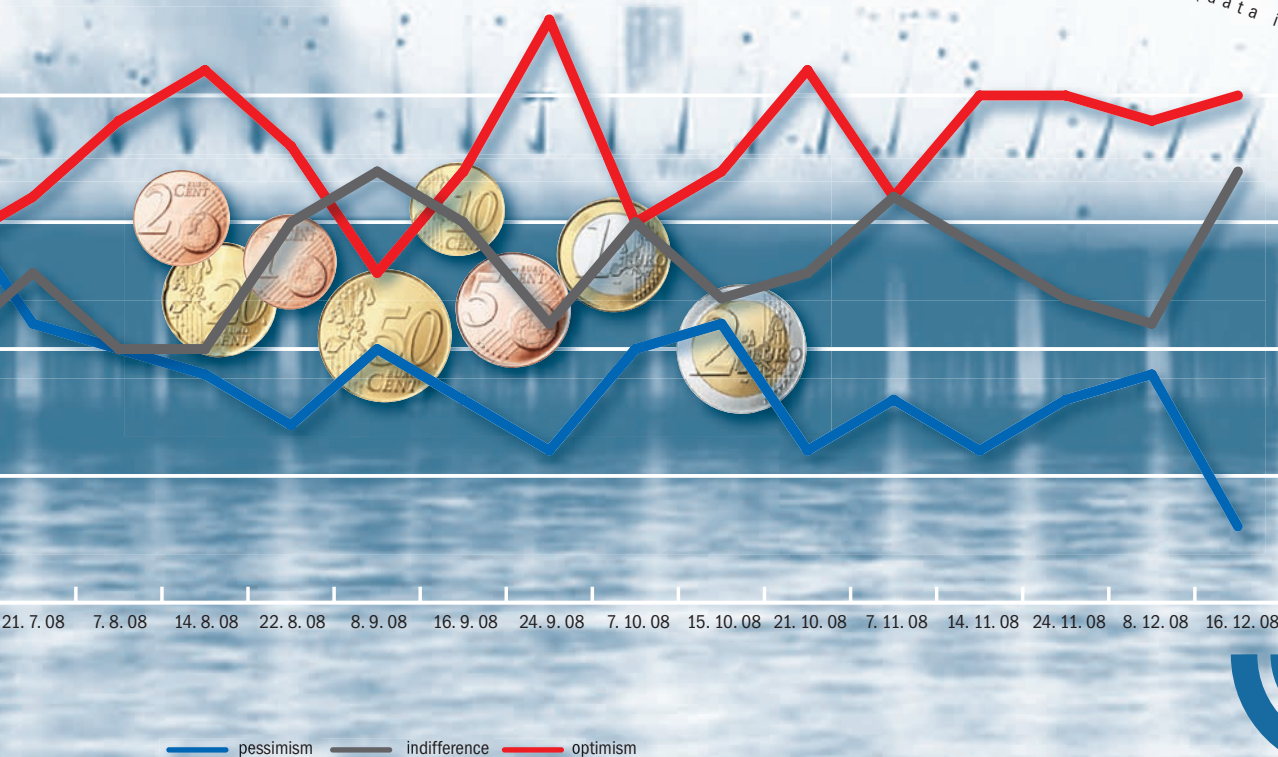


Annual Report

of the Statistical Office of the SR

2008

Feelings of public relating to expectations of euro changeover in Slovakia (data in %)



ŠTATISTICKÝ
ÚRAD
SLOVENSKEJ
REPUBLIKY

Annual Report

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Introduction

The Statistical Office of the SR achieved positive results even if under demanding conditions in 2008, when it celebrated 15 years of its existence. The Office management carried out significant measures for a future development as well as for a successful realization of particular activities in order to fulfil as better as possible current and also future requirements of customers at both, the national and international level.

In order to consolidate and further develop quality management system implemented according to the ISO 9001:2000 standards, the Statistical Office of the SR formulated the *Development Strategy of the SO SR to 2012*. A fulfilment of this strategy will allow to customers to use statistical products and services that contributes to increase of their knowledge level and so to decrease a risk in decision-making processes in the environment of constantly increasing requirements of customers and limited sources. For that reason, the Office focused its further development on improving the quality of product portfolio with a stress on the quality of products from the viewpoint of a customer, on increasing efficiency of its internal environment and on improving the quality of relations with external environment. A realization of this objective will be supported by an optimization of the process structure.

The supervisory audit performed by the classification society Bureau Veritas Certification



Lada Budnikova

in November 2008 that again noted a harmonization of the quality management system of SOSR with requirements of ISO 9001:2000 confirmed right setting of the quality management system.

In view of demanding tasks that the Statistical Office fulfilled in 2008, the Office management paid an increased attention to creation and further improvement of conditions for a development of the key source of the Office, i.e. for a development of personality and professional capacities of the employees in order to optimize their performance and to increase efficiency. An identification of internal capacities that were able to redevelop a 10% decrease of the number of employees of the Office from 2007 is very important in this orientation. In spite of no simple task that was more difficult because of limited financial resources, the Office management succeed in keeping the trend of a successful recruitment and stabilization of qualified, productive employees and in creating opportunities for their further development.



In accordance with the aim more and more to be approaching to customer, to provide him/her comfort access to information and to meet its needs as better as possible, the Office focused on a development of the Internet portal, in particular, via creation of interactive services. A content of databases, pre-defined tables, number of electronic publications available free of charge was opened up and comfort application tools for users in order to work with statistical information were developed. In view of the euro transition, a simple tool for dual displaying of the value indicators in both currencies was made available for users. Forms of direct communications with main users and providers of statistical education were extended. Outlooks and requirements of customers were reflected in the production of statistical products and forms of their dissemination.

The Statistical Office paid an increased attention also to rationalization of statistical surveys in order to gradually decrease response burden in 2008. Its first phase was aimed at the elimination of unwanted duplicities in surveys.

In 2008, the Office continued to carry out surveys on knowledge and acquaintance of population with adoption of new currency euro and fulfilled other tasks of the Slovak statistics resulting from the realization of the *National plan and timetable for euro changeover*. Verification of conversions of time series of indicators available in the Statistical Office backwards and also working out and adjustment of software and database systems to converting data by exchange rate were finished. The method of conversion, size of measuring unit and the method of rounding of individual data were verified in order to prevent considerable

changes in the development tendencies and structures of the economy after a conversion of historical data by the exchange rate until euro changeover.

In 2008, macro-economic statistics were aimed at a development of the national account system in accordance with new regulations and directions of the European Union. An emphasis was laid on a production of the report on deficit and debt of public administration, in particular, for reasons of the planned euro changeover to the 1.1.2009. A very important task was the decadal monitoring of prices of selected representa-



tives of the consumer basket in Slovak korunas and in Euro and the survey of national and harmonized index of consumer prices in order to objectify perceived inflation measured by more institutions. For purposes to acquire data on one-off price movement in time of euro transition in the December 2008 – January 2009 period, the survey on modified range of items of goods and services with releasing results to the next working day was conducted. In view of euro transition, the Statistical Office realized adjustment of the application programme equipment for foreign trade statistics, testing including conversion of time series since 2001.

In 2008, the centre of works in economic statistics was focused on implementation of new classification of economic activities NACE Rev.2 in order to realize transition of data files in new structure to EUROSRTAT on time. A considerable attention was paid to data basis for euro. EUROSTAT received relevant information from science and technology statistics and from information society statistics to be able to evaluate tasks of the *Lisbon Strategy*. Cooperation with EUROSTAT relating to preparation of new legislation and its approval within the comitology process intensified.



In last year, basic legislative conditions for preparation and realization of the significant statistical survey – Census of Population and Housing that will be realized in 2011 were created on the base of the approval of the Act NC SR No 263/2008 Coll. The Act set up conditions for acquiring data source and information to forecast a development of the population and to produce measures in the national social policy as well as to carry out international comparability. A preparation of the census is more significant because of the fact that for the first time in the history this survey will be realized in compliance with the *Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council* in one reference year with comparable content and methodological determination of the surveyed data. In 2008, the Statistical Office also continued in realization of the survey on incomes and living conditions (EU SILC) that represents data source in order to calculate internationally comparable indicators of poverty in the EU countries and special data source on social situation of households as a basis for realization of the national social policy.

One of the lasting priorities of the Statistical Office was international cooperation and participation at international statistical activities in the last year. The Office was actively involved in initiatives aimed at a development of the European statistical system. Together with the national statistical institutes of the EU member states SOSR joined the preparation of new legislative framework of the European statistics as well as other activities relating to the European statistical system as a whole.

An appreciation of the work carried out by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in the last period and a wish of working enthusiasm in next years was also heard in the speech of the President of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Ivan Gašparovič at the celebratory conference held 26 May 2008 in the congress hall of the National Bank of Slovakia in occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Statistical Office of the SR. The President of the Statistical Office and the general directors of sections evaluated work performed in the period of the last 15 years. At the end, selected employees and previous presidents received from the President of the Office, Ms. Ľudmila Benkovičová memorial letters as symbolic expression of an appreciation of their benefit to a development of the Office. Representatives of the ministries and central bodies of state administration of the Slovak Republic, the governor of the National Bank of Slovakia, Mr. Ivan Šramko and other guests of cooperating bodies took part in the conference.

A special acknowledgement and appreciation of the Office management goes not only to selected, but also to all other employees of the headquarters and workplaces in regions, who participated in the fulfilment of demanding tasks that the Statistical Office of the SR had to face in 2008.

Identification of organization

Title:	Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
Acronym:	SOSR
Address of headquarter:	Miletičova 3, 824 67 Bratislava 26, Slovak Republic
Contact:	telephone (operator) 50236 111
	Internet http://www.statistics.sk/

Management: The Statistical Office is a budgetary organization, with its incomes and expenditures being a part of the state budget of the Slovak Republic

Main activities:

SOSR¹:

- a) develops and publishes the policy of national statistics
- b) compiles the Programme of State Statistical Surveys in co-operation with the relevant ministries and state organizations
- c) defines methodology of statistical surveys and carries out collection and processing of statistical data
- d) defines methodology for maintenance of the system of national accounts and compiles national accounts
- e) sets up, releases and keeps classifications, nomenclatures and registers in co-operation with the ministries and state authorities
- f) defines the method of setting up the registers, assigns and issues identification numbers
- g) elaborates analyses of selected characteristics of the social, economic and environmental development of the SR
- h) co-operates with international bodies and organizations in introduction of standards and classifications in the field of statistics
- i) organizes and performs representative public opinion polls on social and economic issues
- j) publishes the results of statistical surveys for the SR and individual geographical

and administrative units, regularly informs general public about social, economic and demographic development, provides statistical information and issues statistical publications and

- k) fulfils other tasks set by the Act on State Statistics.

A specific task of the SO SR is preparation and processing of election results to the National Council of the Slovak Republic², bodies of municipal self-governments³ and bodies of regional self-governments⁴, arrangements and processing of results from the presidential election⁵, referendum⁶ and elections to the European Parliament⁷.

¹ Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on State statistics

² Act No. 333/2004 Coll. on elections to the Slovak National Council in a wording of later regulations

³ Act NCSR No. 346/1990 Coll. on elections to the bodies of municipal self-governments in a wording of later regulations

⁴ Act No. 303/2001 Coll. on elections to the bodies of regional self-governments

⁵ Act No. 46/1999 Coll. on presidential elections, plebiscite and its repeal

⁶ Act NCSR No. 564/1992 Coll. on referendum in a wording of later regulations

⁷ Act No. 331/2003 Coll. on election to European Parliament in a wording of the Act No. 515/2003 Coll.



We continue to strengthen integrated management system

In 2008, a strengthening of the **quality management system according to standards ISO series 9000** continued. The system continued to increase confidence of users and other interested parts in ability of SOSR to meet their requirements permanently by increasing satisfaction of customers, process approach, development of systematic management and permanent improvement.

The most important task within the quality management system was processing of **Development Strategy of the SOSR to 2012**. The strategy is a follow up to the previous strategy and is supported by the quality policy as well as by other policies of SOSR.

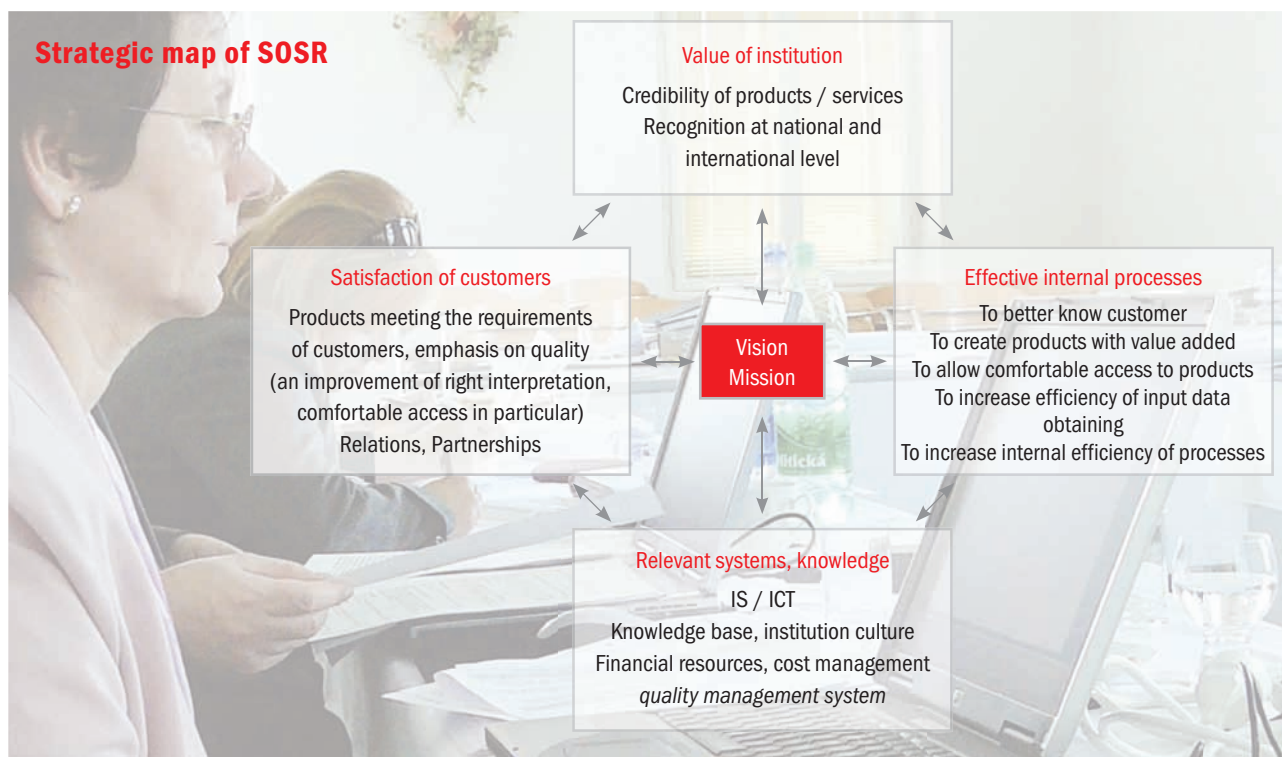
It is based on the following idea: SOSR want to provide to its customers statistical products and services that will increase their knowledge and so to decrease a risk in decision-making processes, but this aim have to be realized by the Office under strongly limited sources and also more and more demanding requirements of customers. For that reason, further development of SOSR is focused on

improving the quality of product portfolio with an emphasis on the quality of products from the viewpoint of a customer, on increase the efficiency of its internal environment and on improving the quality of relations with external environment.

The strategy includes strategic declaration (vision, mission, common shared values), the main characteristic of SOSR function and strategic objectives that are formulated from four mutually affecting basic views on SOSR: in the view of institution value, of customer, of internal processes and in the view of development of SOSR. The strategic plan is a follow up to the strategy and contains indicators to measure fulfilment of the strategic objectives and the concrete action programmes for fulfilling objectives.

An attention was also paid to **preparation of process support** for fulfilment of objectives of the institution. All needed changes were reflected in documented methods of individual processes (value-added, supporting managerial and source).





The level of the quality management system was again examined by the internal audits performed in all processes of SOSR. Audits except of standard objectives examined an efficiency of the managerial processes performance, i.e. the management and efficiency of the internal communication. Recommendations and proposals on how to improve them formulated within the internal audits created appropriate conditions for improvement of the system as a whole. The comprehensive evaluation of the system was recorded in the third **Report on evaluation of the quality management system of SOSR**.

The second **supervisory audit performed by the classification society Bureau Veritas Certification** confirmed a harmonization of the implemented quality management system with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2000 in November 2008. The classification society again confirmed a validity of the certificate of the quality management system according to the Standard ISO 9001:2000 awarded to SOSR in 2006. A favourable result of the supervisory audit pointed out that the quality management system create suitable conditions in order to increase the satisfaction of customers and other interested parts as well as to improve the efficiency of the statistical office as a whole.

What the last year brought in methodology

The year 2008 was a year of the preparation of the **Programme of State Statistical Surveys 2009-2011**. The preparation of the programme was realized under conditions of an optimization of the reporting system needed because of a requirement to decrease costs on statistical survey in connection with constantly increasing number of requirements of domestic as well as non-domestic users under limited budget of financial resources of the Office for their realization. The revision conducted in all statistical indicators in the statistical surveys included in the programme of state statistical surveys and following optimization of the reporting system resulted also from a requirement to gradually decrease response burden in compliance with the Government Resolution of the SO SR No 833/2007 to the *Agenda of better regulation in the Slovak Republic and to the Action programme of decrease of administrative burden of business in the Slovak Republic 2007-2012* binding the Slovak Republic to simplify administrative responsibilities minimally by 25 % up to 2012.

The aim of the **reporting system optimization** was solving of complex problems within rationalization of preparation, collection, processing and evaluation of the statistical surveys, such as:

- ▲ to consider justifying to include the statistical surveys into the programme of state statistical surveys in terms of their purpose based on recommendations of the working group of EUROSTAT from the evaluation of the implementation of the *European Statistics Code of Practice* (peer review),
- ▲ to eliminate permanent duplicities between statistical surveys and SOSR surveys,
- ▲ to re-evaluate range of monitored indicators for individual statistical surveys,

- ▲ to work out methodological notes to monitored indicators with the reference to easier understanding for reporting units,
- ▲ to review methods of acquiring and processing statistical data with using the rotation of selected population,
- ▲ to review periodicity of statistical surveys,
- ▲ to review deadlines of submission of statistical questionnaires,
- ▲ to simplify forms of data collection with the emphasis on extending electronic data collection with integrated system of controls and links.
- ▲ to improve formal aspect of statistical forms,
- ▲ to seek possibilities of substitution of required statistical indicators by data from administrative data sources.

In view of the preparation of the programme of surveys the emphasis was put on:

- ▲ transposition and implementation co-accountability of SOSR, ministries and other state bodies for adoption and implementation of statistical regulations, direction and decisions of the European Community set by the Government of the SO SR,
- ▲ changes in the reporting system in connection with euro changeover in the SR and with compilation of the reporting duty,
- ▲ changes in collection, evaluation and publication of results from the 1.1.2009 by the implemented *Statistical classification of economic activities SK NACE Rev.2*.

These efforts and new requirements of non-domestic and domestic users were reflected in **changes in the programme of state statistical surveys** in comparison with the previous three-year period. With respect to other requirements of EU relating to providing data from structural statistics and from agriculture, three statistical

surveys were included in the programme and SOSR will realize them:

FMF 1-99 One-off survey on access of business subjects to finances

Pol 19-99 Statistical survey on vineyard

Pol C 2010 Agricultural farm census

Other changes in the programme of surveys were affected by the reporting system optimization. 11 statistical surveys of SOSR were excluded from the programme of surveys, it related to following areas: research and development, environment, water management, forestry and social protection. Data of these surveys will be substituted by data from administrative data sources and from department statistical surveys.

More significant changes occurred in statistical surveys of ministries and state bodies mostly because of consideration to justify the inclusion of surveys in the national statistical surveys. 60 statistical surveys were excluded

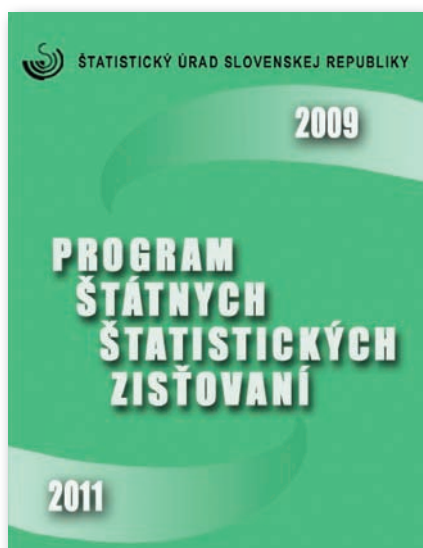
from the programme, but majority of them will be further conducted from administrative sources on the base of other acts.

The priority to keep indicators in the statistical surveys was a duty to submit statistical data to the international institutions, in particular, to EUROSTAT based on the European legislation. Affected by optimization of the reporting system the total number of monitored items included in all statistical surveys of SOSR for 2009 decreased by 20,2 % in comparison with the previous year. After reflecting the changes in a periodicity of statistical surveys and in a range of reporting population total a 24,7 % decrease of response burden was recorded.

Classification and registers

Activities realized during the year were focused on the development of the **statistical classification and codes** and on harmonization with European and international standards:

- ▲ new classification of products by activities was implemented to the statistical information system, issued by the Regulation (EC) No 451/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 establishing a new statistical classification of products by activity (CPA) and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3696/93;
- ▲ basic methodological documents for right application of the new CPA were prepared based on the Commission recommendations and released at SOSR portal for all users in the second half of 2008;
- ▲ *Statistical classification of the fields of study* was issued by the Regulation No 559/2008 Coll. Annex of the regulation is supple-



mented by a converter to international level of education according to the international classification of education (ISCED 1997);

- ▲ a process of subject-matter comments to the new classification in cooperation with EUROSTAT and with International Labour Organization (ILO) continued within revision of the international classification of occupations (ISCO 08).

In 2008, a **methodological assistance** was continuously provided to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR in order to apply the classification of occupations within the project of *Integrated System of Type Positions* and to the Ministry of Finance of the SR in order to coordinate application of the economic classifications SK NACE Rev.2. and CPA 2008 for statistical purposes.

The main activities relating to the **administration of statistical registers** were focused on harmonization with the new Regulation (EC) No 177/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 establishing a common framework for business registers for statistical purposes and repealing Council Regulation (EEA) No 2186/93. The objective of the regulation is to harmonize a range and a content of registers of the business subjects of EU member states, i.e. registers that SOSR keep under united name as „Register of organizations“.

In order to implement the mentioned regulation to the information system of SOSR, a national methodology specifying the new types of statistical units – groups of enterprises was prepared. In the second half of 2008, the statistical survey Org SP 1-01 aimed at obtaining

information about control links between business subjects that are necessary for a right and a full description of the national and international groups of enterprises in the Register of organizations was conducted.

At the European level, intensive cooperation continued in order to produce a common methodology and infrastructure for establishment and regular updating of the Eurogroup Register of enterprises (EGR). In the EGR project, for which EUROSTAT is a responsible body, some codes were harmonized and the main characteristics of the chief subjects of international groups of enterprises registered in EUROSTAT were adjusted based on documents received from private sources.

Together with routine operation, also development and testing of new functions of the electronic system of the statistical register of organizations ASIS REGIS (automated statistical information system, subsystem of REGIS) was coordinated in the course of 2008. Recording and updating of groups of enterprises and non-residual legal units based on mutually control links and also tools for regular automatic transfer, processing and archiving the selected data from the INTRASTAT-SK system extended a functionality of the system.

In January 2008, the first harmonized data collection on demography of enterprises with employees according to new and common methodology of EUROSTAT and OECD was finished. A methodology of the data imputation on the number of employees in small enterprises based on administrative data provided for this purpose by Datacentre was repeatedly applied in order to calculate required indicators.

Electronic data collection

Since January 2005, SOSR allows to reporting units transmit questionnaires not only in the form of paper but also in electronic form in selected statistical surveys. The system of electronic data collection is aimed at preparation and **availability of the electronic form** of statistical forms to reporting units **via Internet page** of the department, **filling up** electronic forms by using application programme equipment **at personal computer in the domestic environment** of a reporting unit and **transmitting** filled questionnaires **via e-mail to the SO SR**. The electronic data collection represents rationalization and efficiency of collection methods and processing of results of statistical surveys.

In 2008, the Office **allows application** of electronic data collection in **14 surveys**. Reporting units were allowed to use electronic form of transmitting questionnaires from the surveys with monthly periodicity in the following sectors: industry, trade, agriculture, construction, transport, posts and telecommunications, energy and in surveys for selected market services and tourism. Reporting units from the areas of insurance, finance, non-banking financial institutions and from production sectors of small enterprises were allowed to use this possibility in the surveys with quarterly periodicity. Only reporting units from the area of tourism were allowed to use electronic data collection in the surveys with annual periodicity.

Surveys that were allowed to provide data also in electronic form represented more than 10 % of the total number of various statistical surveys organized and conducted by SOSR within the

programme of state statistical surveys in 2008. The fact that reporting units were allowed to use electronic data providing more times in the course of the year, because it related especially to monthly and quarterly surveys in terms of the periodicity, can be considered as a main contribution. **The number of reporting units** that were allowed by the Statistical Office to apply electronic form of data transmission in 2008 was **about 20 000. 650-700** reporting units from this number used electronic form of data transmission, **on average yearly**, i.e. about 4,5 % as for the whole circle of units. The level of usage of electronic data collection did not increase significantly since its introduction. The units included in the sectors of industry, trade and selected market services use most often electronic data collection in the view of the number of reporting units.

Innovation of the electronic data collection was conducted in the form of development and implementation of the system *webStat* in 2007-2008. A pilot processing at the beginning of November 2008 launched the system.

Innovation of the electronic data collection system monitored long-term objectives:

- ▲ to create such user comfort in order to allow utilization of the electronic form to complete questionnaires for majority of respondents,
- ▲ to made accessible all statistical forms to record data in electronic form.

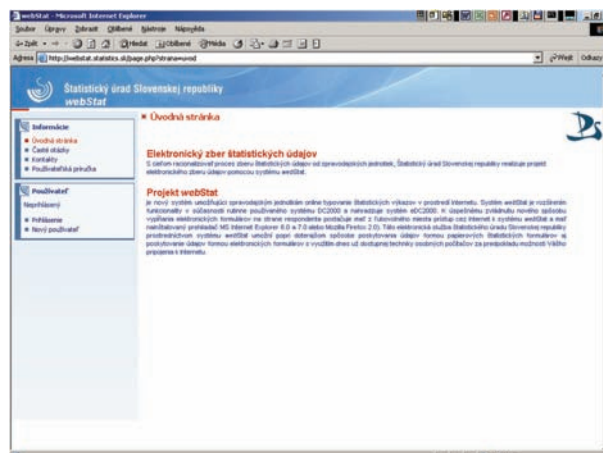
Other requirements that were reflected in innovation of the electronic data collection system were following:

- ▲ availability via the SOSR's website,
- ▲ simplification and increase of work efficiency at relevant departments of SOSR,



- Currently used system eDC2000 did not allow higher level of electronic services for selected statistical surveys. Based on experience with the electronic data collection, data structure and administrative procedures served as specifications producing new system in order to allow on-line data recording to electronic forms – *webStat* were created. A prototype of the system was examined in selected surveys at workplaces of SOSR in the course of November 2007.

Starting circle of addressed reporting units for the *webStat* system was created from reporting population actively used eDC2000 system. Information about *webStat* system together with generated entry data were generated and send electronically to reporting units registered and actively transmitted questionnaires through eDC2000 system. These reporting units obtained information about new *webStat* system also in the form of a letter that SOSR sent by post.



Since November 2008, reporting units submitted electronically recorded data through *webStat* system for questionnaires of monthly surveys: Stav P1-12, Priem P1-12, Pol' 1-12, Dop 1-12, OPU 1-12, IK and P1-12, VTS 1-12, Energ 7-12, Energ 8-12. A trial run of *webStat* allowed reporting units to record data in the electronic form (except of monthly surveys) also in questionnaires of quarterly surveys: Poi P3-04, Pin P3-04, Pen P3-04 a P13-04.

Macro-economic statistics

A development of the national account system in compliance with new regulations and directions of the European Union was one of the main objectives of the macro-economic statistics also in 2008.

In last year, the final annual **sector accounts** for 2005, preliminary ones for 2006 and estimation of 2007 were compiled. Time series of the national accounts 1995 – 2006 were adjusted for reasons of the **re-classification of the Slovak Television (STV) and the Slovak Broadcast (Sro)** from the sector of non-financial corporations (S.11) to the sector of public administration (S.13). An emphasis was laid on preparation of the *Report on deficit and debt of public administration* (notification tables) in regular dates to the 1st April and to the 1st October, mostly as a result of euro changeover to the 1.1.2009. Regular visit of EUROSTAT to the questions relating to a preparation and a content of the report in the Slovak Republic was held in March 2008.

Another visit of representatives of EUROSTAT in the Slovak Republic was held in October 2008 and was focused on questions relating to **sources and methods of construction of gross domestic product** for the first time. Negotiations resulted in tasks for SOSR that are required to be fulfilled in 2009 in order to EUROSTAT accept our method of construction of the national accounts.

A special effort was required to adjust time series transmitted to EUROSTAT to new formats of tables in compliance with the **European Parliament and the Council EC No 1392/2007** from 13.11.2007 amending the Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 relating to national account data transmission.

The final **commodity and sector supply/use tables** for 2005 were compiled. Changes resulting from the reclassification of STV and Sro were reflected in time series for 1995 – 2005 in compliance with the national annual accounts. Based on revised balanced tables of supply/use for 2000 – 2004 and revised quarterly sector structures for the 1st quarter of 1995 and for the 2nd quarter of 2008, back-casting time series of indicators of the production and income method to constant prices of the previous year and by chain procedure of volume indices to reference year 2000 was realized.

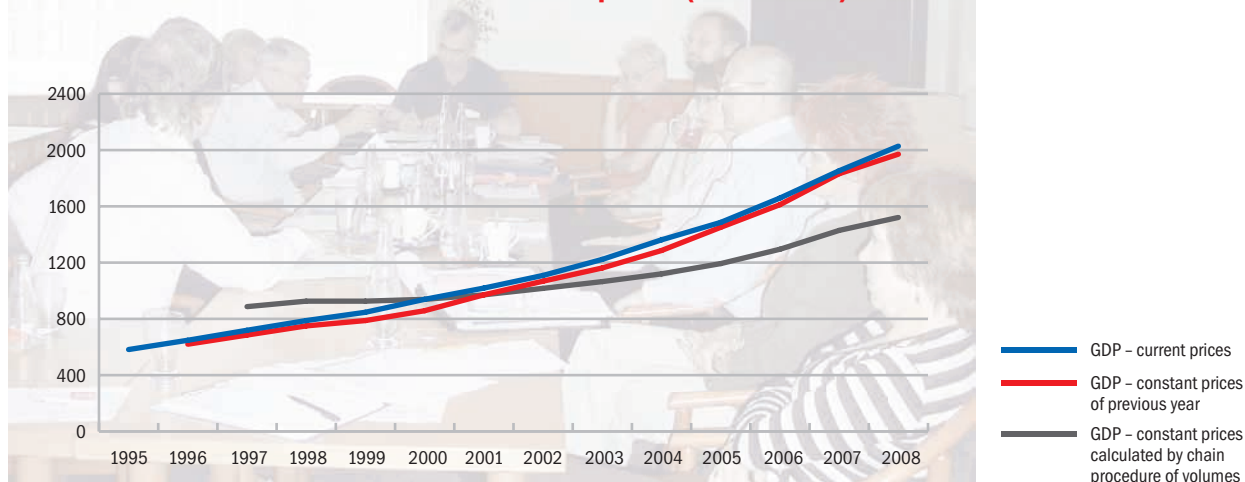
In case of **own sources flowing from VAT** in 2008, SOSR calculated compensation of small companies exempted from VAT based on a prepared methodology and in compliance with the requirement of the Ministry of Finance of the SR.

Within 45 days after ending the reference quarter, **flash estimation of the GDP of the main aggregates and the employment** was provided. Quarterly data were compiled fully in compliance with the transmission programme ESA 95 and regularly released within 65 days after ending the reference quarter. Data of quarterly accounts are seasonally adjusted in accordance with regulations and directions of the European Union.

The tasks of two grant project of EUROSTAT relating to purchasing power parity – **PPP Production of data by 25 member states** (GP 01-07) and description of sources and methods of calculation of regional gross value added – **Drafting of Regional GVA Inventories** (GP 02-08) were fulfilled with an increased effort. All tasks required by EUROSTAT were fulfilled



Time series in GDP at current and constant prices (billion SKK)



at the section of preparation of documents in order to compile purchasing power parity. From the most significant can be mentioned: calculation of weights of GDP (volumes and prices) for purchasing power parity (PPP), price survey of selected comparable goods, services, construction projects and investment units, survey of wages in state administration and survey of prices of rental.

Required level in harmonized index of consumer prices and also in indices of production statistics prices was achieved in **price statistics**. The survey on prices of other market services was introduced and schemes for calculation of agricultural price indices were revised. A very important task of price statistics was also starting with decadal monitoring of prices of selected representatives of the consumer basket in the Slovak korunas and in Euro during dual pricing.

An improvement of data quality was one of the most significant tasks of the Department of **External Trade Statistics**. In 2007 and also in 2008, one of the sources of improving the quality were results of grant projects and extended functionality of the application programme equipment of the INTRASTAT-SK system. The year 2008 was a demanding year as well as considering the importance of changes that had to be realized. The department dealt with changes of the INTRASTAT-SK system for euro transition. Application adjustments were tested, time series were verified after conversion from the Slovak Korunas to Euro and also routine monthly and quarterly tasks of the department were fulfilled.

The application test of import and export price indices was realized and quarterly surveys on import and export prices that were a basis of their monthly survey in 2009 were conducted in the field of **short-term statistics**.

Business statistics

In business statistics, a stress was put on further **increase of level of harmonization with the European legislation**, an increase of output quality of the statistical system and an increase of data availability rate in databases of EUROSTAT and SOSR in 2008. An important capacity was focused on conversion of data basis to the Euro currency in 2008. Project activities relating to the international cooperation aimed at a realization of new requirements of new regulations and an implementation of the harmonized classifications continued under participation of EUROSTAT and the European Commission. An increased attention was paid to a decrease of administrative burden of respondents.

The centre of works in **business short-term statistics** was aimed at a methodological preparation and a realization of implementation of the classification SK NACE Rev.2. Conversion coefficients to recalculate time series were prepared, file of weights on compilation of the European aggregates on the base of selected indicators of the structural statistics for 2005 in the structure of new classification was compiled and conversion of time series of the short-term indicators started. An evaluation of the compatibility with the regulation on short-term statistics showed SOSR was included to the first category of the member countries with the best level of compatibility. A special questionnaire on compilation of the indicator of the construction production index within the action plan of the short-term statistics quality was prepared and transmitted. Regular short-term data were also transmitted to EUROSTAT.

In annual **structural statistics**, files of the final indicators for 2006 and files of preliminary data for 2007 were compiled and transmitted

on time. The report on quality of the structural data of 2006 relating to the quality evaluation was prepared and the required qualitative indicators were calculated. Also in this area, SOSR was included in the first category of the member states with the best level of the compatibility with the regulation on structural statistics. Data files of foreign affiliations for 2006 were provided at voluntary basis. SOSR within a preparation of the quality evaluation was involved in the test of completion rate of structured reports on the data quality of internal and also foreign affiliations.

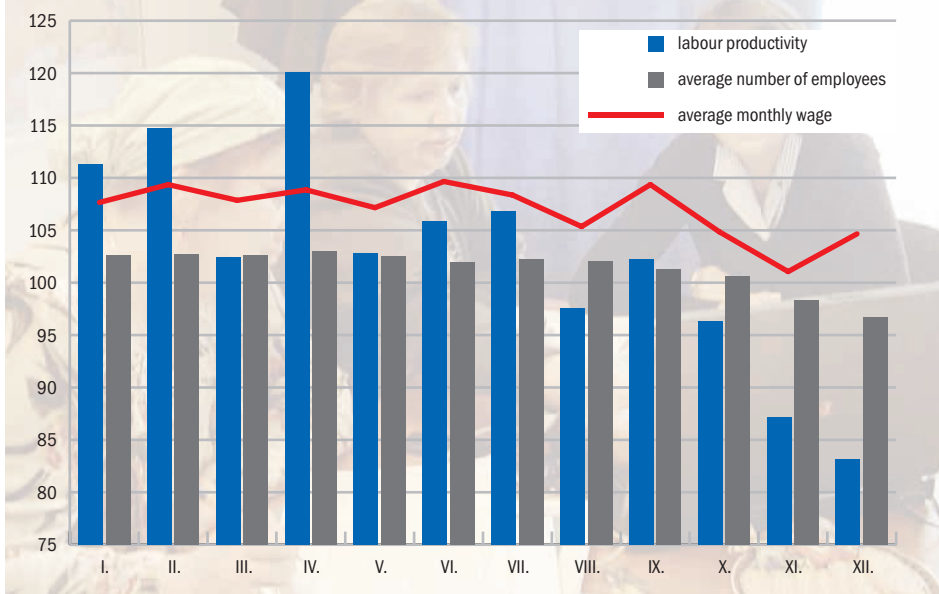
The highest attention in **statistics of industry and construction** was paid to the new classification NACE Rev.2., to re-calculation of historical time series backwards by this classification and to transition to new basic period. Other important task in statistics of industry within the grant project of EU focused on a decrease of response burden was a preparation of the survey and a selection of the modified circle of representatives for calculation of industrial production index in a base year 2005.

In **statistics of energy**, the last year was mostly aimed at a preparation of the new European legislation and comments to the European Parliament and Council regulation on energy statistics and also at a control of requirements resulting from the regulation. SOSR representatives actively participated in comments to a proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy of the SR.

A great effort was put in **statistics of science, technique and innovations** in order to complete



Development of labour productivity, employees and wages in industry in 2008



regular and monothematic questionnaires of the international organizations and to finish processing of the survey on innovations including producing the quality report and publication of results.

The quality of data basis in **business surveys** was also improved in order to calculate confidence indicators in individual sectors and to produce synthetic composite indicator – economic sentiment indicator (ESI). Data of sectors, such as industry, construction, retail trade, services and investment were transmitted to the European Commission at monthly basis in accordance with requirements and timetable.

A significant attention within **statistics of transport, posts and telecommunications** was paid

to new sector of **information and communications** included in the revised classification of economic activities SK NACE Rev.2. and it was required to review time series of the basic indicators since 2000 in this new sector.

Monitoring the utilization of the **information technologies** was aimed at a preparation of the progress evaluation in the application of electronic communications of enterprises and also inhabitants with state and public administration. The preparation was realized in cooperation with the Section of information of society of the Ministry of Finance of the SR and within coordinated procedure with EUROSTAT.

Tables of the satellite account of tourism for 2006 including the employment and the experi-

mental calculation of the collective consumption of government institutions were constructed by the methodology of EUROSTAT in **statistics of tourism**.

Agricultural statistics was focused on processing, publication and transmission of the results of the *Farm Structural Census 2007* to EUROSTAT. The *Economic account for agriculture at the level of NUTS 2* was adjusted.

Development tasks with a particular attention to the evaluation of the statistical data quality, updating balance tools and also the application of model possibilities and mathematical and statistical methods in revision of time series of the short-term indicators were performed in **cooperation with research sphere** in business statistics. Two professional workshops were held in cooperation with INFOSTAT in the field of methodological development of time series: *Usage of quantitative and qualitative information on compilation of flash estimations of macro-economic indicators in conditions of the SR* and *Construction of composite leading indicator –signals of turning points*, which

were focused on a presentation of the utilization of statistical data acquired by processing in order to estimate macro-economic quantities and indicators, to forecast the next development and to signalize turning points in economic cycles.

Cooperation with international organizations continued by a participation of representatives of the business statistics at international workshops of EUROSTAT, OECD, the European Commission and IEA (International Energy Agency). A considerable part of the capacities was oriented on cooperation with EUROSTAT in order to prepare new legislation and its approval in the comitology process. The business statistics realized many consultations within international bilateral contacts with the Czech Republic relating to issues such as statistics of industry, construction, science, technique and innovations and to business surveys. The Statistical Office of the SR received for a half yearly stay an employee of the Bulgaria Statistical Office in the field of business statistics. We provide expert consultation in the field of statistics of industry in Tajikistan.



Social statistics and Demographic Research Centre

A development of the number and structure of population was monitored standardly in **demographic statistics**. Information about a development of the population was provided to users; possibilities of data acquiring from the administrative sources were verified. Information required by the European legislation obtained from the administrative sources was methodically harmonized in order to develop the system of **migration statistics**. The National Council of the SR approved the Act No 263/2008 Coll. that set up basic legislative conditions to prepare **Census of Population and Housing in 2011**. This significant statistical survey was harmonized gradually with international recommendations and requirements, its content was defined and conditions for its realization were created.

Works on survey of income and expenditures of households continued in **statistics of household account**. Conditions for extending survey and to improve the quality of data collection and processing were created; the survey was harmonised with requirements of EU. The next wave of the **survey on incomes and living conditions of households** (EU SILC) fully harmonized with EU requirements was conducted and it allows international comparison of social situation of households in the SR. Required information for 2007 was transmitted to EUROSTAT, data of survey were provided to other external users. The survey for 2008 was conducted; survey in 2009 was prepared methodically and organizationally.

Labour and wage statistics made available quarterly information about key parameters of the labour market in the field of economic activity of population and remuneration for work that are required in order to monitor

social and economic development of society with a particular attention to meeting the objectives of the *European strategy of employment*. Job vacancy statistics was harmonized conceptually with provisions of the new framework regulation of the European Community. The labour force sample survey was extended by the additional survey on migrants and their direct descendants that improved the product portfolio by new indicators in the field of migration statistics in the 2nd quarter. In addition the SR was included into close groups of states cooperating on a optimization of the prepared additional survey for 2010 by testing of a collection of selected indicators on harmonization of labour and family life.

The short-term wage indicators were supplemented by more detailed annual information about individual items of earnings of the different social and professional groups of employees. Data, which more accurately characterized income groups of the employed people (e.g. median wage), were released. A complex view on the labour remuneration was supplemented by data on other costs of enterprises on the employment of labour forces.

The Statistical Office paid an increased effort to preparatory works on a modification of the wage reporting system and the output formats in connection with the planned euro changeover in 2009. A particular emphasis was laid also on the introduction of the classification SK NACE Rev.2. to the labour and wage statistics, but data on employment, job vacancies, wages and labour costs were transmitted in dual dividing by both, the original and the new classification to EUROSTAT.

Social statistics was developed in close cooperation with selected ministries, i.e. it dealt with projects of EUROSTAT and also usage of administrative data sources. Data on statistics of education, culture, consumption of food, selected non-market services, health insurances and statistical data on health were transmitted systematically to the relevant national institutions, international organizations and to the public database.

A preparation of the integrated complex of statistical surveys on population the *European programme of social surveys* started with realization of the pilot survey within the project of the *European survey in households*. A prepa-

ration on production of internationally comparable statistics of sickness rate was carried out in cooperation with the National Centre of Health Information relating to the project focused on the pilot collection of data on sickness rate. Other realized projects were aimed at an improvement of the quality of statistical data on accidents at work (ESAW methodology) and occupational diseases (EODS methodology) and at a preparation of the systematic collection of internationally comparable data on net social benefits in the field of social protection statistics.

Demographic Research Centre (DRC) dealt with 7 planned tasks in close cooperation with

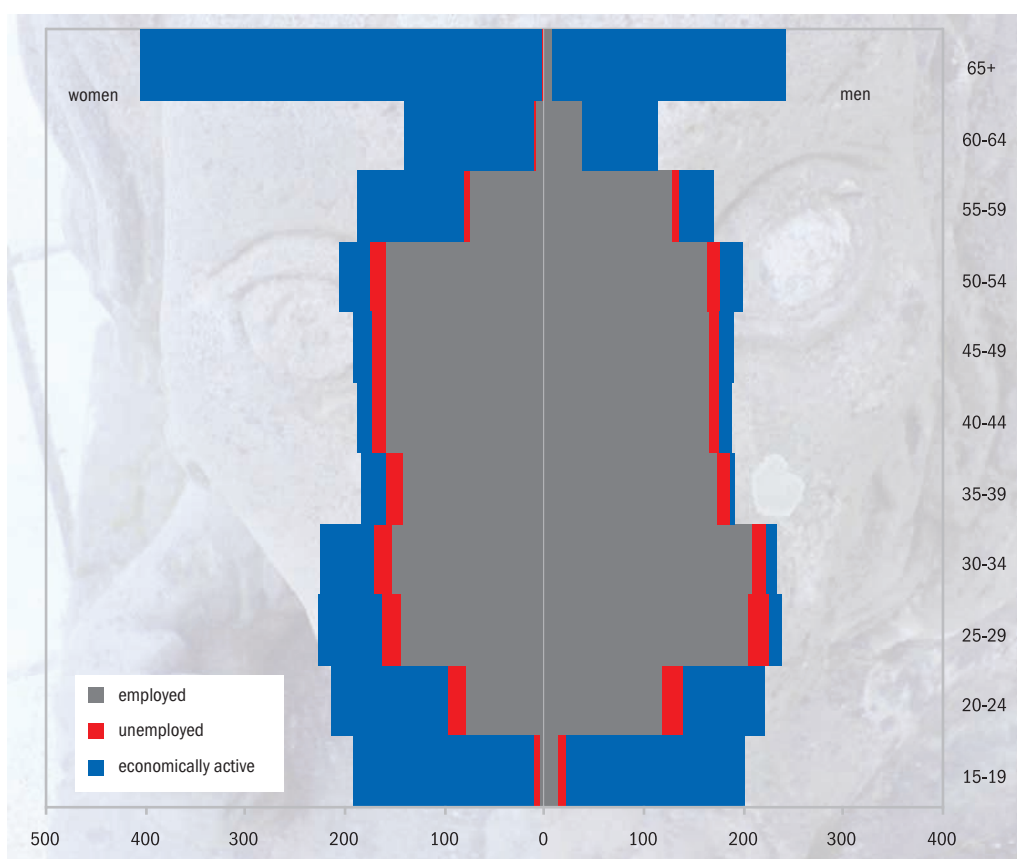


the SOSR employees in 2008. The result was 5 publication issued directly in INFOSTAT: *Reproduction behaviour of urban and rural population in Slovakia*, *Women fertility in the SR from generation viewpoint*, *Mortality atlas in Slovakia*, *Labour migration in the SR* and *Development prognosis of population in districts of the SR to 2025* and documents for publication of SOSR *Population movement of the SR 2007*, *mortality and marriage tables*. Information about activity of DRC activities are released at the DRC's website (www.infostat.sk/vdc) and

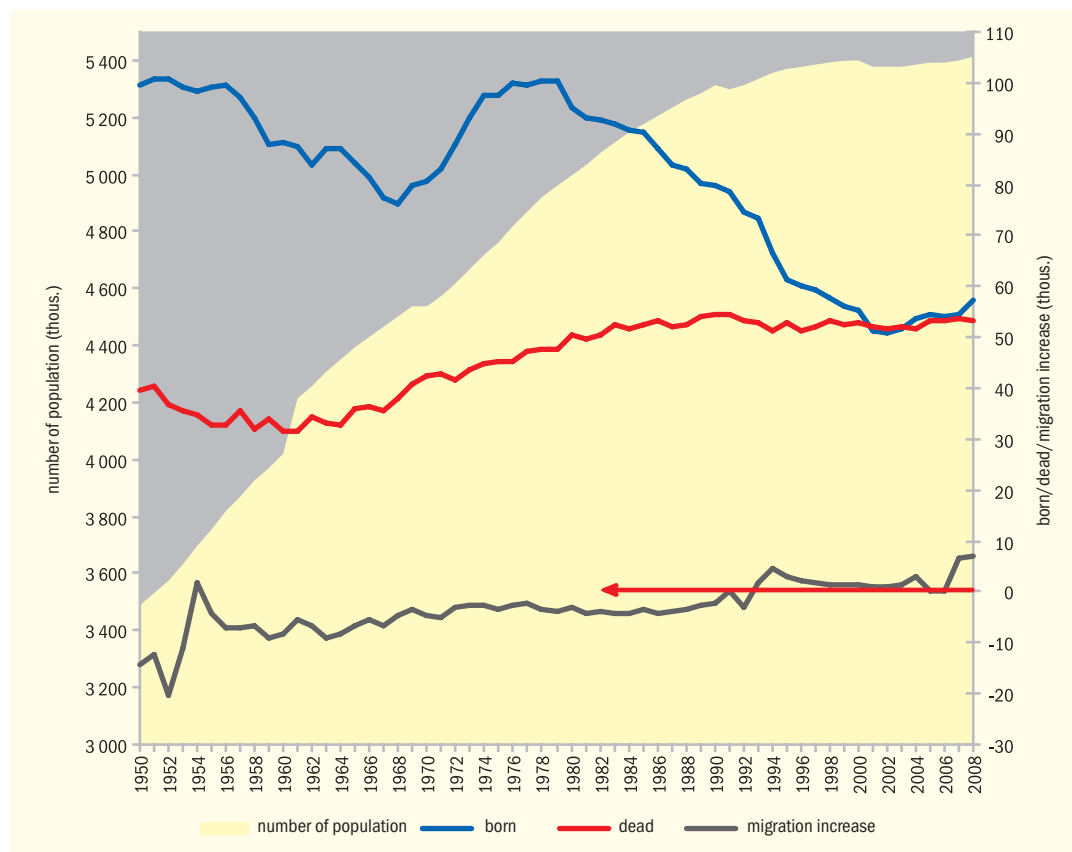
were also a subject of the press conference held at the Statistical Office of the SR in December 2008.

In addition to planned tasks, employees of the centre were involved to deal with non-planned (actual) tasks required by departments that had usually a form of working documents, supporting documents, opinions and evaluations. DRC developed cooperation with domestic and non-domestic demographic institutions; employees took part in many projects. The project *Demog-*

Population by age and situation at labour market



Characteristics of development of the number of population of the SR 1950 – 2008



raphy and demo-demography – important science subjects and their importance for society, which was aimed at popularization of science and research, continued in cooperation with the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Comenius University. The other project was realized in cooperation with the *Office* for the Slovaks Living Abroad and was focused on external migration. From international projects, the most significant was the cooperation in two projects of all European character, *Human fertility database* and *European demographic datasheet 2008*.

Demographic Research Centre was also co-organiser of *Demographical discussion afternoons* arranged in cooperation with the Slovak statistical and demographic society and with the Faculty of Natural Sciences of CU. Topics of discussions were aimed at current demographical issues. A great attention was paid continuously to Internet communication via own website, as well as via website of SLOVAK-POPIN that is a result of cooperation with SOSR and that includes detailed demographic data.

Election statistics

A main task of the election statistics was realization of processing of the new elections to the bodies of municipal self-government in the last year. The new elections were declared in municipalities, where the place of mayor / city manager is relieved or was not available a replacement to the relieved place of a deputy in municipality / town corporation.

The chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic declared the new elections in 2008 in three dates: the first on 15th March, the other on 21st June and the last on 22nd November. Elections in March were declared in 16 municipalities that came under 11 district election commissions. Elections in June were

held in 23 municipalities that delivered results to 16 district election commissions. The last elections in 2008 were held in 28 municipalities and together with district election commissions were available 19 expert (summarizing) units.

The Statistical Office of the SR set up an expert (summarizing) unit for each district election commission in accordance with the Act No 346/1990 on elections to the bodies of municipal self-governments in a wording of later regulations. Expert (summarizing) units receive and control the minutes of municipal election commissions and prepared a proposal of the minutes for a district election commission. An approved proposal of the minutes of this



commission is submitted to the expert (summarizing) unit of the Central Election Commission. After control of all the minutes of district election commissions, the expert (summarizing) unit of the Central Election Commission prepares a proposal of the minutes for the Central Election Commission. After processing the results, the Statistical Office issues a publication with results of the new elections. Since May 2007, SOSR releases detailed results of the new elections immediately after a sign of the minutes of the Central Election Commission at the website.

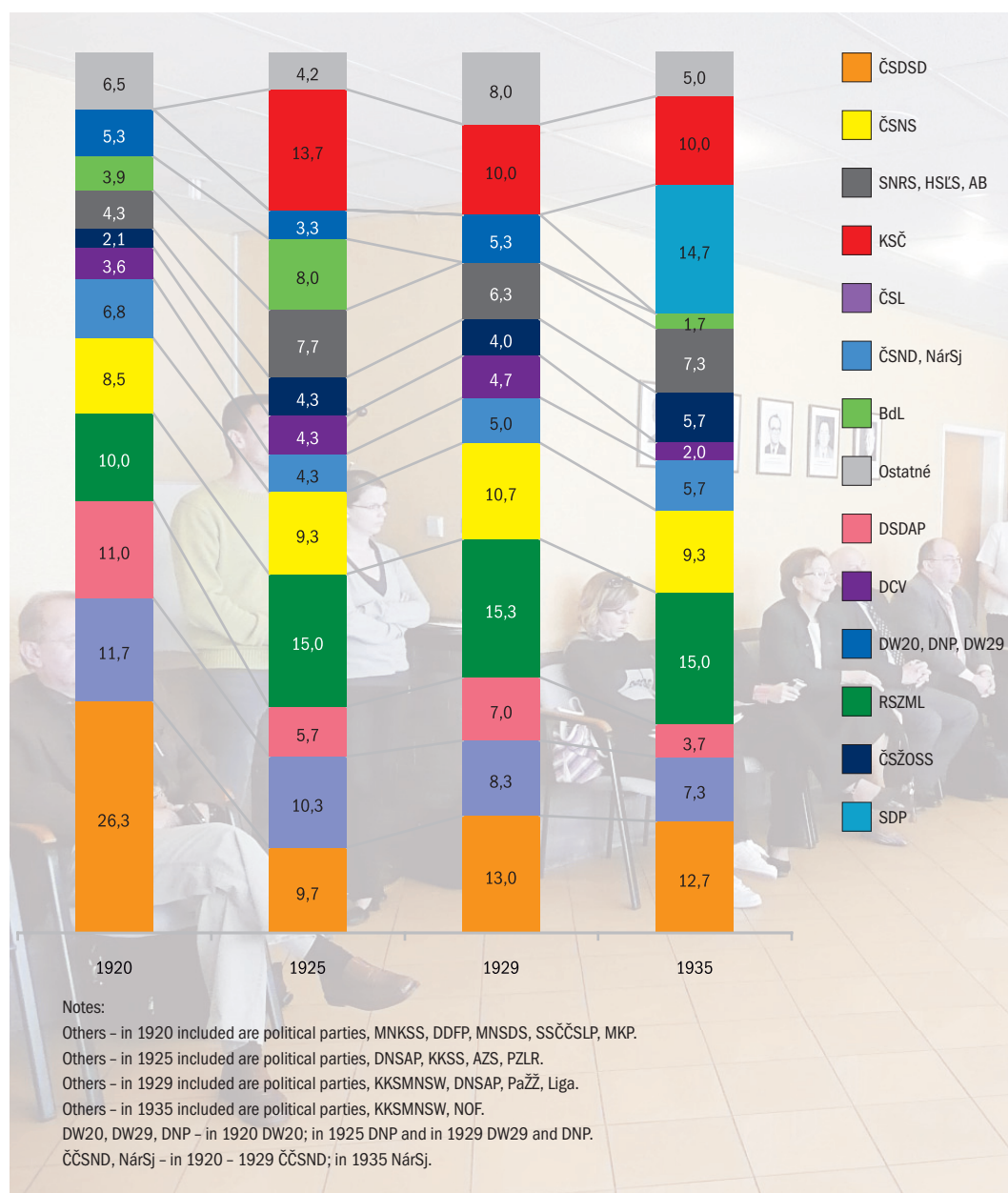
Workplaces of SOSR in regions are largely involved in all tasks in the field of election statis-

tics and a successful realization of elections will be not possible without their active participation.

SOSR issued the publication with historical results of elections to the legislative bodies as a contribution to the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the CSR in cooperation with the Czech Statistical Office. The publication contains results of the elections from 1920 until now. The results are for the territory of Slovakia, but data from 1920 to 1946 are structured in districts, in which the country was divided at that time.



Mandates to House of Deputies 1920 – 1935 (in %)



Cooperation with the Institute of Informatics and Statistics

The Institute of Informatics and Statistics (INFOSTAT) as **research and development work station in the field of national statistics** participates in activities of the Statistical Office of the SR yearly. The cooperation between the Institute and SOSR is based on the contract concluded by both organizations for a relevant year. A content of the contract reflects priority tasks of annual plans of statistical activities of the Statistical Office that are transformed to the plan of research and development tasks of INFOSTAT.

In 2008 INFOSTAT dealt with 30 research and development tasks realized by 54 partial outputs. In the view of subject specification it were:

- ▲ **development and innovation** – subsystems of METIS, REGIS and ZBER relating to the automated statistical information system (ASIS); application programme equipment relating to the project of euro changeover in the SR; software for SLOVSTAT database, business surveys, balancing of energy, estimation of harvest, compilation of outputs from sample survey in road freight transport (RFT), calculations of indicators of structural business statistics (SBS); Urban and municipal statistics (UMS) and Urban Information System (UIS);
- ▲ **methodological solutions** – improvement of the quality of procedures on constructions of the national account system (NAS) in the SR; supply/use tables (SUT) and symmetric input-output tables (IOT); some issues of flash estimations of indicators of NAS and an analysis of seasonality of their time series; issues of price statistics and economic statistics and also updating methodology of



processing monthly data of the household accounts by standards of EUROSTAT to process data of sample surveys; improvement of the data quality of the survey on incomes and living conditions of households (EU SILC) and labour force sample survey (LFSS);

- ▲ **analyses** – standardization of data and meta-data to change data of SIS; sample population of the Farm Structural Survey; usage of SAS in SOSR environment;
- ▲ **forecast** – of a short-term development of the economy of the SR.

Tasks realized by the Demographic Research Centre within INFOSTAT have a special role (see more detailed in the chapter *Social Statistics and Demographic Research Centre*).

The activity of INFOSTAT for 2008 is completely documented in a special report available at the Office's website www.statistics.sk, in part *Annual Reports*.



We serve our customers

The strategic objective of marketing was also implemented further in 2008. The **Marketing Plan of SOSR for 2008**, many tasks of which were performed, was approved.

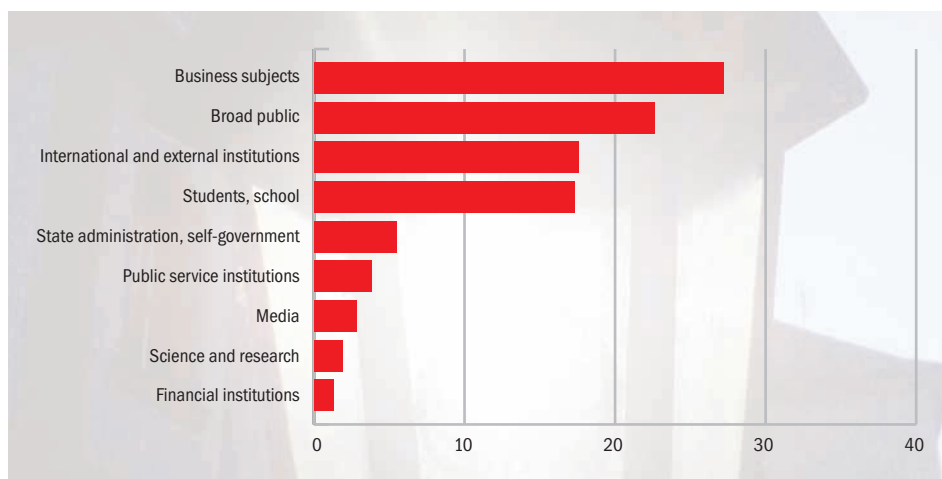
SOSR paid a primary attention to significant domestic and non-domestic customers in the area of building relations with customers. Regarding domestic customers, there were especially legislative and executive bodies of state administration, mostly the Ministry of Finance of the SR and the National Bank of Slovakia, the Ministry of Economy of the SR, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, the Ministry of Education of the SR and the Ministry of Environment of the SR. A comprehensive number of pre-defined tables and data files, which they used for decision-making and governing processes, were

made available for these bodies besides printed products. Individual expert departments of the Office arranged some activities aimed at survey of customers' satisfaction with products and services of the statistical data dissemination. The activities were also aimed at extension of customers' knowledge in the field of statistics and at possibilities to use products for analytical, managerial, pedagogical and other professional activity.

Meeting the requests of the international and inter-governmental organizations, the member of which the Slovak Republic is, was oriented to EUROSTAT, UN ECE, European Commission, ECFIN, OECD, ILO, FAO, IEA, UNESCO and Statistical Division of the UN. Requests of this group of customers increased considerably in fields such as short-term production



Interest of customers in providing information of SOSR by occupation sections in 2008 (in %)



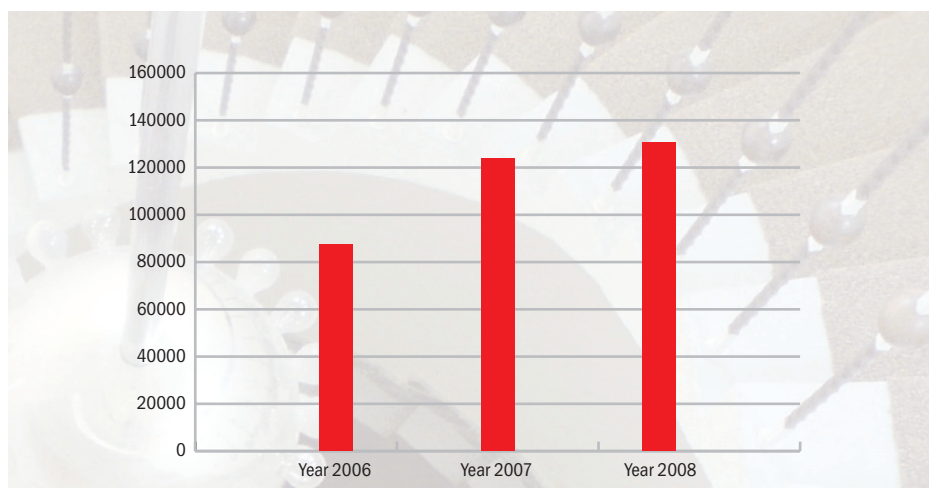
statistics, market services, foreign trade and price statistics in comparison with the previous year 2007. Together 272 products in the form of different questionnaires, data files and tables of all statistical areas were transmitted to these institutions.

The Statistical Office transmitted continuously different statistical data to users via **information service**, mostly in standard form, extractions from publications and available databases. Information were emailed, but also sent in written form or by fax. Together 3 289 requests were met, i.e. almost by a quarter more than in 2007, there were mostly customers of the business sector and a broad public, from international organizations and students of faculties and universities. Requests met by personal visit of customer, information and orders provided

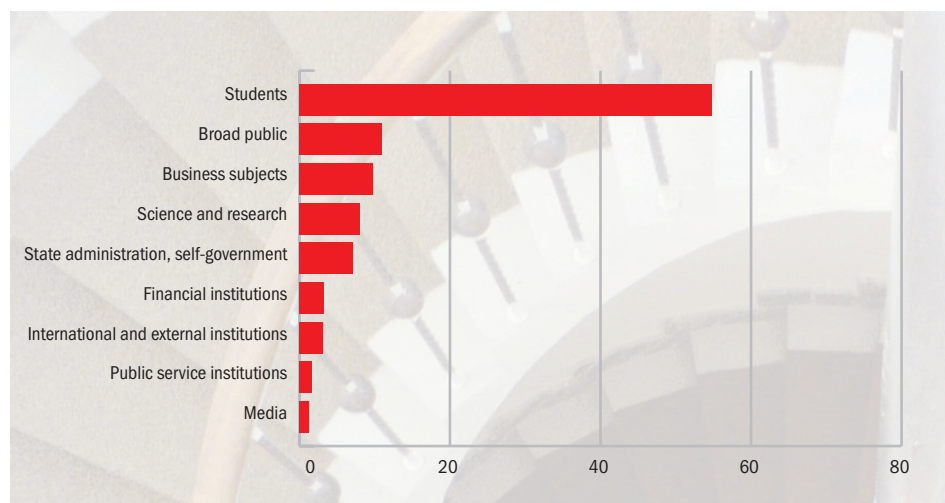
by phone and direct sale of publications are not included in this amount.

The **Internet solution** as a dominant trend of the access to customers to products of the Statistical Office was developed further in the field of production of products and dissemination. Electronic forms, such as *Order of statistical information* and *Comments* were made available. The new application function „export to XML“ was introduced, it realize export of each pre-defined table to standard data XML format. Since September 2008, euro calculator was made available in tables and texts in value indicators at the SOSR's portal. Euro calculator was created as interactive „bubble“ and increased comport of visitors of the website. Offer via free of charge available databases, such as SLOVSTAT and RegDat was extended.

Number of extractions of public database SLOVSTAT



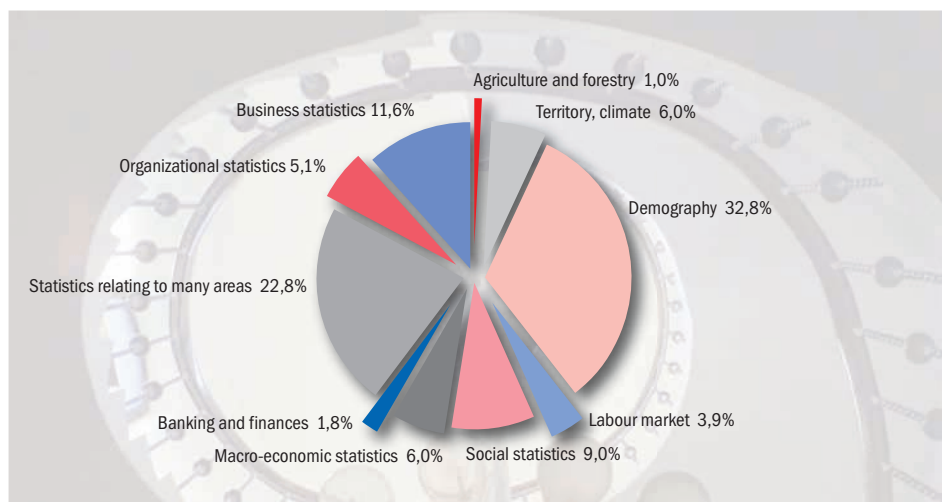
Interest in database SLOVSTAT by occupation sections in 2008 (in %)



Time series of indicators of economic and social development of Slovakia and its regions represent a rich source of statistical information

presented in the form of dynamically generated tables with a possibility to display them also through graphs and maps.

Share of tables in database RegDat by thematic groups in 2008



New technological platform of the **Urban and municipal statistics** database was dealt with by integration into the database system of Oracle. At the same time, the application programme equipment was innovated in order to make possible an access of all workplaces of SOSR to the data of the whole database. The period allowing the availability of updated data to broad public was also shortened. The UMS database allows data retrievals of many indicators from different areas for each municipality and town of the SR and to define also outputs of different territorial units free of charge.

In 2008, 10 373 registered users visited the public database **SLOVSTAT** via the SOSR's website and 130,7 thousand data extractions were realized from 606 tables that are in the offer of the database. More than a half of visitors were

students, broad public 10,9 % and enterprises, associations and professional unions 9,7 %. The most extractions were made in macro-economic indicators, quarterly national accounts, labour and wage statistics, demographic statistics, prices, incomes, expenditures and household consumption.

27 622 different users visited the regional **RegDat** database in the last year, they realized 31 373 visits and 141,7 thousand data extractions from data matrices. Users were interested the most in statistical data from the field of demography, labour market, business and social statistics.

Statistical publications were issued continuously in both, printed and electronic form in compliance with the Catalogue of Publication 2007 –

2008, together 74 titles at the headquarter and 75 at workplaces in regions. The main comprehensive and sector publications are *Statistical Yearbook of the SR 2008*, *Statistical Yearbook of regions of Slovakia*, quarterly *Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the SR* (which is submitted to the Government of the SR), yearbooks of industry, construction, transport, science and technology, trends of social development. In addition to the Catalogue of Publication, another 6 titles were released: *Population Movement in the Slovak Republic in 2007 (source work)*, *Career of Doctorate Holders in the SR*, *Selected aspects of employment in the light of public opinion in 2006 – 2007*, *Elections to the legislative bodies at the territory of Slovakia 1920 – 2006* and *Social Protection in the European Union*. A generously illustrated propagation publication *Slovakia in EU – Living conditions* was also issued.

The Office within the international activities also implement further the grant project of EUROSTAT **European Statistical Data Support** (ESDS) to support users in work with the European statistical data in 2008. The European Statistical Data Support Centre of the SR that is working the third year at the Statistical Office provided an assistance to navigate users at the website of EUROSTAT, to search the European statistical data in databases of EUROSTAT, and also to answer methodological questions. Information released in the part *European Statistics – ESDS* at the SOSR's website were updated and supplemented continuously by a translation of frequently asked questions from the English to the Slovak language. Propagation leaflet on EUROSTAT and news at its website as well as services provided by the European Statistical Data Support Centre was released as a part of

propagation. The presentation about dissemination and use of the European statistics was realized for representatives of departments of state administration and also for representatives of workplaces of SOSR in regions.

We monitor opinions of citizens

– we publish periodicals

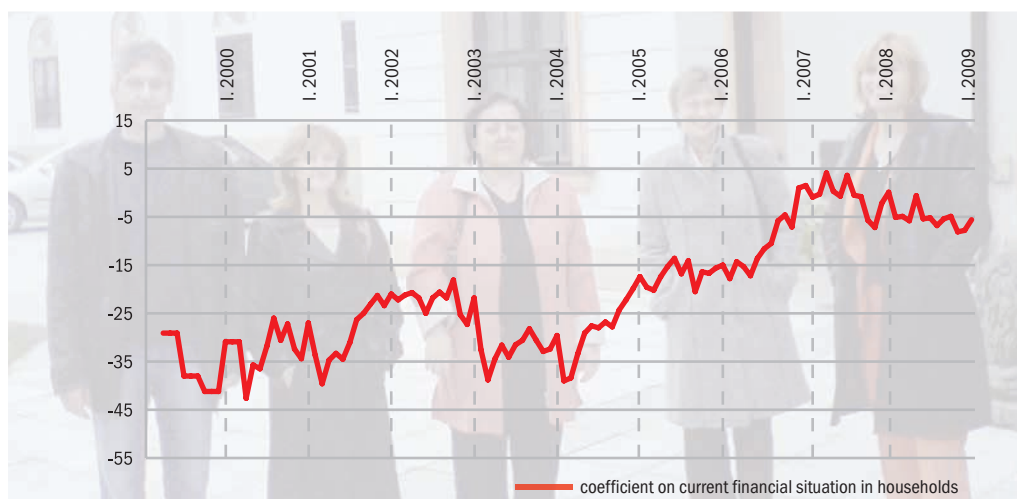
In 2008, social and economic issues were also the centre of attention of the Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) at the Statistical Office of the SR. These issues were the main part of the 28 research actions of IPOR focused on monitoring of outlooks of adult population on ways and life conditions in the Slovak society. This number of realized survey is the highest in the existing history of the Institute.

Inhabitants of Slovakia had the possibility to assess trends of the economy of the SR and financial situation of households via the international project **Consumer Barometer** each month. The main user of this survey results was the Directorate General of Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission. The Ministry of Economy of the SR was another user of results and also information reports were submitted to the Government of the SR.

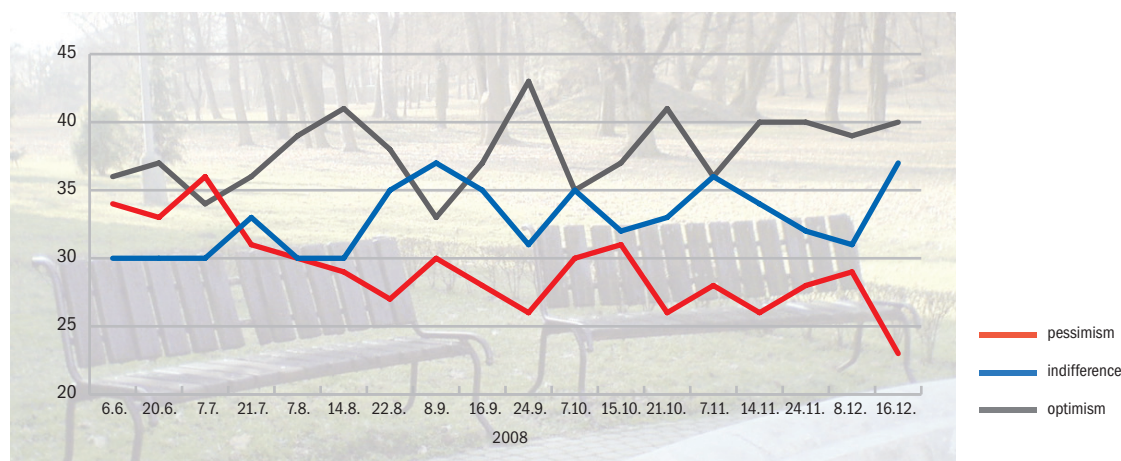
The quarterly publication of the information bulletin **Opinions** was a traditional product of IPOR representing a platform in order to publish the results of regular public opinion polls on topical issues of the development of the Slovak society. Following themes in 18th issue of the bulletin were presented besides others: changeover to common currency Euro in Slovakia, problems of unemployment and employment, investment plans of households, preferences of political parties and movements, but also credibility of the Slovak politicians.

The Institute realized a great research project **Euro changeover** in 2008. In the June-December 2008 period, trained interviewers of IPOR monitored information of the Slovak inhabitants about euro, degree of their identification with the previous currency and possible impacts of common currency on their living level in regular intervals. The Government of the SR,

Opinions of inhabitants of the SR of current development of financial situation in households



Feelings of public relating to expectations of euro changeover in Slovakia (data in %)



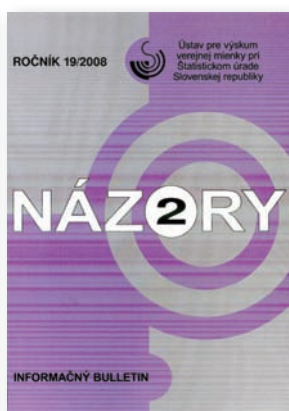
executive units including a representative for Euro changeover and also a broad public were regularly informed about results of the survey.

IPOR within the programme of state statistical surveys conducted quarterly surveys on short-term and long-term stays and business trips of inhabitants both domestic and non-domestic.

Some other research tasks and projects, contractors of which were the organizations and institutions of the state and public sector, were also realized.

The issue of the scientific periodical **Slovak Statistics and Demography** continued with **18th year** in 2008. The periodical presents professional articles, overviews, analytical studies and other reports and articles from different fields of statistics and related sciences. Articles and discussion reports, opinions and polemics from the demographic field are regularly presented.

Reports for publication come not only from employees of SOSR, but also from authors mostly from different universities and scientific workplaces in Slovakia.



International activities

The international activities were aimed mostly at a cooperation within the **European Statistical system**. Professionals of SOSR took part in a preparation of legislative proposals of the European union in statistics, in an introduction of new statistical methods and in an increase of the comparability and quality of statistical data. 29 new legal acts of the European Union were approved in the field of statistics in 2008, of which 13 regulations of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to classifications, demography, education statistics, energy statistics, agricultural statistics, transmission of confidential data and health statistics. The adoption of a decision establishing the European Statistical Advisory Committee, member of which became also a representative of the Slovak Republic, had a great importance. One of the important legal acts was also a decision on an establishment of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board and on a program of the modernization of the European business and trade statistics. Other adopted acts were implementing regulations of the Commission. A significant proposal of the regulation on European statistics, a proposal of the regulation on intra-community trade and on trade with third countries, on information society and two legislative proposals in the field of statistics and agriculture were in a preparation phase.

In addition to the active participation in functioning of the European Statistical System, the Statistical Office also took part in activities of the international organizations such as Statistical Commission of the UN, Conference on European Statisticians at the UN ECE, OECD, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WTO and others.

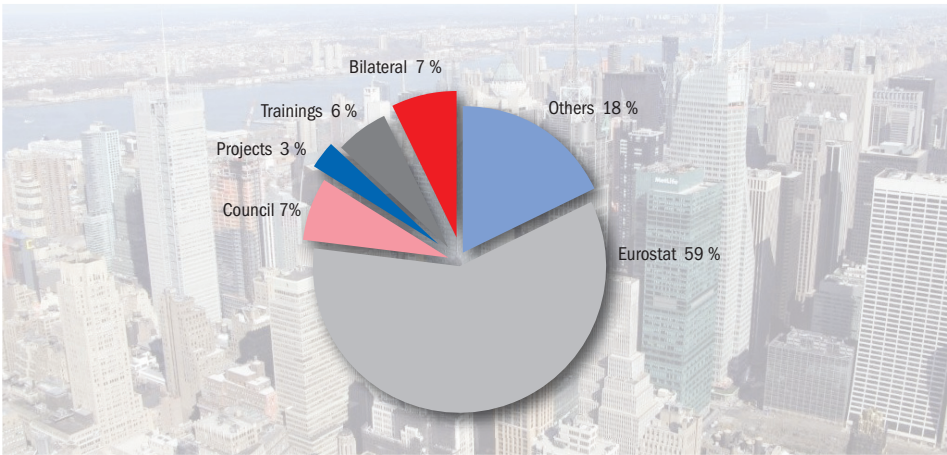
The project of the creation of the national statistical system in Tajikistan dominated in the field of **external assistance**, 4 consultation visits were realized in the course of year, where 7 experts of SOSR provided consultancy and know-how in social statistics, statistics of industry and national accounts. SOSR provided consultations to the Statistical Office of Ukraine in the field of demography, census of population, data dissemination and regional statistics. In the first half of 2008, an employee of the Bulgarian Statistical Office was at a six-month professional fellowship at SOSR.

The previous intensive **cooperation with neighbouring central European countries** was formally rounded off by a sign of the memorandum on cooperation among the statistical offices of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia and Slovakia in November. SOSR within this initiative organized an international workshop on usage of administrative sources for statistical purposes with participation of 10 external experts. The honorary guest was a representative of the General Director of EUROSTAT, Mr. M. Bohatá. Her visit was used also for negotiations with the Office management and a presentation of results of the evaluation of the national statistical institutes in the form of „peer review“. The general director of the Austrian Statistical Office, Mr. P. Hackl was another official working visit at SOSR; he presented inspiring speech on a cooperation of statistics with universities and science circles.

SOSR employees took part in 237 **external business trips** in this year, i.e. 293 commencements. The most trips were realized to Luxembourg, where meetings of working groups and committees of EUROSTAT were held. SOSR employees



Types of business trips



also participated in meetings of working group STATIS at the Council of the European Union, in actions organized by other international organizations, in trainings of the *European Statistical Training Programme* and at working visits of other statistical institutes.

A development and functioning of the Slovak statistics within the European statistical system is realized also via **grant projects** mostly funded

by the European union. In 2008, 13 new grant agreements was signed and implementation of 23 projects that started in previous years continued. In December 2008, implementation of the great multi-beneficiary program of Transition Facility 2005 was finished, it consisted of 9 pilot projects aimed at an increase of the level and application of new legislation in different fields of statistics.



Human resources

In 2008, SOSR continued to create opportunities for development of employees, to recruit successfully employees and to maintain qualified and productive employees.

The average registered recalculated number of employees was 995 in 2008, of which 868 were employed as civil servants and 127 employees on employment contract.

The Personnel Office realized 58 **public competitions** to occupy vacant civil servant posts, of which 54 public competitions were successful and 4 unsuccessful in 2008. 14 public competitions were announced for the jobs of heads and these jobs were occupied on the base of their results. 97 % of posts were occupied to the 31 December 2008.

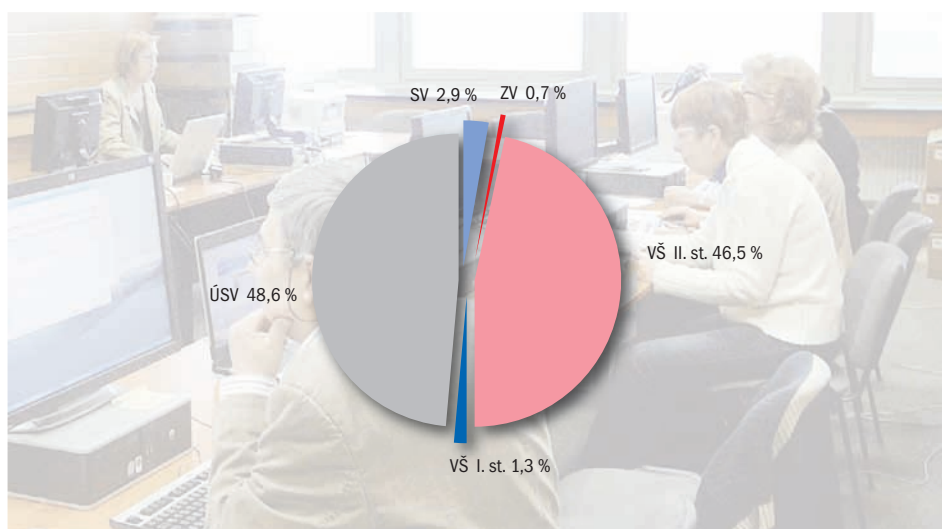
An evaluation of the employees was executed according to the Act on Civil Service and the decision of the Office management for the period of the year 2008 in order to obtain information and to provide a feedback on the working performance of the employees, their behaviour and relations at a workplace. 934 employees were evaluated in total.

The Office paid an attention to the personal representation of the SR in institutions of the European Union. 2 employees deputed by SOSR worked at positions of the national experts in EUROSTAT in the course of 2008.

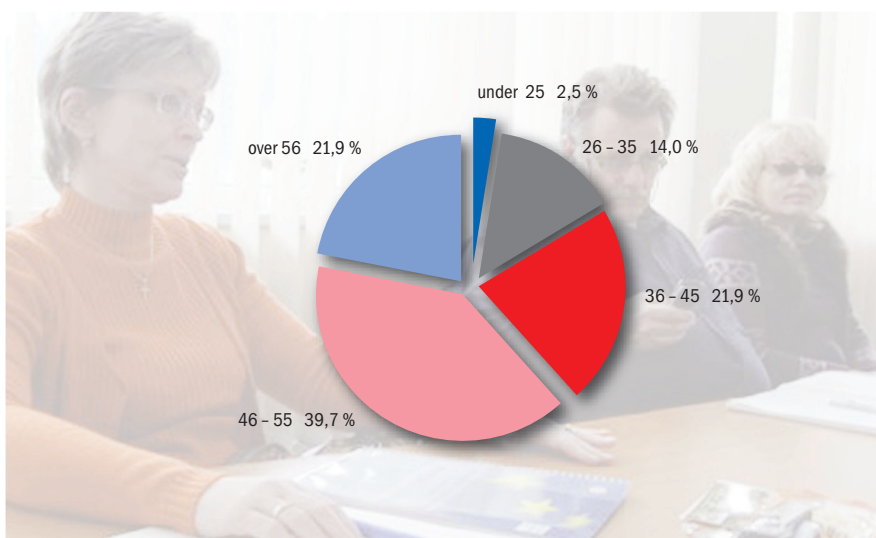
Also in the last year, the activities realized within the *Education Plan of Employees for 2008* were a base of **education of SOSR employees**.

Education and age structure of employees of the Office to the 31 December 2008 are depicted in the following graphs.

Education structure



Age structure



79,1 % women and 20,9 % men were employed at the Office. From the total number of 135 heads, 67,7 % represented women and 33,3 % represented men.

Planned events were supplemented by the educational activities resulting from current requests of the individual departments. The education was aimed at a support of permanent development of knowledge and qualifications of all target groups of employees so that they are qualified to perform their working tasks professionally, effectively, flexibly and impartially.

The Statistical Office sent its employees also to the educational activities that were realized by other institutions based on projects funded by the European union. A sphere of the offered education was extended in this way without spending budgetary resources of the Office.

The education of managers was aimed at development of knowledge and qualifications in order to manage employees, to improve the form of communication with employees, media and with a broad public (time management, stress management, effective building and management of working team). A group of employees attended the course of lecturer's skills relating to the project of the Centre of Education of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR.

Trainings of the education program of *Schola Statistica* were realized in the education centre of SOSR in Klátová Nová Ves in order to provide a support relating to an introduction of

the modern statistical methods. Trainings were aimed at issues of national accounts, mathematical methods applied to statistical analyses, demographic prognoses, and seasonal analysis of time series and sample survey. 140 employees took part in trainings of this education program.

78 employees performing professional activities in the field of statistics participated in international workshops and trainings. The high interest was mostly in statistical trainings organized by the *European Statistical Training Programme* (ESTP), which were attended by 13 employees. In the course of year, 8 statistical afternoons were arranged and participants of

external events presented their obtained experiences and knowledge.

In 2008, the communications skills of employees continued to be improved through half-intensive and intensive courses of the English and French language. 492 employees took part in the language preparation. In order to improve the quality of communication of employees in the national language, a course of language culture in state administration was realized.

SOSR employees in the region of Bratislava were allowed to increase skills in a work with applications of Microsoft Office 2003 in the form of e-learning trainings of ECDL relating



to the project of the Ministry of Finance of the SR. Trainings to new application for automated statistical information system (ASIS), to new information system in human resources management and to environment of electronic public procurement were an important part of the education in information technologies.

The total amount SKK 2 102 254 (EUR 69 782) was spent on education of more than 3 thousand of employees.

The basic activity of the SOSR library was aimed at supplementing, registration, maintenance and providing of professional publications and periodicals within financial resources for this

purpose that amounted to SKK 730 979 (EUR 24 264). In the course of last year, library fund was supplemented by 1 643 new books and 91 daily press, domestic and non-domestic periodicals. The total number of borrowings was 5 520 realized by 3 224 readers of the library, of which 2 795 were from an external environment.



Information sources and information and communication technologies

The year 2008 was considered as significant, mostly in the view of future in the field of information sources and information and communication technologies. Conceptual activities in the field of information systems and their security in the field of information and communication technologies were typical for this year in addition to realization of routine services for our internal and external customers.

In connection to basic documents in the field of information of society approved by the Government: *Strategy of information of the SR* and *National conception of information of public administration of the SR*, the Department of Methodology and Informatics of the Statistical Office prepared the *Conception of development of information systems of SOSR* (KRIS SOSR) that was in compliance of the Act on information systems of public administration approved by the Ministry of Finance of the SR. It is a strategic document for further trends in informatics in SOSR and SOSR is also involved in processes of information of the Slovak Republic.

The Statistical Office becomes aware of an importance of the security of information systems and begun systematically deal with this area. A preliminary analysis on the security of information systems of SOSR with an emphasis on the security of election information systems as first step required in order to realize reliable processing of statistical information and smooth processing of results of elections in 2009 was prepared.

To prepare elections in 2009, equipments of computer technology were supplied for purposes of processing the results of all elections in 2009 and 2010.

Financial results

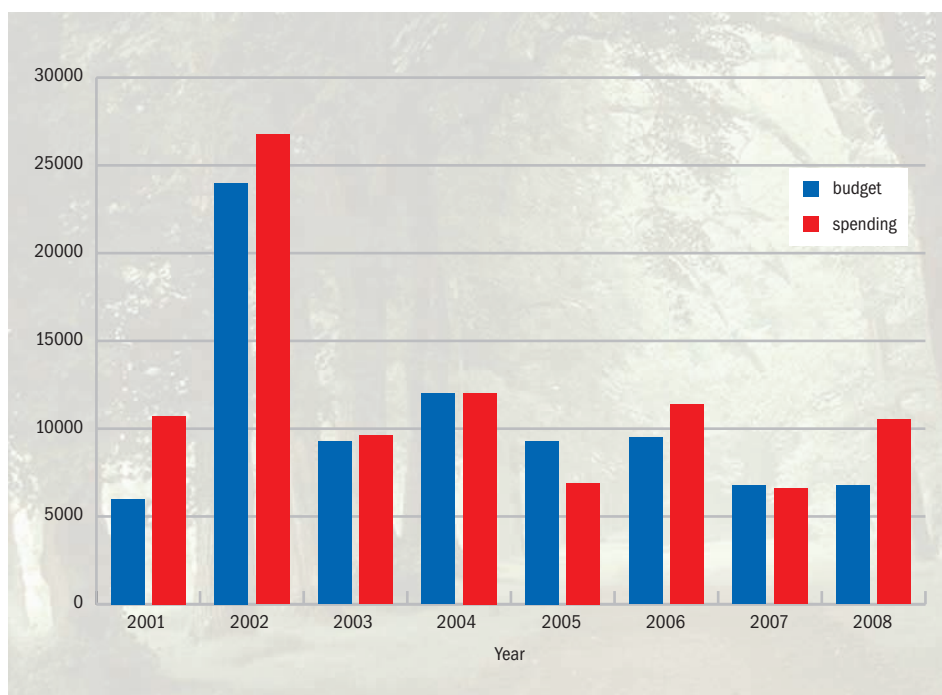
The Act No. 608/2007 Coll. on state budget approved expenditures in the amount of SKK 523 386 thousand in the SOSR chapter. The budget was adjusted by eight budgetary measures to SKK 548 276 thous. in the course of 2008. Adjustment of the budget mostly related to an approval of budgetary measures on public opinion polls to issues of euro changeover, dual survey of consumer prices and increase of budget for statistical survey on incomes and living conditions of households (EU SILC). Based on the Decision of the Government of the SR No 393 from 11 June 2008, expenditures in the SOSR chapter were set in the amount of SKK 731 thousand by budgetary measure.

The non-fiscal income was approved in the amount of SKK 6 770 thous. The real income was SKK 46 538 thous., including non-fiscal

income SKK 10 530 thous, non-budgetary income SKK 39 008 thous.. The non-fiscal income was acquired mostly from renting of rooms, sale of statistical data and sale of real estate in the amount of SKK 4 012 thousand. The non-budgetary income was acquired from external grants from the European Commission in order to introduce new statistical surveys and to improve their quality.

Expenditures approved in 2008 were spent fully in the amount of the budget. A considerable part of the total expenditures, 66 %, represented expenditures on wages and salaries, payments to health insurance companies. 24 %, i.e. SKK 132 529 thous. was spent on goods and services. These resources were spent, in particular, on print of statistical questionnaires and regulations, processing of statistical data, technical

Comparison of budget and reality of non-fiscal income



support of information and communication technologies, travel compensations, education of employees, other material provision of statistical surveys, benefit to social fund and contribution to boarding of employees and on current operation costs (energy, security of objects, maintenance of buildings and technologies, transport costs and others.).

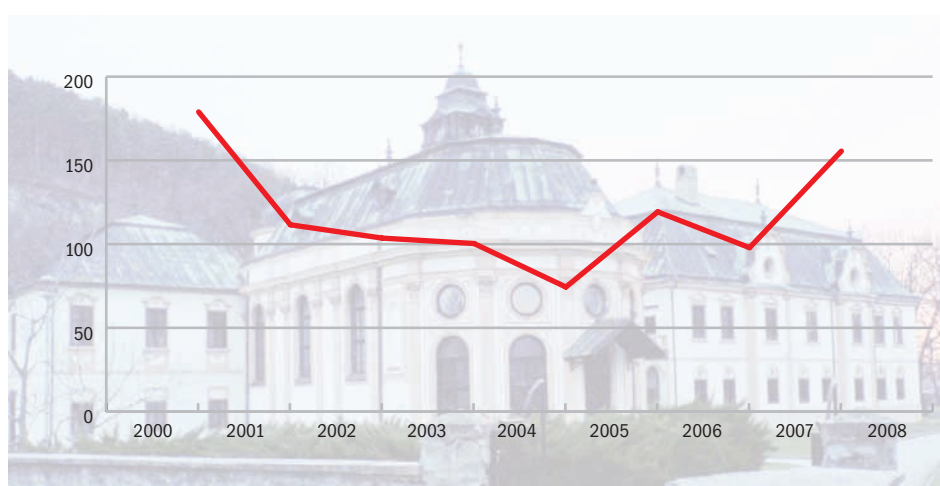
The current transfers were spent in the amount of SKK 36 786 thous., of which the contributory organization INFOSTAT spent SKK 35 000 thous.. Financial resources were spent on performance of the research and developing tasks in the field of statistics specified in the contract between SOSR and INFOSTAT for a relevant year. Other current transfers in the amount of SKK 1 786 thous. were mostly spent on severance pays, compensations and on sick benefit.

The capital expenditures were approved in the amount of SKK 12 500 thous. in the chapter of the SO SR. A limit of the capital expenditures was increased after budgetary measures by

SKK 3 000 thous. that were transferred from 2007. Adjusted budget of the capital expenditures SKK 15 500 thous. was spent up to the amount of SKK 15 498 thous.. The capital expenditures were spent, in particular, on reconstruction of buildings of SOSR, creation of new version of the *webStat* software, purchase of air-condition, emergency source of telephone exchange, computer technology and passenger motor vehicles.

The non-budgetary financial resources in the amount of SKK 39 008 thous. were spent mostly to strengthen the economic interest of the employees participating in their realization and related payments to health insurance companies, and also to paid out contracts of interviewers (surveys such as EU SILC, on usage of information and communication technologies, FSS), program equipment, information campaigns and print of questionnaires in compliance with the rules of the European Union and in compliance with the budget of individual projects.

Spending of non-fiscal income (in %)



Priorities in 2009

An **optimization of statistical surveys** was one of the most important task in compliance with the strategic objective of SOSR in 2009 in order to deal complexly with issues of the comprehensive production and structural statistics in connection to production of software tools allowing to improve methods of optimization of samples, imputations, production of econometric models and better usage of administrative sources.

An implementation of the classification of economic activities **SK NACE Rev. 2** into statistical surveys was one of the priority objectives of the methodological activity, and collection, evaluation and publication of data will be conducted in accordance with the revised classification.

A reflection of the national level requirements in the revised ISCO 08 that will be issued by the regulation of the European Commission in 2009 will be required in the revision of the **classification of occupations**. The national classification, or adoption of its European version will be immediately released in legislative form. So data comparability of labour market statistics will be possible at international level.

A very important task of the field of **registers** will be to include to the Register of organizations a new type of the statistical unit „group of enterprises“ and to implement exchange standards for purposes of confidential data on groups of enterprises between the Statistical Office and EUROSTAT and so to improve the quality of statistics on globalization, foreign affiliations and foreign investments comparable at the European level.

Stabilized and harmonized **data and meta-data** of the field of statistical information system shall be provided in compliance with the standard of data and metadata exchange. Standard of Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) is a technical and statistical standard and a handbook that shall be used together with architecture and tools of information technologies for efficient exchange and sharing statistical data and metadata. Standard formats of files of data and metadata and a standard content of these files are a condition to automated production, processing and exchange of data and metadata between national and international statistical organizations. SDMX will support an improvement of the working processes and allow transmission, dissemination and sharing data in the most effective way. In order to achieve this objective, it is required that SDMX becomes as much as possible known and implemented. It is not required only at the worldwide level but also at the level of the European Statistical System.

In addition to standard works on compilation of **national accounts for 2008 and quarterly accounts** (for the 4th quarter of 2008 and first three quarters of 2009), an effort of the macro-economic statistics will be paid to activities relating to the revision of the basic methodological **handbook of the national account construction** the *European system of national and regional accounts (ESA95)* in 2009. Based on the findings of the EUROSTAT mission relating to the description of *Sources and methods of compilation of gross national income* from October 2008, an attention will be paid to the inclusion of adjustments required by EUROSTAT in the course of year. While the Slovak Republic is one of the countries of Euro-



zone since the 1st January 2009, all indicators of national accounts will be converted to euro in the complete time series and transmitted to EUROSTAT.

Price statistics will be aimed mostly at decadal monitoring of prices of selected representatives of the consumer basket in SKK and EUR over the first half of 2009 and at a calculation of index of prices of real estates and its inclusion to experimental harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP).

A key task of **external trade statistics** will be to transmit monthly indices of import prices of EUROSTAT and indices of export and import prices required by the Department of national accounts and also by other departments. Another important task will be the implementation of the amended legislation relating to external trade statistics. Statistics on trade in goods with member states will be aimed at a decrease of the response burden that can be achieved by an increase of thresholds of exemption, but the current data quality will be maintained. The new legislation of statistics on trade with goods with non-member states reacts mostly on changes in the customs act. In 2009, it will be required to adjust the application programme equipment in regard to changes in the legislation; it will be realized by projects of the *Program of Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics (MEETS)*. In order to apply correctly the new legislation relating to external trade statistics by economic subjects, it is required to inform them about changes in the form of workshops, lectures and similar working meetings in cooperation with Customs office.

An effort of economic statistics will be aimed at processing of **short-term indicators** in the structure of SK NACE Rev.2. from the first reference period in 2009 and at application of a change of basic period from 2000 to the year 2005 and at backcasting of time series of basic indicators from 2000 referred to SK NACE Rev. 2. and basic year 2005.

A preparation of groups in both structures of the classification of economic activities for double compilation of data files for the reference year 2008 will be realized in **structural statistics**, in **statistics of foreign affiliations** and in individual **business statistics**. A priority will be producing the quality reports on evaluation of individual statistics in accordance with new regulations of the European Commission and intensifying the harmonization of business statistics with macro-economic statistics. Another priority of 2009 will be works relating to preparation of the ad hoc survey on access of enterprises to finances. An effort will be paid also into a construction of the tourism satellite account. The preparation of the Farm Structural Census 2010, the implementation of the European methodology and the compilation of environment accounts and proposed regulation to pesticide statistics will be carried out.

Enterprise statistics will implement gradually new methods in connection to modernization of the European system of enterprise statistics in order to decrease burden of companies by greater usage of administrative data sources and implementation of more sophisticated methods and tools.

Priority tasks of **social statistics and demography** will be realization of content, meth-

odological and organization preparation of the **Census of Population and Housing 2011** and realization of the next wave of survey on incomes and living conditions in households (**EU SILC**).

A stress will be paid also on a smooth transition to publication of statistical information about labour market in classifications by the new classification of SK NACE Rev.2. and financial indicators on labour costs in new currency euro. The Statistical Office will process and transmit statistical information to EUROSTAT in the field of financial and non-financial data on health and data on occupational diseases and accidents at work for 2008, will release data on average monthly wage and other labour costs including detailed information about structure and differences in remuneration. In compliance with legislation and methodology of the *European system of integrated statistics of social protection* (ESSPROS), SOSR will transmit quantitative and qualitative data on social protection for 2007. As one of the publication of the Catalogue of Publication of the Office, the publication *Trends of social development in 2008* will be issued.

In 2009, an integration of relevant administrative sources into automated statistical information system and a preparation of statistical surveys of the *European program of social surveys* will be realized continuously. In addition to current labour force sample survey also an additional survey on transition from school to labour life will be conducted in the 2nd quarter of 2009.

Priorities of **Demographic Research Centre** in 2009 will be aimed at detailed analysis of the population development and its impacts at the

level of the Slovak Republic in 2008, at methods of prognosticating input parameters for prognosis of population and also at processing of so called tables of life (death tables, health tables and marriage tables).

Election statistics will face significant tasks in 2009. In the first quarter, in March, elections of the President of the Slovak Republic will be held and at the end of the second quarter, in June, election to the European Parliament will be held. The Statistical Office fulfils in compliance with election acts very important tasks relating to preparation, organization and processing of results of voting in these elections. An effort of the employees of the Office will be round off by presentation and publication of results of elections. At the end of year, the third elections of nationwide character will be held, the elections to the bodies of municipal self-government. SOSR will prepare processing and will process results of voting in these elections.

In addition to these elections of nationwide character, the Statistical Office realized also processing of results of new elections to the bodies of municipal self-government in dates that will be announced by the chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

SOSR will implement continuously the marketing strategy of the Office in the field of **dissemination and providing statistical information**. It will develop customer-oriented statistics and Internet portal as the main implement of the statistical information dissemination. An attention will be focused on search of new forms of electronic products. Relating to the printed publications, it will be gradually turned away from the product as a source of statistical data



towards product with value added, i.e. product that will provide users analyses, graphical and map processing of statistical data and methodological comment to them. Professional capacities of the employees and technical and technological possibilities of the Office will be largely used in this case.

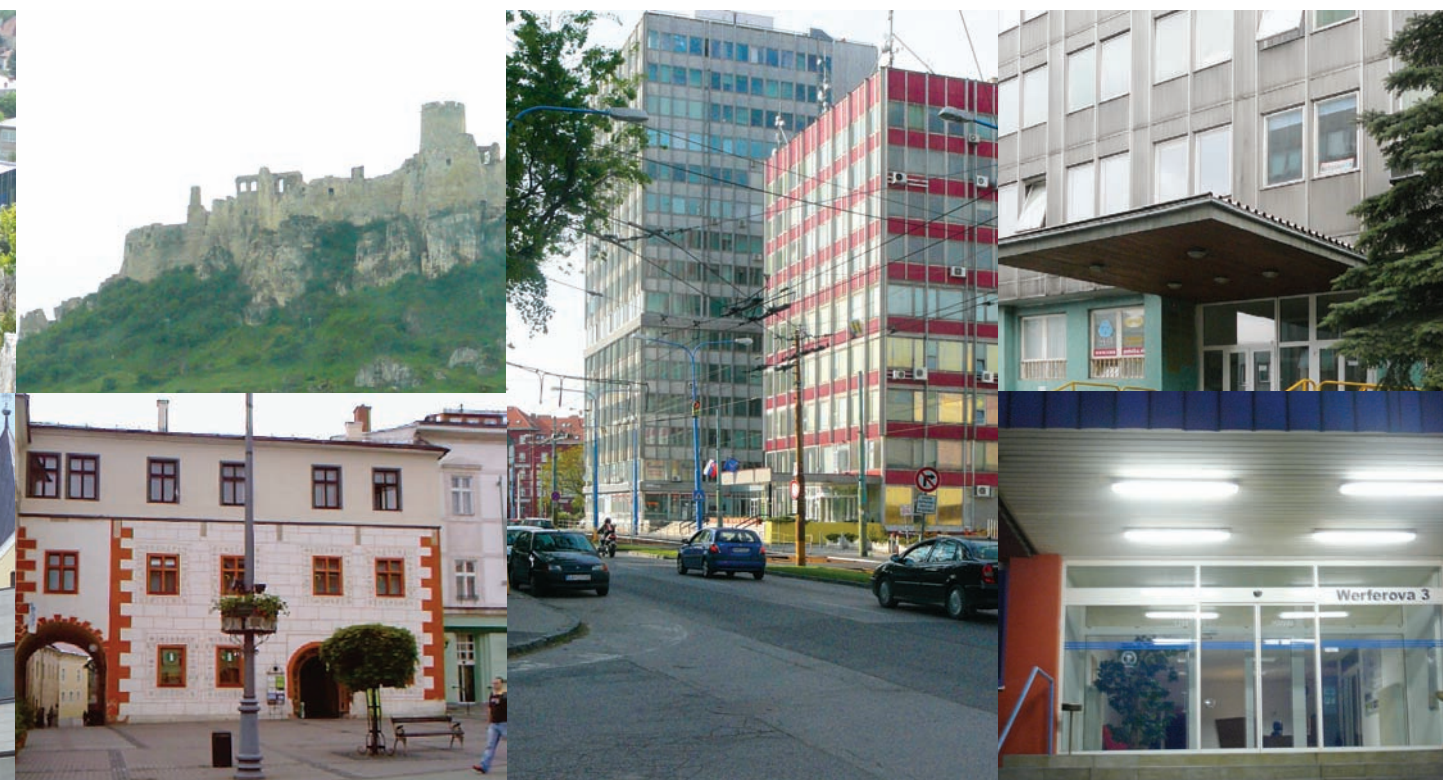
In order to satisfy requirements of users of statistics as better as possible, a survey on satisfaction of users with products and services of SOSR will be conducted through a questionnaire in the course of 2009. Results of the survey

will subsequently affect an improvement of the activities and processes in the Statistical Office of the SR.

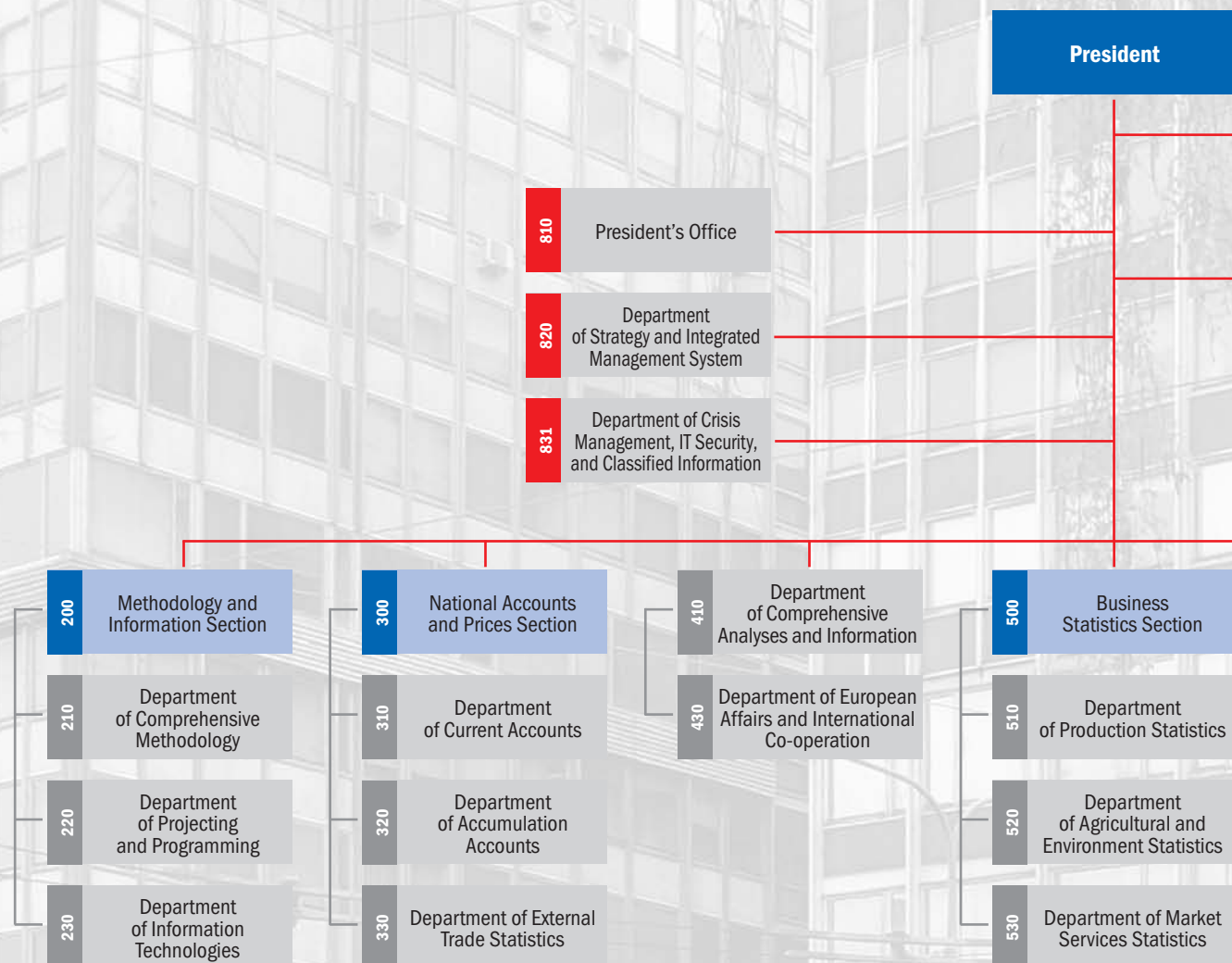
Priorities of information technologies will be firstly aimed at an improvement the quality of services and stabilization of a personal provision of the operation of information systems and existing architecture of information and communication technologies (ICT). Another priority will be definition of a strategy for the complex modernization and consolidation of the infrastructure of ICT. The consolidation of



ICT will require building of completely new data-centre with an emphasis on availability, security and capacity reserve for the next period. In 2009, a stress will be put also on introduction of measures required for the realization of the Decree of the Ministry of the Finance of the SR from 8 September 2008 No MF/013261/2008-132 on standards for information systems of public administration. And last but not least our objective will be guarantee of 99,5 % availability of information technologies as an implement of the complex administration of statistical data.



Organizational structure 2008



Vice-President

Head of Civil Service Office

103 Civil Service Office Secretariat

120 Department of Economic Affairs

130 Department of Office Service

110 Personnel Office

600 Social Statistics and Demography Section

610 Department of Population Statistics

620 Department of Labour and Wages Statistics

630 Department of Social Statistics

540 Institute for Public Opinions Research

11000 Regional workplace in Bratislava

12000 Regional workplace in Trnava

13000 Regional workplace in Trenčín

14000 Regional workplace in Nitra

15000 Regional workplace in Žilina

16000 Regional workplace in Banská Bystrica

17000 Regional workplace in Prešov

18000 Regional workplace in Košice

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