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ANNUAL REPORT

2020



STATISTICAL
OFFICE
OF THE SLOVAK
REPUBLIC



ANNUAL REPORT
STATISTICAL OFFICE
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
2020

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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

You are currently opening an annual report, offering a picture of the most important activities of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in 2020.

The foreword is usually dedicated to the notices of the most important activities of the Office conducted during the year. However, the year 2020 was different, life of the whole society and the functioning of the country was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures adopted to eliminate its impact on people's health and lives.

With the arrival of the new disease from March 2020, we had to immediately change the method of data processing in all the surveyed statistics and respond to this extraordinary situation. We have also tried, as far as possible, to meet the needs of business entities who struggled with the extreme impacts on their activity. We have taken a number of measures that should facilitate the situation of the reporting units. At the same time, however, we knew that the society as well as the authorities need to know the data as soon as possible, in order to quantify the impact of a pandemic and accept or modify the measures reducing its impacts. Community - wide measures adopted to prevent the spread of Covid-19 decreased during the year the business entities' ability of data provision, but thanks to the alternative methods, the dissemination of high-quality aggregate outputs, according to the revised methodology was ensured also in 2020.

At international level, we consulted the situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and we ensured the comparability and methodological

reliability of European statistics, in particular on the new products and outputs. We also participated in the creation of the European Statistics Recovery Dashboard in the European Statistical System. The importance of the European statistics as a successful instrument in the adverse economic situation has been reaffirmed.

Despite the above-mentioned impacts, the SO SR managed to implement during the year all the 81 planned surveys through 141 statistical forms and professionally ensured another 110 surveys (over 113 forms) carrying out by other ministries and state organizations within the National Statistical System. In terms of the plans, all the 69 publications were issued and the 1 200 data cubes were updated in the public DATAcube database. In accordance with the Open Government Initiative Action Plan 20 new datasets were released, and with a total of 734 datasets, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic remains a leader in data provision. Personally, I am very proud of the scope and professionalism of the work carried out under the most extensive statistical survey – 2021 Population and Housing Census (2021 Census). This is a project of the decade, the census was conducted fully electronically for the first time in history and with maximum use of administrative sources. Within the preparation, the Office carried out an important and very useful project of Harmonization of the number of inhabitants in the municipalities of the Slovak Republic, the aim of which was to identify the differences and design mechanisms to harmonize the number of inhabitants in the municipalities of the SR in

various databases and sources. Considering that the 2021 Population and Housing Census is an integrated census, using various administrative sources, a demanding territorial planning was processed, as a tool for its effective implementation.

Since June, the first phase of the census - the housing census, was launched and it was conducted for the first time in history in cooperation with the local governments, without the participation of the population. At the same time, we realized a lot of preparatory activities for the second phase of the project, to the population census, which is being carried out in 2021.

The year 2020 was challenging for the Statistical Office of the SR also in the field of electoral statistics. In February, right before the outbreak of the pandemic, parliamentary elections were held in Slovakia (elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic). Through our Integrated Election Information System (IVIS) the majority of municipalities and towns in Slovakia have chosen electronic processing of the results, which was reflected in the acceleration and in the quality of processing and provision of results.

Finally, let me thank all our partners and respondents for the cooperation during the challenging year 2020, for their significant contribution to the enhancement of the quality and the societal value of official statistics. I would also like to thank the staff of the Office for their work performances improving the state statistical service. All the users of statistics can find the details of the scope and results of their work during 2020, on the following pages of this annual report.

Alexander Ballek

President of the Statistical Office
of the Slovak Republic



Identification of organization

Title: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Acronym SO SR

Address of the Head Office: Lamačská cesta 3/C, 840 05 Bratislava 45

Contact: phone (operator) +421 2 50236 222
Internet: www.statistics.sk

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

Main activities:

The SO SR:

- a)** develops and publishes the concept of national statistics,
- b)** compiles the Programme of state statistical surveys in cooperation with ministries and national authorities and monitors its performance
- c)** compiles characteristics of statistical surveys and defines method of statistical data collection for purposes of national statistics in cooperation with ministries and national authorities,
- d)** defines methodology of statistical surveys managed and performed by the Office, collects and processes statistical data,
- e)** defines methodology for maintenance of the system of national accounts and compiles national accounts,
- f)** sets up, releases and keeps classifications, code lists and registers in cooperation with ministries and national authorities,
- g)** defines the method of developing registers, assigns and issues identification numbers,
- h)** elaborates analyses of selected characteristics of the social, economic and environmental development of the SR,
- i)** cooperates with international bodies and organizations to introduce standards and classifications in statistics,
- j)** releases the results of statistical surveys for the SR and individual territorial and administrative units, regularly informs public about social, economic and demographic

- development, provides statistical information and issues statistical publications,
- k)** organizes and provides project and programme preparation in order to process statistical surveys and determines the method of collection and technologies of the statistical data processing for statistical surveys conducted by the Office,
 - l)** manages, regulates and oversees the collection and statistical data processing at national level,
 - m)** provides methodological assistance as regards the national statistics or European statistics to ministries, other central authorities of state administration, national organizations, local authorities and public institution upon written request,
 - n)** obtains and collects external statistical information for purposes to compare the state and development of the SR economy with foreign countries,
a vývoja ekonomiky SR so zahraničím,
 - o)** supervises reporting duty in national statistics and imposes fines in case of its breach and
 - p)** fulfils other tasks set by an act.
- A specific task of the SO SR is the preparation of processing and processing of election results to the National Council of the SR, elections to the European Parliament², presidential election of the Slovak Republic, popular voting on impeachment of the President of the Slovak Republic, election to regional self-government bodies, election to municipal self-governments bodies and voting in referendum², the Population and housing census³ and administration of the Register of legal entities, entrepreneurs and public authorities⁴.

1 Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on state statistics, as amended

2 Act No. 180/2014 Coll. on conditions and exercise of the voting rights, amending and supplementing certain acts as amended

3 Act No. 223/2008 Coll. on the 2021 Population and housing census amending and supplementing certain acts

4 Act on 272/2015 Coll. on the Register of legal entities, entrepreneurs and public authorities and supplementing certain acts as amended

We continue to develop the QMS of the SO SR

**in accord with the ISO 9001:2015 standard,
European Statistics Code of Practice and national projects**

As part of the implemented integrated **quality management system of the SO SR**, we focused on the second supervisory audit of the QMS of the SO SR performed by a certification body with international accreditation last year. A preparation for the audit was mainly aimed at the evaluation of quality objectives resulting from the current development strategy of the SO SR and at the evaluation of performance indicators. Emphasis was also put on the organization affected by the Covid-19 situation, on the requirements related to leadership, planning, resources - especially infrastructure and particularly IT services, as well as on the evaluation of the effectiveness of measures to manage identified risks in relation to QMS stakeholders and processes, on the updating of the set risks and documentation.

The second **supervisory audit** was performed by the Bureau Veritas Slovakia in October 2020. The audit again confirmed that the SO SR maintains the quality management system unambiguously in accordance with ISO 9001:2015 standard and demonstrated the system's ability to meet the requirements in accordance with the certification and its policy and its objectives.

In 2020, the development of the integrated quality management system of the SO SR was affected mainly by **further integration of the requirements of the European Statistics Code of Practice** and related framework to provide the quality aimed mostly at the implementation of amended principles and indicators in the field of statistical processes and outputs, aimed at evaluating the quality of statistical outputs, providing information on the evaluation and improvement.

Other activities were related to cooperation within the European Statistical System on the finalization of self-assessment questionnaires, guidelines and other documents for the **3rd round of peer review**.

The **implementation of action programs of the Development Strategy of the SO SR until 2022** was an essential part of the system development. They focused mainly on creating a value for customers and other stakeholders, using data from new sources to produce statistical outputs, as well as projects supporting the implementation of these programs, effective external communication and use of partnerships. As for the action programs of the

strategy, the SO SR continued to pay attention to the development of human resources and IT support, relationship management, financial resources and cost management, legislative support, as well as the continuous development of the quality management system as a whole. Special attention was paid to the project of Reform of the collection and processing of statistical data in public administration, especially in terms of an impact on the quality management.

The level of the integrated quality management system of the SO SR was examined by **internal audits**. The audits were aimed at examining the level of compliance with the requirements of ISO 9001: 2015 standard, laying emphasis on the aspect of perception of external and internal environment, external and internal stakeholders, understanding of potential risks in relation to the stakeholders and the process itself, the planning aspect, acquiring and sharing the knowledge necessary for realization of the process and continuously improving the process performance.

As part of the further development of the established integrated quality management system, the SO SR continued to participate in the project of the **National quality program of the Slovak Republic 2017 - 2021**, adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic in December 2016. At the same time, it successfully completed its activities within the project of the **Implementation and support of quality management in public administration bodies** as part of the Operational Programme Effective Public Administration covered by the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing.

The Information System for Monitoring Working Time (ISMWT) was used for management purposes, the outputs of which in combination with data on wage and accounting system allowed to monitor and then allocate more efficiently the costs incurred in individual statistical projects. In 2020, the project of **the management information system** was implemented. The objective of its implementation is an automated integration of data from existing transaction systems in order to monitor on a short-term basis and later to plan costs of projects, departments, activities for the SO SR's management purposes. This information system will enable the SO SR's managers to get an overview on how to use the intellectual potential of employees in order to optimize it and aim at value-adding activities.

What was achieved in methodology the last year?

In 2020, as for the **administrative data sources**, the SO SR extended cooperation with ministries and national organizations producing administrative data sources (ADS) and thus continued to fulfil the Approach to using ADS. Its aim is to intensify the use of existing data and information sources in order to reduce the administrative burden on respondents of statistical surveys, increase the quality of national statistics and reduce its costs. In 2020, the SO SR concluded another new agreements and additions to agreements on data transfers with the ADS administrators, whereby at the end of 2020, there were 45 concluded agreements with national and public sector institutions and another 5 agreements with commercial organizations. During the year 2020, collected ADS allowed to improve the outputs of national statistics, helped to update the statistical register of organizations and to prepare the next 2021 Population and housing census.

As for the **seasonal analysis of time series**, the staff of the General Methodology and Registers Directorate continued to actively participate in the implementation of the JDEMETRA + software as part of the harmonization of procedures and methods within the European Statistical System (ESS) and provided methodological support to the Office's

staff in applying seasonal adjustment methods. From a methodological point of view, the big challenge was to deal with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the seasonal component of time series and its analysis. As it was not possible to predict in advance how the time series would develop, appropriate measures had to be taken from the first months of 2020. Concerning the recommended methodological guidelines of Eurostat, it was applied the procedure, which consisted of marking new data (end of time series) as an extreme value and monitoring whether this prediction would be confirmed, disproved or whether a change in an extreme value type would be necessary.

In 2020, **quality reports** on other statistical products **for users** were added to the website of the SO SR. The quality reports are updated annually and published in a clear, internationally recommended format using by many other countries within the European Union.

In 2020, the SO SR joined a two-year grant project of Eurostat focused on the **modernization of price statistics**, the main solver of which is the Methodological department. The project objective is to develop the methodology and practical solutions for the use of transaction data from retail chains, the so-called scanner data and to compare

multilateral methods in order to calculate the harmonized index of consumer prices (HICP) and the index of consumer prices (CPI). Currently, the project is aimed at the calculation of indices for food and non-alcoholic beverages. These data are collected by the SO SR from the largest retail chains operating in Slovakia. An IT application for processing the collected data is also developed as one of the project solution.

The Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions also affected data collection for price statistics in 2020. Since during the first wave of the pandemic it was not possible to collect product prices in a traditional way, i. e. personal visit to stores, an alternative solution was found and data from retail chains were used for this purpose. The staff of the Methodological department created the alternative solution for the use and processing of data from retail chains needed to calculate consumer price indices in SAS software.

Also in 2020, the Methodological department provided the application of the **protection of confidential statistical data** in standardly released tabular outputs, as well as in micro-data requested by researchers. It provided methodological assistance to students and researchers using the Office's safe centre services in working with confidential micro-data.

As for the **sample statistical surveys**, the department participated in the creation of samples, processing of samples, calculation of weights and standard errors of estimates. Regarding cooperation with other departments of the National Statistical System, it provided methodological assistance in the preparation of surveys.

In 2020, one of the key tasks of the Methodological department was also work on the **ESSnet Big Data** project, which involved 28 European countries. Slovakia participated in the part concerning the **innovation of tourism statistics**. The project data were collected from booking portals using the web scraping technique, by which it was possible to prepare a pilot testing of own tools in order to calculate flash and also daily estimates of basic indicators of tourism statistics. These data were also used as a basis to update the register of accommodation establishments. The Covid-19 pandemic and related measures significantly affected performance of the tourism. The model that can predict sudden breaks in time series of this statistics by using Google Trends data was constructed. The project outputs will be included into the current statistical production.

At the end of 2020, the Methodological department began to analyse **VAT data**, as well as provided data from the **E-cash register** as possible sources for their **use in short-term statistics**. These activities should also continue in 2021.

As part of strengthening the **coordinating role, the SO SR** continued to implement the project of Reform of collection and processing of statistical data in public administration co-financed by the European Structural Investment Funds under the Operational Program Effective Public Administration 2014-2020. The project addresses Eurostat's requirements for a development of the national methodology, its subsequent harmonization towards members of the national statistical system (NSS), while enabling the harmonization of the statistical data collection and processing across all NSS members, as well as the protection and security

of collected and processed data. In 2020, the project continued with further phases aimed at developing the uniform and harmonized methodology, including the National Quality Manual, which will be applicable to all members of the NSS. It sets out obligatory processes, inputs and outputs that NSS members will carry out in the statistical surveys in order to ensure compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and also allow the SO SR to more actively coordinate fulfilling international obligations by the NSS members. Based on an analysis of the regulation, the amendment to the Act on State Statistics was prepared, it strengthens the coordination role of the SO SR. The amendment was submitted to the legislative process.

The implementation process of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** was launched in 2015. At United Nations (UN) headquarters, heads of states and governments and high representatives took the historic decision on comprehensive and far-reaching set of universal and transformational goals and related partial goals oriented on people. They committed to work persistently on implementation of the Agenda till 2030 as a whole, in order to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions - economic, social and environmental - in a balanced and integrated way. Initiatives at the national level were launched by the Slovak government in 2016.

In recent years, but most intensively in 2020, the SO SR, as a national contact point for global monitoring, performed coordination activities for international institutions responsible for monitoring 2030 Agenda indicators at the international level, i. e. at the UN level. In 2020,

the SO SR processed 52 requests for the data and information provision received from 20 international institutions (IBAT, UNHR, FAO, UNWTO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNODC, SNCHR, UN-Water, WHO, WORLD BANK, ILO, UN-HABITAT, UNECE, UNIDO, OECD, UNEP, UNDP, UNSD, UN). In this context, the SO SR entered into several partnerships with administrators of relevant data sources, who have at disposal the required data and information for monitoring purposes (MLSAF SR, ME SR, NCHI, also MERSS SR, IPH, MIRRI SR, CPTI, MFAEA SR, GO, Migration Office, MI SR - Foreign Police, IOM, MJ SR – Analytical Office).

The profile of Slovakia by selected indicators was published by the UN Statistical Division on the page <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/svk>.

A separate page dedicated to 2030 Agenda (<https://agenda2030.statistics.sk/Agenda2030/>) providing information on the global, European and national level of the Agenda implementation was launched by the SO SR in July 2018 and continuously supplemented by new information.

As for the **classifications and code lists**, the key priority was to ensure their compliance with legally binding acts of the European Union, international norms and international standards, it is a basic precondition for the international comparison of statistical indicators. The added value of each international classification is a possibility of its use for national purposes.

Based on the request of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, an extensive revision of the national statistical classification of occupations “SK ISCO-08” based on the international classification “ISCO-

08” established by the International Labour Organization (ILO), was completed last year. This classification is used for the purpose of international comparison of statistical indicators on employment and was widely applied at the national level in the field of active labour market policy in the long-term. The revision objective was to respond to development changes in the Slovak labour market, mostly the needs of individual sectors of the economy affected by innovation, digitization, new technologies and global challenges in the political and economic, European and international context. The revision comprehensively identified the requirements of employers from individual sectors of the economy to the appropriate qualification of labour forces, their key competencies, professional knowledge and skills.

The general public was also informed about the preparation of the draft decree at the portal of legal rules, while some of the proposed suggestions were evaluated as relevant and included into the new classification of occupations “SK ISCO-08_2020”. The new national classification was published in the Collection of Laws with effect from 1 January 2021 by the Decree of the Statistical Office of the SR No. 449/2020 Coll..

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Act No. 305/2013 Coll. on act on e-Government, the SO SR continued to provide the administration of 15 basic code lists officially published on the portal of the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the SR (MIRRI SR), in order to ensure their obligatory use in public administration information systems.

In 2020, as for the administration of statistical **registers**, the main activities continued to be

aimed at the stabilization of processes related to improving the quality of registers, as well as addressing the subject and methodological requirements needed to ensure compliance of statistical registers with the new Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) No. 2019/2152 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (FRIBS).

Activities related to improving the quality of registers were implemented within the project of Consolidation of registers of public authorities (PA), organizations, farms and foreign trade. The basic aim of this project is to introduce systematic data management in the SO SR and to support the principles of openness, data sharing and protection of personal and confidential data. The project is involved in the program of Data Management in Public Administration launched as an initiative in order to fulfil the National concept of public administration informatization and significantly streamlining the data usage within an institution. In 2020, the development and approval of the document of Detailed proposal of solution taking into account, among other things, new functional and non-functional requirements related to making efficient processes of using and sharing administrative and external data sources in administration of registers and creating additional registers containing statistical units of the enterprise type appropriated to the context of globalization and the activity unit defined in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) – FRIBS, was an important milestone of the project.

In cooperation with Eurostat and other Member

States, work continued on the collection and synchronization of data needed for registration in the register of multinational enterprise groups managed by Eurostat in the EuroGroups Register (EGR). The result of this cooperation is the final population of EGR 2018 completed and made available by Eurostat for statistical purposes in the first months of 2020.

A significant improvement in quality was recorded in the field of administration of the Register of legal entities and entrepreneurs (RLE), mainly in terms of increasing the number of integrated source registers, or registrations. At the end of 2020, this number reached 143 (except the source registrations of self-employed farmers in the administration of cities and municipalities of the SR). The Network of Schools and School Facilities administered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the SR was the most significant of the missing source registrations. Extraordinary attention was paid to the integration of the Registrations of self-managed farmers used as source registrations in the administration of cities and municipalities in the SR. Considering the difficult situation resulting from the unequal technological level of individual cities and municipalities, the SO SR offered alternative solutions of integration. The result of this offer is a fact that out of almost 3 000 cities and municipalities, more than 2 500 source registrations were integrated into the RLE at the end of 2020. At the end of 2020, the RLE was the only binding data source used fulfilling specific tasks and duties of state administration bodies. Its use was also an unquestionable benefit in order to provide data within the so-called First aid to those enterprises and entrepreneurs most affected by the measures

taken to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The quality of RLE data was measured based on approximately 70 quality indicators developed in cooperation with the MIRDI SR. After finishing the testing phase of indicators, a total of 3 comprehensive reports on measuring of the quality of RLE data were published in the course of 2020. The reports were processed at quarterly intervals and are available to the public by the SO SR portal.

As for the project of Consolidation of registers of public authorities (PA), organizations, farms and foreign trade, the development of a separate Register of public authorities was launched in 2020. The aim of this new register is to provide a clear list of public authorities for the specific needs of other public administration information systems. Compared to the RLE data, the new register will be added by new data and information documented in more detail in the Detailed proposal of solution.

Since February 2020, the SO SR started to provide selected data on end-users of benefits, which were previously kept in the non-public part of RLE - in the module of end-users of benefits pursuant to the amendment to the Act No. 297/2008 Coll. on protection against money laundering and on protection against terrorist financing. At the same time, the technological preparation integrating these data into the European network began in accordance with the time schedule and other professional documents that the SO SR received as a member of the relevant working group of the European Commission.



Creating a cost-optimal data-base

in the NSS and the ESS

The creating a cost-optimal database was followed by three annexes to the legislative document, which is the **Program of State Statistical Surveys 2018-2020** (hereinafter as “PSSS”). In terms of statistical data collection, the PSSS is harmonized with the **European Statistical Program 2013-2020**. As part of the PSSS, national statistical surveys performed by the SO SR, ministries and national institutions and administrative data sources used for statistical purposes are defined.

The ministries and national institutions including the SO SR that participated in fulfilling the tasks of the above-mentioned programs together form the **National Statistical System** (hereinafter as “NSS”).

The **list of members forming the NSS** has not changed compared to 2019 and in 2020, it included 13 institutions:

- Statistical Office of the SR
- Ministry of Transport and Construction of the SR
- Ministry of Culture of the SR
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR
- Ministry of Education, Research, Science and

Sport of the SR

- Ministry of Interior of the SR
- Ministry of Health of the SR
- Ministry of Environment of the SR
- Ministry of Economy of the SR
- Administration of State Material Reserves of the SR
- Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
- Institute of Informatics and Statistics (INFOSTAT)

Based on the proposal of the SO SR, **the national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics** were included in a list managed and published by Eurostat. In 2020, the SO SR did not identify the need to change and asked Eurostat amending the list. Also in 2020, the following national authorities have been included and the SO SR as a national statistical office is in the first place:

- National Statistical Office** – Statistical Office of the SR
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR- National Forest Centre (NLC)
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR- Central Controlling and Testing Institute of Agriculture (CCTIA)

- Ministry of Education, Research, Science and Sport of the SR- Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (SCSTI)
- Ministry of Interior of the SR- Migration Office (MO)
- Ministry of Interior of the SR- Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Presidium of the Police Force (BAPB)
- Ministry of Environment of the SR- Slovak Environment Agency (SEA)
- Ministry of Environment of the SR- Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (SHMI)
- Ministry of Economy of the SR – Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA)
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR – Institute for Labour and Family Research
- Administration of State Material Reserves of the SR (ASMR)
- Institute of Informatics and Statistics (INFOSTAT)

The year 2020 was the third year in the programming period of 2018 to 2020. The SO SR, ministries and national institutions included all valid annual state statistical surveys and all valid surveys with a multi-annual periodicity in **the PSSS for 2020**. The SO SR planned 81 statistical surveys for 2020 using 141 statistical forms. Ministries and national institutions planned 110 statistical surveys using 113 statistical forms. At the initiative of the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the SR, one state statistical survey last carried out in 2008 was again included in the PSSS for 2020 - the Statement of Ownership of the Housing Stock BF (MDV SR) 1-01. The initiative to repeat the survey was the Act No.

246/2015 Coll. on administrators of residential buildings and on the amendment of the Act of the National Council of the SR No. 182/1993 Coll. on the ownership of residential and non-residential buildings, as amended. The Act on the Ownership of residential buildings ended the possibility of an advantageous transfer of state and municipal flats by 31 December 2016, under the condition that all flats had to be transferred by 31 December 2018. Further realization of the survey will cover the period of 2009-2019 by information on dwellings transferred to the ownership of natural persons. None new state statistical survey was included in the PSSS and at the same time none state statistical survey was excluded.

In 2020, the SO SR prepared the **PSSS on new three-year period of 2021 to 2023** and issued it in the Collection of Laws by the Decree No. 292/2020 in cooperation with ministries and national institutions. The PSSS 2021 to 2023 (hereinafter as the “program”) included all valid annual national statistical surveys and all valid national statistical surveys of multiannual periodicity to be carried out in the years 2021 to 2023. None new state statistical survey was included in the program and at the same time, none state statistical survey was excluded. From the legislative and technical point of view, amendments did not disrupt the structure or differ significantly from the Decree No. 250/2017 Coll., which issued the PSSS 2018 to 2020, as amended, in comparison with the previous program.

The SO SR included 11 surveys of multi-year periodicity to the Annex No. 1 of the program: survey of two-year periodicity - one survey Inov 1-92 Survey on innovations; four surveys

of three-year periodicity: Pol' 20-93 Integrated Farm survey, NSPO 1-93 Annual report of contributory organizations, NSRO 1-93 Annual report of budgetary organizations and GVC 1-93 Survey on global value creation; five surveys of five-year periodicity: CVTS 1 - 95 Continuing vocational training survey, Cený ZO 2-95 Revision of the selection of representatives of monitoring the development of prices in foreign trade, Cený Priem 4-95 Revision of the selection of representatives of monitoring the development of prices in industry, Cený Stav 9-95 Revision of the selection of representatives of monitoring the development of prices in construction and one survey of 6-year periodicity AES 1-96 Adult education survey, which was originally conducted at 5-year interval.

The SO SR made several adjustments in the Annex No. 1 of the program, e.g. postponement of the survey date of CR 6-01 Annual report on selected services in tourism from 10 March to 10 April, adjusted the monitored variables (e.g. in the survey VZPS 1-04 in the thematic module, it adjusted the variables on the next three years according to the relevant EU regulation).

The surveys carried out by ministries and national institutions were included in the Annex No. 2. In 2021, the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the SR will conduct one survey of three-year periodicity MK (MDV SR) 1-93 Annual report on local roads. The Ministry of Health of the SR and the Ministry of the Interior of the SR proposed an adjustment of characteristics for their surveys concerning variables of survey A (MH SR) 25-01 Annual report on physiology, balneology and medical rehabilitation activities and fire protection (MV

SR) 1-01 Annual report on fire-fighting units. The SO SR also made changes in the Annex No. 3 of the program. It was about updating the used administrative sources, deleting unused ones and including new ones.

Concerning the preparation of the new program, it was taking into account not to increase the current administrative burden on business entities, related to the reporting obligation in the next three-year programming period compared to 2018 up to 2020. Therefore, neither the positive nor the negative impact to business entities was identified concerning the preparation of the draft decree, by which the program was issued.

6 Macroeconomic Statistics

7 Business statistics

8 Demography and social statistics

9 Election statistics

10 Cooperation with the Institute
of Informatics and Statistics

Macroeconomic Statistics

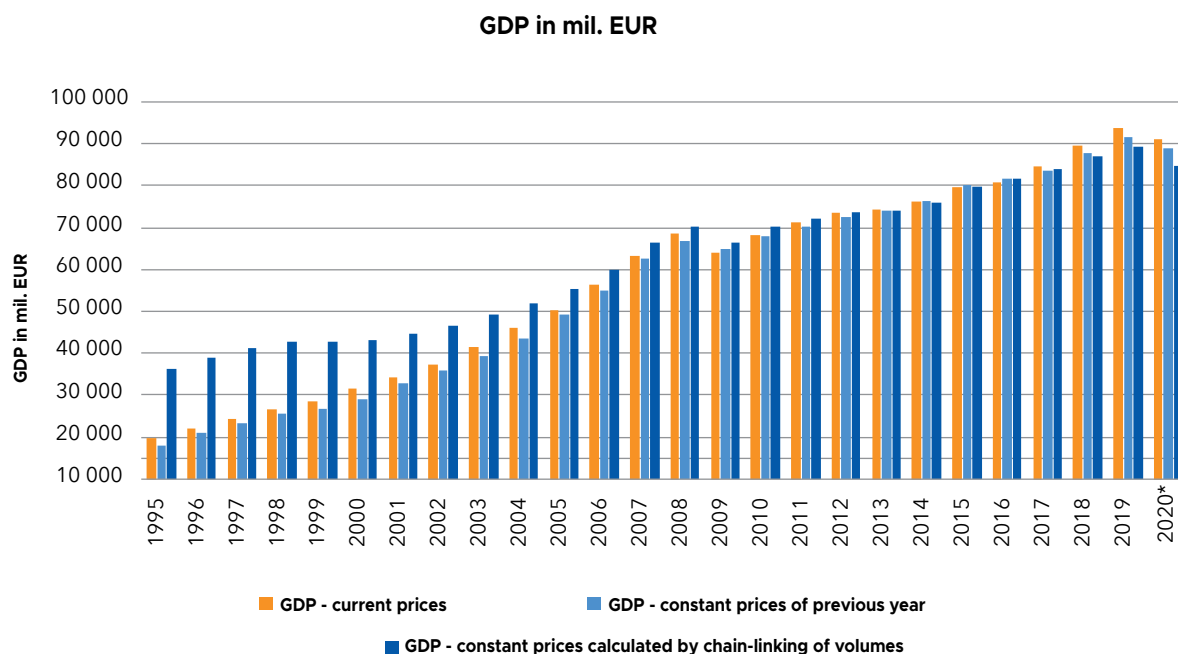
National accounts form a compatible accounting framework for the systematic and detailed description of the economy, recording all stages of the economic process (production, generation and distribution of income, its use, accumulation and financial transactions). In the Slovak Republic, the compilation of national accounts is governed by the ESA 2010 methodology, which is an abbreviation used in practice for the European system of national and regional accounts. The development of the system of national accounts in accordance with the new regulations and directives of the European Union is one of the main objectives in macroeconomic statistics. Foreign trade statistics provide important input for the construction of key macroeconomic aggregates.

In the system of national accounts, the SO SR revised statistical data on the basis of updated information from different data sources as well as methodological adjustments in the context of sectorisation of units. For the first time, the data revision was performed in two terms, in spring and autumn, as it is defined in the new Revision Policy valid from 1 January 2020. The revision improved the quality and availability of the revised data in earlier dates for internal and external users.

As part of the spring and autumn **notification of data for the Excessive Deficit Procedure** (EDP notification), data in notification tables, including

the EDP questionnaire and other required information evaluating the quality of fiscal data of the Slovak Republic, were sent to Eurostat in ordinary deadline. **Data on VAT** (3rd own resource) and data on gross national income (4th own resource) are required from member countries in order to prepare the EU budget. Data on VAT are provided by the Ministry of Finance of the SR, while the Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate standardly prepared input data in the form of data on compensation for small companies exempt from VAT and data on the weighted average VAT rate (WAR). In ordinary September's deadline, **data on gross national income** (GNI) were sent to Eurostat together with a description of amendments to the methodological procedures on GDP / GNI compilation. Based on the GNI data, a contribution to the EU budget is calculated for each Member State according to the key set out in the European regulation. The data provided to the Commission for administrative purposes (EDP, GNI, VAT) are subject to regular control visits of Eurostat in order to verify the correctness of procedures used and the data compiled.

In addition to tasks that are directly related to routine work according to individual statistical domains, staff in the National accounts department continued, in cooperation with the Price statistics department, to work on a project of **Purchasing power parity**. At the same time,

**Note:**

ESA 2010 methodology

constant prices calculated by chain-linking of volumes by use of the reference year of 2015

* year 2020 is a quarterly estimate (quarters of year in total)

situation at 5.3.2021

work began on projects aimed at improving the quality of national accounts, compiling labour productivity and ensuring the implementation of the European regulation on business statistics in the context of statistical trade in goods.

In 2020, several **working meetings** were held with colleagues from the NBS and the Ministry of Finance of the SR, which took place in a virtual form due to the current pandemic situation. Mutual discussions were aimed at issues of methodological recording of individual transactions in financial and non-financial accounts, including non-standard effects relating to corona crisis.

In addition to the planned tasks, staff in the National accounts department was involved to solve current problems in **inter-ministerial working groups**. A large part of work was

aimed at filling in different questionnaires for international organizations (CMFB, Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UNECE and others) as well as preparing background materials for economic analyses of ministries and national institutions (IFP, MF SR, NBS, ME SR and others).

In 2020, data on **foreign trade statistics** and their updates were provided on a monthly basis, in accordance with ordinary deadlines. Although the measures taken to prevent the dissemination of the Covid-19 pandemic affected the non-response rate in Intrastat surveys, the imputation methods used and their in-depth analysis ensured the dissemination of high-quality aggregates of foreign trade statistics.

In the course of 2020, preparations of the implementation of changes in the compilation of

foreign trade statistics started. The Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) No. 2019/2152 on European business statistics (EBS), which also includes foreign trade statistics, allows **modernization of the Intrastat system** in legislative terms. Although the new provisions will apply only from 1 January 2022, in 2020 a pilot collection of the new variables for the Report on shipping of goods started as early as in 2021. Reporting of the new variables: the ID number of a partner in the Member State of destination and the country of origin is not obligatory in 2021, which does not prevent the pilot collection from testing the information systems of reporting units, as well as the Statistical Office of the SR and the Financial Administration of the SR. Micro-data from the pilot collection will make it possible to participate in the pre-production exchange of micro-data on intra-EU exports that is a basic pillar of the modernization of the Intrastat system. At the same time, the EBS Regulation will allow more freedom to use different data sources when compiling intra-EU imports statistics that should lead to an overall reduction of the administrative burden on reporting units of the Intrastat system, while maintaining data quality.

In 2020, the **consultation centre** for the Intrastat system provided an individual guidance to reporting units, and as in 2019, it handled, on average, 170 phone calls and emails per week. The source data of foreign trade statistics were intensively verified by the employees of the Regional workplace in Trnava in the same way throughout the year.





Business statistics

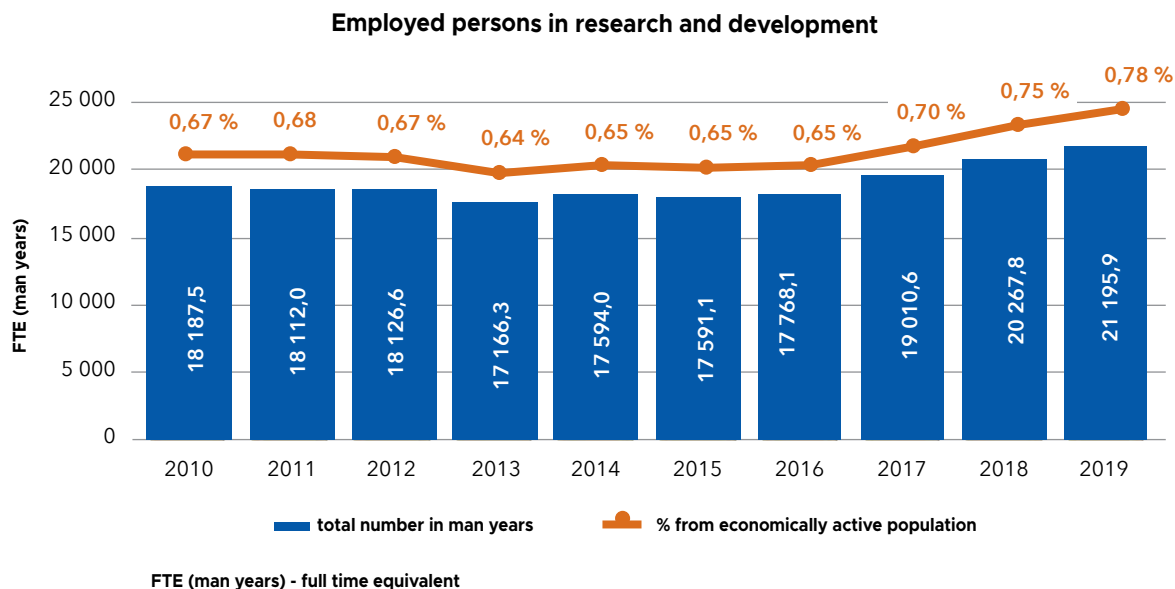
As for the business statistics, after several years of preparation, the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 on European business statistics was published on 30 July 2020. This Regulation lays down the technical specifications and details under the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics repealing 10 legal acts in business statistics. Business statistics continued to implement new processes and challenges followed from this legislation.

Since March 2020, work on the processing of statistical outputs in all domains of business statistics was affected by the emergency situation related to the coronavirus pandemic. Business entities and their employees were through a difficult period and struggled with the impact on their business activity. Due to the difficult situation, the SO SR was sensitive in communicating with them. Communication took place individually, especially in the form of telephone conversations. The sanctioning of reporting units was suspended and no notifications were sent about the approaching deadline in all statistical surveys included in the Program of State Statistical Surveys (PSSS). Concerning the quarterly cross-sectional surveys, a list of key indicators necessary for assessing the economic and social impacts of

the crisis and taking measures was identified and released on the SO SR's portal. The SO SR requested reporting of comprehensive data only after the release of the strictest measures. As for the annual structural surveys, the SO SR extraordinary adjusted the deadline for submitting a statement due to the fact that the deadline for submitting the tax returns was generally postponed.

In **structural business statistics**, the final indicators for the sector of non-financial and financial corporations for the reference year 2018 and preliminary data for 2019 were provided to national users and Eurostat. As for the assessing the compatibility of provided data with the European regulation on structural statistics, the SO SR is still included in the group of member countries with a high degree of compatibility. Structured reports on data quality for users are available on the Eurostat's website as well as on the intranet website of the SO SR.

In **short-term statistics**, data dissemination to national users and data transmission to Eurostat were carried out in accordance with the requirements, the schedule of calendar of the first release and the edition program. In the annual assessment of compatibility with the Regulation on short-term statistics, the SO SR is still included in the first category of



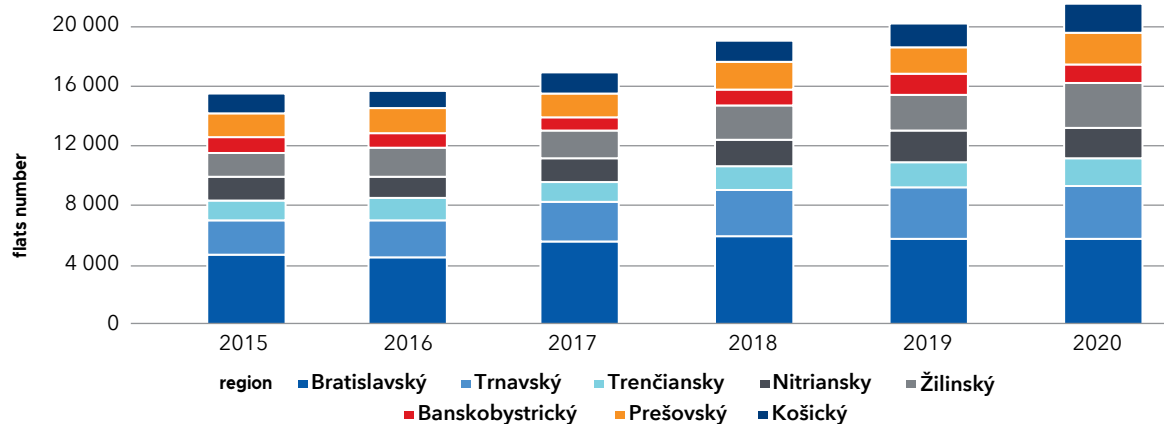
member countries with the highest degree of compatibility. The annual update of the metadata files, via the ESS - Metadata Handler in accordance with the requirements and within the deadline set by Eurostat, was evaluated with the 100% degree of compatibility. In short-term statistics, the grant project was aimed at preparation of the statistical unit implementation of the “activity unit” type in monthly industry statistics.

The compilation of the required outputs in **internal and external foreign affiliates** for the reference year 2018 was carried out on the basis of intensive data validation for administrative data sources in terms of time and content. The outputs were compiled and sent to Eurostat in required structures, quality and in ordinary deadlines. In assessing the compatibility of data with the regulation, the SO SR was again included in the group of member countries with the highest evaluation. Quality

indicators comparing statistics in internal and external foreign affiliates with data from the EuroGroups register were again compiled, and structured data quality reports for users were published on the Eurostat’s website.

In **industrial** statistics, work continued on processing statistical outputs for Eurostat and preparing for the implementation of new requirements followed from the European legislation. Analytical work was carried out on the development of basic indicators in industrial sectors due to the emergency situation related to the coronavirus pandemic. A significant share was represented by work on the processing of specific statistical outputs characterizing the development of basic indicators by requirements specified by national users, but also by international organizations. At the end of the year, work was aimed at the preparation of the final version of the list of PRODSLOV products.

Completed flats 2015 - 2020



The year 2020 was significant in **agricultural statistics** because after ten years, the agricultural census was implemented in the SR again. In 2020, the obligation to carry out the agricultural census in the EU Member States was laid down in the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) No. 2018/1091 on integrated farm statistics repealing the Regulations (EC) No. 1166/2008 and (EU) No. 1337/2011. The aim of the 2020 Agricultural census is to create a single framework for the production of comparable statistics within the EU at farm level and to harmonize information on the structure of agricultural production with information on production methods, rural development measures, agro-environmental aspects and other related information. The SO SR addressed the population of more than 34 thousand entities carrying out activities in the field of agriculture, which meet the thresholds laid down by the legislation. Work on the agricultural census will also continue in 2021.

At EU level, discussions on the drafts of partial implementing regulations to the basic draft

proposal for a regulation on agricultural input and output statistics (SAIO regulation) has already started. This regulation will integrate aggregated statistics on crop production, livestock production, organic farming, soil nutrient balances and plant protection products into one common regulation.

Also in 2020, the regular annual compilation and publication of the harvest estimate of selected crops was carried out. The final of the Economic agricultural account of the SR (that is a satellite account of national accounts) for 2019 were released in December 2020. In order to provide and process statistical data and information necessary for its compilation, the SO SR actively cooperated with the National Agricultural and Food Centre – Research Institute of Agriculture and Food Economics.

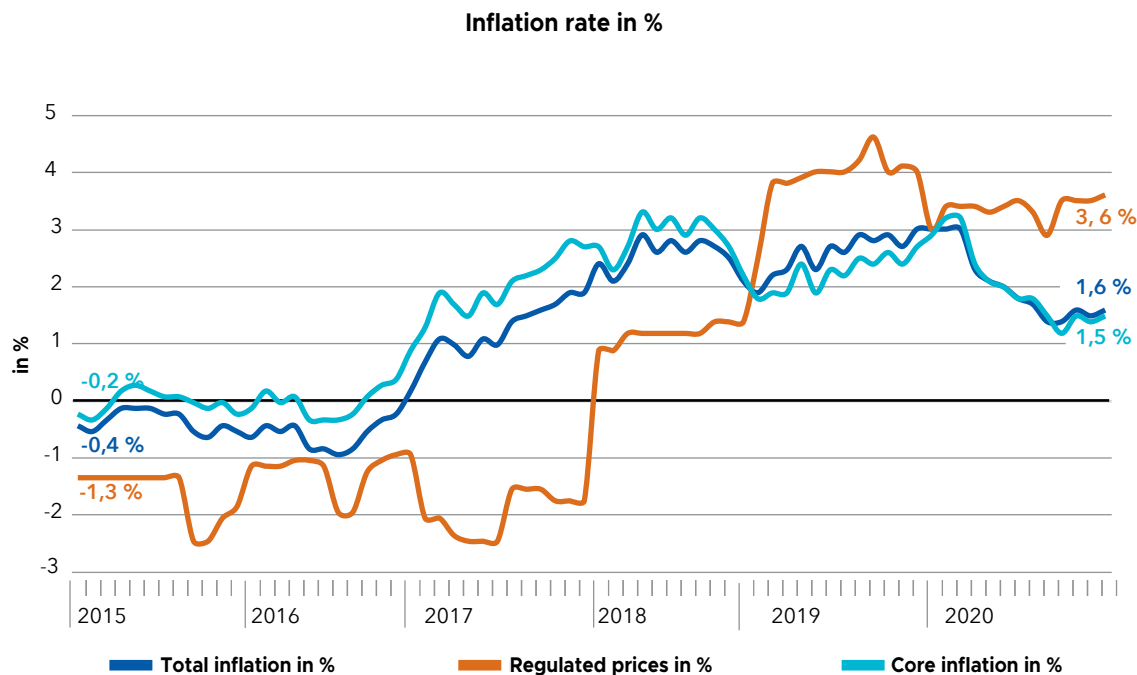
In statistics on **construction, housing, trade and services**, work was aimed at implementing new requirements followed from the forthcoming European legislation and providing of high-quality statistical information

characterizing the development of basic indicators to Eurostat and national users. In the field of housing statistics, statistical outputs were processed on the basis of specific user requirements, a special aiming was at the regional view.

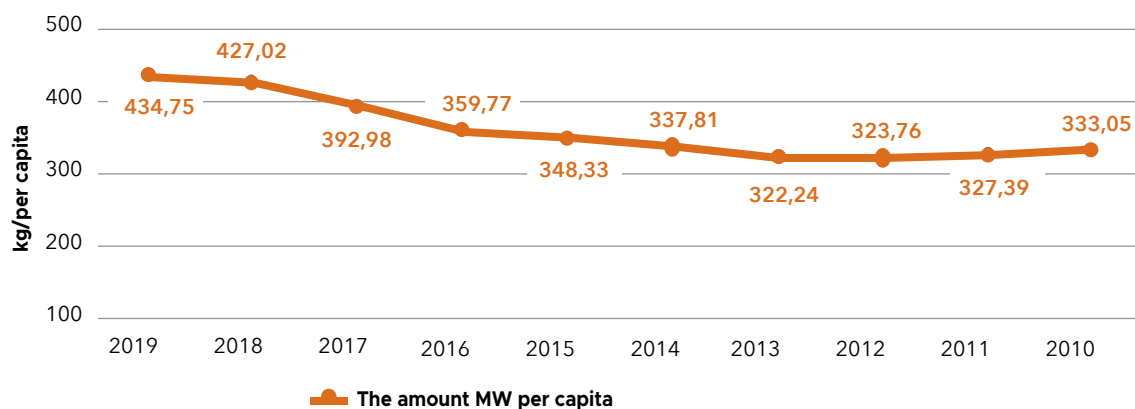
In **transport, information and communication** statistics, work aimed at improving the quality and international comparability of data for all areas of transport, information and communication statistics continued. The statistical outputs were sent to Eurostat, to the databases of other international organizations and to the common information system of EUROSTAT-UNECE-ITF, EUROSTAT-REGIO, as well as to national users. Based on Eurostat's

recommendations, a quality report on rail transport was prepared for the first time. The new requirements of the EU Regulation concerning the statistics on information society were implemented as part of statistics on usage of information and communication technologies in enterprises.

During 2020, in **tourism** statistics, valuable information on the development of tourism in accommodation establishments, which were significantly influenced by the measures taken in response to the emergency situation against the spread of the coronavirus, were processed. Furthermore, statistical outputs on package holidays, domestic and outbound tourism were processed, including non-standard statistical



Development of the amount of municipal waste per capita in the SR (kg/per capita)



outputs based on the requirements of national users and Eurostat. In 2020, the tourism satellite account summarizing the contribution of the sector to the Slovak economy for the period of 2013-2018 in compliance with new methodological recommendations communicated at the level of international organizations was released. The SO SR updated the Statistical register of accommodation establishments by information collected from municipalities by personalized electronic form, in order to address relevant accommodation establishments from the first month of the new reference year.

In **science, technology and innovation** statistics, the harmonization of methodology in compliance with the revision of the Oslo manual for innovation statistics and the revision of the Frascati manual for research and development statistics continued to be a priority in 2020. As for the innovation statistics, for the first time, all relevant outputs were prepared in new structure in the form of SDMX and a quality report for Eurostat was also prepared.

A monothematic publication on the innovation activity of enterprises was prepared and the relevant modules of the Eurostat's model form were implemented in the statistical survey for the following periods. All outputs were prepared in the required standard and non-standard structures according to the requirements of Eurostat, OECD and specific requirements of national users.

In **energy statistics**, statistical outputs were processed according to the requirements of EU regulations and sent to the databases of Eurostat, International Energy Agency and United Nations Statistical Division. Data for 2019 on biomass consumption in households were adjusted in cooperation with the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute. Data on the use of heat pumps were prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy of the SR. Data for both areas were reported for the SR in the form of international questionnaires.

In **environmental** statistics, activities were mainly aimed at improving and disseminating

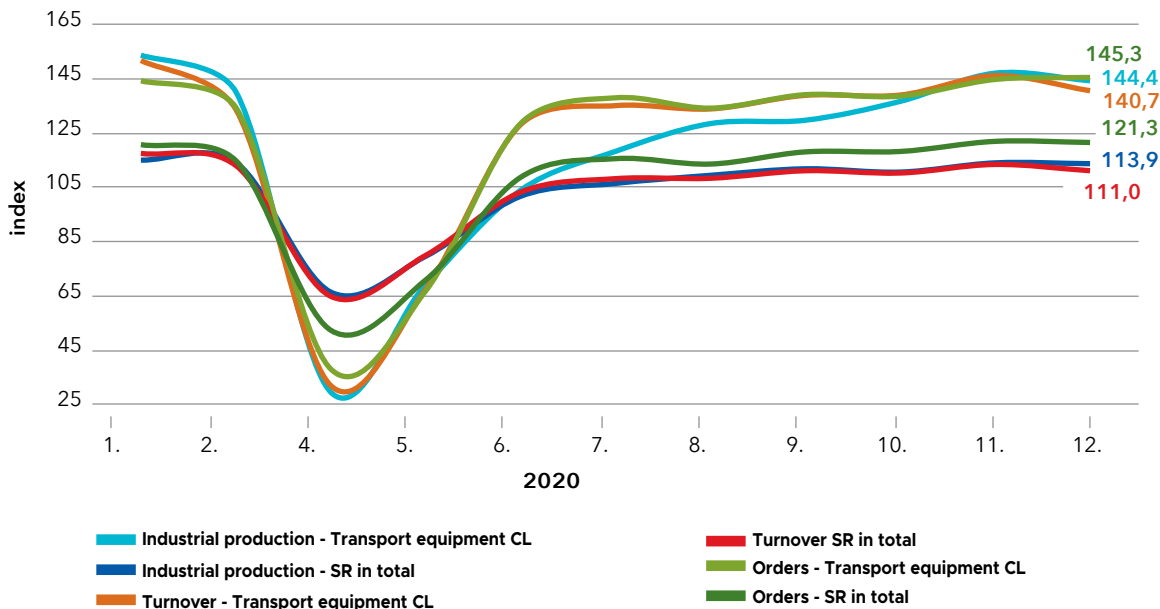
environmental accounts statistics at the national level. Data reporting, including updates of quality reports, resulting from the relevant EU regulations on environmental accounts, waste statistics, statistics on pesticide and water statistics, was carried out in ordinary deadlines and to the extent required. Work aimed at further improving waste statistics continued in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment of the SR.

Work on **price statistics** was significantly affected by the pandemic situation during 2020. The closure of retail establishment and services during several months of the calendar year affected significantly the survey of consumer

prices. As for the prices of production statistics, problems were caused by monitoring the development of prices of selected market services, which were not provided due to the extraordinary situation. In the production process, price indexes were calculated with lower number of collected prices, in accordance with Eurostat's methodological recommendations. During the year, a transition of the price survey on foreign trade from paper form to collection by an electronic statistical form entering to the production from the reference year 2021 was prepared.

Active **cooperation with Eurostat** continued in the **field of legislation** in order to prepare

Development in industry in the SR in 2020



index - seasonally adjusted data on average of the year 2015

the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 on European business statistics, adopted in July 2020, and to comment the draft Regulation on agricultural input and output statistics.

As part of the **grant projects** organized by Eurostat, work on the grant aimed at implementing the activity unit in the domain of short-term statistics was completed. Within the international project of Business and Consumer Surveys organized by the European Commission in business and consumer surveys, attention was paid to preparing the implementation of new requirements of the European Commission in data processing and the inclusion of new qualitative questions in surveys characterizing the expected short-term development of the relevant area of the economic environment. The indicators characterize the expected short-term development of the economic environment for the relevant area and are a basis for realizing short-term predictions of the future development of basic macroeconomic indicators at the national and international level, which was especially reflected after the coronavirus pandemic.





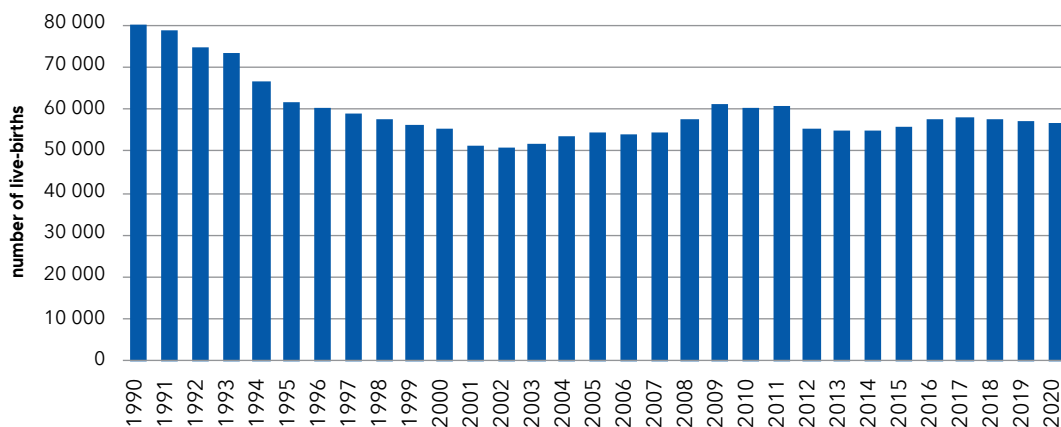
Demography and social statistics

In the field of **population** statistics, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic continued to develop the collection, processing and dissemination of demographic data. Population development was presented by book titles published in the edition We in numbers: Population movement 2019 and Foreign migration 2019. Both publications consist of part A, which deals with data for the current reference year 2019, and part B, which provides a 10-year development time series.

In the analytical edition Statistics in context, a publication Main trends in the development of fertility in the SR was

issued in 2019. The publication deals with the analysis of fertility and birth rate in the Slovak Republic in a long-term time series since 1919, in some justified cases since 1950 to 2019. It focuses on the evaluation of this demographic process on the basis of selected data on fertility and birth rate in terms of past and current developments. It is supplemented by tables with time series, development graphs and thematic maps. The publication also includes regional and international comparisons. Fertility and birth rate data in the publication were obtained by processing a statistical report of the OBYV 2-12 series within the Program of State

Development of the number of live-births in the SR, 1989-2020



Statistical Surveys and from the database of the Statistical Office of the European Community (Eurostat). Data on abortions are taken from the departmental reporting of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, provided by the National Center for Health Information in Bratislava and were subsequently processed by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

In connection with the preparation of the **2021 Population and Housing Census (2021 Census)**, the project Harmonization of the Population size in Municipalities of the Slovak Republic was completed, in which municipalities could participate and compare the numbers of permanent residents from the municipal register, register of natural persons and from demographic statistics. The possible discrepancies were resolved with individual municipalities individually. Out of the total number of 2 926 permanently inhabited municipalities, 2 052 municipalities (70 %) participated in the harmonization process. In 2020, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic launched an information campaign for municipalities, which informed the representatives of municipalities about the new concept of the population and housing census and about individual tasks of municipalities before, during and after the end of 2021 Census. During the year, several legislative documents related to the census were issued. One of the most important was the measure of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, which lays down details on the characteristics and structure of surveyed data on topics according to the list, details on the method of data collection and samples of census forms for the population census and census forms for the housing census. It was a background document

SODB 2+21 SČÍTANIE OBYVATEĽOV, DOMOV A BYTOV

in the creation of definitive census forms for the housing and the population census. As part of the preparations for the population and housing census, the SO SR provided training for authorized persons in the municipality and a pilot survey was conducted on the electronic census of population and houses, which was attended by 11 selected municipalities. From 1 June 2020, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic launched the first phase of the 2021 Census, conducted in cooperation with the local governments. For the first time in history, the population and housing census was carried out fully electronically, without the participation of residents. The housing census lasted until 12 February 2021. The first phase of the 2021 Census was followed by the second phase of the 2021 Census. Within the preparations for the population census, similarly as in case of the housing census, a pilot survey was carried out, in which the general public could also take part. The task of the first phase of the pilot survey was mainly to test the work with the form, its functionality, content and also the content and scope of methodological notes. In the second phase, the work of field assistants was simulated. At the end of the year, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic started the training of municipalities for the census and launched an information campaign for the population census. At the same time, the final form of the census form was completed.

Through the quarterly sample survey of the labor force in households (LFSS), the availability



of information on short-term development of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity was ensured in **labor statistics**. In parallel, preparatory work was carried out to adapt this survey to the entry into force of new EU legislation related to the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) in 2021. A module system of thematically related variables was created, the list and definitions of variables was updated, questionnaires and methodological guidelines for data collection were elaborated. A pilot data collection was carried out in the field to calculate an estimate of the impact of the implementation of IESS on the main European employment and unemployment indicators. The work on the grant project for the additional LFSS module for the year 2019 on the organization of work and distribution of working time was completed. Methodological preparation, collection and processing of data for the ad hoc module of the LFSS for 2020 on occupational accidents and occupational health issues was ensured. Work began on a project for the LFSS module for 2021 on the situation of migrants on the labor market. Through business reporting, the availability of quarterly and annual data on employed persons, vacancies and hours worked was ensured.

In **wage statistics**, quarterly data on the development of the average nominal monthly wage and the real wage in the Slovak economy were calculated, broken down by economic activities, regions and size groups of enterprises. Annual wage data from company reports were supplemented with information on the regional level of wages by workplace. From the sample survey on the structure of employee wages, annual data on the median wage, structural data on wages according to personal characteristics and other detailed information on the components of remuneration for work

were published. The annual overview of wage statistics was supplemented with information on total labor costs incurred by employers.

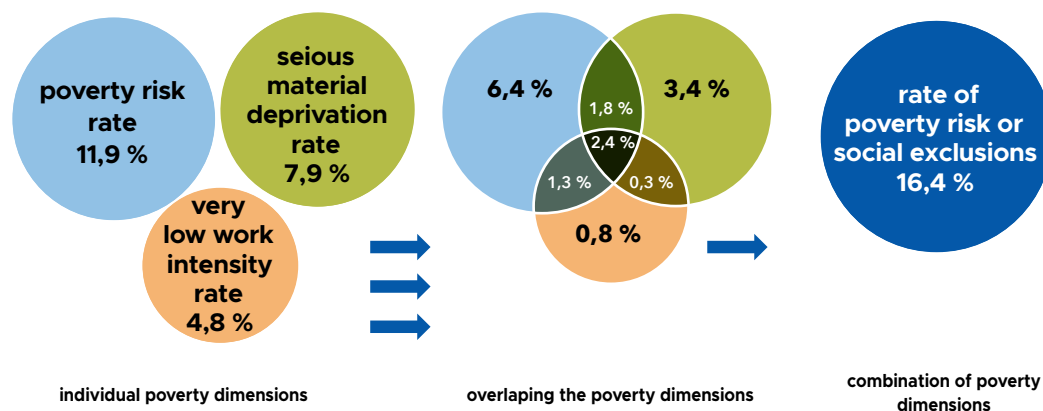
In **education statistics**, preparatory conceptual, organizational and methodological works were initiated on the statistical survey on further vocational training of the CVTS taking place in 2021.

Family accounts statistics (FA) collects data on income, expenditures, consumption and composition of private households in the Slovak Republic. In 2020, a survey on income and composition of households in the Slovak Republic took place throughout the year in the field, despite the limitations due to the pandemic situation related to Covid-19. While the data in the publication *Incomes, Expenditures of Private Households in the Slovak Republic for 2019* was the result of a micro-data simulation, from 2021, annual results from the collection of data from households will be available.

Sample **Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households (EU SILC)**, which has regularly been conducted by the SO SR since 2005, is the main source of data on poverty, social exclusion and living conditions. In 2020, micro-data and indicators from the EU SILC 2019 survey were processed and sent to Eurostat, and anonymized micro-data were provided to external users for scientific and research purposes on the basis of standard as well as ad hoc requirements. In 2020, the data were presented in two publications: *EU SILC 2019 - Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households in the Slovak Republic* and *EU SILC 2019- Indicators of poverty and social exclusion*.

One of the main survey outputs is the indicator

EU SILC 2019



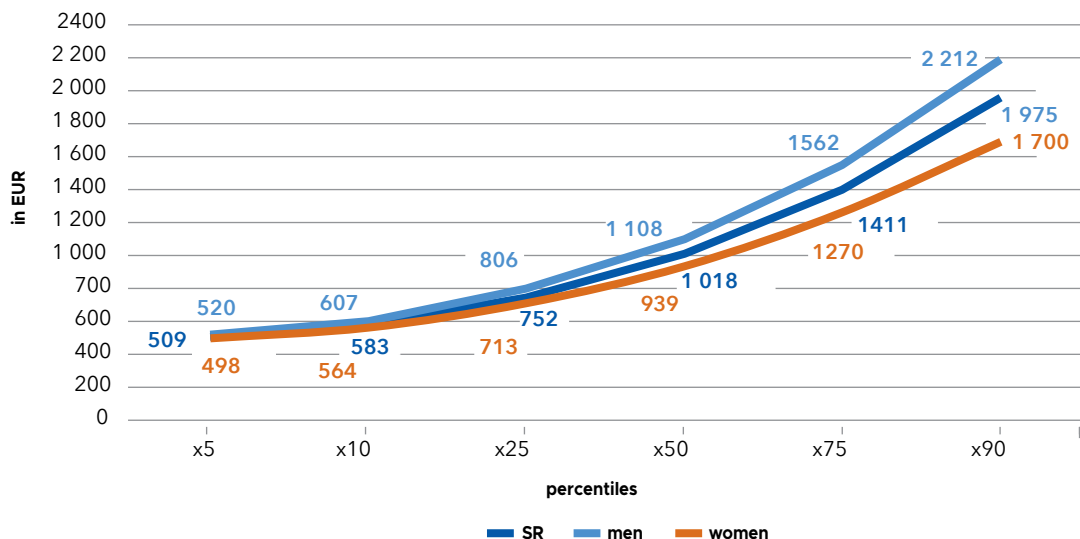
of poverty or social exclusion. The indicator measures and analyzes one of the main objectives within the EU 2020 strategy for the Slovak Republic and it is created by a combination of three sub-indicators: at-risk-of-poverty rate, severe material deprivation rate and low work intensity rate. According to the results of 2019 EU SILC results, which were published in 2020, 16,4 % of the population in Slovakia was at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Based on the requirement to improve the collection and analysis of data on marginalized communities, in 2018 the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic began cooperating with the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities (OPGRC) on the project Monitoring and evaluation of inclusive policies and their impact on marginalized Roma communities. The task of the SO SR was to prepare and implement two special surveys: Survey on Income and Living Conditions in Marginalized Roma communities in Slovakia - EU SILC MRC 2018 and EU SILC MRC 2020. The preparation of surveys was based on the EU SILC survey methodology with the aim of analyzing the income situation, living conditions

and poverty indicators of this community. The implementation of the second survey was planned for the years 2020 to 2021. Data collection took place in August to November 2020. Data processing and evaluation is currently in progress and the survey will be completed by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in May 2021. Subsequent dissemination of the results of the EU SILC MRC survey will be in the competence of OPGRC.

Sample **Survey on Information and Communication Technology Usage in Households and Individuals (ICT)** examines at the level of households and their members, the access to information and communication technologies, especially information on Internet usage. The results of the 2020 ICT survey were published by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in December 2020 on the website, in the form of the Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Households 2020. The publication contains data on access to selected information and communication technologies in the household, on Internet usage for educational activities, online shopping or on communication with public institutions via web services.

Descriptive statistical characteristics of gross monthly wages of employees in the SR by sex in 2019



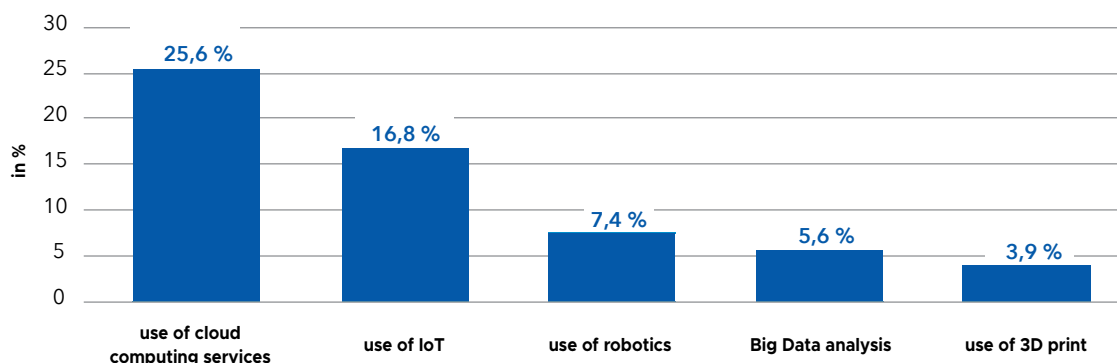
In the second half of 2020, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic published selected outputs from the sample **European Health Survey (EHIS) 2019**. The EHIS survey has been compulsorily conducted in all EU Member States on a regular basis every 5 years. The aim is to create a harmonized data source on health status, health care and factors affecting the health of the population in Slovakia and in other EU countries. From this survey, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic published e.g. data provided by respondents on their subjective perception of their health status, on their long-term health problems, on limitations in activities due to their long-term health problems. The data were further analyzed according to various areas: physical and functional limitations, issues with selected personal care activities, the need for help with personal care activities, illnesses or health issues, etc. Data on respondents' physical activity, the amount of fruit, vegetables consumed or the use of medicinal products were also published. The EHIS 2019 survey also

provides anonymized micro-data for external users for scientific and research purposes.

In 2020, as part of **food consumption statistics**, data on consumption of certain types of food for the year 2019 were derived, on the basis of the balance method. These data were freely available for users in the SO SR's database, in a comparable time series since 1990. Data on food consumption for the year 2019 were also included in the publication *Food Consumption in the SR*, issued annually by the SO SR which also assesses the development of food consumption in the SR and compared with other EU Member States as well. Data on food consumption are regular part of the situational outlook reports of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, evaluating the market development in the Slovak Republic for individual food commodities.

The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic annually collects, processes and provides

ICT use in enterprises in 2020 (%)



The Internet of Things (IoT) involves interconnected devices or systems, often called “smart”. These devices collect and exchange data with each other and can be monitored or remotely controlled via the Internet.

- intelligent thermostats, light bulbs or meters;
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) or Internet Protocol (IP) tags affixed to objects or inserted into them in order to track them;
- sensors for monitoring the movement or maintenance of vehicles monitored via the Internet.

data on **health care expenditures** for the SR, according to the SHA methodology (System of Health Accounts) since 2005 (reference year 2003 and further). Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/359 of 4 March 2015 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding statistics on expenditure of health care and its financing. According to this regulation, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in 2020, provided data for the reference year 2018, within the accounting framework of the SHA 2011 methodology, within the accounting framework of the SHA methodology, edition 2011. The processed data for 2018 were submitted to Eurostat, OECD and WHO within a joint questionnaire. The data published serve as comparison of health expenditures not only within the European Union but also in OECD and WHO countries. Data are also released at the website of the SO SR.

protection in the EU Member States, the European Commission requires access to up-to-date and detailed data and information on the systems, the current state and development of social protection in the Member States. One of the basic tools for statistical monitoring of social protection is the **European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS)**. In 2020, the SO SR issued the publication Social Protection in the Slovak Republic in 2018. The publication contains information on income and expenditure on social protection, qualitative information (descriptions of social protection schemes in the SR and descriptions of benefits paid), number of pensioners with the elimination of duplicity and net expenditure on social benefits. The publication records the main trends in the development of social protection in the Slovak Republic (in the summary for social protection programs), in the EU Member States and EU accession countries.

In order to monitor the development of social
| 40 |



Access of family members to the Internet at home
(% of the total number of households)



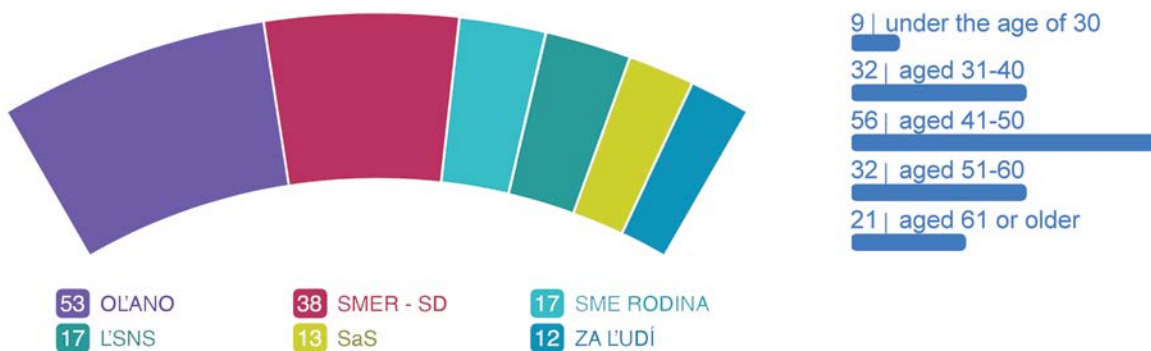
Election statistics

In 2020, in the field of election statistics, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic processed the results of elections to local government bodies (by-elections to municipal / local and urban councils) as well as the processing of the election results for the National Council of the Slovak Republic (NC SR) 2020.

Elections to the NC SR took place on **29 February 2020** on the basis of the decision of the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No 351/2019 Coll. The SO SR ensured the processing of the election results according to the Act No 180/2014 Coll. on the Conditions of Exercise of Election Right and

amendments of certain laws. In the results processing, the Office cooperated with the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic. The preparation of the processing was realized from October 2019. In order to ensure the processing, the Office established specialized summary units (SSU) for the State Commission for Elections and the Control of Financing Political Parties. The preparations included three rehearsals verifying the organizational, technical and personnel preparedness of specialized summary units of the district election commissions (DEC) and the State Commission for Elections and the Control of Financing Political Parties.

Number of seats allocated to political entities and the age structure of elected deputies in the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic 2020



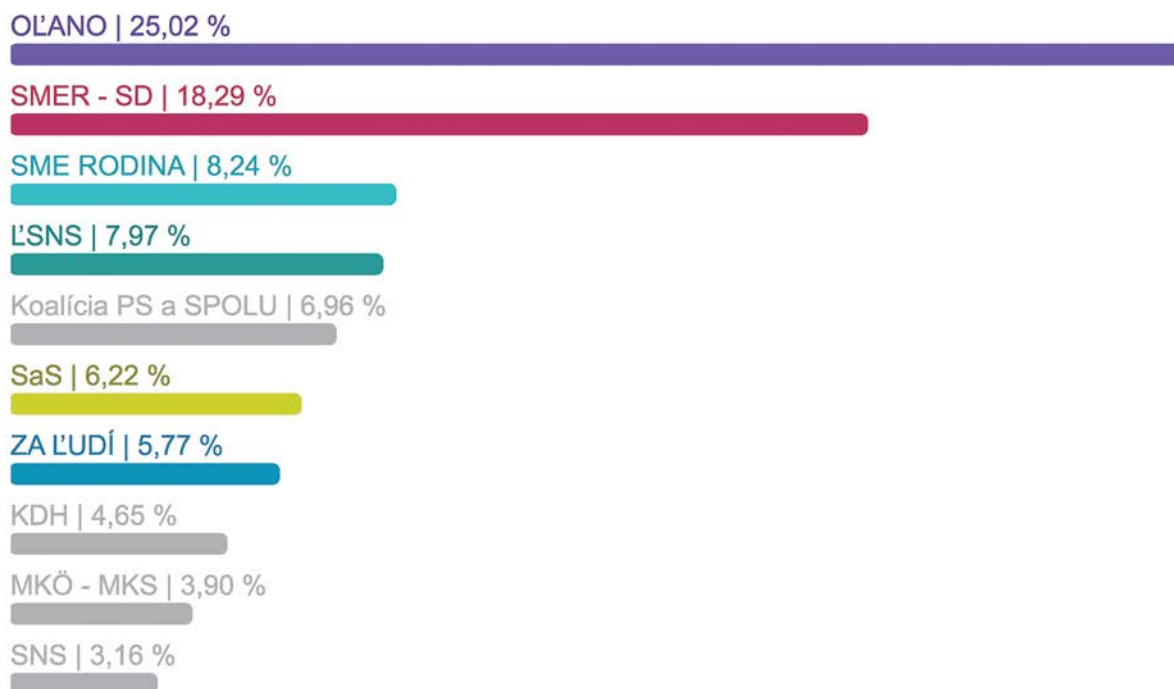


Number and share of valid votes cast for all political entities on behalf of the SR

number of political subject	Name of the political subject	Number of valid votes	Number of valid votes in %	Number of seats won
1	Slovenská ľudová strana Andreja Hlinku	8 191	0,28	
2	DOBRÁ VOLBA	88 220	3,06	
3	Sloboda a Solidarita	179 246	6,22	13
4	SME RODINA	237 531	8,24	17
5	Slovenské Hnutie Obrody	1 966	0,06	
6	ZA ĽUDÍ	166 325	5,77	12
7	MÁME TOHO DOSŤ !	9 260	0,32	
9	Slovenská národná strana	91 171	3,16	
10	Demokratická strana	4 194	0,14	
11	OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti (OLANO), NOVA, Kresťanská únia (KÚ), ZMENA ZDOLA	721 166	25,02	53
12	Koalícia Progresívne Slovensko a SPOLU - občianska demokracia	200 780	6,96	
13	STAROSTOVIA A NEZÁVISLÍ KANDIDÁTI	2 018	0,07	
14	99 % - občiansky hlas	991	0,03	
15	Kresťanskodemokratické hnutie	134 099	4,65	
16	Slovenská liga	809	0,02	
17	VLASTĚ	84 507	2,93	
18	MOST - HÍD	59 174	2,05	
19	SMER - sociálna demokracia	527 172	18,29	38
20	SOLIDARITA - Hnutie pracujúcej chudoby	3 296	0,11	
21	HLAS ĽUDU	1 887	0,06	
22	Magyar Közösségi Összefogás - Maďarská komunitná spolupatričnosť	112 662	3,90	
23	Práca slovenského národa	1 261	0,04	
24	Kotlebovci - Ľudová strana Naše Slovensko	229 660	7,97	17
25	Socialisti.sk	15 925	0,55	

*The organization of political entities is according to the assigned voting number for the political entity in the elections. As the relative data are given in the outputs to decimal places without rounding, the sum of these data does not have to be equal to 100.

Valid votes cast for political entities to the NC SR 2020

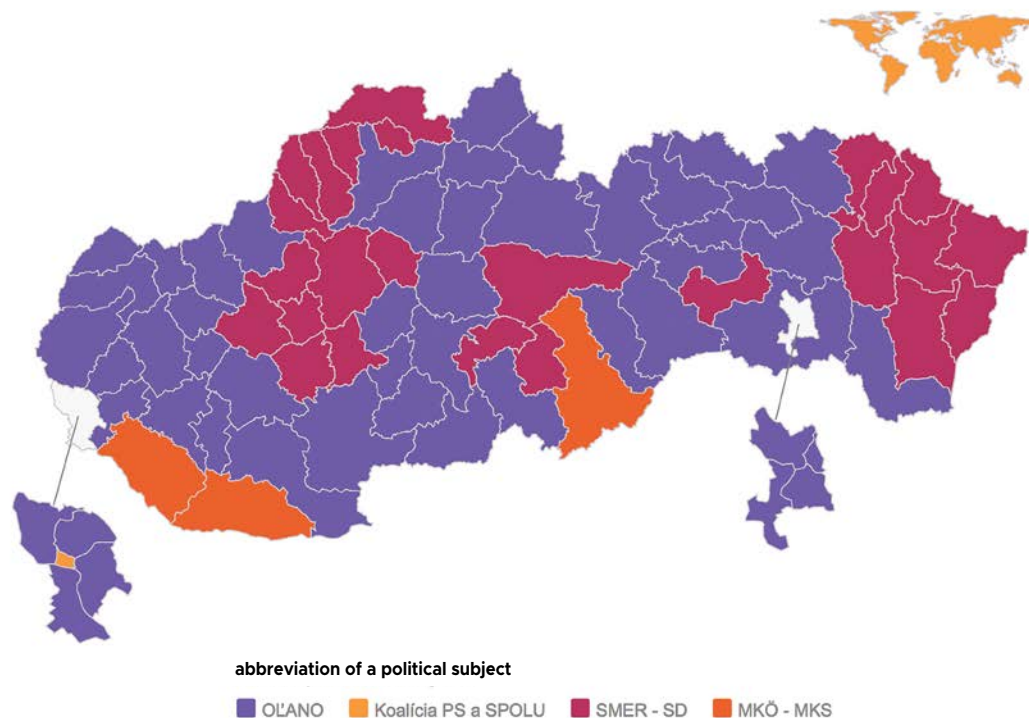


The results of the NC SR elections were processed by specialized summary units of district election commissions, based on the minutes of the district electoral commissions. From the recorded minutes of the district election commissions, the minutes of district electoral commissions were processed by summarization and approved by the commissions. By their further higher-level summarization in the summarizing units, the minutes of the DEC were created. These minutes served as a basis for the creation and approval of the minutes of the State Commission on Election and Control of Financing of Political Parties. The citizens of the Slovak Republic were allowed to vote directly in the NC SR elections by mail, for the fifth time.

The elections to the 2020 NC SR elections were attended by 2 916 840 voters out of the total number of 4 432 419 voters registered in the voter lists, which corresponds to a 65,80 % of the turnout. Of the total number of participating voters, the number of valid votes was 2 881 551. Thus, 2 865 284 % of voters i.e. 98,23% handed over the envelope pursuant to Article 24 (in person) and 48 925 %, i.e. 1,67% of voters voted from abroad.

Elections to the **bodies of self-governing regions** (by- elections to the bodies of municipal / local and urban councils) took place on **3 October 2020**. The elections were held in a total of 48 municipalities. A total of 33 new mayors and 26 new deputies were elected.

**Political entities that have received the largest number of valid votes in individual districts
in the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic 2020**



The Integrated Electoral Information System (IVIS) was used for the processing of elections results to the NC SR and elections to the bodies of self-governing regions. It was used not only by the members of the specialized summary units of electoral commissions but also by the majority of municipalities in Slovakia which have shown interest in electronic processing of election results, even though this type of processing was voluntary. This was reflected in the shortening of processing time of the results and the reduction in the error rate of the ballot papers.

Employees of the workplaces of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic from regional cities of the Slovak Republic as members of the specialized summary units of electoral commissions also played a significant role in the fulfillment of all tasks in the area of electoral statistics.

Detailed results on the above elections, as well as on all the elections held in the Slovak Republic since 1990, are available on the website of the SO SR <https://volby.statistics.sk/>.



Cooperation with the Institute of Informatics and Statistics

The Institute of Informatics and Statistics (INFOSTAT), as a research and development centre in the field of state statistics, annually cooperates with the Statistical Office of the SR in resolving the research and development tasks in the field of state statistics. The cooperation is carried out on the basis of a concluded contract between the two institutions, for the respective year, in accordance with the Government Decree of the SR. The content of the contract is taking into account the priority statistical activities of the Office and the actual needs, resulting from the customer requirements.

In 2020, INFOSTAT resolved 28 research and development tasks consisting of 76 partial outputs focused mainly on the following:

■ **methodological solutions**

- proposal of methodology for downloading data from the Internet environment for the purposes of price statistics - web scraping; a methodology for determining the appropriate characteristics and descriptions of the data adjustments needed to evaluate the available machine-learning methods for automatically attaching the ECOICOP classification to data obtained from retail chains; methodology of construction of derived population projections for individual domains (labor force, human capital, education, Roma and households);
- improving the methodology for estimating household energy consumption data in the structure required by Eurostat;
- methodology of construction of projection

simulations and demographic forecasts of population groups; methodology of decomposition techniques applied in demographic research in identifying changes in selected demographic processes; methods of demographic research of the mortality process, epidemiological situation, causes of death and avoidable mortality;

■ **updating and development**

- programming solutions in energy statistics; implementation of changes in the processing of price statistics with monthly and quarterly periodicity; a new demographic data collection model for Eurostat - SDMX; updating of software solutions for processing business surveys; creation of a tool for validation of micro-data within the IFS 2020;

■ **calculations and constructions**

- processing of monthly population movements and balancing of the population at the end of the reference period from the data of the source database of the integrated statistical information system (ZBD ISIS); implementation of control links in ISIS for monthly, quarterly processing in 2020 and in annual processing in 2019;
- compilation of long time series of demographic event data; construction of selected demographic analytical indicators; construction of cross-sectional and cohort life tables; estimation of the educational structure of Slovakia;

- **analyzes, studies, forecasts and surveys**

- analysis and forecast of the development of the business cycle in the Slovak economy in 2020; rapid estimates of GDP at T + 30 days and T + 45 days after the end of the reference quarter; a quick estimate of total employment in the Slovak economy at time T + 45 days after the end of the reference quarter; compilation of the Satellite Account of Culture and Creative Industries for 2018; cooperation on the TDP balance for 2018 in the SNA-NT system; construction of symmetric input-output tables for 2015; compilation of the Tourism Satellite Account for 2018; demographic forecast of the population of regions and districts of Slovakia;
- comprehensive analysis of population development of selected population groups (areas, cities, rural municipalities, size groups of municipalities); population forecasts of selected population groups; construction of population simulations; analysis of population simulation results; analysis of the mortality process, causes of death, avoidable mortality and health status (EHIS 2019); analysis of the usability of decomposition techniques for demographic research;

- **analytical outputs**

- analysis of input data, functionalities and outputs resulting from the new questionnaire for the survey of agricultural production and intermediate consumption; a proposal for a procedure for interconnecting farm data sources in the household sector between different data sources.

Within the cooperation with INFOSTAT, it should also be mentioned that the result of activities and solutions of the above-mentioned tasks in 2020 were several analytical-methodological

materials.

The studies were as follows:

- Definition of local population groups, design approaches and data sources
- Comprehensive analysis of population development of selected local population groups
- Construction approaches, identification of design models and their parameters, the concept of replacement migration and its practical use
- Description of the obtained results of design simulations in the context of their impacts on individual population segments
- Methods of demographic research of mortality, epidemiological situation, causes of death. The concept of avoidable mortality.
- Analysis of mortality process, causes of death, avoidable mortality and health status (EHIS 2019 data)
- Identification of Slovakia's lag and spatial differences in life expectancy at birth - the role of causes of death and avoidable mortality
- Decomposition techniques and their use in identifying factors of change in selected indicators of demographic dynamics
- Analysis of the obtained results and evaluation of the usability of decomposition techniques for the needs of demographic research

Cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic and the activities of INFOSTAT in 2020 are documented in detail in the annual report of the Institute for the year 2020 and published at the website www.infostat.sk.

11 We serve customers

12 We publish the Journal Slovak Statistics
and Demography

13 International activities

We serve customers

As part of activities related to the **provision of customer services**, the SO SR continued to implement the action programs set out in the Office's strategic objectives. In order to best fulfill the requirements and expectations of users of statistical information, the Office implemented a number of activities in accordance with the approved Marketing Plan of the SO SR for the year 2020. During the year processed and provided national and international organizations a total of 546 products from various statistical areas in the form of predefined tables, data files and various questionnaires. From the domestic customers, it concerned, above all, legislative and executive authorities of the state administration, mainly the National Bank of Slovakia (38 %), the Ministry of Finance of the SR, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the SR and the Ministry of Economy of the SR. In total, **237 products** in different periodicity were provided to **national institutions**. The obtained statistical information was used by the sectors in decision-making and management processes and for the purposes of analyzing the socio-economic development of the society. Of the products provided to international organizations, the highest share concerned the Eurostat files (85 %). Other important data consumers were the International Energy Agency, the United Nations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and DG ECFIN of the European Commission. A total of **309 products** were provided to **international organizations** during the year.

The marketing activities of the Office were focused on the knowledge expansion of our customers in the field of statistics and **on revealing their expectations**. During the year, **77 events** were organized by the professional units at the Central Office and in the Regional Offices of the SO SR, with the participation of more than 4 000 existing and potential users of statistics. These were mainly seminars for local government representatives focused on the electronic 2021 Population and Housing Census. At the other events-workshops or lectures, the customers were presented with the content and structure of the Office's Internet portal and databases, their dissemination forms, range of statistical products and services. However, the organization of activities in 2020 was largely affected by the limitations related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On October 20, 2020, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic commemorated the third **World Statistics Day** with the main message - We connect the world with data that we can trust. World Statistics Day is celebrated every five years by a decision of the United Nations Statistical Division and aims to raise awareness among the lay and professional public of the importance and value of statistical information produced by statistical institutions. At the Internet portal of the SO SR, a page was released, informing about the event and the products prepared for the promotion and support of this event. On this occasion, the Office released an informative and promotional publication Slovak Republic in Figures 2020, which displays through visualization 130

indicators on economic, social and demographic development in Slovakia and prepared a Slovak version of the digital publication Eurostat - Key Data on Europe, focusing on living conditions, health, labor income, income and expenses, business, prices, environment, energy and others.

In 2020, the statistical information provision departments dealt with a total of **2 632 requests for statistical information** from various thematic areas. At the Central Office of the SO SR, 1 830 requests were met, of which 85 % were from domestic customers. The majority of requests were from students and teachers (21,2 %). Only a slightly lower share of requests came from the group of enterprises, associations, associations and shops (20,7 %). Requests from the general public (15,7 %) represented the third most numerous group, followed by requests from customers from state administration and self-government (14,8 %). Compared to 2019, the number of requests from the media increased. Experts from science and research and financial institutions, who are able to find statistical information on the Office's portal and databases, were less interested in statistical information. As in the previous years, in terms of thematic areas, the highest interest was in data from the field of demography and social statistics (33,4 %).

More demanding requirements needing processing by the professional departments of the SO SR, accounted for almost a third of all applications (31,5 %). The most numerous were requests from the thematic areas of demography and social statistics, multilateral and sectoral statistics. The demanding requests of customers also included requests for the provision of anonymized micro-data for scientific purposes. In 2020, 12 contracts for the provision of microdata were concluded with the

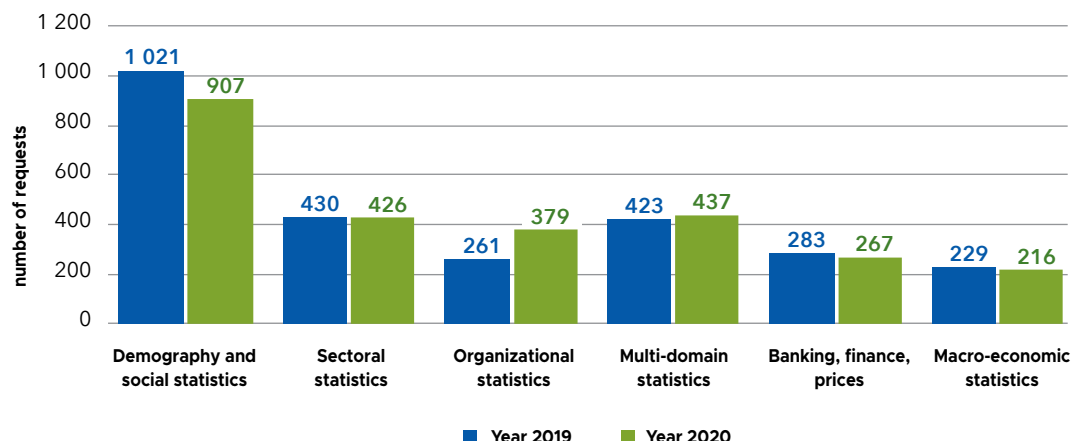
scientific and research institutions.

The regional offices of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in the regions processed a total of 802 requests for statistical information, most of them from representatives of self-government and state administration (41,6 %), then from the group of enterprises, associations, unions (18,9 %). The biggest interest was for information from the demographic statistics area.

As part of customer services, the Office provided assistance to customers seeking European statistical data and information through the Support Center for Users of European Statistics set up at the Central Office of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. The center is part of the international network **European Statistical Data Support (ESDS)**. The users were provided assistance mainly in the form of navigation on the Eurostat website.

The publication activity of the Office was ensured in accordance with the Catalogue of Publications 2020. During the year, **69 publications** were issued in total, in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual periodicity. Beyond the Catalogue of Publications, two titles were issued. 48 publications were issued in English. Among the crucial publications belonged: the Statistical Yearbook of the Slovak Republic 2020, Regional Statistical Yearbook 2019, the Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy and the Report on the Economic Development in the Regions of the Slovak Republic. Following the set strategic goals, the Office focused during the year on the creation of value-added products. They included e.g. Slovak Republic in Figures 2020, Regional Cities in terms of quality of life, Gender Equality 2020. Other interesting publications included Statistics in Context - Main Trends in Fertility in the Slovak

Number of satisfied requests at the Central Office and the Regional Offices of the SO SR



Republic in 2019 and the Regional City of Košice 2019. All publications were released at the website of the SO SR.

The Office's **Library** was available to customers, and its services were used by **108 readers** (employees of the Office and external visitors) during the year. In 2020, the library stocks were increased by **359 new volumes**, of which 299 were new publications of the Office. In total, 60 borrowings were registered. The Library ordered and registered 6 titles of newspapers, 4 online accesses to specialised literature and 10 journals. In total, almost EUR 8 000 were spent on the purchase of specialised literature and on the subscription of newspapers and journals.

During the year, the Office regularly updated and expanded the content of information on the **Internet portal**. Statistics for Beginners, API Open Data SO SR, Slovakia commemorates World Statistics Day 2020 and others have been added to the pages of statistical themes. Open Data API The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic is a new application of the Office, an application programming interface (API) providing access to data from selected tables available in the DATAcube database. It is a tool intended mainly for developers and data analysts who need data in machine-readable

form. These are available in JSON-stat, CSV, XML, XLSX and ODS formats.

The Slovak version of the digital publication Key Data on Europe was published on the Office's portal, which provides a quick and interactive overview of life in individual European countries and enables their mutual comparison. New interactive elements, including interactive visualization of election data, were added to the presentation of the election results of the National Council of the Slovak Republic 2020 within the new content structure of the information provided. In 2020, **217 new publications** with different periodicity were added to the Catalog of Publications, which currently includes almost **2 989 electronic publications**.

In 2020, the Internet portal was visited by **1 515 905 users** (compared to 2019, *the number of visits increased by 15,8 %*). During the year, users viewed a total of **6 895 859 web pages** (the number of *views increased by 11%* compared to 2019). In terms of content, users were particularly interested in information from the register of organizations, electronic data collection, databases, statistics by individual themes, code lists, classifications, sample statistical forms and the DATAcube

database.

The public **DATAcube** database contains **1 223 data cubes** for indicators of economic and social development. During the year, it was visited by **122 129 users (by 19,8 % more than in 2019)**, who **viewed 821 656 data cubes**. Users were particularly interested in indicators on population and migration, national accounts, the labor market and income and consumption. STATdat database includes **484 table reports**, visited by **333 234 customers**, who realized a total of **1 799 397 views** of data reports. The highest interest was in indicators of consumer prices, prices of production statistics, population and migration, labor costs and national accounts.

During the year, the Office published 20 new datasets on the open data portal <https://data.gov.sk//> in accordance with the Action Plan of the **Open Government Initiative**. With a total of **734 released datasets** in 2020 (which represents 31 % of all 2 341 published datasets for state administration institutions), the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic remains the leader in the provision of datasets.

As part of the international **Open Data Inventory** (ODIN) evaluation focused on the availability and openness of statistical data, carried out by the independent company Open Data Watch (ODW), in 2020, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic ranked **10th** out of 187 monitored countries.

The benefit in obtaining feedback on the needs and expectations of users is a **survey of customer satisfaction with the products and services of the SO SR**, which the Office regularly conducts through an electronic questionnaire. In 2020, the sixth survey was conducted. The main intention was to find out customer satisfaction and obtain the respondents' opinions on individual types of products and services of

the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. The survey showed that the overall average satisfaction rate reached **74,7 points**, representing the **highest rating since the beginning of the survey, since 2009**. Based on 32 evaluated criteria (products and services), the Office's greatest strength can still be considered the services, namely employee responsiveness in service provision, their professional competence, the level of information and consulting services, as well as the speed in handling customer requirements. Respondents were less satisfied with the availability of the information and products searched, the DATAcube database, visualization elements and infographics on the Office's portal. The initiatives of the respondents obtained within the survey will be taken into account within the possibilities of the Office in the creation and dissemination of products and the provision of services to customers.

Besides the above-mentioned survey, the Office conducted for the first time an online **survey of customer satisfaction with the website of the SO SR** through a questionnaire, which was published on the Office's website. The analysis of the survey results showed that **48,8 % of respondents** expressed overall satisfaction with the Office's website. When evaluating satisfaction with the page according to selected criteria, the respondents expressed the highest satisfaction with the graphic design, orientation on the page and its transparency as well as with the loading speed of the content. The availability of the searched information and the data search tool on the website were evaluated less favourably. Recommendations and suggestions for improvement from the respondents, which resulted from the survey, pointed to the need to modernize the website of the SO SR.

We publish the Journal

Slovak Statistics and Demography

The year 2020 became the jubilee 30th year of the scientific peer-reviewed Journal **Slovak Statistics and Demography**, which has been published by the SO SR since 1991. During thirty years, the individual articles of the journal provided the lay and professional public with information from various statistical fields, while underlining the appropriate use of statistical and demographic methods and procedures, promoting the importance of Slovak statistics, supporting the development of statistical theory and its connection with practice, presenting the demographic methods and procedures and informing about the statistical and demographic events.

Extensive publishing activities of the Slovak and foreign authors are included in 115 issues of the journal. More than 530 professional articles and almost 360 informative articles were published altogether. The Editorial Board of the magazine has so far had 31 members, and 5 executive editors. Since 2016, the Editorial Board has been cooperating with 6 foreign consultants.

The editorial staff prepares the current demographic and statistical themes and continues its activities aimed at the journal's positive perception by the public. New authors presenting interesting results of scientific efforts, which were created using statistical methods and procedures, were also given the opportunity to publish in the journal. The monothematic issue of 2020 became the third

one focusing on selected multidimensional statistical methods and their applications. The authors of the scientific articles methodically described and showed how to evaluate complex phenomena in practice.

We would like to thank all contributors to the journal, former and current members of the Editorial Board and foreign consultants, reviewers, readers, promoters and supporters of the journal.





International activities

In 2020, the global unfavourable pandemic situation also affected the activities of the SO SR in **European affairs and international cooperation**. In the initial phase of the pandemic, the SO SR actively communicated with its counterparts from other statistical offices within the European Statistical System (ESS). In particular, it was mostly the gathering of experiences regarding the management of the Covid-19 crisis between countries. In cooperation with the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, a clear table of measures (usually renewed every 2 weeks depending on the pandemic situation), which the individual countries put in place, was created. The exchange and sharing of experiences served as a tool for preparing a document on the internal crisis management of the SO SR, which was entrusted to the European Affairs and International Cooperation Unit. The unit also actively participated in the formation of the Task Force on ESS strategic communication. After the initial formation of this task force and several virtual meetings with other participating countries in the period of April to August 2020, the management of strategic communication of the SO SR was transferred to the Communication unit from September 2020.

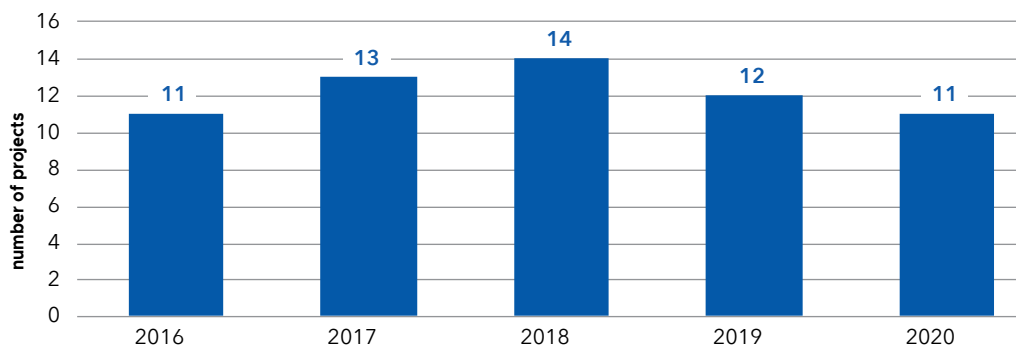
Due to the exceptional pandemic situation and related measures, the SO SR realized **foreign business** trips only until the beginning of March 2020. During this period, 12 trips were

made, representing 15 individual trips. The most important high-level events included meetings of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) and the UN Statistical Commission in February.

International activities were subsequently realized in a virtual form. They took the form of virtual meetings and workshops and focused mainly on **cooperation within the ESS**. They were organized by the Directorate-General of the European Commission for Statistics - Eurostat. These were mainly meetings of working groups and committees at the level of experts, which are responsible for the implementation of EU legislation and smaller working groups (task forces), whose objective is to develop new methodologies and tools. The Office's management staff attended meetings of the director groups and committees. During 2020, a representative of the SO SR regularly participated in virtual meetings of the EC Committee for the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (CPMLTF), which deals with the project of linking data on end-users of benefits between EU countries. Employees of the SO SR also actively participated in virtual events organized by other international organizations, especially the OECD and the UNECE.

The President of the SO SR, as its supreme representative, represented the Office at

Number of new projects by year



meetings of the ESSC, as well as at ad hoc meetings of the highest representatives of statistical offices in the ESS, which were focused on communication and governance of the ESS in time of crisis, on common solutions in European statistics during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the exchange of experience in the combat against the Covid-19 pandemic in the individual member countries in the ESS. The ESS actors also discussed the possibility of developing new experimental statistics and different initiatives in the field of statistics, and the European Statistics Recovery Dashboard was set up during the Covid-19 pandemic in the ESS. A digital conference on theme “Lessons from the Covid-19 Crisis” was organized by the German Presidency of the Council of the EU in November.

Several interesting topics resonated at regular meetings organized by Eurostat at the level of the **ESSC** and the **Partnership Group** in 2020, e.g. overall methodology for the next round of peer review and state of play in preparation for the 3rd round of peer review, prioritization in the ESS, Multiannual Action Plan MAP 2021-2027, roadmap for establishing a network of data protection officers in the

Member States, revision of legislative rules relating on agricultural statistics after 2020, implementation of the ESS 2020 Vision, mandate and functioning of the Task Force on ESS strategic communication, activities enabling the use of privately held data for official statistics, preparation of the DGINS conference on Earth observation in official statistics (which was moved to 2021), impacts of the European Green Deal on European statistics, updating the SNA and BPM, but also topics arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, such as ensuring the comparability and methodological reliability of European statistics during a pandemic, the importance of European statistics in fight against the pandemic effects, the possible pandemic effects on the next round of the 2020 Agricultural census and the 2021 Population and housing census.

In the field of **legislation**, the implementing regulation of the EP and the Council of the EU laying down technical specifications, details of the structure of requirements and data transmission resulting from the new regulation on European business statistics was adopted in July 2020, effective from 1 January 2021. In October 2020, the implementing regulation was

adopted establishing the structure and details of the description of the sources and methods for compiling gross national income aggregates and their components in accordance with the European System of Accounts (ESA) 2010. The European Statistical Program 2021-2027 was approved as part of the Regulation on single market program. (SMP), the Slovak Republic generally supported the proposal. The objectives of this multiannual program will contribute to the implementation of the EU policies and are also aimed at developing statistics, which will support, e.g. European Green Deal, the EU plastics strategy, climate statistics, using the benefits of the data revolution and the transition to reliable smart statistics. In 2021, work will continue to comment on the ongoing revision of the legislative rules relating to the common agricultural statistics.

In the second half of the year, the cooperation of the SO SR within the **Visegrad Group** countries under the Polish presidency continued, but, due to the pandemic, only in the form of a virtual meeting on the occasion of signing the memorandum of understanding on mutual cooperation in statistics between the statistical offices of the V4 countries. The meeting discussed and prioritized the individual points of the memorandum, which includes the most important topics for selected areas of statistics, in which the V4 countries will cooperate in 2021. The aim of this cooperation is to achieve methodological and qualitative improvements in statistical production, exchange of knowledge and experience in identified areas and releasing joint publications. Priorities will be in the field of social and foreign trade statistics, cross-border statistics and global value chains.

In 2020, the Office applied for 11 new **grant projects** co-financed by the EU, the aim of which is to introduce new statistical tools and methods. Together with projects from the previous period, it implemented a total of 30 grant projects during the year.

The French agency ExpertiseFrance addressed the SO SR to become a member of a consortium applying for the allocation of a large multilateral project funded by the European Commission from the IPA program, which aims to develop the statistical system in candidate countries. The project covers all statistical domains and is planned for 3 years. Other members of the consortium were the statistical offices of France, Poland, Hungary and Slovenia. The preparation of documents for the application of project allocation was professionally and administratively very demanding. The consortium was shortlisted, but ended up in second place. The experience gained during the preparation of the project will be used in the future while applying for other projects aimed at providing development aid.



14 Human resources

15 Information systems and Information
and communication technologies

16 Financial results

17 Priorities 2021

18 Organizational structure 2020

Human resources

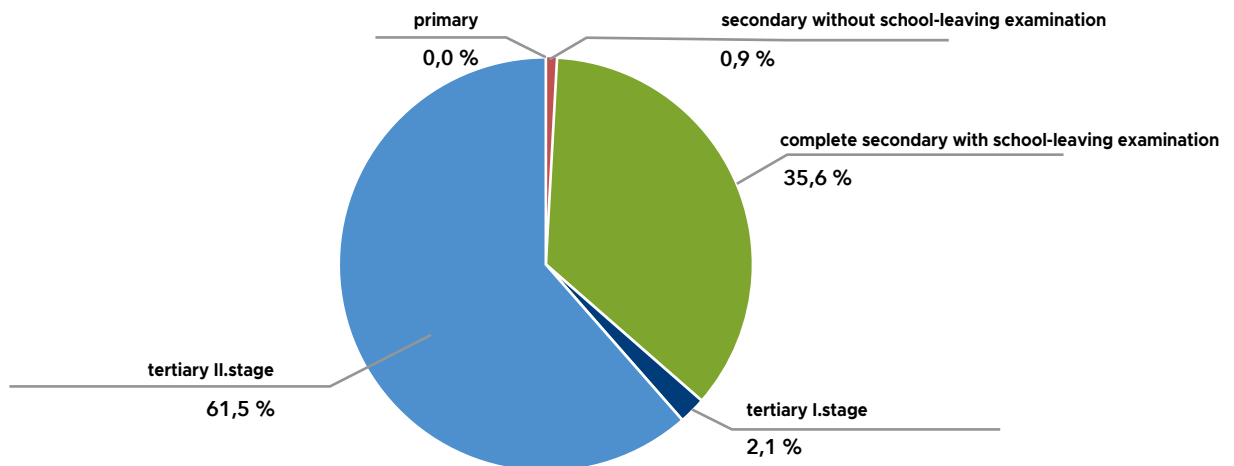
In 2020, **828 employees** (the average registered recalculated number) were employed in the SO SR, of whom 312,5 employees at the Central Office and 515,5 employees at the regional offices (including the Section of Industrial Data Collection and Processing of Field Surveys of the SO SR in Banská Bystrica). In the national budget for the chapter of the SO SR, the number of posts was curtailed to 863, while in the Central Office, 37 posts were designed for specific tasks in the 2021 Census unit (18 at the Central Office and 19 at the Regional Offices of the SO SR and at the Section of Industrial Data Collection and Processing of Field Surveys in Banská Bystrica).

Educational and age structure of the Office's employees as of 31 December 2020 is illustrated by the graphs.

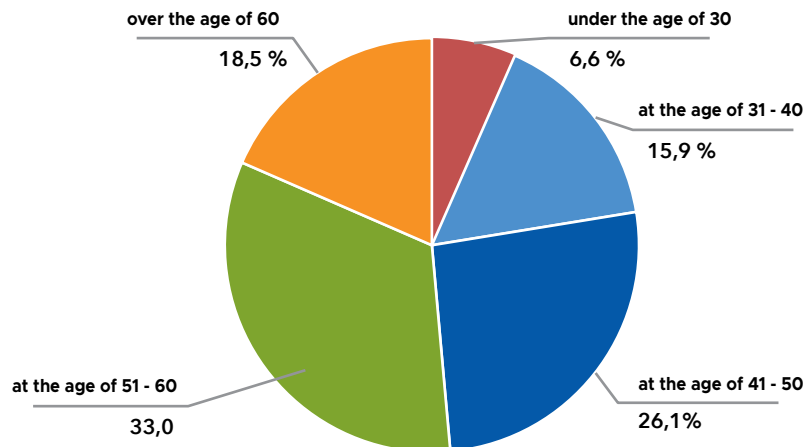
78,8 % women and 21,2 % men were employed at the Office. Out of 127 managers, there were 68,0 % women and 32,0 % men.

In 2020, the available budget of the SO SR was **EUR 14 761 477** of budgetary wage funds at its disposal (in the amount are also included salary appropriations intended for the 2021 Census and elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic). For the period January-December 2020, the expenditure was EUR

Educational structure of employees



Age structure of employees



14 760 000, hence the limit for the obligatory indicator for wages, salaries, pays and other personal surcharge in 2020 has been respected.

In July 2020, the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic announced to the SO SR a draft limit of income and expenditure for the years 2021-2023, which reduced the volume of wages and the number of employees.

Therefore, it was necessary in 2020 to proceed with changes in the organizational structure and adjustment of the number of employees of individual departments of the SO SR. Due to organizational changes, a total of **82 posts were cancelled in 2020**.

The **education of employees** was based on the approved document of the Educational Plan of the SO SR for 2020. The employees attended educational events in the following fields:

- adaptation education,
- managerial training,

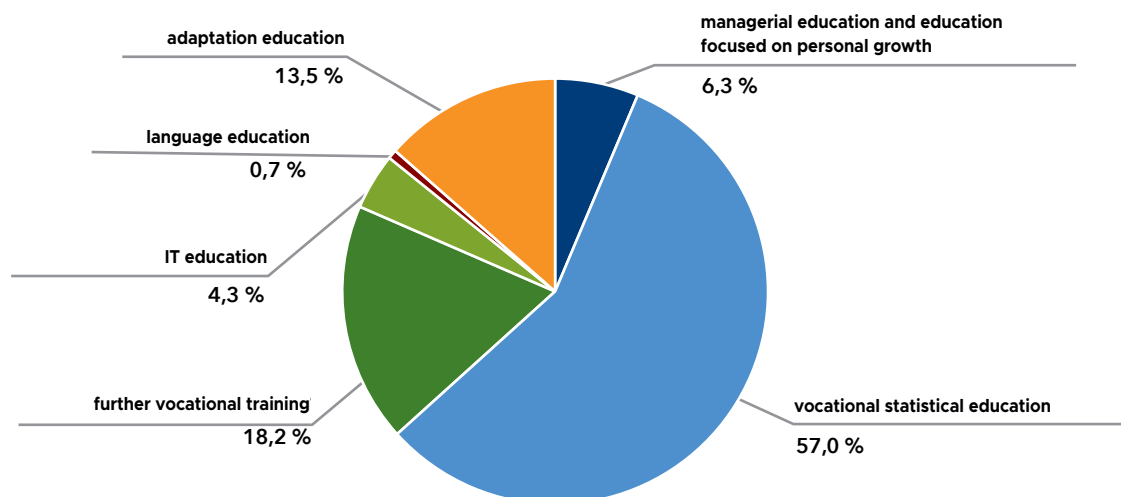
- education focused on personal growth,
- vocational training,
- further vocational training,
- information technologies
- linguistic training.

The share of individual types of education in 2020 is shown in the graph

The implementation of the training was significantly affected by the complicated situation in connection with the strict restrictive measures caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic. Most educational events since March 2020 have been held remotely in the form of webinars, video conferences or guided self-study.

The range of educational events was continuously supplemented by other educational requirements for education, operationally submitted by individual organizational units.

Education



In the field of **vocational training**, the events focused primarily on the development of staff skills related to ensuring the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistical information from statistical surveys or administrative data sources, from the comprehensive preparation of the 2021 Population and Housing Census, from the preparation and processing of the election results to the National Council of the Slovak Republic and the implementation of courses and trainings within the project Reform of the collection and processing of statistical data in public administration.

The Office's employees participated or attended a total of 31 educational events (international conferences of educational nature, workshops and online courses), through which they developed the necessary professional skills and exchanged their experiences and knowledge with other participants of the event. Despite the

complicated situation, the Office's specialists also participated in several professional online courses within the **European Statistical Training Programme**. In the field of continuing vocational training, employees continuously attended events, mainly related to changes in legislation, civil service management, wages and remuneration of employees, personal data protection, control, audit, finance, budget and public procurement.

Language training was provided through five group semi-intensive English language courses, but only in the first quarter of 2020.

Last year, a total of **725 educational activities** took place, with 3 800 participants. In 2020, the Office spent **EUR 16 645** on education.



Information systems and Information and communication technologies

In the context of accomplishing the goals of the National Concept of Informatization of Public Administration (NKIVS), the SO SR has realized the **electronic collection of statistical data** for the fifth consecutive year which increased the return and quality of data also due to pre-filling of data and checks implemented in the electronic forms. The SO SR also provides its electronic services available on its own portal by means of the Central Portal of Public Administration (CPPA).

In order to **reduce the administrative burden of reporting units (RU)**, the SO SR continues to extend the range of the used administrative sources which replace the data originally obtained from the RU or complete the statistical data collected from the RU by implementing new technologies.

Within the fulfillment of tasks stipulated by law, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic participates in the application of the Act on protection against legalization of terrorist financing. The Act on protection against money laundering and terrorist financing regulates the rights and obligations of legal and natural persons in preventing and detecting the legalization of proceeds from criminal activity and terrorist financing. Its main goal is to

prevent the so-called money laundering. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, which entered into force on 1 November 2018, the SO SR shall be required to keep a register of current identification data on the end users benefits in the **Register of Legal Entities, Entrepreneurs and Public Authorities (RLE)** and also submit them to liable persons in the provision of basic care in relation to the client. According to Article 7a of Act No. 272/2015 Coll. on the register of legal entities, entrepreneurs and public authorities, as amended, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic provides from 1 November 2018 data on end user benefits in an electronic automated form to liable persons, according to the Article 5 of the Act No. 297/2008 Coll. on the protection of legalization of proceeds of criminal activity and terrorist financing as amended. Establishment of access for the above-mentioned liable persons is possible on the basis of an application, which is available after logging in via eID on behalf of the liable persons, through the Central Government Portal www.slovensko.sk or the portal of the SO SR <https://rpo.statistics.sk>.

The project of the **Unified Information System of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (UISSOSR)** was launched following the outputs and recommendations of the project

of reform of statistical data collection and processing, which should address Eurostat's requirements for national methodology, and processing of statistical data through all liable persons, as well as the protection and security of data collected and processed in the National Statistical System.

In 2020, the **certification process of the information security management system according to ISO / IEC 27001: 2013** was successfully completed, confirming the results of a previous security audit performed by PWC company, commissioned by Eurostat as a condition for further steps towards joint IT security projects and a grant award plan. The aim in the future will be to implement a security platform, thus ensuring a very high level of security during the transmission, management and storage of confidential statistical information, by automating all these activities in order to eliminate any operational risks. Within this automation, it is possible to verify the quality and structure of data at the same time. Minimizing repetitive human tasks and capacity release for other more important activities is also a very important benefit.

In 2020, major **organizational changes were implemented in the SO SR, related to streamlining the work of the directorate and the changes to the existing infrastructure and application equipment** needed to ensure tasks in connection with the prepared and implemented projects financed from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), in the SO SR as well as with the valid system documents and methodological instructions of the Central Coordinating Body, governing and methodological documents

of the managing and intermediate body, the provisions of Decree No. 85/2020 Coll. on project management, as well as other relevant methodological documents and legislative rules.

The **strategy of supporting the development of the information society** within the Statistical Office of the SR is focused on investing in the development of electronic services for citizens and entrepreneurs and on increasing the availability of public administration data through open data. At the same time, ICT is intended to support the ongoing reform of the public administration, including the further expansion of the use of the government cloud and the modernization of the Office's communication platform.

Financial results

Pursuant to the Act No 468/2019 Coll. on the state budget, **expenditures** in the amount of EUR 51 648 343 **were approved** for the chapter the Statistical Office of the SR, for the 2021 Population and Housing Census (2021 Census) and EUR 1 979 700 for the elections to the National Council of the SR. In 2020, the budget of the Office was adjusted by 37 budgetary measures of the Ministry of Finance of the SR to EUR 61 841 167,80. Adjustment by the MF SR concerned mainly exceeding the capital expenditure by funds from the previous years - EUR 5 799 848, by funds for financing the costs associated with the transition of the Statistical Office of the SR to the government cloud- EUR 600 000, to ensure compliance with the EU and Slovak legislation- EUR 1 850 000, to finance a communication and promotional campaign under 2021 Census – EUR 1 billion, for the rehabilitation of expenses directly implied by the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic - EUR 119 000, for the strengthening of IT security for work from home - EUR 200 000, for the implementation of surveys related to the creation and fulfillment of the Tourism Satellite Account - EUR 147 270, to finance leaving or retirement bonus/ severance pay in connection with the implementation of the process of reducing the number of employees - EUR 357 000 and for an aliquot part of the rent and reimbursement of costs associated with the relocation of selected workplaces of the SO SR - EUR 289 000. Other adjustments were related to the binding of the capital expenditure limit under the Central Agreement on Licensing and Oracle Products - EUR 734 486 and the binding of capital expenditure - EUR 318 232

and European Union funds and co-financing from the state budget - EUR 63 261 with the possibility of their use in the next financial year. Other budgetary measures increased the limit of current expenditures by European Union funds and co - financing from the state budget in the total amount of EUR 882 627,80 intended to cover the projects within the Operational Program Effective Public Administration - Priority Axis 1.

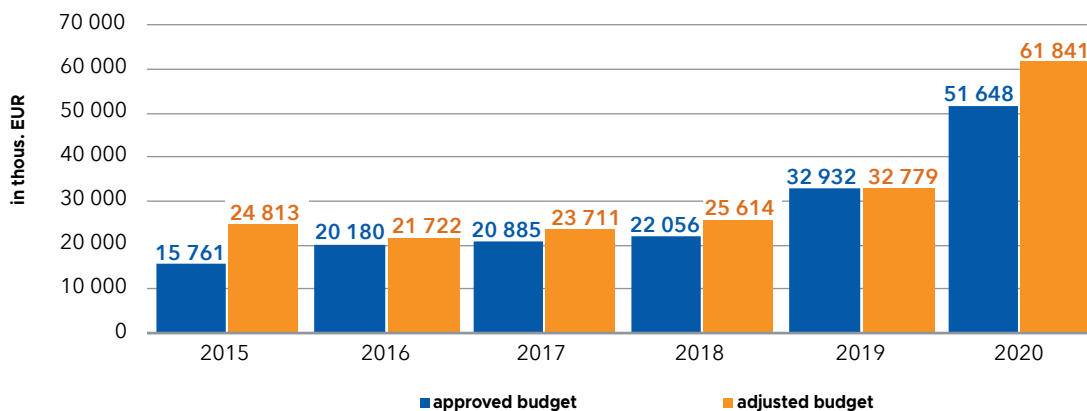
For 2020, the indicator for a binding **revenue limit**-in the amount of EUR **120 000** was **approved** for the SO SR. The revenues de facto reached **EUR 187 719**.

The adjusted budget of expenditures in the amount of EUR 61 841 167,80 was drawn in the amount of EUR 61 652 683 - to 99,7 % (of which EU funds were EUR 646 737,46 and funds for co-financing from the state budget (hereinafter referred to as “SB”) in the amount of EUR 235 890,34, which together make up of EUR 882 627,80.

The revised budget for **salaries and wages** of EUR 14 581 704 (excluding EU funds and funds for co-financing from the SB in the total amount of EUR 179 772) was drawn in the amount of EUR 14 580 228, of which EUR 599 972 for the elections to the National Council hereinafter referred to as the “NC SR”) and EUR 712 829 for the 2021 Census.

Budget for the **insurance payments and for the insurance contribution** covered by an employer was in the amount of EUR 5 607 290

Comparison of approved and adjusted budget



(excluding EU funds and funds co-financed from the SB, in the total amount of EUR 72 350) of which EUR 278 691 from the budget for the elections to the NC SR and EUR 293 412 from the budget for the 2021 Census.

In total, EUR 13 425 791 were used for **goods and services** (excluded the EU funds and funds for co-financing from the SB, in the total amount of EUR 630 006) of which EUR 640 999 from the budget for the elections to the NC SR and EUR 1 930 639 from the budget for the 2021 Census and EUR 7 717 392 from the budget for information technologies financed from the state budget (of which EUR 2 129 999 were spent on the Census-IT). EUR 3 136 760 were spent on ordinary activities of the SO SR, mainly on the statistical surveys, travel costs, costs related to the processing of statistical information, contribution to the social fund and catering of employees. A substantial share was represented by expenditures on energies and communication, object security and operation of motor vehicles and maintenance of operating machines, equipment and buildings. Part of the funds, in the amount of EUR 118 850 was used for expenditure related to measures preventing the spread of the COVID-19.

Current transfers were drawn in the amount of EUR 12 707 503 of which EUR 1 020 230 were assigned to the subsidised organisation – INFOSTAT and EUR 11 135 936 for the municipalities to cover the costs of delegated state administration within the first stage of the 2021 Census- population and housing census, conducted in 2020. Other transfers were used on severance grant, severance pay and sickness benefits.

Capital expenditures were drawn in the amount of EUR 14 449 243, of which EUR 14 166 507 for information technologies financed from the state budget (of which EUR 11 207 650 for the Census-IT) and EUR 120 068 for the purchase of passenger cars from the 2021 Census funds. Resources for supporting activities in the amount of EUR 162 669 were used for the purchase of passenger cars and operating machines and equipment and for the refurbishment and modernisation of the building stock. Part of the funds, in the amount of EUR 200 000 was used to strengthen IT security for work from home associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Special types of expenditures

Elections to the National Council of the Slovak

Republic

A total of EUR 1 519 663 was used for the 2020 elections (excluding funds for information technology - IT Elections - in the total amount of EUR 459 999). Expenditure was drawn mainly on overtime pay, remuneration and related contributions to the insurance companies of employees involved in the processing of election results. Expenditures on goods and services were used for the material provision of professional summarizing departments, telecommunications services, general material and work agreements.

2021 Population and Housing Census

Funds in the amount of EUR 14 194 670 (excluding funds for information technology - Census-IT in the total amount of EUR 13 337 49) were used for salaries and related contributions to insurance companies of employees temporarily recruited to perform tasks in the preparation and implementation of the 2021 Census, for municipalities to cover the costs of the delegated performance of state administration within the implementation of the first stage of the 2021 Census, for the payment of agreements and overhead costs.

Information technologies financed from the state budget - SO SR

EUR 22 106 619 was used for information technologies financed from the state budget, of which EUR 7 717 392 for goods and services, EUR 222 720 for transfers for the subsidized organization INFOSTAT and EUR 14 166 507 for capital expenditures. Expenditure was used to ensure the sustainability of results from the Electronic Services and Register projects and the Identifier of legal entities and entrepreneurs, to provide information technology for the processing of election results and to prepare the 2021 Census, as well as to provide information technology for internal management systems, support infrastructure and specialized systems.

Operational Program Effective Public

Administration - Priority Axis 1

European Union funds and state budget funds intended for co-financing of joint programs of the Slovak Republic and the EU in the total amount of EUR 882 627,80 were used to finance the Operational Program Effective Public Administration - Priority Axis 1. Including European Union funds of EUR 646 737,46 and state budget funds for co-financing of EUR 235 890,34. Under this program, funds were earmarked for three projects: Reform of the collection and processing of statistics in public administration (EUR 819 920,51), Better public policies through better knowledge of civil society (EUR 13 650,66) and Implementation and support of quality management in public administration organizations (EUR 49 056,63). The largest part of the funds in the amount of EUR 628 801,62 was used in accordance with their purpose for goods and services within the project Reform of collection and processing of statistical data in public administration (for the proposal of functional and non-functional requirements for a single IS for acquisition and evaluation of statistical data in the National Statistical System, testing of the created procedural documentation, a proposal to adjust the regulation and training of workers and a part in the amount of EUR 253 826,18 to reimburse personnel costs of workers involved in the work on these projects.

Separate accounts

In 2020, the SO SR obtained common foreign grants for a separate account of foreign gifts, grants and subsidies in the amount of EUR 887 377, within the meaning of Article 22 (4) on budgetary rules which were provided by the European Commission with the aim to introduce new statistical surveys. The funds were drawn in the amount of EUR 542 590 and used mainly for the reimbursement of wages of the staff involved in the EU projects, their material and technical security, remuneration of employees in an outside the employment relationship.



2.25		62 €
200,		,82 €
221,75 €		3,14 €
270,82 €		148,07 €
296,31 €		166,68 €
262,12 €		208,61 €
122,00 €		202,00 €
327,53 €		

Priorities 2021

The priority in 2021 will be to start the preparation of the **integrated QMS of the SO SR** for the third round of *peer review of the European Statistical System*. Attention will focus mainly on the thorough integration of the principles and indicators of the Code of Practice for European Statistics with innovative and modernization elements into the QMS of the SO SR, as well as the principles relating to professional independence and coordination and cooperation. The continuation of the **objectives, priorities and principles of the National Quality Programme of the Slovak Republic for the period 2017 – 2021** will continue to contribute to the development of the integrated QMS of the SO SR. An important priority related to the evaluation of the QMS of the SO SR as a whole will be the preparation for the **sixth recertification audit of the system** with the aim of confirming the validity of the certificate for the next three-year period by an accredited certification body. Another important priority within the system development will be the **third year of implementation of the Action Programmes of the Development Strategy of the SO SR until 2022**. The emphasis will continue to be put on the implementation of programmes contributing to the creation of value for customers and other stakeholders, and thus to the value of the SO SR, to increase the efficiency of processes by using data from new data sources in the creation of statistical outputs, as well as projects supporting the implementation of these programmes with

an emphasis mainly on effective external communication and the use of partnerships.

One of the priority tasks in the field of **methodology** will be the ongoing activities on the project of modernising price statistics. In the field of tourism statistics, the Methodological Unit will create an application for the automated creation of simultaneously and consistently protected data cubes, which will be published through the DATAcube database, thus significantly increasing the volume of data provided in this area. Work will also continue on the **further use of the ADS in business statistics**, in particular the analysis of VAT and eKasa data and the preparation of procedures for their use in short-term statistics.

In the field of **classifications and code lists**, a clear priority will be the active participation in the completion of the revision of the **statistical classification of economic activities of NACE Rev. 2**. In parallel, in accordance with Eurostat's timetable, planned activities related to the implementation of the revised classification in statistical registers as well as to the Register of Legal Entities and Entrepreneurs (RLE) will be planned. In the field of **statistical registers**, emphasis will be placed on the successful **implementation of the project Consolidation of registers of public authorities (OVM), organizations, farms and foreign trade**. The outcome of this project is the expected streamlining of activities related to the

management of statistical registers, as well as the creation of a register of public authorities. Within the framework of the **RLE**, the **integration of all source registers and records, especially the records of self-employed farmers managed by towns and municipalities of the SR, remains a key priority**. Due to the international importance of the non-public part of the RLE – module of end-users of benefits, adequate attention must be paid to the correct **implementation of the technological solution to ensure the integration of beneficial end-user data into the European network**, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the European AML Directive.

In the area of the creation of a cost-optimal **data base**, the priority will be the progress in the electronic collection of birth and death reports data from administrators of given administrative sources. The aim is to eliminate data collection in paper form as part of ongoing initiatives of central government bodies within the framework of eGovernment.

In 2021, **macroeconomic statistics** activities will prioritise the preparation of supporting documents and the smooth running of the three planned **Eurostat missions** on data provided to the Commission for administrative purposes – VAT, GNI and EDP, consistent performance of tasks in ongoing **grant projects**, addressing the reservations granted by the Commission as a result of the **GNI verification cycle 2016-2019 and preparing a new GNI Inventory-SK**. Activities within **foreign trade statistics (FTS)** will be devoted mainly to the preparation of the extended **publication of the FTS in the public database DATAcube**, the pilot collection of new variables for Intrastat delivery reports

(Partner ID in the Member State of destination and country of origin) and the **implementation of EBS Regulations**, including the exchange of microdata on intra-EU exports and the exchange of customs data carried out under grant projects GP 03-19 and GP 06-20.

The main priority in the field of **business statistics** will be the continuation of work on the implementation of the requirements resulting from **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 on European business statistics** in individual statistical domains. In December 2020, the Eurostat grant project started work on implementing the changed subcontracting methodology, ensuring the monitoring and publication of products in custody at PRODCOM on the basis of active units and ensuring new requirements for the compilation of structural business statistics indicators for the financial sector. In **agricultural statistics**, work will continue to ensure the input data base needed to **compile outputs from the 2020 Farm Structure Survey**, which are important for the decision-making process for the adoption of measures in the area of the common agricultural policy at both European and national level. Within the framework of **research and development statistics**, a survey will be carried out with supplementary questions aimed at measuring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on research and development within the meaning of the EC Regulation. **Price statistics** will focus in particular on the preparation of the methodology for revising the **weighting schemes for the survey of production statistics** and on the **transition of the calculation of price indices to the new base period - average 2021 = 100**. In **consumer price statistics**, work will be carried out to **implement the evolution**

of market rent prices into the production process for calculating price indices. In November 2020, the Eurostat grant project launched work on analysing the possibilities for **determining commercial property prices** and preparing a methodology for calculating commercial property price indices. During 2021, **energy** statistics will **work on refining biomass consumption data** in the time series from 2010 on. At the same time, cooperation will continue to address the role of a coordinated SHMI aimed at **improving the allocation of emissions from road transport** within the accounts of emissions to air and **physical energy flows in environmental statistics.**

The priority of **social statistics and demography** is the successful completion of the collection and processing of the 2021 Population and Housing Census (2021 Census), ensuring the dissemination of data and then preparing the linking of census results to the annual collection of data from demographic statistics. In the field of **sample surveys**, focus will primarily be on the **conduct of statistical surveys on the basis of Eurostat regulations** and requirements and other customers and the **adaptation of sample social statistical surveys to the new Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council** establishing a common framework for European statistics concerning persons and households on the basis of data at individual level obtained from samples. These changes will implement the key activities in 2021 aimed at **harmonising selected social statistical surveys with links to up-to-date data from the 2021 Census** and linking data from different sources, thus providing customers with more timely and high-quality data for the assessment of living standards. Priority will also be given to ensuring data collection for irregular **sample surveys on**

further training in CVTS businesses and the availability of data on full labour costs under the EU legislation.

In 2021, the SO SR will continuously carry out activities in accordance with the relevant law within the framework of **electoral statistics**, related to the provision of **new elections to the bodies of municipal self-government**, which are usually held twice a year. The first will take place on 15 May 2021 in accordance with the decision of the President of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The most important task in 2021 will be to prepare the SO SR, electoral structures and the **whole process of processing the results of elections, including legislation and the Integrated Electoral Information System, for the combined elections to the bodies of self-government** of municipalities and bodies of self-governing regions, which **will take place in 2022.** Preparations for this important challenge - the combination of two types of elections in one day - began as early as 2020. The preparation process will continue in 2021 so that the combined elections can be successfully implemented in 2022.

In the field of **statistical information dissemination**, the Office will focus on the provision of statistical products and services that meet existing and new customer requirements, as well as their increasing demands on the quality and complexity of products and services. In line with the marketing plan, attention will be focused on the processing and provision of datasets for national and international institutions, as well as on the provision of communication activities with statistical users, organised during the year depending on the evolution of the pandemic situation. The Office's objective is to contribute to increasing the knowledge potential in the

field of statistics through **efficient external communication and effective communication channels**. The professional units of the Office at the headquarters and at the workplaces of the SO SR will organize seminars focused on selected segments of customers in order to inform about the tasks and the position of the Office, its products and services. Through these activities, we will be able to better understand the needs and expectations of our customers. To celebrate the **European Statistics Day**, activities aimed at familiarizing the public with the mission of official statistics, products and services will be organised to contribute to **increasing statistical literacy**. The **credibility survey of the SO SR**, which the Office plans to carry out through an external independent agency, will contribute to **obtaining feedback on how the general public perceives our institution**. When publishing statistical data via the web portal, the Office will focus on the development and **modernisation of the public database DATAcube.**, increasing user comfort in working with data and consolidating and expanding the data base of the database in accordance with customer requirements. For greater availability of open data in machine-processing form, the Office shall ensure the **publication of new datasets and disclosure of data through API Open Data SO SR**. In the field of dissemination of statistical information, the Office will respond flexibly to new publication trends, applying tools for **interactive data visualisation**, in order to present statistical data in an easily understandable and innovative form. Attention will be paid to the **provision of value-added products using interactive forms of presentation of statistical information**.

In the field of **European affairs and international cooperation**, one of the priorities for 2021 will be the active participation in the

adoption of EU legal acts in the field of statistics at the Council of the EU, namely in the field of agricultural statistics, as well as promoting active participation in international conferences within the European Statistical System and in other international fora. Cooperation with partners within the V4 countries, where cooperation is expected to start, remains an equally important aspect, where cooperation and exchange of experience are expected to commence in the agreed statistical areas in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on mutual cooperation between the statistical authorities of the V4 countries. The President of the SO SR, as its supreme representative, will represent the Office at the meetings of the ESS Committee, the plenary session of the European Statistical Forum, meetings of the highest representatives of statistical offices in the European Statistical System, the so-called high level meetings (organised by the Presidency of the Council of the EU), but also at the meetings organised by OECD international organisations or UNECE.

In the **management of human resources**, due to the reduction of the number of employees of the SO SR and limited financial resources, an even greater challenge is the effective provision of all activities of the Office and the motivation of employees to perform their tasks. The Office will continue to make efforts to **stabilise powerful, key and engaged staff**. An important priority for the next period will be the personal **ensuring of the specific tasks of the 2021 Census**. In the field of **education**, we will continue to strengthen the **commitment, flexibility and adaptability of employees** in fulfilling important tasks of the So SR with an **emphasis on exploiting the development potential of education for selected experts, including their involvement in the programme of leaders and individual forms of education**.

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The priority of 2021 in the field of information systems and **information and communication technologies** will be to complete the process of streamlining the provision of services in the context of new tasks and challenges, to ensure the **smooth functioning of operating systems**, including the RLE (Register and identifier of legal persons, entrepreneurs and public authorities), the RKUV (Register of beneficial end-users), ISIS (Integrated Statistical Information System) and **preparation of IVIS** (Integrated Electoral Information System) **for a new election method**. At the same time, the SO SR will continue to provide cooperation to the liable persons in their work with the RLE and the RKUV, ensure the **completion of the information system to support the establishment of the unified information system for the collection and evaluation of statistical data in the national statistical system and the completion of migrations of selected SO SR systems to the government cloud** implemented under the Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure (OPII). The SO SR, in cooperation with Eurostat, will continue to **align the protection of personal data with the EU Regulation (GDPR)** and the completion of the **implementation of the project Reform of the collection and processing of statistical data in public administration** within the framework of the Operational Programme Effective Public Administration. One of the important priorities of the SO SR will also be the **development of the existing tools of statistical production under the call for proposals - OPII for the Data management in public administration institutions**.





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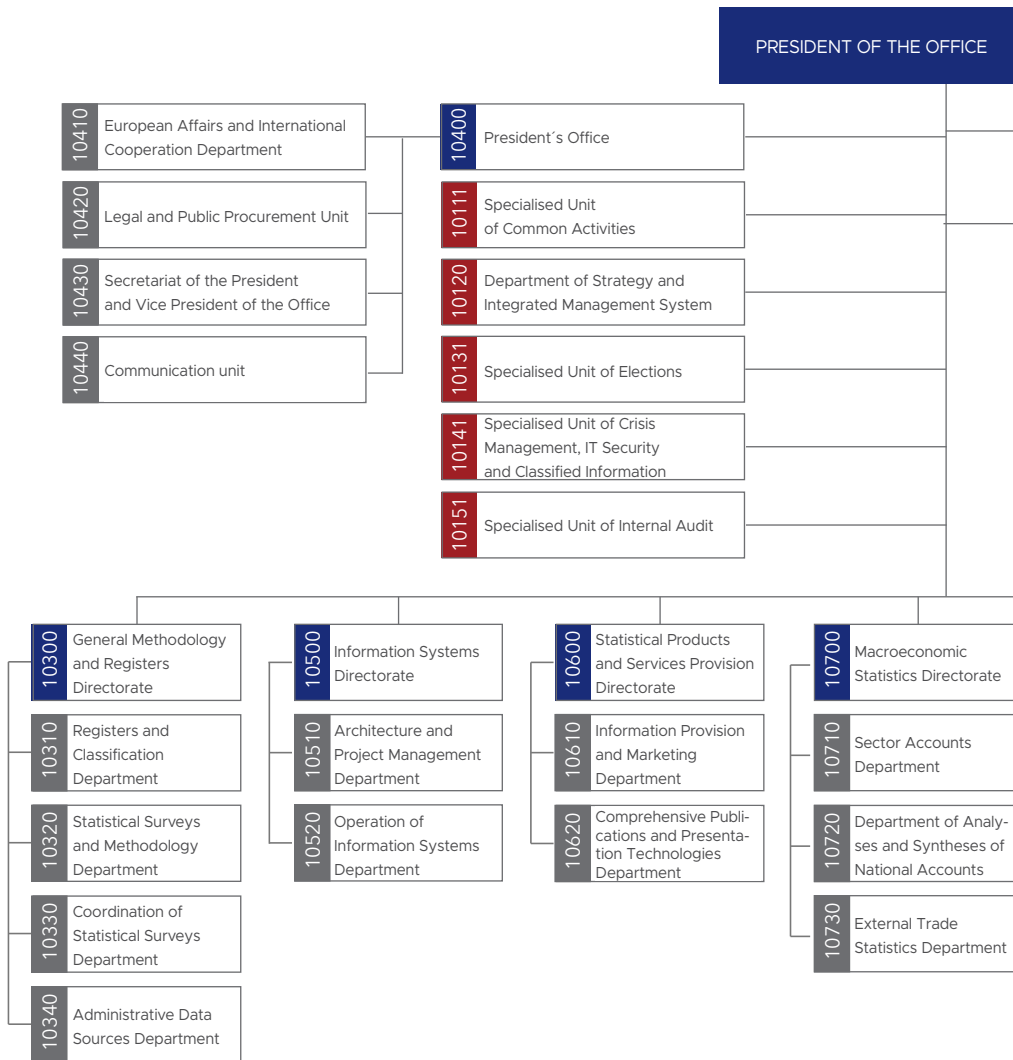
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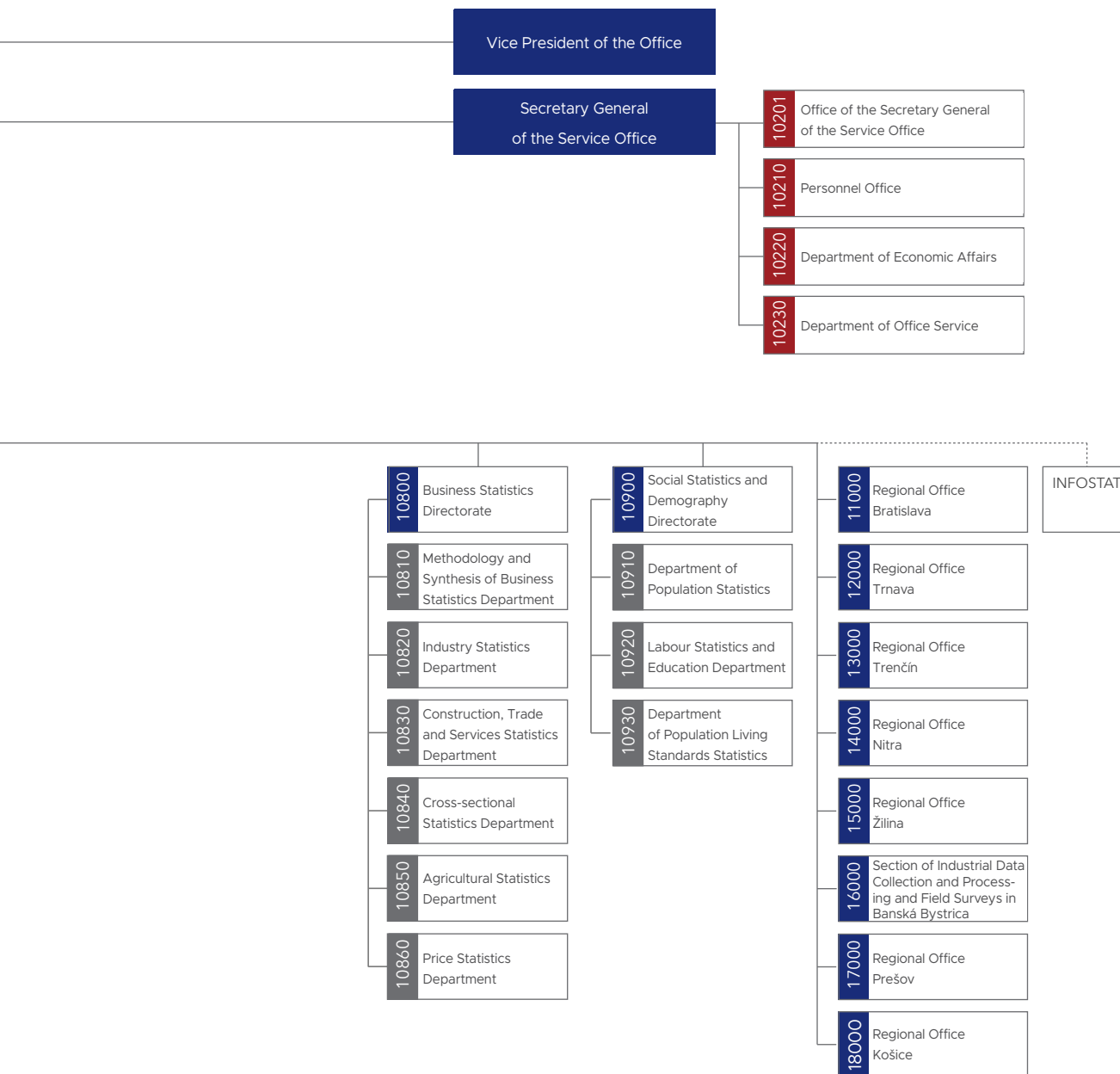
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Organizational structure

applicable as of 31 December 2020





Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Lamačská cesta 3/C, P.O.BOX 17
840 05 Bratislava 45

Telephone: +421-2-50236 222

E-mail: info@statistics.sk

Web: <http://www.statistics.sk>

**Statistical Office of the SR
– Regional Office Bratislava**

Lamačská 3/C, P.O.BOX 17
840 05 Bratislava 45

Telephone: +421-2-69250 101

E-mail: ks.ba@statistics.sk

**Statistical Office of the SR
– Regional Office Trnava**

Osvaldova 2
917 23 Trnava

Telephone: +421-33-5566 111

E-mail: trnava@statistics.sk

**Statistical Office of the SR
– Regional Office Trenčín**

Kniežata Pribinu 28
911 54 Trenčín

Telephone: +421-32-7460 111

E-mail: pracovisko.tn@statistics.sk

**Statistical Office of the SR
– Regional Office Nitra**

Rázusova 9, P.O.BOX 9B
949 55 Nitra

Telephone: +421-37-7752 201

E-mail: nitra@statistics.sk

**Institute of Informatics and Statistics
– INFOSTAT**

Leškova 16

817 95 Bratislava 15

Telephone: +421-2-59379 301

E-mail: infostat@infostat.sk

Web: <http://www.infostat.sk>

**Statistical Office of the SR
– Regional Office Žilina**

Framborská 23

011 21 Žilina

Telephone: +421-41-5113 201

E-mail: administratorza@statistics.sk

**Statistical Office of the SR – Section
of Industrial Data Collection and Processing
and Field Surveys in B. Bystrica**

Trieda SNP 75

974 89 Banská Bystrica

Telephone: +421-48-4323 111

E-mail: info_bb@statistics.sk

**Statistical Office of the SR
– Regional Office Prešov**

Plzenská 2

080 16 Prešov

Telephone: +421-51-7735 223

E-mail: admin.po@statistics.sk

**Statistical Office of the SR
– Regional Office Košice**

Werferova 3

040 11 Košice

Telephone: +421-55-6410 200

E-mail: kosice@statistics.sk

Information Service of the SO SR

Telephone: +421-2-50236 335

+421-2-50236 339

E-mail: info@statistics.sk

Office hours:

Po - Ut 8.30 – 12.00 13.00 – 14.30

Str 8.30 – 12.00 13.00 – 16.00

Štv 8.30 – 12.00 13.00 – 14.30

Pi 8.30 – 13.00

Library

Telephone: +421-2-50236 768

E-mail: kniznica@statistics.sk

Office hours:

Po - Ut 8.00 – 12.00

Str 8.00 – 12.00 13.00 – 14.00

Štv - Pi 8.00 – 12.00

Registry

Telephone: +421-2-50236 475

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Str 8.30 – 10.00 14.00 – 16.00

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Reception

Telephone: +421-2-50236 222

www.statistics.sk