).

In the ports statistics the data were improved by analysing the database for incoming ships in cooperation with experts from the ports and by adding the data on ships, which arrive in the port with an aim to load/unload freight or with embarking or disembarking passengers.

For successful provision of the information on international enterprise groups at the EU level, it is necessary to improve the ISDMS system, introducing additional indicators for identification of affiliated enterprises.

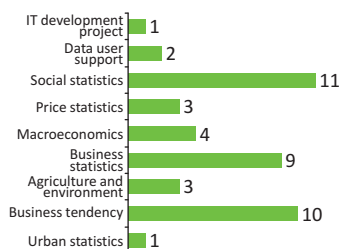
The value of statistical data is determined by timeliness and accuracy, however very often the two are conflicting terms – users are willing to acquire data as soon as possible, when information necessary for the calculations is not yet available at the desired level of detail. The published data are revised, when previously unavailable additional information is received or errors, which have arisen in calculations or were found after more careful verification of the received information, are eliminated. To inform data users on **revision of the published data**, the CSB developed the Revision policy, which is published in the CSB homepage.



Projects



Number of projects active by field of statistics in 2010



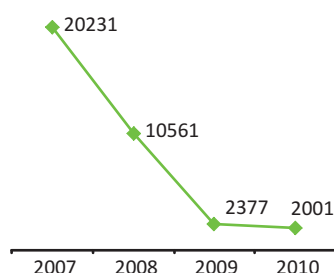
Number of projects active by aim of implementation in 2010

Data production projects	35
Methodology development projects	5
Data production and methodology development projects	4

Safety on the Internet

- 72% of respondents answered that they use computer protection programmes,
- 13% do not use,
- 15% did not know the answer to this question.

Number of job vacancies



European Union initiative development programme

The programme Production of Statistical Information for the Development of New European Union Initiative includes implementation of projects funded by the European Commission in the CSB with an aim to further the development of statistical field in meeting the new EU requirements. The projects are introduced in all statistical fields for the development of new statistical data and creation of data bases as well as improvement of methodology and quality. In 2010, altogether 44 projects were active, involving 51% of the CSB staff members.

Data collection and production projects

During transition from the classification of economic activities NACE Rev. 1.1 to the NACE Rev. 2 the indicators were **recalculated** according to the revised classification NACE Rev. 2, as well as data in breakdown by NACE Rev. 1.1 were prepared:

- In project NACE Rev. 2 Introduction in National Accounts;
- Within the framework of the project Support for Double Reporting and Data Calculation According to NACE Rev. 2 in Structural Business Statistics (SBS) and internal Inward Foreign Affiliate Business Statistics (IFATS) on 2005-2007. In this project also data collection on 2008 was expanded, with an aim to ensure high data quality according to both NACE Rev. 1.1 and NACE Rev. 2 classifications.
- In the project "Environmental statistics and accounts: NAMEA Air Emission Accounts 2005-2008 data on emissions of various substances into atmosphere were developed in breakdown by NACE Rev. 1.1, and the results will be available in February 2011;
- In the project Environmental Protection Products and Services Sector 2010 data on various economic indicators of environmental protection products and services sector in breakdown by NACE and environment fields were acquired.

In 2010 the project Use of Administrative Data in Business Statistics was launched. The main task of the project was to **create a database** for storage of administrative data received from the State Revenue Service (SRS). The database has various functions, e.g., incorrect data correction and saving, adding of other data available to the CSB, so that statisticians could run queries necessary for work. It is planned to incorporate also a data import function in the database, so that along with the original information – received from the SRS - also data, with the most significant mistakes found and corrected by the CSB personnel, were available. At the end of 2010 the data base was working at test mode.

The annual survey on the use of information and communication technologies in enterprises and households in 2010 was supplemented with questions on safety on the internet. The results showed that, even though more than 40% of the respondents faced various safety problems when using the internet, people not always understand the importance of software for computer and data protection.

In employment statistics there were several projects introduced and data developed on:

- reconciliation between work and family life,
- young people integration into the labour market, relation between their education, work experience during formal education and first job, influence of parents' education on the choice of profession;
- job vacancies, using of the State Employment Agency administrative data, which involved revision and correction of the calculation methodology..

Applying the data from the Labour Force Survey and Report on Labour, the methodology for the calculations of the number of the employed population in the National Accounts was improved, thus enhancing the quality of the Labour Force Survey methodology.

Methodology development and data quality projects

To enhance data quality, the system reducing the **data collection timelag** has been improved. In the project Better Use of Administrative Data in Intrastat System, by using additional information from the VAT declaration and its annexes, as well as ensuring faster data transmission in the SRS data storage facilities, the term of data receipt was reduced from 50 days after the reference period to 45 days. The activities resulted in a system and software application for receipt of additional VAT declarations from the SRS and storing and analyzing these data for Intrastat needs.

In 2010 the project Increasing the Quality and Timeliness of Construction Statistical Data was successfully implemented. The project introduction resulted in a system ensuring quality of collection, compilation, publication of short-term construction statistical data, as well as delivery of the information to Eurostat 1 month and 15 calendar days after the reference period.

The project Support for Introduction of European Groups Register (EGR) at National Level and Improvement of Methods for Collection of Enterprise Group Data ensured **high quality, timely** and corresponding processing of EGR information and its exchange between Eurostat and the EU Member States, as well as suggestions for enhancing the EGR functionality. Within the framework of the project, for the first time Eurostat provided information on groups of multinational enterprises, including groups of enterprises legally and/or financially linked in several countries, which consist of the parent enterprise and other enterprises of the group, which directly or indirectly are controlled by the parent enterprise. As a result of this exchange, revised information on 1393 enterprises and 827 groups was sent to Eurostat, and that improved the quality of information at EGR level and allows EGR users receiving information of high quality. In the result of this cooperation, quality of the Enterprise Group Register database was improved.

One of the priorities of the Owner-occupied Housing Pilot Project was the **development of house price index**. Owner-occupied house price index and house price index are price indices group related to expenditure on purchase and maintenance of housing. These indices will be new statistical indicators for Latvia characterising price changes of dwellings and services related to their acquisition. In the production of indices and meeting of the necessary quality standards, significant progress has been achieved: possible data sources were analysed, calculation methodology of housing price indices has been adjusted, weight system has been developed, various quality adjustment methods have been verified, and calculations of experimental price indices have been carried out. Improvement of the administrative data source quality would significantly further the development of indicators and meeting of the quality standards.

Changes in the implementation policy of projects funded by the EC have furthered the introduction of the European Statistical System Network project, involving several countries. At the end of 2010 the CSB concluded 2 cooperation agreements: the development of one – “**ESSnet 2010 project on statistical units – consistency of business statistics terms and methods**” – has already been started. Its implementation term is 2011-2012, and the leading country – Italy. The cooperating executors will also be Latvia, Austria, France and Ireland. The main task of the project is to analyse opportunities for adjustment of statistical units on various statistical fields of the EU.

Number of projects active by implementation period in 2010

4–11 months	6
12 months	19
13–18 months	13
19–39 months	6

During the project “Improvement of construction statistics data quality and their timely publication” a new questionnaire was developed, which in addition to the changes in the submission deadline, is adapted also to the Administrative-Territorial Reform.

ESSnet
www.essnet-portal.eu

European Statistical System Network was developed with an aim to exchange specific knowledge, information sources and cover work on projects performed by several Member States, thus ensuring the availability of the results to all ESS.

In August 2010 the CSB finished work on the **first ESS network project** Common Reference Architecture managed by Statistics Italy in cooperation with the IT experts from Latvia, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway and Netherlands.



International cooperation



Active and multi-dimensional international cooperation speeds up full integration of the Latvian statistical system into the European Statistical System, furthers professional growth and qualification of the CSB experts, as well as ensures the defence of national interests in the field of statistics at the European level. In working group meetings organised by Eurostat and the Council of the European Union the CSB experts presented and expressed Latvian position on new EU legislation, and participated in discussions on other issues significant for ESS development.

the CSB management took part in significant **international statistical events** devoted to further development of statistical standards and methodology and increasing importance of statistics under conditions of the global financial crisis:

- Annual Director Generals of the National Statistical Institutes conference devoted to welfare and sustainable development issues and their reflection in statistics. In the conference the priorities of EU Statistical Programme for 2011-2017, as well as priorities of the European Statistical System as a whole were discussed and determined. President of the CSB Aija Žīgure presented report "Statistics – Essential Tool for Multidimensional Analysis in Measurements of Social Processes during Crisis".
- Conference "SIMPLY 2010" on reduction and simplification of administrative burden in official statistics organised by Eurostat/Statistics Belgium within the framework of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union. The conference was devoted to best practices regarding methods in lightening the administrative burden, more effective and faster data collection methods, modernisation of statistical data processing and reduction of costs for businesses. CSB President Aija Žīgure shared her experience on the improvement of statistical data collection methods under crisis with a report "Ways of Statistical Data Collection – the Key Element for Flexible Cooperation with Data Users"

On August 11-13, 2010 the **CSB organised an international event** – the 27th conference "Creating a Knowledge Base for Successful Cities and Regions, along the Statistical Value Chain" of the Standing Committee of Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS). SCORUS is a Standing Committee of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), which unite regional and urban statistics experts from various countries with an aim to further develop and research these statistical domains. Within the framework of the conference, the subjects related to regional and urban statistics production were presented – planning of surveys, data collection and processing, calculations and documentation, analysis and research, dissemination, evaluation of data quality and data user satisfaction. Representatives from statistical institutions and statistical departments of cities, international organisations, universities, scientific institutions, ministries and planning regions from 20 countries worldwide took part in the SCORUS conference.

Within the framework of the project "Development of State Statistical System for Monitoring of Social and Economic Changes" the CSB experts organised a visit for representatives from the **State Committee of Statistics of Ukraine** regarding issues on Metadata Driven Integrated Statistical Data Processing and Management System as well as an experience exchange visit for **Tajikistan state administration institution** representatives on labour market statistics, as well as **National Statistics Office of Georgia** experience exchange visit on topics related to social statistics, financial accounting, planning, human resources development and working time registration.

*CSB experts
took part
in **214** foreign meetings, inc.,*

***116** Eurostat and EU Council
working group meetings,
resulting in*

*comments on **over 20** EU
legislation proposals in statistics*

*reviewed, commented and
coordinated
more than 60 national positions
and instructions under
supervision of other Latvian
institutions, which partly are
binding also to the statistics*

CSB experts took part in the EC project Reduction of Administrative Burden in Statistics, which envisages that until 2012 the administrative burden resulting from the EU legislation will be diminished by 25%.



*International SCORUS conference
on August 11-13 in Jūrmala*



More information:
www.csb.gov.lv/scorus

Professionalism of the CSB experts is internationally recognised, they share own experience with the statisticians of other countries

The CSB price statistics experts and Egyptian CAPMAS representatives during the training visit in Latvia



The aim of the **TAIEX** (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) activity is to help countries on legislation coordination, adaptation and implementation with expert participation in seminars, work groups or other events, and sharing the experience and knowledge with the EU candidate countries, countries of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and Pre-accession Instrument programme.

Meeting of Baltic State statistical institution leaders on May 27-28



In cooperation with Statistics Denmark and other institutes, the **CSB experts made a contribution to the improvement of statistics in other countries**. In 2010, the most significant accomplishment of the CSB in collaboration with experts from Denmark, Finland, Sweden and the Czech Republic was **the improvement of the Egyptian Statistical System** achieved within the framework of the twinning project Strengthening Institutional Capacity of Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) and Development of the Legal Basis for Statistics in Egypt, which was funded by the European Commission. In 2010, 4 CAPMAS specialist and CSB expert cooperation visits were organised – in January and June CSB expert in the field of statistical methodology visited Egypt, Cairo, but in July and October CAPMAS specialists came to the CSB for a training visit. During the July mission the CSB experts shared their experience in calculation of Consumer Price Index and Producer Price Index in industry with the Egyptian representatives, whereas in October discussed the national legislation of Latvia and Egypt, as well as the practice regarding collection, production and dissemination of statistical information. During the project implementation – from September 2008 till November 2010 – mutual cooperation resulted in a new policy of the Egyptian Statistical System, Official Statistics Law and Cooperation Memorandum between the CAPMAS and partner institutions were developed. Moreover, CAPMAS underwent structural changes and IT system regarding data protection, production and dissemination was improved. Besides, methodology and quality of national accounts, foreign trade statistics, price indices and business registers was increased in accordance with the national needs and international standards.

During 3 expert missions and one training visit organised within the framework of the second twinning project Coordination of Ukrainian Official Statistics with the EU Statistical Standards with Denmark, the CSB experts **consulted representatives from Statistics Ukraine** on calculation of Structural Business Statistics indicators Production value and Value added at factor cost. Whereas within the framework of TAIEX financial instrument the CSB experts advised the experts from Statistics Armenia on structural business and services statistics legislation, aims and data collection methodology, dissemination and quality in statistics.

The CSB applied in the European Commission tenders on implementation of twinning projects in Lebanon, Armenia and Ukraine. In December 2010 the CSB signed a cooperation contract with Statistics Denmark on the implementation of the twinning project Forwarding Armenian Statistics.

The **cooperation among statistical institutions of the Baltic States was continued** in the coordination of various EU projects and events, in sharing of opinions as well as in experience exchange. Within the framework of three-lateral cooperation, experts from the Baltic State statistical institutions met in 8 events: the most significant of them were the annual meeting of the Baltic State statistical institution leaders on cooperation planning, and organisation issues and seminar to exchange the experience on organisation of the Population and Housing Census, which this year were organised by the CSB. Experts from Statistics Latvia and Estonia met in bilateral experience exchange visit on information technology issues and organisation of the Population and Housing Census 2011.

The CSB experts were engaged in the advisory council of the project **Development of Integrated Environmental and Economic Forest Accounts in Latvia** coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture within the framework of the European Economic Area financial instrument and Norwegian government bilateral financial instrument. In the result of the project the data on wood industry were produced, as well as methodology of their collection was developed, thus furthering more accurate statistical reflection of this field. For the first time all tables of integrated environmental and economic forest accounts were filled in, and methodology for data production on regular basis was worked out.



**Data available to users
more easily and widely**



Horizontal Menu of CSB Web Page



Changes in section „Data”



In databases in total 23 million statistical indicators are available, and it is 24% more than in 2009

1925 data requests have been answered in 2010

In EU Garden Party on May 9



In 2010 **441** answers to questions on EU statistics were prepared

European Statistical Data Support in Latvia has developed Homepage in Latvian and English devoted to the EU statistical information

<http://www.csb.gov.lv/es>

and offers free of charge help to users within 24 hours since the request was received

In 2010 the CSB Homepage was restructured and redesigned, and the final result was presented in October. New structure of the Homepage is more user friendly and availability of the statistical data has been increased significantly.

Instead of the previous six main sections („About us”, „Events”, „Data zone”, „For respondents”, „Classifications”, „Legislation”) the Menu consists of five items: „Data”, „For respondents”, „Documents”, „About us”, „Help”. The most significant changes were made in the section „Data”. Here the sections „Data area” and „Events” were merged, and now this is where everyone can find all information, starting from key indicators, databases, press releases, chargeable services, guidelines on how to order of publications and ending with European and international statistics. Users are able to access the data, selecting a statistical theme which contains sub-menu: key indicators, database, and press releases. The section „Documents” merges previous sections „Classifications” and „Legislation”. Specific attention has been paid to the improvement of classifications section – the list of classifications available in the Latvian version of the CSB Homepage has been supplemented with Combined Nomenclature, and the section “Classifications available in homepages of other institutions” has been developed. Moreover, the formation of the section “Help” should be mentioned. The aim of this section is to guide the first visit users around the Homepage, providing landmarks and suggestions on its use. Also the entry page is more attractive, now it includes calendar of press releases, list of e-tools, quick links, list of statistics by theme, hot statistics (with charts), as well as questions to test own knowledge.

To inform society two press conferences were organised – on 07.01.2010 „On changes of consumer prices 2009” and on 11.03.2010 „On changes of Gross Domestic Product in 2009”, as well as several seminars for certain groups of data users and specialists of national economy.

To popularise statistical resources and services offered by the Eurostat, all of which are available free of charge, in 2010 European Statistical Data Support took part in several presentations. One of such events was on March 26 in EU house. In addition, the staff of the European Statistical Data Support advertised the statistics and services offered by the Eurostat also outside Riga, in cities – Jēkabpils, Cēsis and Ogre.

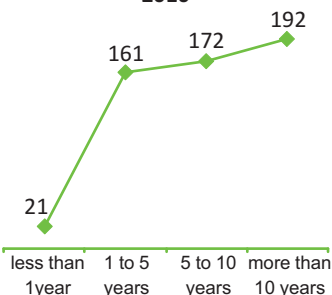
Eurostat Data User Support Centre took part also in public events, informing Latvians on European statistics. The exhibition “Grāmata 2010”, taking place at the end of February, and EU Garden Party on May 9 brought together a wide range of people interested. Teachers and pupils, who are the main clients of the European Statistical Data Support, were the target audience of the exhibition “Grāmata 2010”. This event was a start for further cooperation with many schools and universities. But the EU Garden Party was visited by more than 10 thousand persons, who were offered to get acquainted with various EU institutions, embassies. European Statistical Data Support informed about Eurostat services and possibilities to get statistical information. During the event visitors had an opportunity participate in a statistical facts test and acquire statistical publications.

The activities of the European Statistical Data Support are taking place within the framework of the project “Eurostat External User Support – Assistance to Eurostat in treating user requests and promotional activities in Latvian” funded by the EC.



Working place for 22% of the total number of employees is located in regions

Number of employees by years worked in the CSB at the end of 2010



Lidija Spārīte, organiser of annual flower exhibitions at the CSB premises



Personnel cleaning the deep snow from the roof in winter



The CSB personnel undeniably is significant for the development of the Statistics Latvia, both when performing everyday work and when increasing own professionalism by taking part in various trainings, working groups and seminars.

At the end of the 2010 in the CSB there were 559 posts – 242 officers and 317 employees, of which 6 posts were temporary dealing with the works of the Population and Housing Census 2011. Additionally, 61 interviewer for the implementation of projects funded by the European Commission and 18 technical staff workers were employed temporarily. In 2010 20 employees were promoted, 14 of which – to managerial posts.

Reorganisation, with an aim to optimise the resources, work and allocation of the responsibilities, mainly had an impact on the Macroeconomics and Social Statistic Departments as well as the Central Data Collection and Processing Centre.

To increase the qualification 114 employees during a year took part in 48 trainings on various subjects in the State Administration School and in other educational institutions. 19 employees participated in 17 different trainings abroad, which were organised with an aim to increase the professional qualification of statistical institutes staff, by offering theoretical knowledge applicable at national and EU level and practical lessons on topical issues in statistics.

The most significant working group meetings were on united and complete registration of legal persons, state and local government budgetary institutions and classification of them according to the requirements of the EU, as well as on chain-linked index in short-term statistics, with an aim to accurately reflect the trends in changes of economic processes with statistical indicators.

The CSB is organising also internal trainings and seminars, using own personnel as a training staff. Last year the training was organised on subjects like statistics, records management, data safety, time series analysis, sample design etc. During the training seminar the consumer price collectors had an opportunity to consult experts on how to evaluate the quality of specific consumer goods and to study the updated Price Collector's Manual. For the staff of the CSB Data Collection and Processing Centres a training "Relation between financial indicators in statistical reports and enterprise accounting data" was organised. During this training many practical examples illustrated the relation between accounting balance, profit or loss items and financial indicators in statistical reports.

Bearing in mind that there are many new heads of unit, a two-day course "Personnel management" was organised, and in this course 26 senior and middle managers took part. But an employee from the Personnel Management Division, in turn, took part in UN Economic Commission for Europe meeting on management and training of human resources, in which found out about experience of various countries in personnel motivation, training a.o. issues.

The CSB staff is very active outside the working hours, because their most common leisure activities are:

1. sports (riding bike, swimming, skiing, volleyball),
2. gardening, horticulture and other out-door works,
3. reading of books,
4. travelling,
5. needlework (knitting, beading, making of jewellery).

Among the personnel there are even some keen on geocaching, yoga, Nordic walking, doing crosswords. Dancing, singing and photography are very popular as well.

A green circular graphic composed of two curved lines, one at the top and one at the bottom, framing the text.

Financial statement of 2010



1. Subsidy from general income, total LVL 7 010 750, of which:

Programme "Production of statistical information" LVL 5 992 522

Programme "Implementation of European Community initiative projects and activities" LVL 1 018 228

2. Revenue from market services and other own revenue LVL 138 107

Total revenue LVL 7 148 857

Central Statistical Bureau budget execution in 2010

1. Current expenditure LVL 5 673 112, of which:

1.1. Wages and salaries LVL 3 621 150

1.2. Compulsory social security contributions LVL 1 002 309

1.3. Business trip expenses LVL 114 578

1.4. Payments for services, purchased materials

..... LVL 935 075

of which:

payments for postal, telephone and other

communication services LVL 122 677

expenditure on public utilities LVL 91 505

expenditure on purchase of goods and inventories LVL 45 503

2. Maintenance expenditure transfers LVL 100 000

3. Capital expenditure LVL 545 538, of which:

intangible assets LVL 363 794

economic assets LVL 4 749

hardware, communication and other office equipment LVL 174 679

other fixed assets not classified above LVL 2 316

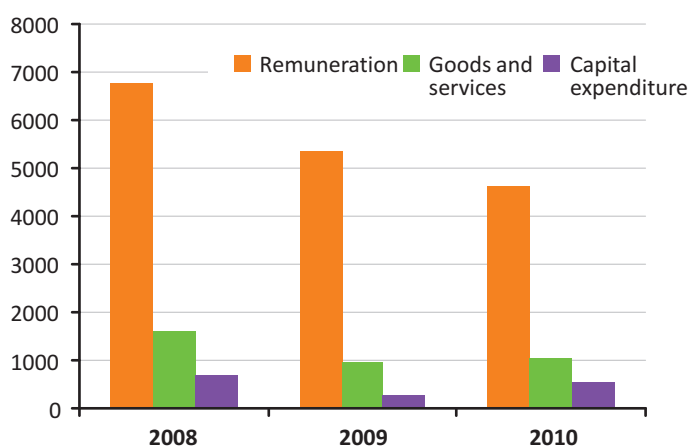
capital repairs and reconstruction LVL 0

4. Repayment in state budget for expenditure on

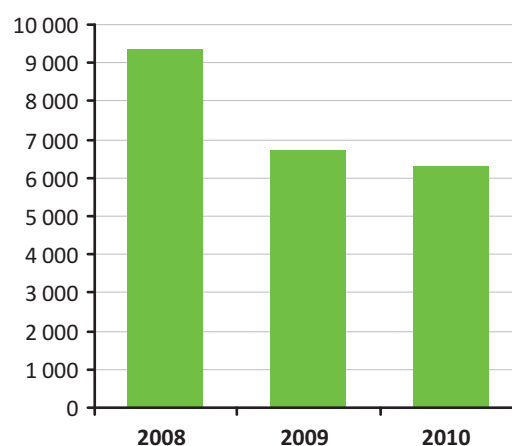
European Union co-financed projects LVL 497 918

Total expenditure LVL 6 318 650

CSB budget execution, thsd LVL



Total CSB budget, thsd LVL



BSS	Business Structural Statistics
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (in Egypt)
CASIS CAWI	Module for computer-assisted web interviews
CASIS CAPI	Module for computer-assisted personal interviews
CASIS CATI	Module for computer-assisted telephone interviews
Census 2010	Population and Housing Census 2010
COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose
CPA	Statistical Classification of Products by Activity
CSB	Central Statistical Bureau
DCPC	CSB Data Collection and Processing Centre
EC	European Commission
EGR	European Groups Register (EuroGroups Register)
ESS	European Statistical System
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
EU-SILC	Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
FATS	Foreign affiliates statistics
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IAOS	International Association for Official Statistics
IDAL	Investment and Development Agency of Latvia
Intrastat	System for collecting information and producing statistics on the trade in goods between countries of the European Union
ISCED 97	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO 08	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISDMS CASIS	Module for computer-assisted interviews of the Integrated Statistical Data Management System
ISI	International Statistics Institute
IT	Information technologies
LAS	Latvian Academy of Sciences
LRATC	Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
LVS EN ISO 9001:2008	International standard of the Quality Management System
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
NAMEA	National Accounting Matrix with Environmental Accounts
OCMA	Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs
PRODCOM	List of PRODUcts of the European COMmunity
RSS	Rural Support Service
SCORUS	Standing Committee of Regional and Urban Statistics
SEA	State Employment Agency
SLS	State Land Service
SRS	State Revenue Service
SSIA	State Social Insurance Agency
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument managed by the Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNO	United Nations Organisation
USA	United States of America
VAT	Value Added Tax



Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

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A stylized illustration of a green plant with several long, thin stems and oval-shaped leaves, positioned in the bottom right corner of the page.

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