

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION:

### Mission of the NSI;

- The main task of Statistics Estonia is to provide the public, business and research sectors, international organisations and individuals with reliable and objective statistical information on the environmental, demographic, social and economic situation of Estonia and changes occurring therein. Official statistics have to be produced in accordance with the principles of impartiality, reliability, relevance, cost-effectiveness, confidentiality and transparency. Statistics Estonia's work is based on the following values: quality, openness and transparency, co-operation with and orientation towards clients.
- Status of the NSI in public administration system of the country;  
Statistics Estonia is a government agency which operates within the area of government of the Ministry of Finance, and produces and co-ordinates official statistics. In its work Statistics Estonia is guided by the Government of the Republic Act and the Official Statistics Act. In performing its functions Statistics Estonia represents the State. Statistics Estonia has its own budget, which is part of the state budget. The budget shall be approved and amended and its implementation controlled by the Minister of Finance. Pursuant to the Government of the Republic Act Statistics Estonia shall be accountable to the Minister of Finance who directs and co-ordinates the activities of Statistics Estonia and exercises supervisory control over it pursuant to procedure provided by law. Statistics Estonia is independent in the choice of statistical methods.
- Procedure of appointment of Director-General of the NSI;  
The procedure for appointment and dismissal of the Director General of Statistics Estonia or the qualifications required for that particular post are the same as for the most of the heads of government agencies in Estonia. The Director General of Statistics Estonia shall be appointed to and released from office by the Minister of Finance on the proposal of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance for an unfixed term.
- Location of seat of the NSI, regional offices;  
Statistics Estonia's headquarters are in Tallinn, capital of Estonia. It has two small representative offices in the cities of Viljandi and Tartu, but no regional offices. Only some employees (less than 5% of total staff) are working part-time in different subject matter areas closer to their place of residence. The representative office in Tartu has also to provide those interested with the information service in this university town.  
At September 30, 2006 Statistics Estonia employed altogether 437 employees, including part-time and contractual employees, 70 interviewers and 26 price registrars.
- Organisational structure of the NSI;  
See page 3.
- Main legal act(s);  
Statistics Estonia operates pursuant to its [Statutes](#) approved by a Regulation of the Minister of Finance. There are three main legal acts regulating the production of official statistics in Estonia:
  - [Official Statistics Act \(11.06.1997\)](#)
  - [Procedure for Protection of Data Collected and Processed by the Statistical Office \(04.02.2001\)](#)
  - Procedure for transmission of the data that permit identification of the data subject without the consent of the data subject for the purposes of scientific research (09.01.1998, In Estonian only)
- Statistical programme(s).  
The production of official statistics is referred to in Estonian legislation as the conduct of official statistical surveys. It comprises activities such as the collection, compilation, processing, dissemination, analysis and storage of data.  
For each year, the Government of the Republic approves a list of official statistical surveys which serves as a statistical programme for Statistical Estonia. In parallel, a list of data collected and used in conducting statistical surveys is approved. Statistics Estonia prepares a statistical programme and, having beforehand coordinated it with those concerned, sends it to the Ministry of Finance for submission to the Government of the Republic for approval. The list of statistical surveys and data collected and used is prepared by Statistics Estonia in close cooperation with important stakeholders, i.e. industry associations, research institutions and universities, ministries, government agencies, altogether about 100 different institutions. Statistics Estonia conducts about 150 surveys annually, tailor-made statistics are produced in addition.

On the basis of the list of official statistical surveys, the Minister of Finance and, to the extent provided for in subsection 2 (8) of the Bank of Estonia Act, the President of the Bank of Estonia shall approve the official statistical questionnaires.

## II. SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN THE COUNTRY

- The role of the NSI in the system, other major players.  
There is a centralised system of production of official statistics in Estonia. The monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics are produced by the Central Bank under subsection 2 (8) of the Bank of Estonia Act. The rest of official statistics is produced by Statistics Estonia pursuant to the Official Statistics Act. According to this Act any other state agency may produce official statistics when it is authorised by law. Any other agency has no such obligation yet.  
Statistics Estonia and the Bank of Estonia are the main agencies conducting official statistical surveys. Both of them are independent in their choice of statistical methods, but shall co-ordinate such methods with one another. They have the right to directly communicate with all government agencies in issues relating to the conduct of statistical surveys.

## III. ADVISORY BODY/STATISTICAL COUNCIL (or its equivalent)

- Composition, main tasks.  
There exists no general supervisory or advisory body for official statistics in Estonia.  
In some fields of statistics, there have been or are advisory committees, i.e. the Scientific Committee for Social Statistics, which is composed of the users from academic circles and governmental agencies.

## IV. PUBLICATIONS

All official statistics are subject to publication and are made available for all users.

The statistical information has been divided into fields. This classification serves as a basis for the structure of the public statistical database, as well as for the system of statistical publications. Besides the statistics presented by field, many [publications](#) and analyses are published on topics covering different fields. Statistics are published electronically and in printed form. The amount of statistics being published electronically has increased from year to year. The information about publications has been presented in a [publication calendar](#).

The statistics compiled are first published in the public statistical database. The database consists of the [Statistical Database](#) and the [Regional Development Database](#). The Statistical Database presents official statistics, the Regional Development Database presents the same statistics by region. [News releases](#) provide relevant, topical statistical information.

Statistics are also released in [electronic publications](#). "*Eesti Statistika Kuukiri*. Monthly Bulletin of Estonian Statistics", "*Eesti statistika aastaraamat*. Statistical Yearbook of Estonia", analytical publications and pocket-sized reference books provide statistics in printed form.

One can make a request for information to Statistics Estonia or submit an order for information by post, fax, e-mail or via the web site; information can also be requested for at the Information Centre. The request for information is the request for published or documented information. The request for information allows receiving information on published official statistics, on Statistics Estonia and its activities. An order for information is a request for more detailed information than available in the public statistical database or in statistical publications.

## V. OTHER RELEVANT REMARKS (e.g. major policies)

For more information:

The whole statistical production process is internalised in Statistics Estonia. Statistics Estonia has been very keen to analyse outsourcing possibilities from the point of view of efficiency and quality. It has been having its own interviewers network since 1994.

Most of IT development and some IT maintenance work is being outsourced. There is a central IT maintenance group in the Ministry of Finance, which has also been serving Statistics Estonia since February 2004. The group maintains almost all hardware, especially servers, communications and standard software (not specially developed for the production of official statistics). Relevant works are outsourced from and IT development has been done by private companies.

Statistics Estonia has outsourced printing since 1993. Since 2005, it has also been outsourcing the mailing of statistical questionnaires to enterprises, when it comes to bigger samples.

More information about Statistics Estonia can be found on its web site at <http://www.stat.ee>

December 2006

