Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

annual report
2024

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Foreword

Photo by Aivars Liepiņš, Dienas mediji

The year 2024 brought considerable progress and change for Statistics Latvia, which nevertheless remained a trusted source of official statistics, a leading innovator in public administration, and a reliable performer of European and national statistical mandates.

Further redesign of the organisational structure helped strengthen data and service management, promote technological innovation and support more open, user-focused communication.

Advances in data processing – through the introduction of artificial intelligence and machine-learning solutions, greater automation of processes, and the use of additional data sources – was a key step towards producing high-quality, timely and accessible statistics in a more modern and efficient way.

Significant new outputs introduced by Statistics Latvia last year – statistics released under the European Business Statistics Regulation and regional climate indicators – reinforced Latvia's integration into the European data space.

The progress made during the past year reflects the shared efforts of professional, responsible and creative team, whose ability to adapt, learn, innovate and deliver solutions supports national development.

Looking ahead, the next steps include expanding the use of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, improving data governance and promoting co-operation with national and international partners, while reducing the administrative burden on data providers. The core objective remains unchanged: to produce reliable, high-quality and innovation-driven official statistics.

Raimonds Lapiņš
Director General
Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

CONTENTS, ABBREVIATIONS, MISSION

Contents

List of abbreviations

AI	artificial intelligence
CAWI	computer-assisted web interviewing
EBS Regulation	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Union
EU SILC	European Union statistics on income and living conditions
GDP	gross domestic product
GHGs	greenhouse gases
ICT	information and communication technologies
IT	information technologies
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (*Nomenclature statistique des Activités économiques dans la Communauté Européenne*)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SAIO regulation	Regulation (EU) 2022/2379 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 on statistics on agricultural input and output
SQL	Structured Query Language
UN	United Nations Organisation
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

About Statistics Latvia

Legal status

The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (Statistics Latvia) is a direct administrative authority operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia. Under the Statistics Law, Statistics Latvia serves as the advisory body of the official statistics system and has functional authority over other producers of official statistics at both national and European level.

Mission, vision, values and priorities

Mission

Statistics Latvia is committed to producing reliable statistics that support socio-economic analysis and informed decision-making.

Vision

A modern national statistical institute recognised as a leader in applying innovative approaches to statistical production.

Values

All activities of Statistics Latvia are guided by the following values:

Independence

Performing all functions independently, impartially, and fairly.

Professionalism

Constantly developing expertise, seeking new data sources, and applying innovative technologies and methods with the courage to experiment.

Openness

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

Cooperation

Working efficiently and respectfully with colleagues, clients and partners, valuing their opinions, work and time, and building a cohesive team united by shared goals. Having a cohesive team with common goals.

Strategic priorities and goals set for the reporting period

Statistics Latvia has three priorities and 13 goals supporting its vision.

Priorities	Goals
Expansion of statistical production and enhancement of innovative potential	■ Streamlined production of statistics ■ Wider and more diversified use of data sources ■ Continuous dialogue with data providers and data owners ■ Greater availability, accessibility and re-use of statistics and data ■ Statistics Latvia recognised as a leader in data processing with state-of-the-art methods ■ A strong and modern national system of official statistics
Wider and meaningful use of modern technologies in statistical production	■ Reliable solutions for the data collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination ■ Efficient and process-oriented information management and work organisation in production departments ■ Broader use and circulation of administrative data
Promotion of personnel growth and engagement	■ Inclusive and growth-oriented environment for employees, ensuring optimal and efficient use of human resources ■ Higher competence level among employees ■ Stronger organisational culture ■ Enhanced green thinking

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Financial Resources and Performance Indicators

Budget programmes implemented by the Statistics Latvia

Structure of the budget programmes has been developed in accordance with the law *On the State Budget for 2024 and the Budget Framework for 2024, 2025, and 2026*. The Statistics Latvia budget consists of the following **budget programmes (subprogrammes)**:

Programme (subprogramme)	Name
24.00.00	*Provision of Statistical Information*
20.00.00	*Construction*
63.00.00	*Implementation of European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) projects and activities (2021-2027)*
programme 67.00.00 (subprogramme 67.06.00)	*Implementation of European Community initiative projects and activities (subprogramme European Community Initiative projects)*
70.06.00	*Reimbursement of Travel Expenses of Latvian Representatives when Going to European Union Council Working Party Meetings and Council*
97.00.00	*Sector management and policy planning*

In 2024, within the framework of the mentioned budget programmes, main activities of the Statistics Latvia were related to the implementation of strategic aim, priorities confirmed and tasks to be done through providing users of statistical information with independent and high-quality official statistics.

Budget of the Statistics Latvia

Revenue from services rendered against payment comprised EUR 164 480 in 2024, which, compared to 2023, has decreased by EUR 27 160 or 14.2 %. In 2023, the increase in revenue was due to the concluded agreement for conducting the Household Finance and Consumption Survey in Latvia, with the largest share of the agreement payment made in 2023.   .

Financial Resources and Performance Indicators

Subsidy from general revenue comprised EUR 15 442 798 in 2024, which, compared to 2023, has increased by EUR 2 221 999. The largest changes consist of the funding allocated under programme 24.00.00 *Provision of Statistical Information* for strengthening the administrative capacity of the Statistics Latvia to ensure the measurement of progress towards the goals set in Latvia's National Energy and Climate Plan for 2021–2030, as well as funding for the Statistics Latvia to meet regulatory requirements and to strengthen the capacity of public administration by providing remuneration for strategically important positions and by improving human capital and employment management in Latvia.

General budget of the Statistics Latvia comprised EUR 15 616 610 in 2024, which, compared to 2023, has increased by EUR 2 185 336 or 16.2 %.

No.	Financial indicators	2023 actual	2024	
			planned	actual
1.	Financial resources to cover expenses (total)	13 469 848	15 180 825	15 634 248
1.1	grants	13 220 799	14 969 263	15 442 798
1.2.	revenue from chargeable services and other own revenue	191 640	211 562	164 480
1.3.	transfers	57 410		26 970
2.	Total expenditure	14 025 545	15 180 825	15 616 610
2.1	total accommodation costs	13 139 999	14 295 279	14 731 076
2.1.1.	current expenditure	13 111 499	14 295 279	14 698 793
2.1.2.	maintenance costs of transfers	28 500		32 283
2.2.	capital expenditures	885 546	885 546	885 534

Performance indicators

The operations' results planned within the framework of budget programmes and subprogrammes for 2023–2029 have been achieved in the Statistics Latvia operations strategy, which are characterized by performance indicators in the table.

Performance indicators	2023 actual	2024	
		planned	actual
Fostering the potential for growth and innovation in statistics			
Activities promoting the development of statistical production have been organized within the framework of partnership with respondents (number)	3	3	4
Innovative methods used in statistical production (number)	–	1	1
Average response level (%) of enterprise statistics reports	92	90	90
Cooperation agreements concluded/updated with the most important administrative data holders (number)	6	2	8
Overall producer price indices calculated in the data processing system (number)	5	5	5
New administrative and private data sources studied for preparation of statistics (number)	1	1	1
Informational activities on the use of innovative data processing methods and new data sources in statistical production (number)	4	3	3
Topics on which detailed territorial statistics (grid data, villages, densely populated areas, city neighbourhoods, parishes in detail) have been prepared (number)	2	2	3
Innovative statistical products (number)	1	1	1
Statistics prepared by official statistics institutions have been published on the official statistics portal in a standardized and machine-readable format, providing descriptive metadata necessary for data interpretation (%)	-	95	95
Activities for improvement of quality of publicly available information by maintaining feedback with users of statistics (number)	4	4	9
Experimental statistics indicators have been published (number)	3	2	2
Official Statistics Programme for mid-term has been developed and implemented (number)	1	1	1

Financial Resources and Performance Indicators

Performance indicators	2023 actual	2024	
		planned	actual
Maintaining the awareness of statistical institutions about current developments (number)	4	3	4
Statistical Council meetings (number)	4	4	4
Ensuring the compliance of geospatial statistics download services with the requirements of themes 1 and 10 of Annex III of INSPIRE Directive (service compliance with Inspire requirements %)	100	100	100

Data has been prepared for analysing employment conditions and trends in Latvia

Latvian higher education graduates monitored (number)	75 000	90 000	90 000
Vocational education graduates monitored (number)	32 000	40 000	40 000
Monitoring of participants in continuing education and professional development programmes has been prepared in the context of human capital management (number)	1	1	1

Broader and meaningful use of modern technologies in supporting statistical production

Within the framework of data storage, the data from external data providers/users has been integrated (number)	70	70	70
Using the state data exchange mechanism, the share of exchanges with administrative data in the total number of data used (%)	-	2	2
Share of available electronic forms in the electronic data collection system (%)	94	94	94
Existing data processing solutions have been improved (number of systems)	-	3	3

Development of a unified regulatory framework in the EU has been ensured, and the requirements of EU Regulations have been implemented in Latvia's processes

Regional climate indicators have been calculated on GHG emissions, climate change mitigation, and adaptation to climate change (number of indicators)	-	20	37
Statistical indicators have been published according to the breakdown specified in the European Business Statistics Regulation (number)	-	4	4
Detailed Population Census indicators on the population of Latvia (number)	-	4	4

Fostering staff development and engagement

Employee reskilling programmes have been developed (number)	-	1	-
Employees who, in accordance with the competence reskilling programme, have acquired new skills (%)	-	5	-

Assessment of strategy implementation

The operations' results planned for 2023–2029 have been achieved in the Statistics Latvia operations strategy, which are characterized by performance indicators in the table.

Objective	Result to be achieved	Indicator and its unit of measure	During the pre-strategy period	Values planned		Actual implementation
			Value 2022	Desirable value 2026	Desirable value 2029	2024
M.1.1.	Innovative methods used in statistical production	number	n/a	5	10	1
M.1.1.	Level of compliance with the deadlines set in the publication calendar for the dissemination of critical indicators	%	n/a	100	100	100
M.1.2.	New administrative and private data sources studied for use in preparation of statistics	number	n/a	4	7	3
M.1.3.	Respondents' satisfaction with the quality of statisticians' work	%	94	94	94	93*
M.1.3.	Activities promoting the development of statistical production organized within the framework of partnership with respondents	annual number	n/a	1	1	4
M.1.4.	Innovative data dissemination products developed for the convenience of data users	number	n/a	3	5	1
M.1.4.	Informational activities for data users	number	n/a	4	7	9
M.1.5.	Informational activities on the use of innovative data processing methods and new data sources in statistical production	annual number	1	2	2	3

Financial Resources and Performance Indicators

Objective	Result to be achieved	Indicator and its unit of measure	During the pre-strategy period	Values planned		Actual imple-men-tation
			Value 2022	Desirable value 2026	Desirable value 2029	2024
M.1.6.	Training materials provided to statistical institutions to enhance statistical preparation competencies	annual number of topics	n/a	3	3	3
M.1.6.	Maintaining the awareness of statistical institutions about current developments	annual number of meetings	3	3	3	4
M.1.6.	Level of compliance to European Statistics Code of Practice by statistical institutions ensuring European statistics	%	91	90	90	90
M.2.1.	Existing data processing solutions have been improved, or new ones have been developed	number	n/a	3	5	4
M.2.1.	Data protection level has been ensured in accordance with the ISO 27001 standard	%	100	100	100	100
M.2.3.	Exchange of administrative data is being organized using the national data exchange mechanisms	%	n/a	10	50	2
M.3.4.	Collective activities to promote environmental and climate neutrality	annual number	n/a	1	1	1

* The survey has been carried out in 2023. In 2025 the survey will be carried out in the 4th quarter.

In 2024, the strategic objectives set by the Statistics Latvia were implemented at a high level, ensuring compliance with data quality and comparability requirements at both the national and European levels. Significant progress has been made in modernizing data processing, integrating new data sources, introducing innovations in statistical processes, and enhancing the user experience on the official statistics portal. During the next strategic period, the Statistics Latvia will continue to advance the digitalization of data processing and analytics, broaden the application of artificial intelligence in statistical production, strengthen administrative data integration mechanisms, and enhance collaboration with public sector institutions and data users to ensure an efficient, secure, and innovative data ecosystem in Latvia.

Structural changes to ensure the efficient operation of the Statistics Latvia

To develop the institution's internal analytical capacity, to develop and maintain the national secure data-processing environment, and to organize internal data

of the Statistics Latvia, Data Governance Section has been established within the Information Technologies Department.

To strengthen the areas of data processing, innovation, and communication, and to ensure more effective achievement of the strategic objectives of the Statistics Latvia, a structural reorganization of the institution was carried out in 2024. As of 1 November 2024, by restructuring the Information and Communication Technology Department and the Statistics Methodology Department, two new structural unit-level departments were created – the Technologies and Innovations Department and the Communication and Services Governance Department.

The Technologies and Innovations Department focuses on developing modern data-processing solutions by introducing artificial intelligence, machine learning, modelling, and geospatial data-processing methods, as well as providing methodological support to other structural units. Meanwhile, the Communication and Services Governance Department ensures the implementation of the institution's communication and services governance strategies, coordinates cooperation with national and international partners, and promotes the coherence of official statistics system of Latvia with the development directions of the European Statistical System.

By ensuring a process-oriented approach, the Business Statistics Department has been reorganized – methodology, data processing, data analysis, and dissemination sections have been established, and work processes as well as staff responsibilities in the Statistical Business Register and short-term statistics have been optimized. The new structure will commence its work on 1 January 2025.

The changes carried out are aimed at strengthening the institution's efficiency, innovation, and inter-institutional cooperation in order to ensure the preparation and dissemination of high-quality and modern statistics.

To ensure the efficient operation of the institution's management and performance improvement system

The ISO certifications renewed at the end of 2024 confirm the Statistics Latvia commitment to use and continuously develop management systems that protect sensitive data and uphold high standards in statistical products and services. The ISO 27001 certificate confirms that the Statistics Latvia has implemented a comprehensive information security management system that protects our sensitive data from unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration, or destruction, while the ISO 9001 certificate confirms effective quality management approach of the Statistics Latvia, ensuring the fulfilment of stakeholder needs and promoting the continuous improvement of processes. Together, these systems ensure compliance with industry standards, fostering trust and reliability across all statistical processes.

CERTIFIED
ISO 27001
ISO 9001
BUREAU VERITAS

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STATISTICAL DIMENSIONS

Statistical dimensions

Cooperation with other national authorities

In 2024, Statistics Latvia continued its close cooperation with other national authorities that produce official statistics (ONAs). **The focus was on improving data quality, harmonising methodology and strengthening a shared understanding of the European Statistics Code of Practice.** Regular meetings and training sessions supported ONAs in producing metadata, applying quality requirements, and completing self-assessment questionnaires. Statistics Latvia summarised the ONAs' self-assessment results to refine the future cooperation and communication model.

Statistics Latvia also **provided methodological and technical support** to the State Border Guard, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Economics, and other ONAs, **ensuring smooth data exchange and alignment with Eurostat standards**. The institution also participated actively in inter-institutional meetings and coordinated the development of the official statistics system, contributing to high-quality, timely and user-oriented national statistics.

Advancing statistical methods and innovation

The reporting year strengthened use of innovative approaches in data processing and statistical production. Machine-learning and AI methods played a larger role: Statistics Latvia developed a new approach to population estimation, improved models for workplace location and income estimation, and used AI tools in metadata preparation and IT solutions. Automation also moved forward as SQL- and R-based processes reduced manual work and accelerated data publication.

The institution also broadened its range of data sources – with retail chain data, payment card data, geospatial information, and data from national information systems – thus improving data quality and reducing response burden.

Knowledge-sharing complemented these developments. Information events and experience-exchange sessions on new data processing technologies strengthened Statistics Latvia shift towards modern and innovative data solutions.

On 12 December 2024, Statistics Latvia held a **conference *Territorial Statistics and Applications Thereof*, where experts presented the possibilities of analysing territorial economic development (TED) data, showcasing the ways how detailed data can support the work of municipalities and territorial planners**. The TED data merge economic

Panel discussion in the conference
Territorial Statistics:
Methods, Use, Data Literacy, and Supply.
Moderator
Sigita Purona-Sida (Statistics Latvia),
discussion participants
Janis Turlajs (Salaspils municipality),
Uldis Ainars (Statistics Latvia),
Gundars Berzinš (University of Latvia),
Raimonds Lapinš (Statistics Latvia)
and Maris Puķis (Latvian Association of
Local and Regional Governments)

Statistical dimensions

indicators for place of residence, workplace, and commuting flows and are complemented by maps and summaries, enabling economic development assessments at regional, municipal and sub-municipal level.

"The growing need for timely and detailed data in the territorial development planning requires continuous collaboration between statisticians and data owners. It also sets new work directions, such as energy efficiency and climate change, prompting the search for new data sources and development of more advanced calculation methods," explained Raimonds Lapiņš, Director General of Statistics Latvia. *"Territorial statistics is a proactive solution to the data needs in municipalities, offering both traditional and innovative approaches tailored to the requirements of modern development planning."*

On 15–17 November 2024, **the first road safety hackathon in the Baltics** – *24h Road Safety Hackathon* – took place. It was organised by the Road Traffic Safety Directorate in cooperation with the Creative Tuesdays platform, Statistics Latvia, and Riga Technical University. Ahead of the event, on 25 October and 4 and 8 November, Statistics Latvia held three online warm-up events: *Traffic safety in data – myths and truth; Why do heavy road accidents happen?; and How to win a hackathon? RoadHack24 Q&A.*

Priority actions implemented during the reporting year

In 2024, Statistics Latvia continued implementing EU regulatory requirements in national statistics, ensuring data quality, comparability and timely data exchange with Eurostat.

As part of these efforts, the institution **introduced NACE Rev. 2.1**, the updated statistical classification of economic activities, further strengthening alignment with EU standards.

Statistics Latvia also **published new business statistics outputs required under the EBS Regulation, including indicators on the international supply of services by mode of supply (MoS) and statistics on trade by enterprise characteristics (STEC)**. It compiled and transmitted these data to Eurostat for the first time together with a full quality report, ensuring EU-level comparability.

To support the modernisation of the Statistical Farm Register (SFR), Statistics Latvia prepared a technical specification for the system upgrade, aiming to maximise automation in maintaining and updating register information, improve system functionality, reduce manual work, and streamline the compilation and dissemination of agricultural statistics. The SFR underpins
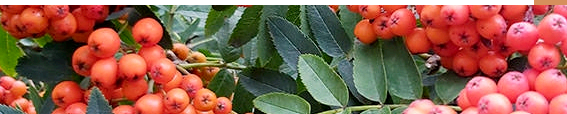
compliance with the EU agricultural statistics framework – Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 on integrated farm statistics and Regulation (EU) 2022/2379 on statistics on agricultural input and output. Following the procurement process, the selected contractor began developing the upgraded system, analysing data sources, and assessing data flows. Completion of the technical solution is planned for 2025.

To meet the requirements of the new SAIO Regulation and to simplify statistical questionnaires while reducing response burden, Statistics Latvia worked with data users – the Ministry of Agriculture, the Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI) and the association of plant nurseries and sapling growers in Latvia (*Latvijas Stādaudzētāju Biedrība, SAB*) – **to review the indicators included in agricultural statistics reports**. The review resulted in several changes: the reporting frequency for the milk production questionnaire (*1-piens*) was reduced from monthly to twice a year; the number of indicators in the flowers and seedlings questionnaire (*1-puķes un stādi*) was reduced by 70 %; and the number of indicators in the crop production questionnaire (*21-LS, augkopība*) was reduced by 17 %.

To support climate policy planning and decision-making at national and regional level, Statistics Latvia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Climate and Energy, **launched a Climate Change Dashboard**. The dashboard provides a clear overview of GHG emissions, energy consumption and other climate-related indicators.

To enhance the availability and detail of population statistics, Statistics Latvia **transmitted and published census data that meet the latest Eurostat requirements, including in hypercube structures**. These data provide comprehensive information on the demographic, educational, labour market and housing characteristics and are available both internationally through the Census Hub and nationally via the official statistics portal.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International Cooperation

In 2024, Statistics Latvia representatives actively participated in international conferences and seminars, showcasing Latvia's experience and solutions in the field of statistics and data processing. Purposeful participation in such meetings promotes the recognition of Statistics Latvia's image as a leader in data processing and strengthens its position as a competent and reliable partner in international statistics. Participation in international conferences primarily offers an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other countries, gain new insights, and compare approaches across different statistical processes to ensure that statistics meet international standards and quality requirements.

In 2024, Statistics Latvia experts participated in 72 Eurostat working group/committee meetings. Statistics Latvia experts contributed to the work of Eurostat's special task forces dealing with specific methodological issues, participating in 31 meetings. In 2024, 86 international activities were held remotely, and 99 in-person meetings took place, with the participation of 261 Statistics Latvia employees. In addition to regular activities, Statistics Latvia experts have contributed to the harmonization of statistical methodology through various written consultations.

On 20–21 February, Deputy Director General Baiba Zukula participated in the seminar *Modern Official Statistics in the Context of EU Accession*, which was held in Moldova. The purpose of the seminar was to support Moldova in its EU accession process by providing an opportunity to gain knowledge and share best practices. B. Zukula delivered a presentation titled *Robust coordination of the NSS as a prerequisite for better official statistics*.

On 26 February–1 March, the 55th session of the UN Statistical Commission was held in the United States, with Latvia represented by Deputy Director General Baiba Zukula and Head of the International Affairs Section Ieva Zemeskalna. During this international meeting, key statistical issues were considered and addressed to reinforce the role of statistics in global development and enhance the quality and accessibility of data. Throughout the session, international statistical standards and methodological materials were reviewed and approved, and achievements across nearly all areas of statistics were analysed.

On 24–26 April, Dita Zemīte participated in the 73rd session of the United Nations Working Group on Transport Statistics in Geneva, where she delivered a presentation titled *First experiences from Light Utility Vehicle (N1) data collection and setting up a methodology in Latvia*.

On 14–17 May, Deputy Directors General of Statistics Latvia Baiba Zukula and Norberts Tālers participated in the International Association for Official Statistics and International Statistical Institute Conference (IAOS-ISI Conference) in Mexico. B. Zukula delivered a presentation titled *Graduate data processing solutions for decision-makers*, while N. Tālers presented *CAWImobile – a solution for survey questionnaire completion on mobile devices*. In addition,

International Cooperation

Baiba Zukula and Norberts Tālers represents Latvia in Conference of the International Association of Official Statistics in Mexico

B. Zukula chaired a conference session on household and poverty statistics, while N. Tālers led a session on broader aspects of labour market statistics.

On 28 May, Vija Bunte, an expert from the Social Statistics Data Analysis and Dissemination Section, and Anna Karolīna Ozola, an expert from the Social Statistics Methodology Section, participated in the International Household Budget Survey seminar in Estonia. Both delivered a presentation titled *Preparations for the 2025 Household Budget Survey*, sharing information on preparatory work, current issues, best practices, and planned steps for implementing the survey.

On 30–31 May, Baiba Alksnīte, Deputy Director of the Macroeconomic Statistics Department, and Atis Putniņš, expert of the Producer Price Indices Section, participated in the Nordic–Baltic–Netherlands seminar on statistical issues related to the Business Services Price Index and the Producer Price Index in Industry, held in Norway. They delivered a presentation titled *Production system of producer price indices RCIAS*.

On 18–19 June, Kalvis Okmanis, expert of the Social Statistics Data Analysis and Dissemination Section, and Annika Gēgermane, expert of the Social Statistics Methodology Section, participated in a virtual Eurostat seminar on the Adult Education Survey, where Member States shared their experiences on data collection methods, questionnaire design, quality improvement, and response rate challenges. A. Gēgermane delivered a presentation titled *Non-response reduction methods during fieldwork.*

On 2–13 July, former Deputy Director of Information and Communication Department of Statistics Latvia, Gundega Kuzmina, participated in the conference *Next Leaders of the Statistics and DX Exchange Programme 2024 (NextStatX2024)*, organized by the Statistical Information Institute for Consulting and Analysis (Sifonica) and the Center for International Youth Exchange (CENTREYE) in Japan. The purpose of the conference was to present Latvia's progress in the field of statistics and digital transformation, discuss potential areas of cooperation, and learn from Japan's experience in the collection and dissemination of statistics.

On 27–30 August, at the Baltic–Nordic–Ukrainian Network on Survey Statistics seminar in Poznań, Jeļena Voronova, Deputy Head of the Data Science and Methods Support Section, presented Latvia's experience in preparing for and drawing conclusions from the pilot coverage survey, providing insights into testing sampling methods for the transition to population estimation models.

Raimonds Lapiņš is giving a talk in DGINS Conference in Tallinn

On 23–24 October, Director General of Statistics Latvia, Raimonds Lapiņš, participated in the Annual Conference of the Directors General of the National Statistical Institutes (DGINS Conference) in Tallinn. The discussions focused on new frontiers in the field of official statistics, emphasizing the essential role of statistical institutions within the national data ecosystem. By sharing

International Cooperation

experiences and gaining new insights, the conference strengthened the role of Statistics Latvia as a data leader.

On December 4–5, experts from the Environmental Statistics Department – Andra Lazdiņa, Ģertrūde Vīksna, and Regīna Dzirne – participated virtually in the Baltic States meeting on energy statistics updates. They delivered six presentations on various topics: the organization and preparation of energy statistics, reporting data to the International Energy Agency, collection of statistical data on renewable energy, new requirements in energy statistics regulations, and household surveys on energy consumption.

On December 5–6, Oļesja Larionova, a statistical mathematician from the Data Science and Methods Support Section, participated in an OECD seminar on time series analysis in official statistics in Paris, where she gave a presentation titled *An approach dealing with long time series: A case study using RJDemetra.*

In addition to the regular collaboration activities with international organizations on the harmonization and development of statistical methodology, the following bilateral cooperation activities took place:

On **April 25–26**, the annual Baltic Steering Committee meeting took place which on a rotating basis in 2024 was held in Latvia, Līgatne. During the meeting, the heads of the statistical institutions assessed the cooperation of the previous planning period, identified the directions for collaboration in the next planning period, and discussed the most important development issues within the international statistical community. Additionally, the institutions presented examples of their best practices in specific statistical fields. Within the framework of the meeting, the heads and deputy heads of the statistical institutions discussed current issues in data governance in their countries, skills development, and the integration of artificial intelligence and other technologies in data collection and processing. The agenda also included discussions on maintaining respondent accountability to ensure the efficiency of data collection processes.

On **July 3–4**, a delegation from Statistics Netherlands visited Statistics Latvia to participate in the mid-term evaluation of the project *New Transport Sector Statistics – Light Utility Vehicles and Their Operational Characteristics.* At the mid-term stage, it was important to assess the quality of the data collected, trends, results, responsibilities, problematic variables, and summary calculations of comparable indicators, taking into account the experience of the Netherlands.

On **August 5–8**, experts from the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova visited Statistics Latvia on a study visit within the framework of TAIEX regarding the Global Value Chain survey. During the discussions, topics such as the survey methodology, data requirements, technical specifications, and the use of statistical units in conducting the survey were addressed. Experts from

Members of the annual
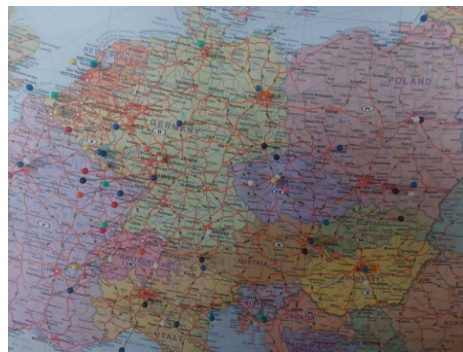Baltic Steering Committee meeting

Delegation from Statistics Netherlands
in Statistics Latvia

International Cooperation

Statistics Latvia shared their experience by demonstrating the statistical data processing system and approaches to the Global Value Chain survey, including issues related to data validation, dissemination, and processing.

European Sustainable Development Week

Starting from September 18, the European Sustainable Development Week 2024 was celebrated throughout Europe. In honour of this event, the International Affairs Section organized educational activities for colleagues. To promote communication and exchange of experiences about sustainable living, a photo contest was organized with the aim of encouraging colleagues to document their activities that support a sustainable lifestyle. The task of the photo contest was to submit a photograph showing an employee in motion or engaged in some activity, thus creatively demonstrating their lifestyle and inspiring others to do the same. Employees submitted photographs depicting themselves engaging in sports, donating blood, or tending their gardens, thereby demonstrating that sustainability is an important part of their everyday lives.

The Sustainability Guide placed in the lobby of Statistics Latvia

Another activity was set up as an educational station where employees had the opportunity to learn about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On a board placed in the lobby of Statistics Latvia, employees could mark their daily activities that contribute to achieving one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This initiative, called the *Sustainability Guide*, is aimed at reminding colleagues that a green and sustainable lifestyle is not something complicated and that, most likely, everyone is already gradually practising it in their daily lives without even realizing it. The main purpose of the board was to provide a visual reminder of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their symbols, as well as to allow employees to mark the SDGs corresponding to the activities they had carried out. This offered insight into which goals are most frequently supported within our organization, while also promoting awareness and engagement on sustainability issues.

Europe Day and the 20th anniversary of the EU

To mark Latvia's 20th anniversary in the European Union, in May the EU Affairs Coordination Section organized and invited Statistics Latvia employees to participate in various educational and entertaining activities, aiming to enhance employees' understanding of the EU and to promote the importance of EU work and unity. Two weeks before Europe Day, two educational quizzes were posted in the International cooperation section to allow colleagues to test their knowledge about the European Union member states. In addition, the e-governance portal published a visual timeline of the sequence of events of Latvia's accession, with the aim of strengthening colleagues' understanding of Latvia's historical path to joining the EU.

EU countries visited by personnel

Colleagues shared their portrait photos from 2004, which were displayed on a

photo board in the lobby of Statistics Latvia. This activity not only promoted team cohesion among colleagues but also highlighted the positive changes in Latvia and the world that our membership in the European Union has brought us. Similarly, colleagues marked the European Union countries they had visited on the colourful interactive map in the lobby of Statistics Latvia, to assess how EU membership has facilitated our travel. This interactive approach served as a reminder to colleagues of the benefits of the EU.

Concluding the Europe Day activities, colleagues were encouraged to join the Great European Hour organized by the EU House, where everyone had the opportunity to refresh their knowledge about the European Union's goals and history. Colleagues had the opportunity to participate in the annual Europe Day quiz, in which 77 employees tested their knowledge and luck. The quiz questions covered a variety of topics – including questions from last year's European exam, current events in Europe and Latvia, as well as brainteasers about international activities of Statistics Latvia. Participation in the quiz not only educated Statistics Latvia employees but also promoted the importance of the EU Affairs Coordination Section's work and support within the Statistics Latvia.

European Union 2004

European Union 2004

PERSONNEL

Personnel

In 2024, **Statistics Latvia continued to implement its functions and tasks under a hybrid work model**, balancing flexibility with high performance and attention to employee well-being. To support this approach, employees had access to up-to-date technical equipment for remote work and ergonomically arranged workstations in the office, ensuring efficient and health-conscious working conditions.

Last year, the institution maintained efficient operations with a smaller human resource capacity. According to the staffing plan, the institution had a total of 483 positions at the end of the year, including 243 civil service posts and 240 employee positions, of which 49 were vacant. The number of employees, including those on long-term leave, averaged around 445 during the year, with **442 active staff members** as at 31 December 2024.
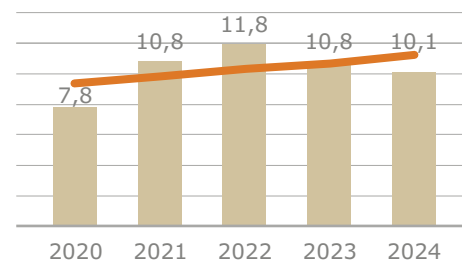
Most unfilled positions were for statistics specialists. Vacancies were also recorded in the IT and digital environment, with 12 positions open in system administration, programming, data analytics, system development, service design and digital content. In support functions, three positions were vacant in recruitment, strategic human resource management and document administration. A further four positions remained unfilled among service and technical staff.

In 2024, **37 employees joined Statistics Latvia, whereas 45 employees left** to pursue new professional or personal paths. Most departures from civil service or employment took place by mutual agreement, at the employee's initiative, or upon reaching retirement age.

The exit survey, completed voluntarily by 18 employees, offered insight into the reasons for leaving, with respondents most often citing limited career development opportunities, a desire for more varied work content, the need for more competitive remuneration, personal circumstances and retirement.

The **employee turnover rate decreased by 0.7 percentage points year-on-year**, reaching 10.11 %. The **new-hire turnover rate** – covering employees who had worked at Statistics Latvia for less than one year – **stood at 2.47 %**, accounting for 24.43 % of all employees whose civil service or employment relationships with Statistics Latvia ended in 2024.

To improve quality, professionalism and objectivity of personnel selection, Statistics Latvia applies uniform and structured criteria for evaluating applicants, using a competence-based approach combined with practical tasks. The institution has also developed and implemented an algorithm for determining the monthly wage of new employees. It sets the initial salary based on the applicant's qualifications and competences.

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
7,8	10,8	11,8	10,8	10,1

Employee turnover rate

Personnel

Last year, Statistics Latvia **announced 76 recruitment competitions for 87 vacancies** (53 for civil servants and 34 for public employees) **and received 551 applications.** A total of **37 vacancies remained unfilled**: five because no applications were submitted, and the remainder because applicants did not meet the requirements or chose not to continue the selection process.
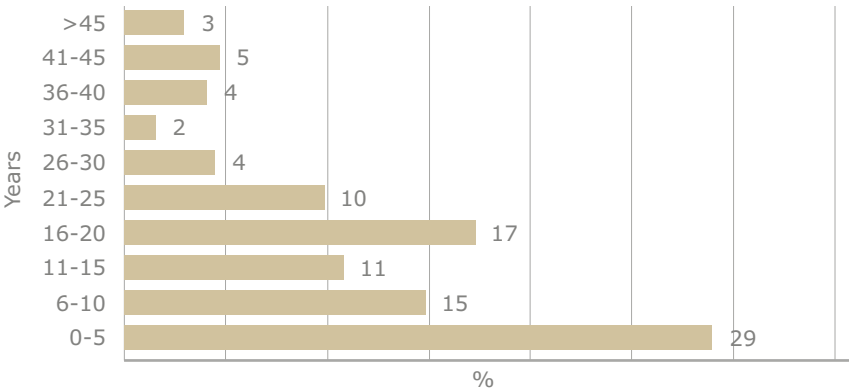
These recruitment results indicate that improvements to the recruitment process are needed – both in reaching potential candidates more effectively and in reviewing job requirements to reflect labour-market conditions.

To strengthen Statistics Latvia visibility among young people and improve the effectiveness of recruitment, **several targeted initiatives were carried out** in 2024. **These included an open day for university and vocational students and participation in Shadow Day**, where the institution introduced students to careers in statistics and mathematics. In addition to these targeted initiatives, the institution regularly welcomes school and vocational students interested in statistics and the organisation's working environment.

Statistics Latvia workforce profile shows a highly educated staff with considerable length of service. A total of 79 % of employees have completed tertiary education. The majority of employees – 54 % – have worked for the institution for less than 15 years, while 30 % have been with it for 16–30 years. The average length of service remains 15 years. The average age of employees is 48, with 13 % at the legal retirement age as at 31 December 2024. Women make up 86 % of the workforce, down by just under one percentage point compared with the previous year.

Statistics Latvia invites students to open days

Employees by length of service

To support continuous development of knowledge and skills, **Statistics Latvia provides ongoing learning and professional development opportunities**. In organising training, the institution seeks the most effective solutions, offering both tailored courses for larger groups and individual development options.

In 2024, **several theoretical and practical training activities were held** to strengthen staff competences **in digital skills and the use of technologies, communication, leadership, and in the areas of data protection and cybersecurity**. To support employee well-being, engagement and satisfaction, Statistics Latvia **continued its tradition of offering well-being lectures**.

To further expand access to training, Excel courses – from introductory to more advanced levels – were made available to employees through the e-learning platform. This structured approach enables staff to select the level of training that best matches their previous experience and professional needs.
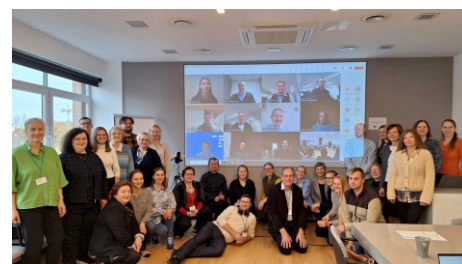
Last year, 17 employees participated in professional training for European statisticians organised by Eurostat.

A particular highlight in 2024 was the five-day course *National Accounts – Advanced*, held in October. It brought together staff from Statistics Latvia, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economics to deepen their knowledge of the national accounts system. The course was delivered in cooperation with the Latvian School of Public Administration and Statistics Finland and was funded by the EU Recovery Fund (project No 2.3.2.2.i.0/1/23/I/VARAM/001 *Digital Academy for Public Administration.*

Statistics Latvia is proud of its employees and grateful for their professionalism, initiative and responsible work, which are essential to achieving our shared goals in the national statistical system.

Participants of the National Accounts – Advanced course

For long-standing, professional and significant contributions to the development of the national statistical system, Certificates of Recognition from the Ministry of Economics were awarded to Ilze Skujeniece (for substantial contributions to business statistics) and Inese Medne (for contributions to the development of national accounts methodology). A Certificate of Gratitude for contributions to the development of the Integrated Statistical Data Processing and Management System was presented to Ilona Millere.

Statistics Latvia Certificates of Recognition were awarded to Juris Nitišs, Līga Saleniece, Ļubova Ņemsadze, Dzintra Junge, Jūlija Jeļina and Sandra Ceriņa, while Statistics Latvia Certificates of Gratitude were presented to Ērika Demidova, Baiba Alksnīte, Ieva Zemeskalna, Kārlis Bernāns, Andra Lazdiņa, Gita Ķiņķevska, Anna Aļošina, Ieva Stangaine-Ozoliņa, Jānis Klimaševskis, Indra Feldmane, Nataļja Drabova, Iveta Žeļezņakova, Elita Pabērza, Valentīna

Personnel

Dubakina, Tatjana Arāja, Helēna Silerova, Ligita Peviško, Baiba Grišāne, Irina Barsukova, Dace Avotiņa, Laura Kļaviņa, Liene Ozoliņa, Linards Ozoliņš and Agris Ginters.

Employees who received awards

COMMUNICATION

Communication

New content in statistics portal stat.gov.lv

The section *Social Inclusion* on the official statistics portal has been updated, now including information on 14 risk groups defined by the Ministry of Welfare, such as persons with disabilities, unemployed people, seniors, Roma, and low-income households. In 2024, additional information was included on young people who are not in education or employment, single-parent families, orphans, asylum seekers, refugees (including Ukrainians), persons with alternative or stateless status, and victims of violence. A new risk group *Households in poverty and low-income households* has been established.

Within the EU co-funded project *Geospatial Statistics – EduHealth*, indicators for territorial economic development for 2018–2022 have been updated, including the number of persons employed and jobs, as well as the value added and production value by place of residence and place of work. Since the initial publication of the data, there has been steady interest from data users in the most recent figures, particularly in the field of spatial planning.

User experience in data search on the official statistics portal has been improved by adding product codes to sections such as *Key Indicators, Other Format, Press Release, Publication, and Infographics*. Thus, unique identifiers are used for different content items (the same as previously, by numbering the tables) to reference specific content (including creating short links for sharing, for example, on social media).

The database tables have been updated with the latest survey data on self-rated health, quality of life, income, housing conditions, and energy efficiency.

Publicity in media and social networks

In 2024, Statistics Latvia carried out communication activities with the media and the public: more than 190 questions from journalists were answered, comments were provided on radio and TV, and over 190 press releases were disseminated regarding statistical data, the launch of various surveys, and current activities in the institution. Statistics Latvia was mentioned in media 11 000 times.

In 2024, demography, consumer price changes, wages and salaries, employment and GDP indicators were the most popular subjects in the media. Statistical data of Statistics Latvia are most often used for content creation in online media, followed by radio and print publications.

A diverse range of content has been published on social media, with over 500 posts in Latvian and English on the X (Twitter) account. Among these, the post that generated the most views and discussions covered demographic indicators in the 3rd quarter, receiving 89 000 views. On Facebook, 123 posts were published

March 8

last year. The most popular post, published on March 8, featured a map showing the number of women per 100 men and received 59 000 views.

Special emphasis was given to data on demographics, gender equality, education, labour force, social inclusion, and ICT. Extensive communication campaigns were conducted, including for the EU-SILC survey, using radio, television, and regional press. Several thematic infographics and visualizations were published, drawing public's attention to key issues, including income, living conditions, energy efficiency, household structure, demography, and youth employment.

Education of young people

In 2024, five groups of students from Riga Trade vocational secondary school, Turiba University, and Jēkabpils Technology School visited Statistics Latvia. Students and pupils were introduced to the importance of statistics, the official statistics portal stat.gov.lv, and how to navigate and search for data. Trade and tourism statistics were explored in greater detail, tailored to the study programmes chosen by students. Students from Jēkabpils Technology School had the opportunity to meet IT specialists from Statistics Latvia and gain hands-on experience in programming, software licensing, and web solution development.

On 22 May, the 48th Scientific Research Conference for Latvian Secondary School students took place at the LU Academic Centre, where Statistics Latvia also presented its special award. Recognition was awarded to Adrians Gailītis, a student of Agenskalns State Gymnasium, who received a prize from Baiba Zukula for his innovative and creative approach to data collection and situation analysis in his scientific research paper *The Impact of Piracy on Cinema Operations in Latvia*.

Information requests

In 2024, Statistics Latvia replied to 912 information requests from individuals, public administration institutions and enterprises, and 20 data users received regular tailor-made datasets. Also answers to 191 media requests/questions were sent, of which 31 were comments from Statistics Latvia officials on TV or radio.

Statistics Latvia award

At the end of 2024, Statistics Latvia presented the annual Statistics Latvia award for excellent cooperation in provision of statistics of high quality in 2024 to *Rīgas Tilti, Ltd*.

On 5 December 2024, at the Export and Innovation Award 2024 ceremony, Statistics Latvia presented an award to the software testing enterprise TestDevLab, Ltd. for its investments in research and development. For the first time, the enterprise included data on research and development (R&D) investments in its statistical reports.

4th year programming students from Jēkabpils Technology School on a study visit in Statistics Latvia

Baiba Zukula in the 48th Scientific Research Conference for Latvian Secondary School students

In picture (Investment and Development Agency of Latvia)

Atis Mertens, TestDevLab, Ltd., Raimonds Lapiņš, Director General of Statistics Latvia

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Key priorities for the next year

In 2025, Statistics Latvia will continue to carry out the tasks set out in the institution's 2023–2029 strategy, providing users with independent, high-quality official statistics.

Priorities for 2025

- Ensuring the implementation of Official Statistics Programme 2025 within the scope of Statistics Latvia competence

- Developing a data management environment to support territorial development planning and performance measurement

- Exploring new private data sources for use in the production of statistics

- Developing innovative methods in statistical production to increase work efficiency and optimize resource management, and creating innovative data dissemination products for the convenience of data users

- Monitoring graduates of higher education institutions and colleges

- Preparing detailed territorial statistics (grid data, villages, densely populated areas, city neighbourhoods, parishes)

- Providing experimental statistics in the areas of business and social statistics

- Developing the information system of the Statistical Farm Register (SFR)

- Ensuring the calculation of regional climate indicators on greenhouse gas emissions, climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as providing environmental economic accounts (environmental subsidies and environmental transfers)

- Active international engagement through participation in the development processes of the European Statistical System, the UN Statistical Commission, UNECE, and OECD, while promoting Latvia's international visibility and sharing Statistics Latvia's experience in implementing innovative data processing methods and using new data sources

annual report
2024