



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Environment Transport

Continuing Vocational Training Survey
Business tendency statistics

Indicators Energy

statistical information Crime statistics

Education

Social statistics

Trade in goods - export and import of goods

National accounts National

National statistics in 2005 Economic statistics

Tourism

WWW.stat.si

Statistics on culture

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Rationalisation of data collection

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Household Budget Survey

2002 Census Level of living

Statistics on business entities

Health statistics

Information SOCIETY

Code of Practice Business demography

Short-term indicators

NATIONAL STATISTICS in Slovenia

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

The Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia

having considered,

at its 20th regular session on 10 May 2006,

the Report on the Implementation of the Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys 2005,

adopted the following

DECISION

"The Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia took note of the Report on the Implementation of the Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys 2005 and moved a motion addressed to the Director-General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia that the Report be adopted, taking account of the comments made by the Council's members."

RUDOLF MOGE

President of the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia

Introduction by the Director-General

Monitoring social, political and economic changes and their direct impact on the life and work of people over time involves, as far as national statistics are concerned, timely detection of such changes as well as ongoing adjustment of statistical survey programmes. The authorities responsible for national statistics therefore introduced, in addition to the Medium-term Statistical Programme 2003-2007, a yearly plan of priority regular and development tasks as a basis for determining the detailed contents of annual programmes of statistical surveys.

The Report drafted by the Slovenian national statistics authorities presents the realisation of the main objectives set for 2005 by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS), in cooperation with authorised producers, in the framework of the annual programme of statistical surveys. Our aim was to carry out the relevant statistical surveys while making rational use of human and financial resources, alleviating the burden on respondents and, at the same time, enhancing the timeliness and quality of statistical data and our services. The practical implementation of the official statistical work was presented at the end of 2005 in the interim report on the implementation of the Medium-Term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2003-2007 and discussed by the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia. Activities for drafting the next strategy for the 2008-2012 medium-term period will be started in the second half of 2006.

A new Eurostat dissemination policy in 2004 had an indirect impact on developments in national agencies. In 2005, an important step was made towards the strategic goal of providing user-friendly data access. The upgrading of the SI-STAT database into a portal improved significantly the accessibility of statistical data for users. Any field of statistics and all statistical data releases may be accessed through a single entry point; the numerous new facilities available include access to the websites of authorised producers of national statistics, where there are releases of statistical data on the particular fields they cover. It is our wish that this new way of publishing statistical data would not merely replace the previous system for dissemination of data but, given the structured display of relevant methodological explanations, also facilitate correct use of statistical data.

Since it is our aim that the wealth of statistical data reaches as many users as possible, an important part of our new dissemination model is promoting the use of statistical data to the broadest general public. In line with that purpose, in 2005 we continued publishing interesting everyday life data, e.g. names and surnames, birthdays, the population clock, holidays and remembrance days in terms of statistical data, which has been well received by the Slovenian public. Also important is the project of cooperation with libraries – it has focused on the training of librarians so as to enlarge

the network of staff who can assist end users in accessing statistical data.

The use of electronic and other web services along with the establishment of the new dissemination policy within the European statistics system further increased users' expectations. Their share has grown considerably, and this is proved by website visit statistics. However, it has become increasingly difficult to ascertain whether we have been successful in presenting statistical data and information in a form that is currently most needed or desired by end users. In October 2005, we carried out an e-survey measuring users' satisfaction with our website. The survey made possible, *inter alia*, the collection of information on our users' web usage, and this will be of considerable help in a future upgrading of our site as regards technical aspects and contents.

We are well aware that, in providing statistically protected microdata, it is essential to maintain the confidence of the public in the national statistics service. Our website explains to all interested users in a clear way how statistically protected data are treated. Furthermore, 2005 was also important with respect to the further establishing of rules, procedures and organisation in the field of management and dissemination of microdata.

In the context of information technologies, the Office carried out preparatory work with a view to formulating solutions that would allow the introduction of new technologies in the fields of collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating statistical data. Plans for 2006 call for the implementation of projects for the setting up of an e-reporting system, for integrated IT solutions for the support of statistical processes in the field of business statistics, and for the technical upgrading of the SI-STAT dissemination database. Throughout 2005, the Office continued its work on the project of transferring statistical processing from the central computer of the Ministry of Public Administration to its local environment and, furthermore, it upgraded its hardware and application infrastructure.

The work of the national statistics service in 2005 also involved preparations for accession to the eurozone. For the needs of informing the public about the transition to the new monetary unit in the context of national statistics, a special website has been created. In general, it may be concluded that sound inter-institutional organisation and appropriate coordination of work in the field of macroeconomic, monetary and balance of payments statistics have been the main contributors to the fact that the Slovenian national statistics service has not encountered any major difficulties in meeting the requirements for accession to ERM II, even though the problem of insufficient human resources remains. Furthermore, in 2005 preparations were initiated for chairing the Working Group on Statistics during the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2008.

As part of the rationalisation of data collection, we successfully continued the implementation of the plan on the use of administrative sources in statistics, both in terms of interinstitutional coordination and in terms of development and improvement of the quality of records; the participation of SORS in drafting amendments in the field of immovable property legislation is of special importance in this context. Owing to better quality records in this field, lower cost sectoral and national statistics will be possible. In line with recommendations for reducing the reporting burden on companies and the costs of national statistics, in autumn 2005 SORS began a feasibility study on the use of administrative sources (i.e. data of the Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia on VAT – VAT registration applications) for statistical purposes, that is for the calculation of short-term indicators of revenue trends. With this, the need to introduce a new monthly survey in wholesale trade was already removed, while in 2006, the possibilities for replacing the current surveys in the fields of trade, hotels and restaurants and other services with this administrative source will be examined.

Since 2005, concrete organisational, substantive and legal solutions for rationalising the collection of data on earnings by legal persons have been implemented under a special agreement between the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services (AJPES) and SORS, while, in the context of industry statistics, owing to a modification in the methodology of calculating the industrial production index (IPI), calculated from 2005 onwards on the basis of value data on turnover and stocks, SORS abolished monthly surveys that had been used since 1952 for monitoring production volume and stocks in industrial enterprises. This change has significantly reduced the burden on reporting units, which now report only some 5,000 data items monthly instead of the previous 30,000. In addition, the new methodology eliminated certain shortcomings of the previous system: quality change is taken into account, total industrial output of companies is covered and the burden on SORS resources is reduced.

We have accelerated activities in connection with the implementation of the four pillars of quality, on which the medium-term statistical programme is based, and of the European Statistics Code of Practice, which includes an integrated approach as regards the issue of quality in the European Statistical System.

SORS played an active role in providing expertise to the Government of Slovenia when it was negotiating the establishment of regions in Slovenia. The traditional international conference, held in Radenci in November 2005, was dedicated to the issue of statistical measurement and monitoring how the EMU requirements were being met, and what progress was being made regarding the Lisbon Strategy targets. Challenges taken up by national statistical offices provide them with an opportunity to participate in

policymaking based on official statistical data. International and national statistical institutions are well aware that they need to focus their attention on the quality of statistical data and the methods of measurement, which to a great extent depends on the quality and success of communication with data providers and users. These efforts of statistical institutions for better communication with the aforementioned groups were the central topic of the conference, which was attended by almost 200 statisticians, users of statistical data and data providers, including over 30 representatives of foreign statistical agencies and international statistical institutions. 2005 was also successful in terms of our cooperation with members of the Statistical Advisory Committees and of the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia who, in addition to advising on how to resolve outstanding methodological questions, play an important role in the promotion of interinstitutional exchange of information and good practices and of a more rational approach in planning the work of the national statistics service, in particular as regards recognising users' needs for statistical data and information and, on this basis, appropriately supplementing the surveys conducted pursuant to EU legislation and the gentlemen's agreements made in various EU working groups.

Upon successful completion of the work conducted in 2005, SORS, in its role as a coordinator of the national statistical system, wishes to express its thanks in particular to all authorised producers of national statistics, the Bank of Slovenia, the Ministry of Finance, the AJPES, the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia, the Employment Service of Slovenia, the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia, and the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, who contributed greatly both to attaining the objectives set and to the planning of priorities for 2006. Thanks are also due to all individuals and institutions that participated in statistical surveys or contributed in any other way through their data resources to higher quality statistics, and of course to our loyal users who encouraged us in our joint work in 2005.



IRENA KRIŽMAN MA,
Director-General, SORS

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CHAPTER I - STATISTICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

This chapter is devoted to the presentation of the main activities that were carried out in 2005 with a view to ensuring sound performance of the entire statistical system. The activities presented below contribute directly or indirectly to the attaining of the common goal, which is quality and credible national statistics.

QUALITY management in statistics and user-oriented policy

In June 2004, the financial ministers in the ECOFIN Council adopted a decision regarding conditions for enhancing trust in European statistical agencies and entrusted the European Commission with the task of drafting relevant proposals by June 2005 regarding Europe-wide standards on the independence, integrity and accountability of the European Statistical System.

European Statistics Code of Practice

On 24 February 2005, the Statistical Programme Committee adopted the European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP), the first ever instrument at the EU level, intended for systematic reinforcing of the quality of European official statistics which will, in turn, increase the trust of users and respondents in statistics. The fifteen principles set out by the Code, grouped into three sets, namely the institutional environment, the statistical production processes, and output, draw upon the existing international standards and the Quality Declaration of the European Statistical System.

SORS fully endorsed the Code which, in turn, is in line with the UN Resolution on the fundamental principles of official statistics in the ECE region as well as with national and EU legislation on statistics, and participated in the initial stage of monitoring the implementation of the Code, i.e. in the process of self-assessment of countries. The first results have shown that, in terms of professional independence, mandate for data collection and statistical confidentiality, Slovenia ranks among the most developed countries.

At the same time, the Code has provided an incentive for work on a revised quality strategy which should define in more detail the activities set out in the Medium-Term Programme of Statistical Surveys 2003–2007¹. This will further increase efforts towards quality and the search for synergy among respondents and users of statistical data and information.

Promotion of the Code

With a view to promoting the Code more among both the producers of national statistics as well as users and respondents, SORS produced a leaflet with a brief presentation of the Code's 15 principles. The rest of contents of the Code are available to those interested in the subject on the SORS website.

(see http://www.stat.si/eng/drz_stat_kakovost_kodeks.asp).

Getting feedback from users of statistics

In planning its work and implementing its plans, SORS does its best to actively obtain direct feedback from users of statistics and information services. Ways of getting information from users are manifold; formally this is done through cooperation with key users in individual fields of statistics within Statistical Advisory Committees and the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia as the highest representative of the users². Further instruments SORS systematically uses to get feedback from users are user satisfaction surveys. However, as information technology, as well as the provision and use of electronic and web-based services, have developed and the demands and expectations of users have grown, monitoring of a wide range of users has become much more difficult.

In respect of user satisfaction surveys, 2005 was devoted mainly to user evaluation of SORS's website and to the acquisition of information on website users' habits. Indeed checking the usefulness of the existing website solutions and searching for new ones is among the most important tasks of SORS.

User evaluation of SORS's website in 2005 – web survey

The last user satisfaction survey, conducted in autumn 2005, was part of SORS's ongoing efforts to be in touch with its website users and to improve its website to make it as useful as possible. The results indicate that

¹ These are: data users and respondents, development of human resources, quality of statistical products and services, and process-orientedness.

² All information concerning the work of individual statistical committees can be found at http://www.stat.si/eng/drz_stat_sosveti.asp, while information concerning the work of the Statistical Council can be found at http://www.stat.si/eng/drz_stat_svet.asp.

users had a positive opinion about the website in 2005, which was further confirmed by their assessment of the contents, navigation features and graphical layout as well as of the usefulness of the main dissemination channel.

The survey serves as an important source of new information on the website users, who are increasingly difficult to monitor due to the fast development of ICT technologies. The results of the qualitative analysis of suggestions from users for the improvement of the website provided SORS with new information for future upgrading of the site as regards technical aspects and content. In some cases SORS already had plans in hand, but in others it is planning to initiate new projects to address their concerns.

In 2005, no public image survey of SORS was conducted since, according to the Code of Practice, a harmonised (household) survey on public confidence in official statistics should be carried out. For the purpose of data comparability within the European Statistical System, SORS will launch such a survey in 2006.

Slovenian national statistics in the international context

Slovenia will hold the Presidency of the European Union from 1 January to 30 June 2008. SORS has participated in the preparations for the Presidency – in terms of organisation and content – since the beginning of January 2005, when the preparations were started by the Government. SORS will be chairing the Working Group on Statistics of the Council of the European Union.

The chairing of the working group, which holds meetings in Brussels, will be carried out from Ljubljana. SORS has opted for a project-based approach so as to ensure that chairing would be effective and efficient. In 2005, the initial document of the project was drafted, two chairing persons of the Working Group on Statistics of the Council of the European Union were appointed and a draft list of priorities in the field of statistics during the Presidency was made.

Participation in legislative procedures

In 2005, SORS actively participated in the process of drafting and passing of EU legislation in the field of statistics. It has regularly taken part, from the earliest stages, in the drafting of legislation within the Eurostat working groups and in the procedures of adopting legislative proposals within the framework of the Statistical Programme Committee and other comitology committees and within the Working Group on Statistics. In comparison with other areas, the harmonisation of positions regarding EU legislative proposals in the field of statistics is specific and requires special organisation because authorised producers of national statistics also participate in the procedure.

Measurement of quality of data in statistical surveys

In 2005, work continued in the area of measuring the quality of data in statistical surveys: instructions on the methodology of drafting standard quality reports were drawn up and these introduced annual and standard reports at intervals of 3 to 5 years. SORS plans to have all reports that have been drafted so far published on its website in 2006. The reports should provide a better overall view for users of the quality of statistical surveys, while the standardisation of reports at the level of the European Statistical System will allow international comparability.

Database containing data on quality

A novelty in the setting up of a special quality indicators database is in the extension of production indicators towards indicators that are user-oriented. The database, which will be filled automatically by SORS, will offer its users the possibility to compare the quality of different statistical surveys from various aspects: from the aspect of time comparability in terms of quality within a statistical survey, e.g. Labour Force Survey 2003 and 2004, and from the aspect of territorial comparability in terms of quality, i.e. a comparison of similar surveys in different countries.

Activities within the European Statistical System and cooperation with international organisations

In 2005, SORS was active within the European Statistical System as well as within the Conference of European Statisticians of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (mainly within the Bureau of the Conference) and it also participated in the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission and of specialised agencies, funds and programmes of the UN³ and other international organisations, in particular the OECD. Representatives of SORS participated in the work of various working groups and committees and other bodies of the institutions referred to above, and they discussed and deliberated over topical issues from various fields of statistics and took part in the preparation of agreements, strategies and other important documents.

Technical assistance programmes and international agreements

In 2005, SORS took on and successfully conducted various technical assistance projects and other support projects in the field of statistics that were financed by the EU/Eurostat (Phare, Transition Facility) and

³ ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, IMF, UNIDO, WTO, UNICEF, UNDP.

intended for further harmonisation of national statistics of the new Member States.

On the basis of agreements on cooperation in the field of statistics which it has concluded, SORS is active as a provider of assistance to the statistical offices of Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. In June 2005, SORS concluded a special Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Statistics with the Statistical Office of Serbia and Montenegro.

In 2005 SORS conducted the following projects:

- pilot project *Measuring GDP in terms of purchasing power parity*, in which countries of the Western Balkans participate;
- twinning programme conducted in a consortium with Denmark and Finland, entitled *Modernisation of labour statistics in Croatia*, in which SORS participates successfully as a junior partner.

Cooperation of authorised producers of national statistics in the international environment

In addition to SORS, the producers of national statistics were also highly active in the context of international cooperation, in particular the Bank of Slovenia and the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia.

Since accession to the EU, representatives of the *Bank of Slovenia* have been participating, along with representatives of other new Member States, at plenary sessions of the Statistical Committee and of the ESCB working groups on balance of payments and external reserves statistics, general economic statistics, government finance statistics, monetary and banking statistics, Monetary Union financial accounts, and on statistical information systems. The representatives of the Bank of Slovenia also actively participated in 2005 in special development task forces of the ECB on financial markets statistics and on the development of the ECB Centralised securities database at the ECB.

The *Institute of Public Health* continued in 2005 its work in various expert and working groups within Eurostat, ECE/CES, the UN Statistical Commission, SPC, EC DG SANCO, EC DG Employment and EC DG Environment. On this basis, various expert papers have been drafted in the context of public health statistics. The Institute of Public Health has been awarded a contract for the implementation of several projects under international tenders, and has thus confirmed its key role in the field of health statistics in Slovenia and has been offered new development opportunities.

15th International statistical conference - Statistical Days 2005

The 15th international conference, entitled "Communication with Statistical Data Providers and Users and Support for EMU and the Lisbon Strategy", organised by the Statistical Society of Slovenia and SORS, was held in Radenci, Slovenia, from 7 to 9 November 2005.

Section I of the Conference was devoted mainly to presenting and discussing new challenges awaiting the European Statistical System (ESS), its management structure, and progress in the measurement and development of individual countries in terms of statistics.

The main conclusion of Section I was that statistics is increasingly used in the formulation of policies without sufficient attention being paid to data quality. There is a constant growth of demand, mostly concerning Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), but the ESS has no mechanism for setting out priorities, in particular negative priorities. The policy of adding new requirements to the surveys already conducted is no longer in proportion to the resources available to the national statistical offices and to Eurostat. A further limiting factor is the burden on reporting units, mostly on companies.

There were proposals as to the new ways of effective and timely ensuring of monthly and quarterly Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEI), some of which have been tested, e.g.:

- European aggregate estimate when 80% of all data of a country are available;
- different reporting requirements for large and smaller countries, depending on their weight for the European aggregate (EU and eurozone);
- use of European samples for business surveys instead of 25 national samples.

The other part of the section discussed different approaches in measuring progress or development both within and outside a national statistics framework. Presentations included efforts at the national level for more efficient use of existing administrative sources and data on companies, and efforts to reduce the lag in indicators measuring key activities and results of national programmes. Such instruments are data development strategies for all ministries/agencies and mechanisms for reducing the reporting burden for companies through data sharing (while ensuring statistical confidentiality). In steering, promoting and monitoring such efforts, national statistical offices play a key role.

Moreover, it was highlighted that for measuring country development appropriate indicators need to be determined, whereby the cooperation of analysts and statisticians is very important. A microsimulation model is of great importance for monitoring the impact of reforms, and statistics has an important role to play here. Another example showed how modern graphical tools, displaying various key indicators of development across countries, can, in spite of the information overload to which they are already exposed, contribute to gaining the attention of policymakers and citizens. In this way, it becomes more likely that the information provided through official statistics will contribute to better knowledge of users and thus to better (i.e. evidence-based) decision-making.

At the conference, within the framework of special presentations intended primarily for informing the professional public, SORS presented its SI-STAT data portal. Moreover, two authorised producers of national statistics presented themselves, these being the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute and the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services, as did some other institutions, among them the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, which

presented its publications, and the Serbia and Montenegro Statistical Office.

All information concerning the conference, including the papers presented, is available at:
http://www.stat.si/eng/stat_radenci_2005.asp.

DATA PROTECTION and statistical confidentiality

In Slovenia, the entities entitled to obtain statistically protected microdata include registered research institutions, registered researchers and researchers at government offices.

The right of researchers to obtain statistically protected microdata is not absolute – they can obtain it on the condition that they can guarantee the protection of those data. Statistically protected microdata can be obtained only for statistical-analytical and scientific-research purposes, where the results are of general benefit to society. Under no circumstances may statistically protected microdata be obtained for non-statistical purposes, such as administrative purposes where dissemination of microdata would have a direct administrative consequence for a citizen or a company, for tax purposes, or for judicial or business purposes.

Information on the availability of microdata on the website

In providing statistically protected microdata it is essential to preserve the confidence of the public in SORS. In this context, SORS posted on its website information on the accessing and use of microdata.

In addition to offering basic information on the accessing and use of statistically protected microdata, it includes a list of institutions and individuals who, in 2005, obtained the approval of SORS to work with protected microdata, and the fields covered in the disseminated microdata.

Researchers can also find there the form required for obtaining statistically protected data, a model contract for work in a "secure room" and a model contract for working remotely.

Basic information for researchers on accessing and using statistically protected microdata is available at:
http://www.stat.si/eng/drz_stat_mikro.asp.

Work of the Data Protection Committee

"In 2005 SORS received over 50 requests for microdata and the Data Protection Committee deliberated about the requests in compliance with the prescribed procedure."

The Data Protection Committee, an advisory body to the Director-General of SORS in the area of data protection, consists of experts in law, statistics and dissemination. In addition to giving advice in individual cases, the Committee conducts analyses and makes

proposals regarding operational solutions in the activities of SORS in the field of data protection (technical protection of microdata, authorised access to microdata, logistics of microdata dissemination, internal acts on data protection) and participates in developing data protection at the international level. The Data Protection Committee reports to the Director of SORS and to the Statistical Council of the Republic of Slovenia on the protection of data within SORS by 30 April in the current year for the preceding year.

Remote access of researchers to data – joint project of SORS and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology

Up until the end of 2005, SORS was delivering statistically protected microdata on CDs, which was, from the point of view of data protection, not an optimal solution. Therefore, together with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology it embarked on a joint project with the goal of providing remote access to statistically protected microdata.

The objectives of the *joint project* are as follows:

- setting up a system for remote access of researchers to statistically protected microdata,
- increasing transparency of delivering microdata to researchers,
- ensuring high-level protection for statistically protected microdata,
- maintaining trust of the public in SORS while increasing microdata delivery to researchers,
- ensuring simple, convenient, fast, and – from a regional point of view – fair access of researchers to statistical data for analysis,
- enhancing possibilities for informed decision-making in drafting and evaluating legislative acts in Slovenia.

SORS cooperates with the Ministry in the financial and organisational field; this cooperation was formalised as the Protocol on the implementation of the joint project of remote access of researchers to statistically protected microdata.

For analysing the most sensitive data or for using non-standard software, SORS introduced in 2005 work with

microdata in a "secure room" in the premises of SORS at Vožarski pot 12, Ljubljana.

Use of statistical methods for data protection

2005 saw the continuation of regular and development work on the protection of tabular data and microdata

with the software packages τ-Argus and μ-Argus. Slovenia was among five countries that participated in the work of Eurostat's working group on data protection for the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and, together with the Netherlands, it was successful in bidding for the CENEX-project in the field of statistical protection of data.

Development of statistical METHODOLOGY for enhancing the quality of collecting, compiling and processing of statistical data

As regards statistical methodology, the development tasks of SORS in 2005 were focused on developing sampling in compliance with standards for statistical needs and analysis methods, with an intensive analysis of a broader use of administrative resources for the creation of sampling frameworks and the weighting and of improving estimates, in particular in business surveys.

A comparative analysis of data on the extensiveness of the telephone network and of mobile phones within the framework of telephone samples of individuals and households continued in 2005, and the possibility of mobile phones being included in the survey was analysed. Development work was also conducted in the area of time series prediction and reconciliation, and towards standardisation of the methodology of surveys involving individuals and households. As regards quality, the standardisation of the introductory part of the questionnaire for individuals and households, which was already started in 2004, resulted in the comparability of certain survey indicators, such as the non-response rate and suitability rate. In 2005, the questionnaire was supplemented by panel surveys, which are necessary for monitoring relocations of respondents.

Data editing

In the field of data editing, automated processing is increasingly used worldwide.

The same is true for SORS, which uses SAS software for automated editing process. In 2005, automatic editing was used in certain small statistical surveys; its use has been most successful in the context of statistics on earnings paid, where all data received from AJPES is automatically edited.

SORS has made an important step forward in the field of statistical data editing – it has designed methods for automated data editing to be used instead of the previously used manual editing. These methods were first put into trial use for determining earnings structure and later into regular use for producing statistics on new orders in the industrial sector and for earnings statistics. In this way, SORS reduced the workload both on its staff, who had been previously engaged in producing the data concerned, and on the companies ordering the data.

In 2005, a software module was developed, and this is intended for detecting and correcting errors, which allows for repeated use in different statistical analyses.

Electronic data processing and development of information technology

In the context of its development tasks, in 2005 SORS initiated preparations for infrastructure solutions which would allow the introduction of new technologies in the field of data collection. The first pilot project is due to be ready in the first half of 2006. In 2005, intensive development of the entire IT system of SORS took place, that is, the construction of new and upgrading of the existing IT infrastructure – including statistical registers and data entry systems; statistical processing, analysing and tabulation; the system of dissemination and the website; group work support tools – allowing effective and quality work for all that participate in the statistical process.

Information technologies

In 2005, SORS introduced certain Internet tools and upgraded some others so as to facilitate the carrying out of certain infrastructure tasks and, furthermore, it introduced necessary modifications in the systems supporting the statistical process. The hardware involved (workstation, servers) was upgraded according to plans. The development work has been carried out within the framework of three projects.

The project entitled "secure room", the purpose of which is to provide e-access for researchers to deindividualised

data, entered the implementation stage in 2005. This facility will be available to researchers in the first half of 2006. The project of migration from the central computer of the Ministry of Public Administration to the local environment of SORS is scheduled for completion in 2006, with statistical processing fully transferred to the local environment of SORS. In 2005, preparations began for a major modernisation programme in the field of business statistics, the Integrated Statistical Information System ISIS, implementation of which is scheduled for 2006.

National and international standard CLASSIFICATIONS – efforts towards common understanding and usage

The use of standard classifications in administrative databases is obligatory and it affects the quality and consistency of data in administrative records. Data organised in such a way are also a valuable source for the needs of national statistics and their international comparability. In addition to the classifications that are obligatory under Government decrees, national statistics also make use of numerous other classifications, prescribed as a statistical standard and furnished with instructions on methodology. All classifications are available at <http://www.stat.si/eng/klasje.asp>.

Classifications in the field of economic activities

Standard Classification of Institutional Sectors (SKIS)

Together with the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services, the Bank of Slovenia and the Ministry of Finance, SORS worked in 2005 on the drafting of a new decree on the standard classification of institutional sectors, which the Government adopted at its 59th regular session on 2 February 2006. The decree on SKIS supplements, for the purposes of recording, collecting, processing, analysing, disseminating and presenting statistical data important for compiling national and regional accounts, the classification of institutional sectors⁴. The decree establishes a further breakdown in the sub-sectors of central government and local government; each of the two sub-sectors is further divided into direct budget users, funds and other units. Other provisions of the decree do not deal with the classification but with the way it is managed and maintained. Thus, the decree stipulates that AJPES should furnish all units listed in the Business Register of Slovenia (PRS), at the moment of their entry into the Register, with a code of the institutional sector to which they pertain, while SORS may require, in cases where it ascertains that a classification was incorrect or inappropriate in the actual situation, that AJPES performs a new classification. The decree provides that for resolving controversial cases of classification of units in the above Register according to the Standard Classification of Institutional Sectors, there will be a committee - a consultative body of SORS - whose members will be representatives of AJPES, the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Slovenia, and SORS.

Classification of Economic Activities (NACE) and Classification of Products by Activity (CPA)

In compliance with the main guidelines of the medium-term programme, in the period 2002-2005 SORS participated in the project *Operation 2007* within the framework of the Eurostat NACE/CPA working group, which is in charge of the maintenance and development of the system of statistical economic classifications, formulates premises for the classification of activities and products, and cooperates with other working bodies of the EU and international institutions in the development and harmonisation of statistical standards in the field of classifications. The purpose of the project was to revise the Classification of Economic Activities

(NACE Rev. 2) and the Classification of Products by Activity (CPA). SORS will endeavour to ensure the least negative impact of the changes in statistical classifications on the administrative and business environment.

Plan of transition to NACE Rev.2

The drafting of the plan is currently underway. Adoption of the relevant EU regulation is anticipated by the end of this year. NACE Rev. 2 will become applicable for all Member States from 1 January 2008. SORS believes that the discussion with key users of the Standard Classification of Activities (SCA) about a possible need to introduce national sub-classes will be completed by autumn 2006. According to the plans, the decree on **NACE Rev.2** should be adopted in the first quarter of 2007 at the latest and used for statistical purposes and in the administrative environment from 1 January 2008 onwards. The keeper of the Business Register of Slovenia will classify business entities according to the **NACE Rev.2** from 1 January 2008 onwards, while SORS will, in the context of its statistical surveys, classify business entities according to both the existing and the new classification presumably until the end of 2010.

Classifications in the field of social statistics

KLASIUS Classification System of Education and Training

Currently, several different classifications and codifications are used in Slovenia for classifying levels of education attained by individuals and for classifying education programmes and schools. Most frequently used are the classifications of qualification levels, and of regular school educational levels, the type of highest school completed and the level of required professional competence for performance of the task and duties according to the individual legal act governing the system of professional competence for positions – they are used for filling in application forms providing data for pension, disability and health insurance and other purposes and they are all derived from the former Yugoslav law of 1977 governing administrative records registers in the field of labour. Since the proposed new act governing administrative records in the field of labour and social security, currently (April 2006) being debated by the National Assembly, provides that data on attained education be kept in the context of administrative records registers on labour, SORS drafted a Decree on the introduction and use of the KLASIUS classification system of education and training.

⁴ N.B. – as provided by the Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 of 25 June 1996 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community

KLASIUS

The Decree will replace the outdated classifications and codifications and at the same time ensure a higher degree of uniformity and coherence of official, administrative and other registers containing data concerning the level, type and field of education. This is especially important for national statistics based predominately on registers, that is to say for national statistics that tend to acquire data from registers kept by national authorities and from registers and databases kept by other entities. Klasius consists of the classification of types of education activities/outcomes and the classification of the field of education activities/outcomes; Subsequently, after acquiring preliminary opinions of line ministries, SORS will draft explanations as to the methodology concerned with a view to ensuring common understanding and use of the classifications by users.

User-friendly ACCESS to statistical data and information

SORS is making a sustained effort to improve methods of data and information communication and attempts to accurately keep abreast of all internationally accepted dissemination principles. Various groups of users with different needs for statistical data and information and different technical possibilities of accessing national statistics data affect the preparation of different forms of communication, which means that SORS uses various dissemination channels to communicate statistical data and information, resulting in different types of presentation of statistical data, services and publications.

Simple and effective way to access data through website

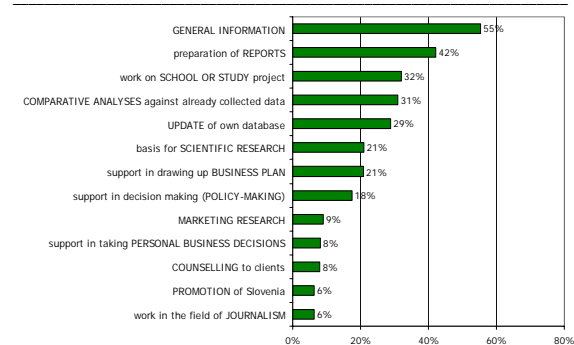
"The SORS website recorded over 1.2 million visitors in 2005, which is an average of 3,333 visitors per day. Compared with 2004, the average number of visitors per day increased by 590 or 21.5 %" (Source: SORS)

Major changes in the contents and design of the SORS website, including accelerated publication of data in databases, along with the increased accessibility of Internet at home, at work or at numerous e-points, brought about major changes in modes of communication between SORS and users. With a growing focus on presenting data through the website, the SORS website has become a central communication channel with users; the SORS Information Centre, featuring as a main intermediary between published data and users, has been playing a new role of consultant and educator.

Such trends have been noted by SORS research and analysis in the field of user follow-up; in 2004 users had no significant difficulties in accepting interactive self-access to data and in 2005 the situation was even better. In 2005, SORS made an important step as regards access to data, with its database being upgraded to a portal enabling users to access all published statistical data in every individual statistical field.

Reasons for visiting SORS website in 2005

Source: SORS, Survey of users' opinion about the website of SORS in 2005 (N = 1,068)



SI-STAT data portal – novelty in 2005

In 2005, the SI-STAT database, which includes PC-Axis⁵ file format, was upgraded according to the principle of a portal single entry point with links to all published statistical data accessible on the SORS website, to websites of authorised producers and to data published on the Eurostat website, as well as to statistical units of certain international organisations.

⁵ PC-Axis is based on text format. Each data file starts with key words describing the structure, contents and characteristics of the data, using equal mode for all data files. Key words are followed by data using the same structure. The data file itself can be read by any text browser. There are several programs to recognise key words in PC-Axis, the most important are PX-Web (Internet interface enabling data review) and PC-Axis (with functions similar to internet interface but enabling local work without size limitations to users who install PC-Axis on their PC and save data files to their personal computer in PC-Axis format).

An interface for reviewing data was upgraded, a file with comprehensive help to users was set up and new functionalities provided. Free of charge registration enables users to save tables for subsequent use and to receive automated information on data updates.

"By the end of 2005, there were 1,177 registered portal users."
(Source: SORS)

Along with the new contents added to the SI-STAT database, the users' interface for reviewing data has been adjusted so as to be more user-friendly; a single base with notes on classification has been in preparation. SORS also maintained links between data and methodological explanations.

New features of the SI-STAT data portal in 2005

In 2005, SORS added 57 new narrower areas to the SI-STAT database; at the end of 2005, there were a total of 323 different tables (130 in 2004) within 16 out of 27 statistical fields. The creation of new contents continues, while existing data are constantly updated.

On a monthly basis, SORS SI-STAT database published data on earnings by legal persons, prices, tourism, export and import of goods, agriculture, energy, industrial production, retail trade and business trends; *on a quarterly basis*, on the average external trade price and volume indices and on transport; *on an annual basis*, on population, business entities, construction, fisheries, price indices, energy and agriculture; and *year-on-year* data on industry, fisheries, tourism and the environment.

Link to the SI-STAT database portal:
<http://www.stat.si/pxweb/dialog/statfile1.asp>

Additional services on the website

On its website, SORS offers some additional services, mainly to users who register free of charge. Consequently, users may receive through e-mail:

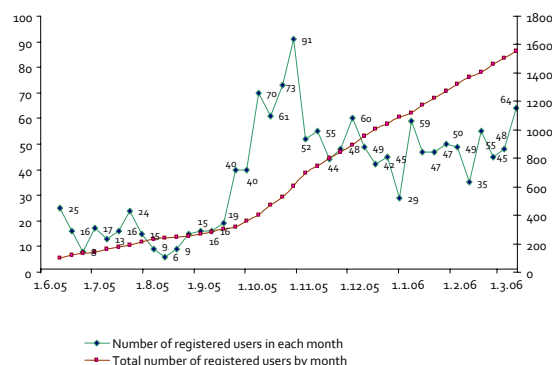
- notices on the First Release and new Rapid Reports from their fields of interest;
- release calendar and
- other notices published by SORS on its website.

The novelties in 2005 include, in addition to upgraded contents of the website, the possibility of subscribing to information on the SI-STAT database changes, as well as the possibility of keeping abreast of First Releases or novelties and the release calendar using RSS technology. This technology (based on XML standard) enables users to be automatically informed of subjects of interest⁶.

⁶ Regarding RSS channels see
http://www.stat.si/eng/rss_info.asp.

Rise in the number of registered SI-STAT users from June 2005 to March 2006

Source: SORS, Records of registered users of the SI-STAT portal



The statistical data bank, set up within SORS 30 years ago, contains approximately 2.1 billion statistical data in about 300 standardised tables from various areas; it has been upgraded in 2005. Searching by key words in standardised tables, computerized formation of time series in standardised tables, data display cards, printing parts of tables and tables display in XML and XLS format have all been improved. Data contained in the bank may also be accessed through links on the SI-STAT portal.

Link to the statistical data bank:
<http://bsp1h.gov.si/D2300.kom/komstart.html>

Publication of questionnaires on the website: A new feature concerning metadata was offered to users in 2005, namely access to questionnaires used by SORS for primary statistical data collection under the Programme of Statistical Surveys. Access to questionnaires through the SORS website will enable users to better understand data and improve quality utilisation of data.

Statistical terminology database: SORS employees must have knowledge of specific terminology and need solid dictionary support (all need their dictionary collections on a daily basis) in searching for information, compiling the growing number of documents received in different EU languages, and in particular in studying methodologies and publishing statistical data. In 2005, preparations were underway for setting up a statistical terminology database to be published on the Internet; SORS will continue this activity in 2006 and thus improve the accessibility of statistical terminology to external users.

"By the end of 2005, the database contained over 20,000 recordings of which 19,000 are already accessible to all SORS employees through the Bookshelf of electronic dictionaries in the database of statistical terminology." (Source: SORS)

Access of authorised producers of national statistics to statistical data

At its last meeting, the Statistical Advisory Committee on Real Property⁷ discussed the possibility that SORS would provide access to sectoral statistics through its website, but such access would not include only authorised producers of national statistics.

Intensive work concerning the publication of statistical data and information was also underway at other authorised producers:

- *The Institute of Public Health* publishes the Health Statistical Yearbook and other publications concerning particular fields of work. In 2005, every effort was made to update the website⁸ which proved to be a very successful channel for dissemination of statistical data and information among a wide circle of users.
- In 2005, the *Ministry of Finance* continued its activities in the field of regular monthly collection and publication of data on government finance statistics. Data on the national budget, national debt stock and consolidated general government revenue and expenditure, including a monthly Public Finance Bulletin, are published on the Ministry of Finance website:
<http://www.gov.si/mf/angl/index.htm>.
- On its website, *the Bank of Slovenia* publishes data for Slovenia in accordance with the IMF's Special

⁷ http://www.stat.si/eng/drz_stat_sosveti.asp

⁸ Visit The Institute of Public Health's website (Slovenian version only): <http://www.ivz.si/>

Data Dissemination Standards, in cooperation with SORS and the Ministry of Finance. These Standards require regular publication of methodologically sound key macroeconomic data according to the pre-announced calendar. Compliance with the said Standards provides for macroeconomic transparency permitting early identification of financial problems and is, therefore, important in gaining access to international financial markets. Key financial and macroeconomic data for Slovenia are published in a Monthly Bulletin. In 2005, the annual publication Financial Accounts in Slovenia was launched and is issued in addition to the quarterly publication Financial Markets and the annual publication Direct Investments. All the above publications, as well as information on the balance of payments, longer data time series from the Bulletin and certain other important data are published on its website:

<http://www.bsi.si/en/>.

SDDD: Statistical Data Dissemination Standard

In 2005, the Bank of Slovenia in cooperation with SORS and the Ministry of Finance continued to publish data, metadata and a release calendar in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Standards. The IMF continually examines Slovenia's compliance with the Standards. In 1997 Slovenia had already acceded to the Standard that provides for macroeconomic transparency and permits early identification of financial problems and thus facilitates access to international financial markets, and fully complies with the said Standard.

CHAPTER II - DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

DEMOGRAPHIC statistics

Owing to low fertility and the increasingly rapid ageing of the population, the area of demographic development of Slovenia's population is coming into focus not only in the scientific and research sphere, but also in the political sphere. SORS has been constantly monitoring this area and providing relevant statistical data for raising the awareness of the public and for the formulation of appropriate analyses and policies. Although demographic statistics are an important issue, there were no major changes in the collection of demographic data and their dissemination in 2005.



Demographic research followed the guidelines of the 2003 – 2007 medium-term period in the field of national statistics. In accordance with the policy of alleviating the burden on reporting units and reducing costs, SORS took part of the data from administrative sources (particularly the Central Population Register, database on foreigners and the database on deaths), and part from statistical sources. Negotiations on taking over the database on births from the Institute of Public Health have continued into 2006. 2005 was the last year

SORS took the data for demographic statistics from demographic questionnaires.

E-Register of births, deaths and marriages, established in May 2005, computerised the procedures of entries on registration facts and civil status that the registrars used to enter into the registry books. Gradually, all data on registration facts and civil status will also be computerised for the past.

The setting up of an E-Register of births, deaths and marriages enabled SORS to abolish the majority of demographic questionnaires that simultaneously served for the registration of personal facts, for example, the

registration of birth, marriage, etc.

Population statistics

"Over the last eleven years, the average age of mothers at first birth increased by 2.7 years and achieved the maximum of 27.5 years in 2004. In 1970, a woman of this age had on average already given birth to a second child". (Source: SORS)

The central source of individual data on the population of Slovenia is the Central Population Register, whose administrator is the Ministry of the Interior. SORS, which obtains data for quarterly dissemination of the population figures from the Register, directed its activities in 2005 towards a change in the collection of data from the Register, produced as a consequence of future changes in the data source for foreigners and the required alignment of national definitions of population and migration with European legislation, which is currently still being drafted.

Obtaining individual data on foreigners

The content and quality of data on the population and migration and also the data of other statistical research and statistical registers are affected by the quality of individual data on foreigners. In 2005, SORS obtained for the first time a test database containing individual data on permanently and temporarily registered foreigners as at 30 September 2004 from the Directorate for Administrative and Interior Affairs (within the Ministry of the Interior).

Further development of population statistics was marked in 2005 by work on the methodology required for the setting up of the Statistical Population Register. It will provide the record of all collected data on persons from the existing administrative records and in consequence their merging and linking. The purpose of setting up the Register is particularly the uniform monitoring of population numbers and demographic events and providing data on the population for statistical and analytical purposes and other expert tasks and assignments of SORS, as well as providing data on the population according to the internationally recommended definitions.

Migration statistics

"In the middle of 2005, Slovenia's population exceeded 2 million for the second time (2 001 114). This growth was mainly due to the positive net migration of foreigners. The size of the population in the territory of Slovenia was higher only on 30 June 1991." (Source: SORS)

Owing to the increasing needs for harmonized data on migration and asylum required for the formulation of policies, the European Commission, in cooperation with Eurostat, decided to regulate the collection of data for these two fields through appropriate legislation. SORS cooperated with the Ministry of the Interior in the activities related to drawing up the final proposal and positions on the European Parliament and Council Regulation on the statistics of the Community on

migration and international protection. This Regulation will regulate the communication of statistical data from EU Member States on migrants, population (according to their usual residence), residence permits, applications for international protection (of refugees, temporary protection and other forms), decisions on applications for international protection, persons refused entry at the external borders, returned illegally present persons and acquisitions of citizenship to Eurostat.

The purpose of the European Parliament and Council Regulation on the statistics of the Community on migration and international protection is to establish a European legal basis that will uniformly regulate the collection of data on migration and international protection and gradually contribute to the harmonization of the use of important definitions in all EU Member States, thus increasing international comparability of the aforementioned statistical data.

The Regulation is expected to be adopted in 2006, while 2008 is to be the first reference year for submitting the data to Eurostat. The Regulation will be followed by implementing legislation.

Discussions conducted in drafting a final proposal of the Regulation paid major attention to the definitions of the usual place of residence and long-term migration that the European Commission formed on the basis of the relevant definitions of the United Nations, which set out the condition of one-year residence in a territorial unit as an international standard. Most objections on the part of the Member States were raised against Article 8 of the Regulation, because it envisages providing data on the social and economic characteristics of persons that are relevant within the context of the Regulation.

During the drafting of European legislation on statistics covering international migration and international protection, in 2005 SORS participated in and also coordinated the production of commentaries on the Report on the THESIM project⁹.

Population projections

"Under the basic version of these projections, the size of Slovenia's population will rise from the current 1.99 million to almost 2.02 million by the year 2014, but afterwards it will experience a slow, but steady decline, falling to 1.89 million by 2050. Such a development will be the consequence of a constantly increasing life expectancy at birth, fertility and migration. Life expectancy for men will increase from 72.6 years to 79.8 years in 2050 and from 80.2 to 85.2 years for women." (Source: SORS)

The formulation of new projections is particularly important owing to the problem of population ageing in Europe detected in recent years and also expected in the future. The accession of the new EU Member States

⁹ The purpose of the THESIM project (English: *Towards Harmonized European Statistics on International Migrations*) was to investigate the availability, reliability and international comparability of the EU Member States data on migration statistics.

accelerated the preparations for drawing up new projections for these countries in order to make the data on the size and age-gender structure of the EU Member States population as comparable as possible today and in the future.

At the beginning of 2005, the activities related to drawing up projections of Slovenia's population up until 2050 continued at Eurostat, which used its data sources

and SORS data for making the projections and published them for individual states on its website in April 2005. The main version of these data for Slovenia was published by SORS in the SI-STAT database¹⁰.

¹⁰ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=601.

LABOUR MARKET – Persons in Employment, Earnings and Labour Costs

For the purpose of measuring the effectiveness of the national strategy on the development of the labour market, employment and seeking solutions to unemployment, the national statistics office has regularly provided data on earnings, labour costs and active population from surveys conducted in households and enterprises and through the use of existing administrative and statistical data for policy planners in 2005.



In order to ease the burden on reporting units, SORS has continued with the development of procedures and methods within labour market statistics that will serve to replace the collection of data in reporting units with data from existing statistical and administrative sources. Thus the calculation of the quarterly index of labour costs and vacancy statistics are based on the exclusive use of existing sources.

In 2005, SORS continued to develop the methodology for earnings by gender, level of professional skills, education and occupation by combining data from the Statistical Register of Employment, which it administers, and by drawing on income tax data, thus replacing sample surveys in enterprises¹¹.

Persons in employment

The monitoring of persons who are not in employment is carried out within the framework of national statistics by means of various data sources that complement each other, thus on the one hand increasing the quality of statistics and on the other hand reducing the burden of reporting units by rationalising collection procedures.

Through data from the *Labour Force Survey*¹², SORS provides internationally comparable indices on the movement and structure of the active population in terms of the main demographic and employment characteristics. For measuring the efficiency of individual national employment policies, SORS additionally provides monthly data on the movement of the active population¹³ and the registered

¹¹ Within the context of "Earnings by level of professional skills" with the abbreviations ZAP/L, ZAP/2L and partially ZAP/3L.

¹² The Labour Force Survey is the amplest official survey of households in Slovenia and SORS implements it continuously in line with the concept of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), and publishes the results quarterly. (see http://www.stat.si/eng/tema_demografsko_trg_dap.asp)

¹³ The source is data from the Statistical register of working population, Labour Force Survey and the number of registered

unemployment rate at the lower territorial levels (municipalities, regions), which cannot be provided by the Labour Force Survey due to its sample survey nature.

"81% of persons in employment may come to work or leave work at least one hour before or later due to family obligations."¹⁴ (Source: SORS).

Ad hoc modules¹⁵ in 2005 and 2006 in Labour Force Survey

Reconciling work and family life – ad hoc module in 2005

Men and women should have equal opportunities in using parental leave or special absences in order to care for family members in case of sickness or accidents. By means of an ad hoc module, SORS tried to measure the current state in this field in Slovenia, i.e. whether individuals are integrated into the labour market in accordance with their desires and needs for childcare or care of elderly people in need of care. Collected data facilitate the analysis of work flexibility and the identification of possibilities for balancing working and family time in Slovenia¹⁶.

Transition from work to retirement – ad hoc module in 2006

In 2005, SORS began developing the methodology for implementation of an *ad hoc module for 2006*, entitled "Transition from work to retirement", intended for identification of the existing state of employment of senior persons, mainly between 50 and 69 years of age and the monitoring of factors that affect their decision for extension or early retirement – for example, working conditions, other factors related to work such as opportunities for training,

unemployed persons, kept in its records by the Employment Service of Slovenia.

¹⁴ In the second quarter of 2005, a few additional questions were added to the Labour Force Survey questionnaire in order to obtain data on coordinating family and professional life. All inhabitants falling into the 15-64 year age group participated in the so-called ad hoc module. Since this module was simultaneously implemented in all EU Member States, data thus obtained are internationally comparable. 12 977 persons participated in this module.

¹⁵ SORS started the practice of including ad hoc modules in the Labour Force Survey in 2000, when it implemented the ad hoc module on the transition from education to labour market. Including ad hoc modules in surveys is obligatory for EU Member States.

¹⁶ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=1016.

financial factors (i.e. incentives for prolonging employment), personal reasons (health, family reasons) and the prospects of a soft transition from work to retirement.

Monthly monitoring of active population

The Employment Service of Slovenia as an authorised provider of statistical surveys collects data on registered unemployed persons in compliance with the law that prescribes the keeping of records on unemployed persons.

In January 2005, SORS started to obtain data on employed and self-employed persons (except farmers) from the Statistical Register of Employment, which it administrates. Before 2005, SORS obtained data on persons employed at legal persons, except in private enterprises with only one or two employed persons, from the monthly survey entitled Monthly report on earnings and persons in paid employment in enterprises, companies and organisations. Since the collection of data for the purpose of rationalising the reporting of data on earnings has been transferred to Slovenia's Agency for Public Legal Records and Related Services (AJPES), SORS is no longer monitoring these data.

Statistics of job vacancies

For a timely detection of shifts in the labour market, data on the number and proportion of vacancies are required in addition to data on the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate. These indicators are also required for EU Member States.

Number of job vacancies and job vacancies rate

Within the 2002 Phare programme entitled "Number and rate of vacancies", SORS continued the development of methodology and procedures for quarterly data, and this represents an expansion of the first annual calculations made in 2004.

In 2005, SORS published¹⁷ quarterly and annual calculations on the number and rate of vacancies by working activities, separately for all employers and also for employers with over 9 employees, and annual calculations by major group of occupations and statistical regions.

Hours actually worked

The statistics of working time and hours worked includes in addition to hours actually worked the usual, paid, contract and normal hours, as well as overtime work (paid and unpaid) and hours paid but not actually worked (for different kinds of absence). These data are used in the calculation of labour costs per worked hour and to provide the data required by the special Regulation on short-term indicators.¹⁸ In 2005, SORS continued the development of methods and procedures for the statistics of hours actually worked by the use of existing sources, i.e. from the monthly number of paid hours and quarterly data on hours actually worked from the Labour Force Survey. The first estimates were already used in the calculation of a quarterly labour costs index.

¹⁷ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=816.

¹⁸ See Short-term Statistics in the chapter: Business Statistics.

Providing data on the hours actually worked by working activities comparable at the European level – a study in 2006

SORS will continue to develop the methodology in 2006 in order to improve the quality of the first estimate of hours actually worked.

A special study on European budgetary funds will be carried out for inclusion of an indicator of the actual hours in the remaining service activities. SORS plans to publish the results in the first half of 2007.

Earnings and labour costs

Rationalisation of the collection of data on earnings – cooperation agreement between SORS and AJPES (Agency for Public Legal Records and Related Services)¹⁹

The reporting units, i.e. companies, have been considerably disburdened since 2005 by the rationalisation of the collection of data on earnings.

- Data on paid earnings are collected on the combined multi-purpose form, whereby the reporting units forward the data to the Agency for Public Legal Records and Related Services mainly in electronic form, which is more economical both for reporting and processing;
- In the future SORS will remain responsible in terms of methodology for dissemination and the quality of data on earnings.

Apart from the monthly data on paid earnings, AJPES also collected data on the number of employed persons by amount of gross earnings for September²⁰, as agreed between SORS and the Agency.

Modifying the methodology for calculating average monthly earnings

The methodology for calculating average monthly earnings was modified in 2005, so that legal persons with a single employee or two employees in the private sector are also included in the survey. The survey does not include sole traders and persons employed by them, own account workers and farmers.

The results under the new methodology and the new method of collecting data on monthly paid gross earnings are not comparable with the former survey "Monthly report on earnings and persons in paid employment in enterprises, companies and organisations" (ZAP/M), therefore SORS formulated conversions for the year 2004. The differences were produced due to the modified methodology, a different method of data collection and different statistical data editing.

Structural earnings statistics

"In 2003, the average female earnings accounted to 93.1% of male earnings. The average monthly gross earnings amounted to

¹⁹ 11. In January 2005, SORS signed the Agreement on cooperation in the implementation of a monthly statistical survey on paid earnings by legal persons in the Republic of Slovenia with the Agency for Public Legal Records and Related Services, and on 13 June 2005 it signed with the same Agency a Technical Protocol of Data Exchange of the Directory of legal persons and units for earnings and data on paid earnings.

²⁰ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=1022.

SIT 263,032 for men and SIT 245,000 for women.” (Source: SORS)

In 2005, SORS continued to work on the methodology and procedures for structural earning statistics, including earnings by occupation under the Feasibility study for linking micro data on earnings with the employment and demographical characteristics of employees, implemented by means of European funds. The first data following the new methodology (for 2003) were published at the end of 2005, namely calculations for 2003 on the average monthly gross earnings by gender, level of professional skills and major vocational and professional groups²¹

Statistical data on labour costs

In addition to earnings and other remunerations that form only one of the components of the labour costs that the employer has with his employees, SORS is measuring other labour costs such as: employer's social security contributions, vocational training costs, other labour costs and taxes related to earnings (subsidies

²¹ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=875 and http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=926.

EDUCATION and TRAINING statistics

Due to the extraordinary importance that the area of education and training has within the framework of implementation of the Lisbon Strategy and the concept of a "knowledge-based society", SORS paid special attention in 2005 to interinstitutional cooperation in drawing up comprehensive statistical data on the financing of education and training at different levels. This will facilitate international comparability of the situation in Slovenia with other countries.

Statistics of education and training



Through surveys in the field of statistics of preschool education, formal education of youth and adults, and nonformal education and training, SORS collects data on students, graduates and human resources according to their different characteristics, including data on certain additional services provided to them by educational institutions. In addition, surveys were carried out regularly, such as a survey on scholarships granted to pupils and students, a survey on the accommodation of pupils and students in halls of residence for pupils and students and a survey on the accommodation of children and youth with special needs in different respective institutions.

Public Education Registers Act and cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Sport: SORS was involved in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Sport in drafting the Public Education Registers Act that will provide a legal basis for keeping registers at the level of participants and in consequence a future opportunity for SORS to take data directly from these registers.

SORS is already collecting certain data at the level of educational institutions in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Sport or is receiving data from their administrative records, particularly data on enrolment in upper-secondary education, and certain data on the

should be deducted). SORS is drawing up annual evaluations based on the existing statistical and administrative data for the intervening years when the survey on labour costs is not carried out.

Labour Cost Index

The Labour Cost Index is calculated quarterly for measuring the labour cost trend, without taking into consideration other labour costs and vocational training costs.

The existing sources are used exclusively for index calculation: data on the payments of general government revenues into certain accounts (payroll tax, employer's contributions for employment, for maternity leave, health insurance, injuries at work and occupational diseases and for pension and disability insurance) – source: Public Payments Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, Monthly Report on earnings by legal persons - Labour Force Survey, Labour Costs Survey – source SORS.

SORS is drawing up annual evaluations based on the existing statistical and administrative data for the intervening years when the survey on labour costs is not carried out.

basic education of youth and work training of children with special needs.

As part of the revision of surveys in the field of education, SORS agreed with the Ministry of Education and Sport to receive their data on enrolment in basic music and dance education and on parental payments for the kindergarten programme. In 2006, SORS will also study, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Sport, the possibilities of receiving the available data on human resources in education and training from their database and will agree on the possibilities of drafting a joint questionnaire on enrolment in basic education.

Rationalisation of data collection: In order to rationalise and disburden reporting units, an extensive revision of questionnaires on preschool education, basic education of youth, basic music education and upper-secondary education of youth and adults, was carried out in 2005, eliminating all those questions that were of no interest from the perspective of the users and that SORS could obtain from other sources.

Monitoring expenditure on education

In 2005, data on the expenditure of teaching and non-teaching educational institutions were newly collected in compliance with the UOE international

methodology²², according to the categories of expenditure (earnings, material costs, investments) and levels of education for the financial year 2003. SORS used the existing sources, i.e. data that it previously obtained from the annual financial statements of educational institutions, and the missing data from the Ministries, particularly from the Ministry of Education and Sport. In 2005, final data on public, private and international expenditure on education according to the purpose of its use and levels of education for the financial year 2003 were compiled.

In 2006, data on education spending and the expenditure of educational institutions for the financial years 2004 and 2005 will be compiled. In cooperation with external experts – the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Finance, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Macroeconomic Analyses and Development – activities related to improving the quality of data or the methods of their evaluation will be implemented.

Key financial data according to the levels of education for the 1995 – 2000 time series

Within the 2003 Grant project, SORS started to collect key financial data at the beginning of 2005 – the total of: public expenditure, public transfers, private expenditure – by level of education for the 1995-2000 time series.

The data were compiled at the beginning of 2006, when a final report on the methodology and sources of financial data collection in Slovenia²³ was sent to the European Commission.

Continuing education and training of employees according to the CVTS methodology²⁴

In 2005, a pilot survey was successfully performed within the 2003 Grant project. In addition to testing the understanding of certain questions envisaged for inclusion in the survey in 2006, the purpose of the pilot

²² UOE is a questionnaire common to three international organizations – UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat.

²³ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=1021

²⁴ The legal basis is Regulation EC 1552/2005 of the European Parliament and EC Council on the statistics of the Community on further vocational education and training of employees (CVTS).

questionnaire was to determine the prevalence of continuing vocational education and training of employees in small companies with 5 to 9 employees, or testing the rationality of including these companies in the CVTS survey, respectively. SORS has already submitted to Eurostat the results of the survey, together with the final report.

International adult education survey

In cooperation with the Member States, the EU methodology on implementing a survey on adult education that will also serve as the basis for the implementation of this survey in Slovenia was formulated at the end of 2005. In Slovenia the survey is scheduled to begin in 2007 after pilot implementation in 2006.

Briefly about the survey

In addition to general social-economic data on households and surveyed persons, the survey will include a basic module of questions related to integration into the activities of formal, nonformal and informal and occasional education and training, and also additional modules of questions on participation in culture, social integration and self-evaluation in terms of knowledge of languages and use or mastery of information technology.

Indicators in the field of education

In 2005, the procedures were initiated for integration of Slovenia into the OECD project of indicators in the field of education, called INES. The coordinator for Slovenia is the Ministry of Education and Sport, while SORS cooperates in the project mainly in terms of disclosing data and metadata for developing new indicators. Through formal integration into this project in 2006, the data/indicators for Slovenia will also be included in the most important international publication in the field of education, *Education at a glance*²⁵.

²⁵ www.oecd.org

Statistics on CULTURE

In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, activities related to the revision of cultural statistics or the redrafting of existing statistical questionnaires were performed in 2005, with the aim of monitoring cultural activities from the institutional aspect.



In the future, SORS will start to monitor the statistics of culture from the economic and social aspects in accordance with Eurostat guidelines. The source of these data will be the existing administrative sources, i.e. the Statistical Register of Employment, structural statistics and the Business Register, as well as surveys of households, such as the Household Budget Survey and the Survey on participation in cultural activities, whose first

implementation is planned for 2007 in the form of a special module within the Adult education survey.

Development of sectoral records and statistics in the field of culture

In order to obtain quality and sufficient data from external sources, in the future it will be indispensable to develop sectoral statistics in the field of culture. The development of sectoral statistics will represent an essential change in the national system of statistical

monitoring of culture that will also demand legal regulation as well as staff and financial reinforcement of "intermediary" organizations relevant for the collection of statistical data.

Preparations for the revision of cultural statistics at SORS in 2005

At a meeting between the Minister of Culture and the Director-General of SORS, positions on the revision of statistics on culture and principles for further activities were coordinated. In addition it was agreed that the Ministry of Culture would obtain and study the Finnish experience in this field. In the future, SORS will collect only the most important data or data indispensable for monitoring cultural policies at the national level (or for international reporting) from the providers of cultural activities in various fields of culture by means of questionnaires. Data referring to the main current activity of providers will be collected annually while the remaining, structural data will be collected periodically

every few years. The data, which are already available in the existing records/databases within SORS or other institutions will be obtained from them and not from the reporting units; this means a considerable reduction in the volume of the questionnaires and consequently the disburdening of reporting units (which was also one of the important objectives of the revision).

Revised questionnaires in 2005

In 2005, the contents of revised questionnaires by particular areas of culture were harmonized between SORS, the Ministry of Culture and other institutions or holders of administrative records. The work is expected to be concluded by April 2006, when the proposals of revised questionnaires will be presented within the Advisory Committee for the Statistics of Culture, and the questionnaires for 2004 and 2005 will be sent (probably in May 2006) to reporting units.

HEALTH – health condition and health care

The Slovenian Institute of Public Health laid down as a priority for 2005 institutional capacity building through the expertise and specific skills of the employees, increased accessibility of products for users and strict protocols for the protection of sensitive personal data. It continued the setting up of the Unit for Health Statistics by employing all the necessary resources – reallocation of staff, premises and upgrading of information technology.



The professional challenge facing the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia in 2005 and stretching into the future has been the creation of national statistics in the field of public health. Identifying the national and international needs in this field is required for the purpose of covering the national health policy needs (monitoring the operation of the health care service, monitoring the health condition of the population, health expenditure) and complying with international requirements (public health, safety at work and occupational diseases).

Moreover in Slovenia, health statistics are gradually integrating all the fields envisaged by the European Statistical System in the fields of public health and health and safety at work. The Institute of Public Health is ready to assume responsibility for providing quality public health statistics under acceptable financial conditions and to conclude interinstitutional agreements with the users of data for statistical surveys that are not a subject of the annual programme of statistical surveys. Agreements with health institutions for the first databases have already been concluded. An agreement on responsibility and exchange of data for statistical purposes for surveys of national relevance, determined by the annual statistical programme, is being formulated between the Institute for Health Insurance of Slovenia and SORS.

Health accounts

In 2005, Slovenia entered Eurostat's pilot project on introducing national health accounts in EU Member States in accordance with recommendations contained in the OECD manual "Health Accounts System". An

interinstitutional project group and a core working group composed of representatives of the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, Institute of Public Health and SORS as coordinator, were established. This group drew up the first experimental statement of national health accounts in compliance with the OECD recommendations.

From 2006, there will be regular reporting of data on health expenditure according to classifications of medical activities, treatments and financing entities contained in the Health Accounts System by means of the common questionnaire of Eurostat, OECD and WHO, based on the Health Accounts System.

Other tables of the Health Accounts System will be included in the medium-term period in the data collection programme, particularly health expenses according to the gender and age of patients under the international classification of diseases and employees in the field of health care.

Surveys in the field of environment and health

In the area of setting up regular monitoring of drinking water quality, in the first few months of 2005 the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia continued with the formulation of the annual monitoring programme for drinking water for 2005, particularly in relation to pesticides. In the field of consumer protection, important work was performed in conformity assessment and health assessment relating to the safety of materials in contact with foodstuffs, cosmetics, toys, tobacco products and risk evaluation

ordered by the Slovenian Health Inspectorate. The Institute of Public Health participated in preparing the 2005 programmes of the Health Inspectorate – materials in contact with foodstuffs, cosmetics and items of common use. In the field of foodstuffs, there is active professional cooperation with the Health and Hygiene Safety of Foods Department at the Ministry of Health and with the Ministry of Education and Sport in the field of standards for nutrition and facilities.

Health and safety at work

The contents of statistical monitoring of accidents at work and occupational diseases were monitored in 2005 by an external professional under contract. In order to provide adequate management of this demanding field, all activities for obtaining financial assets and providing the regular employment of a full-time doctor in 2006 were duly carried out. The Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia was selected in the Eurostat invitation to tender to carry out the implementation project in the field of accidents at work and occupational diseases.

STANDARD OF LIVING - income, poverty and social inclusion

Within the statistics on the standard of living, SORS collects data mainly on the basis of different surveys conducted in households and uses them for the calculation of different indicators. In 2005, special attention in terms of living standard statistics was paid to the implementation of a harmonized survey of households and use of administrative data in the field of social statistics.

For the first time, observation of a particular population group in terms of poverty in combination with ample and quality data on their participation in the labour market, housing conditions, education and health was performed in 2005. These data will provide quality support for the implementation of different national policies in combating poverty and social exclusion.

Income, poverty and social inclusion

Survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)

Statistics on the standard of living in 2005 were characterized by preparations for implementation of the Income and Living Conditions Survey. This survey is also planned as a priority task in the medium-term programme of the 2003-2007 statistical surveys, by which SORS is consolidating the growing tendency of Slovenian statistics to link the survey with administrative sources, which is particularly established in the medium-term programme as an objective that needs to be intensified in the period of programme validity. The consequences include a reduction of survey costs and disburdening the surveyed persons.

The survey itself, which replaced the European panel of households (ECHP) implemented in the 1994 to 2001 period, was necessitated by the new political requirements, particularly by the need to provide timely data. In the majority of EU Member States, the survey has been implemented regularly since 2003. In Slovenia, the survey was carried out in the field from February to June 2005 on a sample of 12,496 households. The results of the survey are expected to be published in November 2006.

Briefly about the survey

EU-SILC includes persons in private households and represents a source for comparable and timely data on income and social inclusion at the national and European level. The data will be cross-cutting, because they will refer to a fixed period, and longitudinal, because they will establish changes at the individual level through a set period of time (i.e. at least 4 years).

EU-SILC covers fields such as income, basic housing conditions, physical and social environment, demographic data, education, working activities, health and accessibility of health services and other non-monetary indicators. For certain data, particularly income, the survey data were combined with the register data, thus reducing the burden on reporting units.

Poverty threshold and social cohesion indicators (income and poverty)

The analysis of poverty in Slovenian households is based particularly on the data of a regular Household Budget Survey.²⁶

Upgrading the existing list of indicators

In 2005, the existing list of indicators was upgraded with indicators by gender and age, specifically by certain categories in the status of activities and type of household. In addition to the indicators adopted in Laekens, SORS formulated what are termed pension indicators. In addition to methodology, the description of indicators was also standardised.

Owing to the lack of longitudinal data, SORS cannot yet calculate the long-term poverty rate. SORS will start to calculate this indicator after introducing the panel survey on living conditions, when it will have a series of data for several subsequent years.

Measuring relative poverty

Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon and it can be measured using several methods and from different observation angles. SORS measures what is termed objective, relative poverty, which refers more to inequality than poverty itself. A person who is poor in a relative context is not necessarily poverty-stricken. The purpose of poverty analysis in Slovenia is to establish which households or persons are in a relatively worse position and thus also

²⁶ Eurostat collected the latest data for 1999. The survey has been carried out on the basis of a gentleman's agreement. The next reference period will be 2005, when Slovenia will also supply the data – in 2006, SORS will supply to Eurostat deindividualized particular data.

more vulnerable in terms of poverty.

Volume and structure of stocks in households

"Approximately 60% of Slovenian households have estimated that their stocks of foodstuffs would be sufficient for 14 days at best; only 12% of all households stated that their stocks of food would be sufficient for more than a month." (Source: SORS).

In 2005, SORS carried out a phone survey for the client of the survey, the Ministry of Defence, on the volume and structure of stocks in households. The purpose of the survey was to establish the quantity of stocks kept

by households that could be used in the case of unforeseen events.

The data on household stocks were collected by means of the Household Stocks Survey between 12 September and 1 October 2005 in 3000 selected households. Surveying was supported by computer and carried out by phone. The response rate was 71 %. Based on the obtained data, SORS calculated the estimated total, average per household and average per household member according to different demographic and other types of variables, obtained by the survey. The data were forwarded to the client of the survey and published on the SORS website²⁷.

²⁷ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=1058.

SOCIAL PROTECTION – statistics of social protection, pension and disability insurance

Social protection is one of the essential public functions and instruments held by the state in order to provide inhabitants with relatively equal possibilities of development and conditions of access to services. It represents a comprehensive system, wherein individuals are protected from loss of income caused by disease, age, death of family provider and unemployment, at which point they are provided with health care, support in the education of children, basic subsistence and measures foreseen in other cases of social exclusion. For the state, the provision of social protection involves considerable expense for different monetary and non-monetary rights and other measures such as pensions, allowances, social security taxes, health care, etc. Social protection in Slovenia is provided through different programmes covering different risks.



In 2005, SORS continued to collect, organise and publish data on the revenues and expenditure of social protection programmes following the methodology of the European system of social protection statistics (ESSPROS), and improved the completeness of collection and quality of these data.²⁸

Statistics on revenues and expenditure of social protection

"In 2003, Slovenia earmarked 24.8% of GDP for social security, which is 0.6 % less than in the preceding year. The majority of money is directed to the fields of old age, disease, health care and disability." (Source: SORS).

In accordance with the programme of statistical surveys for 2005, SORS implemented surveys on the revenues and expenditure of social protection programmes in compliance with the ESSPROS methodology.

Brief presentation of the ESSPROS methodology

Under the ESSPROS methodology, social protection includes all activities of public and private institutions that alleviate the burden of certain risks or needs to households or individuals without the simultaneous provision of an equivalent allowance or repayment and that are not the result of individual agreements. Risks or needs or the fields of observation are as follows: disease and health care, disability, old age, death of the family provider, family and children, unemployment, accommodation and other forms

of social exclusion.

Participation in 2003 Phare projects

The implementation of both projects was carried out in 2005. The first project (module: Active employment policy) referred to the provision of data on the types and characteristics of measures in the labour market, type of expense for a particular measure and structure of persons entitled to a particular measure etc. The compiling of data was carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs and the Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia.

The second project referred to disclosing the data for the module Net income for 2002, since gross expenses are monitored under the basic ESSPROS methodology.

Statistics of parental protection and family earnings

Efforts have been underway at SORS to organise a social statistics database and certain data for the EU-SILC survey; within the framework of a special interinstitutional working group, preparatory work was performed for setting up a database on disabled persons and disclosure of the existing data on disabled persons. Together with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, the Community of Social Welfare Institutions is in the process of setting up a database for institutional care, where SORS cooperates actively both in creating and supplementing the social database on the users of social assistance services and on cash benefits paid by social work centres.

²⁸ See http://www.stat.si/eng/tema_demografsko_socialna.asp.

SORS also cooperated actively *in drafting the Regulation on the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics*, which binds it to disclose data on: the basic ESSPROS system, covering financial flows and expenditure and revenues of social protection programmes, data on pension beneficiaries, data on net revenues and data on certain other modules, if they prove to be feasible.

Pension and disability insurance

"In 2004, the average minimum pension rating base was SIT 98, 436.19 and in the month of December 2004, it was SIT 99,052.86...." (Source: Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of the Republic of Slovenia)²⁹

The Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of the Republic of Slovenia as an authorized producer in the national statistics system cooperated actively as a provider of data for national institutions on a statutory basis and compiled data for drafting new acts, including the current law on pension and disability insurance, adopted in 2005.

²⁹ Visit the ZPIZ website (Slovenian version only): <http://www.zpiz.si/>

OTHER SOCIAL STATISTICS – crime statistics, gender statistics, disabled persons

Gender statistics

In the field of gender statistics, SORS continued to develop the methodology for Slovenia based on the monitoring of international methodology, and created mock-ups of a special SORS website for the dissemination of various gender statistics. SORS cooperates in this field with a range of Ministries and other institutions, creating and using data by gender, and particularly intensely with the Office for Equal Opportunities.

Statistics of disabled persons

In the field of statistics referring to disabled persons, SORS cooperated in 2005 with different institutions in the field of health, social security and care and treated this field in terms of existing data sources, by which it could cover the needs for data, acquisition of other necessary data, a uniform register of disabled persons and international classification of disability and health.

SORS compiled data on sheltered companies in Slovenia. By monitoring the national and international methodology, it designed a website that will provide uniform access to the available data and substantive sources to users in this field.

Crime statistics



In 2005, SORS carried out all surveys in the field of criminal justice statistics planned within the programme of statistical surveys, by which data on juvenile and adult persons and on legal persons were collected from the conclusion of the

Consequences of a new definition of disability

The reason for modifications in the field of monitoring disability insurance is a new definition of disability, bringing about modifications in assessing the rights to allowances for the occupationally disabled. New records were thus established for business and statistical purposes and were upgraded also in relation to the new Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act, adopted in 2004, whose objective is to increase the employability of disabled persons.

The Pension and Disability Insurance Institute cooperated with representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs and the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development in drafting the Report on the National Strategy of Compulsory and Supplementary Pension Insurance. Through the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, it disclosed certain current statistical data, referring to the first column of pension and disability insurance, including the required content-related explanations. Similarly it participated in making long-term calculations of theoretical substitution rates representing a new element among the statistical indicators used to date in the field of pension and disability insurance in Slovenia.

procedure and preliminary procedure after the lodging of criminal complaints at the prosecutor's offices, to the final conclusion of court proceedings, by criminal acts. In the coming years, the activities of Eurostat in the field of crime statistics will be directed towards the collection of existing data, based on administrative records, and towards the development of their international comparability, the development of definitions and methodology for the monitoring of organized crime and towards the harmonization of victimology questionnaires. In 2005, a special expert team was established for this purpose within Eurostat. By means of a special questionnaire, at the end of 2005 SORS had already disclosed to Eurostat the main data, based on administrative records for Slovenia. The work related to the disclosure of data and information concerning definitions and methodology will be continued in 2006.

Questionnaire on crime victims

In 2005, SORS disclosed to the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) by means of a special questionnaire information related to the methodology and contents of the national questionnaire on crime victims, implemented in 2001 in line with the international crime victims survey. The collected data of different European countries and the methodology of international crime victims survey will be the basis for drawing up methodological recommendations and a basic international module of questions for questionnaires on victimology, in order to improve the international comparability and reliability of these data. The first draft of these methodological recommendations and the basic module of questions are expected to be formulated in April 2007.

The next crime victims survey within SORS is planned for

the beginning of 2008 and a pilot survey will be implemented in autumn 2007.

Development of social statistics database

Linking administrative and statistical sources is one of the priorities of the Medium-term programme of statistical surveys 2003-2007. In 2005, SORS further intensified the interinstitutional cooperation and other activities for the setting up of a multi-purpose database of social statistics. The purpose of the database is to provide access at one place to a larger number of databases from different areas – i.e. *population, labour market, housing, social benefits, consumption of consumer goods in Slovenian households, health statistics, etc.* Through the transparency of database sources, SORS will considerably reduce the costs and decrease the burden of reporting units in the long term, since in this way it will prevent the duplication of sources or individual variables, while it will also improve the quality and timeliness of statistical data provision.

Primary and secondary sources for filling the database are as follows:

Central Population Register – Ministry of the Interior; Census 2000, Statistical Register of Employment, data from the Labour Force Survey, the Household Budget Survey, the Living Conditions Survey – by SORS; Register of unemployed persons of the Employment Service of Slovenia; database on the enrolment of students, records of universities and statistical surveys on the graduates of institutions of higher education, master's and PhD studies, scholarship holders of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology; The Business Register of Slovenia – from the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services; Records of Central Securities Clearing Corporation Data of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia; Data of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs.

CONSUMER PROTECTION – food safety statistics

Within the framework of statistical monitoring in the field of consumer protection, cooperation with the Slovenian Consumer Protection Office was enhanced in 2005.

Cooperation has resulted in a new task in the Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys for 2006³⁰, namely monitoring consumer protection, which focuses on monitoring developments in this field and also on the definition and selection of statistical data in the field of social and service statistics and price statistics. The task is based on the linking and cooperation of SORS with other authorities monitoring data in the consumer protection field, i.e. the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, the Ministry of the Economy – Consumer Protection Office, the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Public Health.

operated in 2005 gave satisfactory guidelines for further work that will be continued by a special project group for supervision and monitoring of activities. In 2007, a group for public health at the Institute of Public Health will start activities.

Food safety statistics³¹

With regard to statistical monitoring of safe (and healthy) food, SORS is cooperating with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, the Ministry of the Economy, the Institute of Public Health and the aforementioned Consumer Protection Office.

Data such as consumption in households – data on food purchasing, supply balance – data on the availability of food and surveys on diets are extremely important for monitoring safe/healthy food, but at the moment they are still deficient. Monitoring these statistics will probably represent a considerable financial burden, which is also one of the reasons for their simplification. However, in terms of monitoring safe/healthy food statistics, this means a considerable loss of important data. It is therefore indispensable to regulate this field on a statutory basis, since difficulties frequently arise even in cases where such a basis does exist, but the reporting of the data is voluntary.

Conclusions of the Working Group on food safety statistics

Data for food safety statistics are taken by Eurostat from existing sources and from additional annual questionnaires addressed to Member States and Candidate Countries. Three project groups that

³⁰ See Uradni list RS, No. 99/05.

³¹ European Regulation 882/2004, concerning national supervision spanning several years, provides that Member States will be obliged to implement and connect a national supervision plan, covering all stages of the feed and food chain, and to submit appropriate reports.

CHAPTER III - ECONOMIC STATISTICS

The accession of Slovenia to the EU represents the formal conclusion of economic and political transition and a completely new start of operations within an international framework, since full membership brings new rights, possibilities and also obligations. By acceding to the EU, Slovenia also opted for the introduction of the euro. On 28 June 2004 it entered the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II) and in less than two years it complied with all the convergence criteria, whose fulfilment is assessed by the European Commission and the European Central Bank in their regular convergence reports at least once every two years or at the request of an EU Member State that has not yet introduced the euro.

In 2005, the requirements of the European Central Bank, Eurostat and different directorates of the European Commission addressed to the Slovenian national statistical office became even more demanding in terms of reducing the deadlines for short-term indicators and greater requirements for quality, timeliness and transparency. The required data must be compiled consistently in compliance with the methodology of the European system of accounts – ESA 1995, which is the responsibility of SORS vis-a-vis the European Commission and Eurostat.

Convergence criteria or Maastricht criteria for introduction of the euro, which Slovenia is already fulfilling, are as follows:

- **a high level of price stability:** the inflation rate, calculated as a 12-month average, should not exceed by more than 1.5 of a percentage point the average inflation rate of the three EU Member States that achieved the best results with regard to price stability. In order to show this inflation rate, SORS calculates separately the EMU convergence index, whose basis is a harmonized index of consumer prices;
- **low interest rates:** long-term interest rates should not exceed the average interest rates of the three

EU Member States with the lowest inflation rate by more than 2 percentage points;

- **stable currency exchange rates:** regarding the fluctuation margins ($\pm 15\%$) envisaged by the mechanism of currency exchange rates in ERM II, at least two years, without currency devaluation;
- **sustainable state of public finances:** the government deficit, which should not exceed 3% of GDP, except if this ratio has been decreasing considerably and continuously and has thus achieved a level close to the reference value, or, in the second case, exceeding the reference value, may only be exceptional and temporary, with a ratio close to the reference value; public debt should not exceed 60% of GDP, except if this ratio is falling sufficiently and achieving the reference value at a satisfactory pace;
- **compatibility of the legal orders of EU Member States:** particularly of the regulations referring to central banks with the provisions of Articles 108 and 109 of the Agreement and the ESCB Statute.

In 2005, the current indicators on the SORS website were supplemented with convergence criteria for the introduction of the euro (see <http://www.stat.si/eng/index.asp>).

III. 1. MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS

In Europe, macroeconomic and financial statistics provide a basis for decision-making in common economic policy. In Slovenia, national accounts are drawn up through close cooperation between three institutions: SORS, the Bank of Slovenia and the Ministry of Finance. Under the adopted Memorandum of understanding in the field of macroeconomic and financial statistics (2004), the responsibility of each signatory is clearly defined.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS – monitoring of accounts that cover the entire economy

Within national statistics, national accounts represent one of the most important statistical fields, since through extensive statistical analysis, the state of the entire national economy can be monitored.



The compliance of national accounts³² with the European System of Accounts (ESA 1995) is one of the priority tasks of the Medium-term statistical programme 2003-2007. In this context, the main GDP revision for the 1995-2004 period was conducted over several years and was completed in the second half of 2005.

The last major step in bringing into line GDP compilation and the 1995 ESA requirements and standards

A constituent element of the revision was the introduction of two new methodological changes in the compilation of national accounts estimates, in compliance with European legislation, namely:

- the allocation of financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) to user sectors/industries³³ and
- the introduction of macroeconomic aggregates at constant previous year prices³⁴. This method produces better quality results as it takes into consideration current changes and relative price ratios.

These methodological changes were introduced in annual and quarterly accounts for data from 1995 onwards.

General government and Report on Government Debt and Deficit

"According to the Ministry of Finance, the general government deficit amounted to 1.9% of GDP and debt to 29.4% of GDP in 2004. The forecast for 2005 is 1.9% of GDP for the deficit and 30.1% of GDP for debt." (Source: SORS)

An important achievement by SORS in 2005 was the production of non-financial accounts for the general government sector and a report on the deficit and debt of the general government. The report was drawn up in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance within the framework of a specific memorandum of understanding.³⁵ It was submitted to the European

³² In terms of a time frame, *national accounts* may be divided into annual and quarterly accounts. In terms of the units covered, they may be grouped into accounts of the entire economy and sectoral accounts relating to individual economic sectors (non-financial and financial corporations, general government, non-profit organizations, households, rest of the world). In terms of flows, national accounts may be divided into non-financial and financial accounts. The system also includes *input-output* tables providing a detailed breakdown of transactions by activities and products.

³³ In the period 1995 - 2004, financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) were allocated by activities and institutional sectors. Annual data at current and constant prices were published in September, quarterly data in December (See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=587).

³⁴ For the 1995-2004 period, the change in calculating macroeconomic aggregates at constant previous year prices was introduced in September with respect to annual accounts and in December with respect to quarterly accounts.

³⁵ The Agreement on cooperation in the field of macroeconomic and financial statistics was signed on 1 July

Commission in March and September and is used to examine compliance with two Maastricht criteria for euro adoption.

Report on Government Debt and Deficit - brief presentation

Since 2004 Slovenia, along with other EU Member States, has been committed to reporting on debt and deficit to the European Commission twice a year, specifically by 1 March and by 1 September. The report submitted by Slovenia to the European Commission on 1 March last year, was the first official report on the basis of which the excessive deficit procedure could have been initiated if Slovenia had exceeded the Maastricht criteria (government deficit amounting to 3% of gross domestic product and debt amounting to 60% of gross domestic product); there would have been no legal basis for such a procedure in respect of the reports for the three previous years.

Within development tasks, data on general government sector expenditure by functions (in accordance with the COFOG classification) were published for the 2000-2004 period³⁶.

Input-output tables for 2002 and a report on VAT for 2004

Supply and use tables

Supply and use tables for 2002 were published at the end of the year³⁷ as an integral part of the national accounts. SORS compiles these tables every year according to the methodology of the ESA 1995 and the requirements for the transmission of data to Eurostat. They present a detailed breakdown of the goods and services account, production account and generation of income account.

Preparation for carrying out new surveys

For the compilation of supply and use tables, a survey on the structure of intermediate consumption and output will be carried out in 2006. To this end preparations were started in 2005 with the formulation of methodology, questionnaires and information for providers of data on the contents of survey.

Input-output tables at constant prices

Within the project supported by the European Commission, first estimates of supply and use tables at constant prices were compiled for 2002. In 2006, the continuation of methodological work in this area and establishment of the system for annual compilation and publication of tables are planned.

Production of a Report on value added tax

As part of its regular tasks and in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, in July 2005 SORS drew up a report on VAT for 2004, which serves as a basis for the

2004 between SORS, the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Slovenia.

³⁶ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=882

³⁷ See the issue of Rapid Reports: Supply and use tables, Slovenia 2002 (30 December 2005).

calculation of Slovenia's contribution to the EU budget in respect of VAT. In the production of the report, the Ministry of Finance drew up its financial part, while the entire statistical part was produced by SORS.

Exhaustiveness of national accounts

Further activities were carried out to improve the exhaustiveness of macroeconomic aggregates in accordance with EU standards. The drawing up of the annual report on VAT and supply and use tables for 2002 also included an estimate of theoretical VAT for 2002. In the field of tax audits, the preparatory work was performed in cooperation with the Slovenian Tax Administration for the project, which was planned for 2006 and 2007 and which will be supported by the European Commission.

Three surveys carried out for national accounts purposes

In 2005, three regular statistical surveys were carried out for the first time. The results obtained will be used by SORS to further adapt Slovenia's national accounts to the ESA 1995 requirements. The surveys covered:

- non-profit institutions serving households,
- own-account construction activities of households and
- transactions of leasing companies.

Implementation of the first two surveys was financially supported by the European Commission.

Annual non-financial sector accounts

Within the Phare 2003 project - Sector Accounts, which was financially supported by the European Commission, the development of methodology was intensive in 2005, along with the production of annual non-financial sector accounts for households, non-profit institutions serving households, general government and rest of the world for the 2000-2004 period.

New obligation - Quarterly non-financial accounts by institutional sector

In July, Regulation (EC) No 1161/2005 of the European Parliament and the Council on the compilation of quarterly non-financial accounts by institutional sector was adopted, imposing an obligation to produce quarterly non-financial accounts by institutional sector. The obligation of those Member States for which gross domestic product represents less than 1% of the corresponding Community total (including Slovenia) is limited to two sectors: the general government sector and the rest of the world sector. For the implementation of this Regulation, the European Commission granted Slovenia a transition period of one year.

Methodology description of gross national income

In 2005, SORS continued to draw up a methodology description of gross national income (gross national income inventory). The inventory serves as a basis for evaluating the conformity of Slovenian national accounts with the ESA 95. The creation of the inventory was financially supported by the European Commission.

Expanded coverage of quarterly accounts

At the end of 2005, quarterly data on gross fixed capital formation at current and constant prices in respect of six product groups were published for the first time³⁸. Furthermore, data on employment by activities were published for 1995 and 1996 for the first time.

Publishing quarterly accounts 70 days after the end of each quarter

In June 2005, SORS started publishing data on quarterly national accounts estimates 70 days after the end of each quarter, which satisfies the requirements of European legislation regulating data publishing.

Financial accounts - transaction and stocks accounts

Within macroeconomic statistics, financial accounts statistics are gaining importance throughout the world and particularly in the European Union. Financial accounts are an important analytical tool for the analysis of financial flows between institutional sectors of the economy as well as financial relations between domestic sectors and the rest of the world.

They facilitate the study of financial impacts on economic and in particular monetary policy. At the international level, they can be used for the comparison of financial structures in different countries. Such internationally comparable macroeconomic statistics may also be useful for decision-making within the country's own economic policy. Financial accounts show stocks and flows as well as changes in all financial instruments by institutional sectors.

The Bank of Slovenia plays the main role in compiling financial accounts within national statistics; its priorities in 2005 focused on the stabilization of annual reports aimed at the development of quarterly financial accounts for all institutional sectors, in accordance with the European Central Bank requirements.

Quarterly financial accounts for 2005

Direct data collection for financial accounts is performed successfully via the Agency of the Republic Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services. In 2005, annual data collection was replaced with quarterly collection, introducing a reporting threshold for the non-financial corporation sector as well as for general government sector entities. Based on these data, the Bank of Slovenia will compile quarterly financial accounts for 2005 in accordance with the ECB requirements for joining EMU and estimate them for 2004.

Annual sector accounts for 2004

In 2005, the Bank of Slovenia compiled complete annual sectoral financial accounts for 2004. In cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and SORS, the aggregated annual financial accounts were revised in 2005 for the

³⁸ More data on the complete series of quarterly data from the first quarter of 1995 on are available on the website: http://www.stat.si/eng/tema_ekonomsko_nacionalni.asp

2001-2004 period to make them consistent with the data on non-financial accounts and the Excessive Deficit Procedure and with the data on balance of payment statistics for the rest of the world sector.

First publication of data

The revised consolidated and non-consolidated financial accounts were first published in November 2005 in a statistical publication, together with information on the methodology and composition of financial accounts. See <http://www.bsi.si/en/publications.asp?Mapald=70>

Monitoring PRICE statistics

Inflation reflecting changes in price levels is measured by the consumer prices index, which shows changes in the level of retail prices of goods and services which the resident population intends for final consumption at home and abroad.



The harmonised consumer prices index is calculated and used by SORS to compare the inflation rates of EU Member States. It measures changes in the level of retail prices of goods and services, from the point of view of the expenditure structure, which consumers (domestic and foreign) intend for final consumption in the territory of Slovenia (national concept).

In 2005, SORS provided domestic and foreign consumers with all monthly indicators used in price statistics within the set deadlines.

Preparations for introduction of the euro



During the preparations for introduction of the euro, and in particular during the period of dual display of prices and six months after the introduction of the euro, SORS will, in addition to the regular consumer price-watch, formulate additional price analyses for those subgroups of goods and services that had the greatest effect on the overall price trends and the prices of which deviated most from the price trends in the previous five years.

In-depth price analyses will be published by SORS in respect of:

- products/services with the strongest impact on inflation,
- products/services subject to a maximum change in price levels in the last 5 years.

Furthermore, the Slovenian Consumer Association will, in agreement with the Ministry of the Economy, Consumer Protection Office and SORS, publish data on prices for individual products or services and report on significant, unjustified upward or downward changes in prices with an indication of the particular seller and product or service.

Calculation of time series

For informative and analytical purposes, the data on time series, expressed in Slovenian tolar and published in SI-STAT database, will be recalculated in euros by SORS according to the methodology that was adopted and approved by the Euro-coordination, headed by the Bank of Slovenia and the Slovenian Government, the Board of the Bank of Slovenia and the Slovenian Statistical Council.

All recalculated data will be published in the SI-STAT database, and data of particular interest in publications. The methodology recommends two methods for the recalculation of time series, one using the fixed rate, which maintains time series indices and is intended for analysis with respect to Slovenia, and another using the current average monthly or annual exchange rate intended for international comparisons. All recalculated data to be published in the SI-STAT database are of an informational nature. More information is available on SORS's website (Slovenian version only):

http://www.stat.si/evro_spremljanje.asp

Effects of the Regulation concerning short-term statistics on price statistics

Amendments to the Regulation concerning short-term statistics³⁹ impose a new obligation to establish a methodology and to ensure producer prices for services with respect to numerous and various service activities. The major problem in implementing the said task, which started to be carried out at the end of 2004, is the unrealistic time limitations of the Regulation itself, since the first reference year and the latest base year is 2006. Some obstacles are also presented by the complexity and difficulty of monitoring prices for services in general and a shortage of staff with adequate experience.

For the provision of necessary and adequate price indices considered as important short-term statistical indicators and for implementation of the aforementioned amended Regulation, which focuses on price statistics, it will be necessary to formulate a comprehensive programme and elaborate the possibilities for further developing the relevant statistics.

Regular annual revisions of price indices

In the period September 2004-January 2005, SORS performed regular annual revisions of the consumer price index, harmonised price index and retail price index. Revisions of all three indices comprised updating of the list of retail outlets, the list (basket) of monitored products and services and drawing up of new weights.

³⁹ Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No. 1158/2005 of 6 July 2005 amending Council Regulation (EC) No. 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics. See also Short-term Statistics within chapter: Business Statistics

Improvement of data and HICP methodology

Within index harmonization, the improvement of procedures and processes resulting from the harmonization process continued, including the improvements of regulations already adopted and work related to new regulations adopted in this area.

In the second half of 2005, the Regulation laying down the new base year for the calculation of indices (2005 = 100) entered into force. Consequently, it was necessary to adapt formulas for the calculation of indices to a new basis with regard to both indices and to make back-recalculations for data.⁴⁰

Basic interest rate⁴¹

In 2005, SORS continued to calculate and publish data on the monthly and annual basic interest rate. This is due to obligations and tasks undertaken by SORS from the Bank of Slovenia on the basis of the Legal Penalty Rate Act.

Purchasing power parities

Within the framework of the European Comparison Programme (ECP), i.e. comparison of gross domestic product, purchasing power parity (PPP) and price levels, the required data on price levels for the calculation of purchasing power parities have been provided by SORS in accordance with the time limits agreed upon. To this end, the requirements concerning priority data indicated in the medium-term programme are implemented since these data, together with the related indicators, are considered to be important structural indicators.

PPP Pilot Project for the Western Balkan countries

In 2005, SORS continued to implement a task undertaken on the basis of a contract, whereby through a pilot project, it performs the functions of group leader of the Western Balkan countries⁴². The project, organized within OECD and financed by the EU Commission under the CARDS project⁴³, aims to include these countries in the ECP.

The scope and complexity of project activities, which started in 2003 and are envisaged to end in 2006, have increasingly and annually expanded due to the overlapping of different stages of particular surveys, which also represent a critical element for the implementation of the overall project in terms of quality.

Participation in the global ICP Ring Comparison of prices for international comparison of GDPs by purchasing power

Since 2004, SORS has participated in the global international ring comparison of price surveys to compare GDPs by taking account of purchasing powers. The International Comparison Programme (ICP) is organized and coordinated by the World Bank.

Within the global ICP Ring Comparison, Slovenia was selected as one of three European-OECD ring countries, which will be given the role of linking the results of regions or continents. Alongside Slovenia, Estonia, the United Kingdom (coordinator for Europe) and Japan, as an OECD member, will have the same role.

⁴⁰ Eurostat drew up detailed guidelines for back-calculation of time series. All recalculations to the new index base will be made relative to the harmonized index of consumer prices by Eurostat, and the recalculated data will be submitted to countries for control and approval. In respect of the new Regulation, the EU Member States will also have to make a decision about publishing the indices, given the proposal made by Eurostat to publish indices calculated to a new reference year and rounded off to two decimal places. According to our national practice, the published indices are rounded off to one decimal place. In the same manner as Eurostat in 2006, SORS will probably start to publish indices calculated to a new reference year (2500 = 100) and rounded off to two decimal places.

⁴¹ Data on monthly and annual basic interest rates are published pursuant to Article 3 of the Legal Penalty Rate Act (Uradni list RS, No. 56/2003) and pursuant to the Decree of the Bank of Slovenia on the Basic Interest Rate (Uradni list RS, No. 61/96, 3/97, 23/97 and 81/97).

⁴² Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro

⁴³ CARDS – Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization Programme.

III. 2. BUSINESS STATISTICS

Statistics on BUSINESS ENTITIES

Structural business statistics

Structural business statistics reflect the business results of enterprises and provide internationally comparable data, taking into account the European standards on structural business statistics and the European system of national accounts. The variables of structural business statistics are calculated on the basis of existing administrative and statistical sources.



In the area of structural business statistics, the monitoring of market service activities on an annual basis was one of the highest priorities in 2005. Particularly in the area of business services to be specified in the supplement to the basic Regulation on structural business statistics, new requirements for data collection are being formulated on the EU level.

Amendment to the Regulations concerning structural business statistics

The Amendment to the Regulation on structural business statistics introduces some simplifications (deletion of certain variables) and expanded coverage of reporting data on services. In reporting on service activities, the coverage is the same as the coverage of reporting data on variables in industry, trade and the construction industry (balancing of all annexes). The Regulation will govern reporting on business demography and business services. It introduces the obligation to cooperate in ad hoc collection of data.

Implementation of projects in the field of business services statistics and service demands

In 2005, SORS collected data for these projects and obtained funds from the European Commission for implementing them.

"In 2004, 96.3% of enterprises outsourced at least one group of services." (Source: SORS).

EU business services projects

On the basis of harmonized methodology, the data collected by SORS in 2005 covered: *the structure of incomes by products and users for certain service activities (activities related to data processing, database and other related activities (Division 72, SKD); other business activities (Division 74) and education (Division 80).*

The results of the 2004 survey will be published in the First Release and SI-STAT database in the fourth quarter of 2006.⁴⁴

EU projects on demand for services

On the basis of a project concluded in 2005 with the publication of data, SORS made a survey of:

the scope and structure of purchased services in an enterprise, scope of investment in services, structure and location of main service providers, expected changes in service purchases in the coming years with regard to certain industries: Manufacturing (*Section D*), Construction (*Section F*) Trade, repair of motor vehicles and personal and household goods (*Section G*), Hotels and restaurants (*Section H*), Transport, storage and communication (*Section I*), Real estate, renting and business activities (*Section K*), Sewage and refuse disposal, sanitation and similar activities (*Division 90*), Motion picture and video activities and radio and television activities (*Classes 92.1 and 92.2*).

Good cooperation with state institutions – the Agency for Public Legal Records and Related Services and the Tax Administration - facilitated timely calculation of data on business performance and observance of Eurostat reporting dates laid down in the Regulation.

Inward Foreign Affiliates Trade Statistics (inward FATS)

In 2005, SORS cooperated with the Bank of Slovenia to participate in the European Commission (Eurostat) pilot project designed for new EU Member States in the field of foreign affiliates statistics. To this end, the methodology for monitoring the performance of foreign affiliates in Slovenia was formulated. In line with the definitions of structural business statistics, data on performance of foreign affiliates were compiled and submitted to Eurostat. The results of the project are planned to be published at the end of 2006. Based on experience acquired during the first collection of data, SORS will cooperate with the Bank of Slovenia to improve the relevant methodology and formulate the methodology for developing foreign affiliates trade statistics for units held by beneficial owners.

In 2005 and within the national programme, SORS successfully applied for EU funds intended for further participation in the FATS project aimed at developing statistics and collecting data on foreign affiliates.

Annual industrial production statistics



The implementation of annual surveys in the industrial field for 2004 was accelerated. As required in the Regulation concerning annual monitoring of industrial production, the first preliminary data were provided in June 2005 and simultaneously

⁴⁴ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=798.

submitted to Eurostat. Final data were made available in September 2005. Yearly data on industrial statistics are available at the SI-STAT data portal⁴⁵ providing time series of data to users for the period from 2000 to 2004 inclusive.

The Nomenclature of Industrial Products (NIP) for 2005 is being formulated as a Slovenian version of PRODCOM, which is used in EU Member States for monitoring industrial production. NIP enables links to other commodity nomenclatures, in particular to the Combined Nomenclature (CN) used for external trade statistics.

⁴⁵ See

http://www.stat.si/pxweb/Database/Economy/17_mining_manuf/ac/17060_annual_ind_products/17060_annual_ind_products.asp

Statistical BUSINESS REGISTER

Pursuant to the provisions of the Council Regulation on drawing up business registers for statistical purposes, all Member States are obliged to draw up and keep statistical registers. As tools for carrying out quality statistical surveys and making updated lists of reporting units, statistical registers can be at the same time a direct source of information on certain phenomena (e.g. business demography or business population structure). A continuous use of statistical business registers for statistical purposes should substantially reduce the burden on enterprises as regards statistical reporting.

In 2005, the statistical business register (SBR) was completed with the necessary data for implementing the programme of statistical surveys, and, alongside other tasks that were carried out in this context, administrative units were transformed and adapted to statistical units; all requirements of the EU Regulation on statistical business registers were met.⁴⁶

In 2004, the SBR central database was set up, providing data on:

legal units, active enterprises and local units of active enterprises as well as the prescribed variables for them in respect of a certain reference year. In 2005, the use of additional statistical sources resulted in the improved quality of certain statistical variables of the register.

The SBR central database, set up by SORS in 2004, is updated twice a year, mainly through:

- *administrative sources*: Business Register of Slovenia, annual accounts (Source: AJPES), Turnover Tax Declaration (Source: Slovenian Tax Administration),
- *statistical sources*: Statistical Register of Employment and results obtained through statistical surveys.

⁴⁶ Council Regulation (EEC) No 2186/93 on Community coordination in drawing up business registers for statistical purposes.

Annual construction statistics



In the field of construction, data on the value of works performed on buildings and engineering structures were collected on the basis of the Sub-class of the uniform Classification of Types of Construction for 2004.

Data on buildings are no longer compiled by means of a questionnaire, since they may be collected through monthly surveys of building and safety permits. On the one hand, this change considerably reduced the burden on reporting units and, on the other hand, reduced the resources needed within the Office. Data on the value of erected constructions in the segment of buildings and civil engineering for the 1998-2004 period were transferred to the SI-STAT data portal.

Analysis of available sources for affiliated companies

According to the proposed amendment to the aforementioned Council Regulation, statistical offices will have to keep data on enterprise groups⁴⁷, including multinational enterprise groups. In 2005, a methodological concept was created for setting up the statistical register for enterprise groups.

Interinstitutional agreements concluded in 2005:
In order to obtain the necessary data for the register, SORS entered into agreements with competent institutions:

- KDD - Central Securities Clearing Corporation - Registry of holders of securities;
- Bank of Slovenia - statistical surveys on foreign investments,
- Supreme Court - Court register
- AJPES - Agency for Public Legal Records and Related Services - Annex 3 to Methodological instructions for submitting annual reports by companies and other sole traders

⁴⁷ An enterprise group is by definition an association of enterprises bound together by legal or financial links. Enterprise groups are bound together by various types of links such as ownership, controlling interest and management. These units are often linked with units of the same family from several different generations. The enterprise group frequently covers a wide range of activities. Subgroups can be identified within enterprise groups.

Business demography

The high demand for comparable data on business demography for the purposes of monitoring and policy formulation in the European Union was shown in 2000 when the Council of Europe at its meeting in Lisbon set the strategic goal of making the European Union the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. This strategic goal can be reached in part through the support of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial dynamism, which is the field analysed by SORS through data on business demography.

In 2005, the second harmonization of data was carried out for the project on business demography, which is based on internationally harmonized methodology developed by Eurostat. The project aims to collect data on the dynamics and structure of Slovenian entrepreneurship in the area of births, deaths and survival of enterprises and the effects of demographic events on the economy and labour market.

The target populations in the second harmonized data collection were:

- newly born enterprises without a predecessor in 2003,
- enterprises that ceased operating and are without successor in 2001 (final data) and 2002 (provisional data);
- enterprises that survived from 2000 to 2003, 2001 to 2003 and 2002 to 2003.

ENERGY and RAW MATERIALS

Owing to the liberalization of energy markets, the energy sector in Slovenia and the European Union is undergoing significant changes. Through collecting data in this statistical field, SORS makes continuous adjustments to the energy market restructuring, where it successfully cooperates with other institutions, such as the Environmental Agency, the Energy Agency and the Energy Directorate within the Ministry of the Economy.

Electricity price monitoring

Annual energy balance calculation

"Household heating price parity shows that in January 2006 the price of natural gas on the level of final energy is drawing near to the heating oil price." (Source: SORS).



Surveys in the field of structural and short-term energy statistics have become a routine method for data collection; consequently, substantive changes occur rarely. In addition, data collection on cogeneration of heat and power was initiated. The same applies to the collection of data on electricity and natural gas prices for standard consumers, as defined by the EU Directive on price transparency. These surveys enabled the establishing of a method for calculating annual energy balances while meeting international requirements. In 2005, SORS continued to carry out monthly surveys on the consumption of energy sources in manufacturing and construction, thus obtaining more complete data on the consumption of energy sources and fuels and,

Detailed results of the first harmonized data collection and part of the provisional data obtained by the second harmonized collection were published in 2005 on the SI-STAT data portal⁴⁸. Some data were also published in Rapid Reports and the Statistical Yearbook.

Business success factors

In 2005, a harmonized EU survey on Factors of Business Success was carried out with 13 participating states. The survey was co-financed by the European Commission.

The survey was aimed at collecting data on:

- reasons for establishing an enterprise,
- characteristics of entrepreneurs,
- difficulties that entrepreneurs face,
- perspectives for business growth.

The European Commission and national governments will use the above data to foster entrepreneurship and improve the conditions for entrepreneurs. Through the creation of new jobs and innovation in both products and the production process, entrepreneurship and emerging enterprises will contribute to the dynamic development of the business environment. The sample survey covers 1500 enterprise births in 2002 that survived and/or still operated in 2005. The results of the survey will be published in 2006.

⁴⁸ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=871

consequently, improving the quality of annual energy balances.

Streamlining data collection - cooperation with the Energy Directorate within the Ministry of the Economy

To reduce the burden on reporting units and to comply with data in the energy sector at the national level, SORS has established cooperation with the Energy Directorate at the Ministry of the Economy. In compliance with the Rules on data submitted by energy activity operators⁴⁹, certain quality and quantity data in the energy sector are collected by the Energy Directorate. This source is used by SORS to collect quantity data for international reports and elaboration of energy balances.

⁴⁹ See Uradni list RS, No. 75/2004, 122/2004 (136/2004 - amend.).

Special actions to support new energy paths in the Community

Energy efficiency indicators

In this field, the Jozef Stefan Institute participates as a Slovenian representative in establishing an international database to serve also as the data source for Eurostat, which means that additional reporting by SORS will no longer be needed.

Indicators measuring competitiveness

In cooperation with the Energy Agency and the Energy Directorate within the Ministry of the Economy, SORS compiled data showing the development of the electricity and natural gas markets.

Harmonization of energy consumption data for calculating greenhouse gas emissions

In 2005, SORS harmonised the reports with Eurostat, which was in the process of updating and completing regular annual reports (i.e. *Joint Questionnaires*). To that end, data were again harmonised with the Environmental Agency (within the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning), which uses the data for calculating greenhouse gas emissions, pursuant to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and EU Decision to establish a mechanism for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy consumption and cogeneration of electricity

"At the end of 2005, we registered a general rise in supply with two exceptions: a drop of a quarter in the supply of Lignite and Brown Coal, and a drop of a half in the supply of Other Petroleum Products." (Source: SORS).

Cogeneration statistics

The objectives in this field are evaluated in the Directive on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. In 2005, SORS successfully carried out a pilot survey on cogeneration. To comply with the provisions of the specific Directive, questionnaires were appropriately modified and regular reports produced in accordance with this Directive.

Consumption of energy resources in manufacturing and construction

Given the growing international needs for data on consumption of energy resources, SORS started to organise annual monitoring of data on the consumption of energy resources in manufacturing and construction. In agreement with the Energy Directorate (within the Ministry of the Economy) and in accordance with the Decision adopted by the Statistical Advisory Committee on Energy Statistics, the monthly monitoring of consumption of energy resources was concluded at the end of 2005. However, on 1 January 2006, a regular annual survey was initiated, covering the consumption of energy resources in manufacturing and construction. With the transition to annual surveys, SORS is adhering to the principle to reduce the obligations imposed on reporting units.

Sustainable development indicators⁵⁰

In addition to the improvements in the field of statistics on total final consumption of energy, SORS provided statistical support for the calculation of sustainable development indicators. Regular annual reporting on liberalisation and competition indicators continued. SORS monitors developments in the field of renewable energy sources and, as they appear in Slovenia, includes them in its regular statistical surveys (biodiesel, solar energy etc.).

⁵⁰ See also the chapter "Environmental statistics".

STATISTICS ON SHORT-TERM INDICATORS

Statistics on short-term indicators, as provided by SORS, in a broad sense encompass short-term statistics in the field of industry, construction, trade, hotels and restaurants and other service activities.

In the field of monitoring the development of short-term statistics in industry, construction, retail trade and other services, SORS regularly participated in Eurostat meetings in 2005 and cooperated with other EU Member States in introducing the European Regulation on short-term indicators and in drafting the amendment to this Regulation, which was adopted in the middle of 2005⁵¹.

Effects of the Amendment to the Regulation

As regards statistics on short-term indicators, SORS will have to comply with the new features imposed by the amendment to the Regulation. For national data providers and other users, *methodological changes and recommendations* will be of essential importance and therefore available on the Eurostat and OECD websites. SORS will have to begin the timely monitoring of the newly introduced variables, such as import prices and producer prices for services, as referred to in the chapter on monitoring price statistics.

In compliance with the requirements of the Amendment to the Regulation, SORS has already established the monitoring of data on turnover and new orders in industry according to the distinction into euro-zone and

⁵¹ Regulation (EC) No 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2005 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics.

non-euro-zone. The data for 2005 were obtained on the basis of a particular annual questionnaire; in 2006 however, the said variables will constitute a part of regular monthly surveys.

Upon the entry into force of the Amendment, the deadlines for data transmission will change, specifically for the indicator of turnover and deflated turnover of retail trade, some indicators in construction, the turnover indicator in service activities, for the number of persons employed; a large part of which has already been applied by SORS or will be applied in 2006.

The Amendment introduces new requirements for *additionally processed data*, for example: the hours-worked to be transmitted in a working-day adjusted form.

Main activities in cooperation with Eurostat in the field of short-term statistics

In 2005, the main tasks were related to:

- determining the quality of Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEI);
- measuring the burden imposed on enterprises through data reporting and measuring of costs incurred on statistical offices by the said legislation;
- granting derogations for data reporting on certain indicators;
- the invitation to applications for grants to ensure reporting on certain indicators, shorter deadlines for data transmission and reduction of burdens imposed on reporting units and costs incurred on national offices;
- the beginning of preparations for the plan to introduce statistical classification of NACE Rev. 2 (Operation 2007) in the field of short-term indicators;
- the transmission of all indicators, the monitoring of which was already conducted pursuant to the Regulation on short-term statistics, was carried out

TRADE

As regards quarterly and annual surveys of trade, SORS carried out its first annual survey in 2005 using a sample of small enterprises; the obtained results were combined with quarterly results for larger enterprises.



The combined data result from a new approach aimed at reducing the reporting burden on small enterprises. In the light of further reducing the reporting burden and costs, SORS examined the usefulness of TARS data (note – VAT data) in autumn 2005, and on the basis of results obtained by the study, drew up guidelines to replace the quarterly trade survey TRG/ČL with monthly surveys based on this administrative source in the following year.

in 2005 in accordance with the forecasts for publications.

New methodology for calculation of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

In 2005, after several years of preparations, SORS changed the methodology for calculating the index of industrial production (IIP), which has been published since 2005 on the basis of value data on turnover and the value of stocks. This resulted in discontinuing the monthly surveys used since 1952 to monitor quantity production and stocks in industrial enterprises. On the one hand, this change has significantly reduced the burden on reporting units, which currently report only some 5,000 data monthly instead of the previous 30,000. On the other hand, the altered methodology eliminated some drawbacks of the previous system: it takes into account the change in quality, enables the monitoring of the entire industrial production of enterprises, and the burden on enterprises and SORS resources is reduced.

Feasibility study concerning the use of administrative sources

In the context of recommendations to reduce the burden on enterprises as regards reporting and costs incurred by statistical offices, in autumn 2005 SORS began a feasibility study on the use of administrative sources (VAT data from the Tax Administration – the DDV-O Form for settlement of value added tax) for statistical purposes i.e for the calculation of short-term indicators of turnover development. With that, there was no need to introduce new monthly surveys in wholesale trade due to the change of time provisions referred to in the Regulation on short-term statistics, while in 2006, the possibilities of current surveys in the fields of trade, hotels and restaurants and other services being replaced with this administrative source will be examined.

Census of selling capacities

Planned for 2006

As regards the census of selling capacities in retail trade, links with the Ministry of the Economy and administrative units were set up in 2005 with a view to checking the accessibility and currency of data from administrative sources of administrative units (registration of opening hours of shops) and SORS capacities to carry out the census on this basis. Thus, all the necessary conditions to start carrying out the census of shops in 2006 were established.

TRANSPORT

In 2005, a substantial portion of activities within regular and development tasks followed the guidelines of the Medium-term statistical programme 2003 – 2007; a continuous adaptation of transport statistics to the development of statistical indicators comparable across Europe (structural, environmental, regional etc.) is of particular importance.



All the planned tasks were conducted in accordance with the Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys as well with the programme and dynamics in the wider European area (Eurostat, UNECE).

Through Eurostat Working Groups for particular areas and the Coordinating Committee on Statistics in Transport (CCST), SORS is directly involved in the setting up of a new European Statistical System for transport, which follows the guidelines of the White Paper *European transport policy for 2010: time to decide*; it also actively participates in the UNECE Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP. 6).

In 2005, attention in transport statistics was focused on surveys that required substantial harmonization with EU legislation on statistics (maritime transport, road goods transport and air transport) owing to Slovenia's accession to the EU.

In 2005, priority tasks included further harmonization of railway transport statistics with the Council Regulation, which is carried out in cooperation with the Slovenian Railways Company, in particular with regard to some

changes and upgrading of its existing information system.

In 2005, a new method of data collection concerning cross-border traffic at border crossings with Austria, Italy and Hungary was introduced. Since Slovenia's accession to the EU, only data from the border police authorities have been available; in respect of these crossings, data on vehicles and passengers by country of registration of vehicle and data on goods are no longer available. Reporting by customs authorities located at border crossings with Croatia, which provides a wider range of data, has not changed.

As regards regular surveys, SORS introduced a new annual survey on public road passenger transport in 2005, which also includes urban passenger transport. Separate annual surveys on urban passenger transport were abolished in 2005.

INFORMATION SOCIETY

In 2005, joint cooperation of SORS and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology in the European project of eEurope 2005 comparison was concluded; the project continues within the framework of a new strategy, i2010.



In 2005, the project eEurope 2005 was concluded; this was a survey of selected information society statistics, which continues in 2006 within the framework of i2010 – European Information Society 2010 – providing a strategic framework for accelerated economic growth, employment and a digital economy in Europe.

Briefly about i2010

There are three priorities within the i2010 project, namely: a single European information area, innovations and investment in information and communication technologies and inclusion in the European information society; attention is also given to wider guidelines concerning not only the expansion and enhancement of European infrastructure but also to the promotion of innovativeness, labour flexibility, in particular teleworking, and education in respect of new information society needs.

Information society

"In the first quarter of 2005, 87 % of households had at least one mobile phone, 61 % of households had a personal computer and 48 % of households had access to the Internet." (Source: SORS)

In 2005, two regular annual surveys on the use of ICT in households and enterprises were carried out in the area of information society surveys; SORS has regularly carried out such surveys since 2004 in accordance with the Regulation⁵². This fast-developing area and the i2010 Programme for the next five-year period, which defines new indicators for the information society, necessitate the constant addition of new contents to to questionnaires.

The conclusion drawn from the October workshop⁵³ on i2010 indicators, organized jointly by Eurostat and the Commission, is that key indicators should be supplemented by special modules so as to define a main theme by 2007 to be used to survey additional indicators for the current year.

By adding *ad hoc* modules, information society surveys would become more flexible whilst the number of indicators and the reporting burden on reporting units

⁵² Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society.

⁵³ Within the 3rd i2010 Benchmarking indicators IS-WG/DG INFSO Workshop (Luxembourg, 5 October 2005).

would be reduced. Accordingly, household ICT use surveys will include specific questions on the use of e-administration services as early as in 2006. Gathered data will provide public administration with an important source of information concerning the services that Slovenian citizens would like to use through the Internet.

Briefly about statistical surveys

Usage of ICT in households

Through surveys, SORS establishes the extent of the use of computers and other information and communication devices, the share of the Slovenian population having access to the Internet and the purposes for which they use it. A new feature of surveys on ICT use in households is coverage of the population under 16 years of age (10 to 15 years of age), as SORS is aware that their exclusion would underestimate the use of ICT in Slovenia.

Usage of ICT in enterprises

The purpose of surveys is to obtain information on whether companies in Slovenia use computers, the Internet, electronic commerce and other ICT. Data gathered by both surveys are an important source for pursuing the policy in the field of information society in Slovenia as well as in the European Union.

In accordance with the Commission Regulation⁵⁴, development tasks included a successfully implemented project concerning the use of ICT in the financial sector in which SORS surveyed ICT facilities and their use, i.e. the use of personal computers, Internet, electronic commerce etc. The questionnaire was based on the questionnaire designed for surveying ICT use in enterprises but was significantly shorter. In 2006, it will include some very specific questions on selling financial services through the Internet (e-banking, on-line investment services, on-line insurance).

Communication

In the field of communication statistics, data on postal services and on fixed and mobile telephony were collected in 2005 on a quarterly basis. As regards data collection on telecommunication services, the start of cooperation between SORS and the Post and Electronic Communications Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (PECA) should be mentioned; its aim is to disburden reporting units: all relevant data would be assembled in one place, at the Post and Electronic Communications Agency, which has to collect data on electronic communications and other related markets owing to its regulatory function.

⁵⁴ See: Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society).

TOURISM

Hotels and restaurants and travel agency statistics

Since the field of short-term hotels and restaurants statistics had been fully harmonized with the *acquis* requirements, further alignment of technological procedures, the method of work and publication of results concerning income trends in the catering industry with other short-term surveys was carried out in 2005.

Tourism statistics



In 2005, surveys in the field of tourism statistics – accommodation statistics, a survey of travel by the domestic population, statistical monitoring of visits to cultural institutions and other sites, and other minor surveys – were carried out successfully. On the initiative of the Bank of Slovenia, additional questions were included in the quarterly survey on travel by the domestic population⁵⁵.

Data concerning accommodation statistics, i.e. arrivals and overnight stays of tourists by countries and different Slovenian territorial units were transferred and

uploaded to the SI-STAT data portal where they are published on a regular monthly basis⁵⁶.

In cooperation with administrative units, a comprehensive action was carried out in the second half of 2005 to update a list of accommodation facilities in Slovenia. Pursuant to Article 11 of the Catering Act⁵⁷, administrative units are responsible for issuing decisions on the type and category of catering establishments.

In autumn 2005, preparations began for a three-year survey on foreign tourists in Slovenia (TU-TURISTI). A survey will be carried out in hotels and camps in May, July, August and October. In previous years, the survey was carried out only in the summer season; the new schedule will also enable collection of data for months outside the summer season. Data on foreign tourist spending are an important source for the Bank of Slovenia used for calculating the balance of payments item regarding travelling. The most important users of these data, such as the Slovenian Tourist Board and Slovenian Convention Bureau, cooperated in drawing up the questionnaire.

The Bank of Slovenia requirements that are based on a modified method of calculating the item travel have led SORS to examine the possibility of collecting data to be used to make an assessment of the structure of foreign travellers in Slovenia. Estimating the number of foreign

⁵⁵ Monthly accommodation statistics and quarterly statistics on travel by the domestic population were collected in accordance with the Commission Decision (2004/883/EC) laying down a new list of countries to supply data on the number of arrivals and overnight stays of foreign tourists; all EU countries are included.

⁵⁶ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=1056.

⁵⁷ Uradni list RS, No. 1/95 and subsequent amendments – last amendment published in the Uradni list RS, No. 110/02 – ZGO-1.

same-day visitors and foreign transit passengers will be particularly difficult.

BUSINESS TENDENCY SURVEYS



The purpose of qualitative surveys on business tendencies in manufacturing industry, retail trade, construction and service activities which are carried out by SORS and co-financed by the European Commission (DG ECFIN), is to collect monthly data on the current situation of key economic indicators and estimate their development in subsequent months. Survey results serve as a basis for calculating the confidence indicator in the aforementioned activities and the sentiment indicator. According to the methodology, the sample of reporting units for all surveys was revised in spring 2005. SORS

participated in the Working group workshop for business and consumer surveys, led by DG ECFIN. In 2005, the main stress was placed on assessment of the EU harmonized programme for business surveys and on remedying its shortcomings.

The results of monthly surveys were published in accordance with the special dissemination standards of the International Monetary Fund. At the same time, data were also published electronically – on the SI-STAT data portal⁵⁸.

⁵⁸ See: <http://www.stat.si/pxweb/dialog/statfile1.asp>

III.3 MONETARY, FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS

Financial account, monetary and balance of payments statistics are based primarily on the information derived from direct and indirect reports submitted by banks and companies as well as on the information on trade in goods compiled by SORS in cooperation with the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia according to customs declarations and Intrastat statistics introduced on Slovenia's accession to the EU. The Bank of Slovenia, which is in charge of reporting the information to the European Central Bank within the national statistics framework, must also provide some other information, particularly from the areas of public finance and general economic statistics. The most important information is that relating to the Maastricht economic criteria: this is the information on long-term interest rates (compiled by the Bank of Slovenia), the general government sector deficit and debt (compiled by SORS and the Ministry of Finance), and the harmonised consumer price index (compiled by SORS).

MONEY AND FINANCE – the euro and EMS statistics, short-term monetary and financial indicators, public deficit and debt statistics, public finance balance sheets, etc.

In addition to the implementation of regular statistical tasks in the field of monetary and financial statistics, changes made as part of preparations for joining the European Monetary Union further intensified. By joining the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), the Bank of Slovenia assumed statistical obligations that have to be met before the country joins the European Monetary Union.

According to the Statute of the ESCB and the European Central Bank, Member States are required to take, on the national level, all measures necessary for complying with ECB statistical reporting requirements and timely statistical preparations for EMU membership. In this regard, the ECB checks the new members' progress in complying with statistical obligations every six months. In 2005, reporting by the sector of other monetary financial institutions (S.122) stabilised, adapted to the requirements of harmonised ECB monetary and banking statistics. On this basis, the Bank of Slovenia began reporting to the ECB the balance sheet and revaluation information of the Bank of Slovenia and aggregates of other monetary financial institutions on a monthly and

quarterly basis, including appropriate time series for 2004 in accordance with the Regulation⁵⁹.

Memorandum of understanding in the field of macroeconomic and financial statistics

Due to the increasing burden in the past few years and interdependence of individual statistics, a demarcation of competences and responsibilities in ensuring compliance with statistical requirements was urgently needed. For this reason, the Bank of Slovenia, the Ministry of Finance and

⁵⁹ Regulation (EC) No 2174/2002 of the ECB of 21 November 2002 amending Regulation ECB/2001/13 concerning the consolidated balance sheet of the monetary financial institutions sector (ECB/2002/8).

SORS signed a special Memorandum of understanding based on the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the European Central Bank and Eurostat in 2004.

The memorandum lays down the responsibilities of individual signatories and the demarcation of responsibility and method of their mutual cooperation in providing Slovenian macroeconomic and financial statistics to the European Commission - Eurostat, ECOFIN and the European Central Bank. The subject matter of the memorandum includes cooperation in maintaining the standard classification of institutional sectors as a particularly important classification for ensuring macroeconomic and financial statistics. The common sectorisation is conducted by the Agency for Public Legal Records and Related Services (AJPES) as a part of Slovenia's Business Register.

Date for the general government sector

Publication of data for the general government sector

In 2005, the Ministry of Finance compiled the data in accordance with the new manual of the International Monetary Fund for the entire general government sector for the third consecutive year, although only in the part dealing with transactions, and not in the part dealing with balance sheet data. In the past few years, the data comprised all direct and indirect budget users as defined by the Rules defining direct and indirect central and local government budget users (see Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 46/2003).

The information for 2005 comprises, for the first time, institutions of the general government sector as defined by ESA 95 methodology and the new IMF methodology. The list in accordance with the new methodology was drawn up by SORS and approved by the Institutional Sectorisation Commission composed of representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Slovenia and SORS. The information will be published in the

International Monetary Fund's *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook* in the first half of 2006.

Implementation of the new GFS manual

At the end of 2001, the International Monetary Fund published a new *Manual on Government Finance Statistics 2001*, which is harmonised according to SNA93 and ESA95 methodologies. Implementation of this new manual will be a demanding and time-consuming process that will include a series of methodological changes and adjustments, particularly in the field of capturing general government transactions and setting up records that will make possible the drawing up of balance sheets for the general government sector. The Ministry of Finance already began activities in this area and continued their implementation in 2005.

Interest rates

Beginning of reporting of data on harmonised interest rates of credit institutions

In May 2005, credit institutions in Slovenia started reporting to the Bank of Slovenia on the interest rates harmonised with the Regulation⁶⁰ (the so-called MIR statistic) in accordance with instructions from July 2004. In November, this reporting was further broken down so that it included requirements for separate reports on effective interest rates, lending and deposit interest rates, the banks' largest depositors and renewed requests for information about interest-rate risk assessment.

⁶⁰ Regulation ECB (EC) no. 2181/2004 of 16 December 2004 amending the Regulation (EC) no. 2423/2001 (ECB/2001/13 on consolidated balance sheet in the sector of monetary financial institutions, and Regulation (EC) 63/2002/18 on interest rate statistics used by monetary financial institutions for deposits and loans in relation to households and non-financial corporations (ECB/2004/21).

TRADE IN GOODS – export and import of goods

Intrastat/Extrastat system in Slovenia



Ever since Slovenia's accession to the EU, there has been ongoing Intrastat statistical research intended for monitoring trade in goods among the EU Member States, as well as the existing Extrastat research, intended for monitoring trade in goods between the EU Member States with non-Member States. The latter was adapted to the common European trade and agricultural policy from the methodological and technical viewpoint.

Successful cooperation with the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia

Intrastat carries out its activities in cooperation with the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, i.e. the Customs Office of Nova Gorica, Intrastat Department, which collects, reviews and corrects the information and cooperates with reporting units. SORS is responsible for methodology and observing legislation in this area, macrocontrol of information, evaluation of below-the-

threshold information as well as for the dissemination of information about trade.

Training providers of information

It is important to ensure permanent training and notification of reporting units about Intrastat innovations. To this end, a number of seminars have been organised in cooperation with the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia and with organisational support of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia in order to familiarise them with the method of operation of the Intrastat system. Participants also received all instructions for completing the Intrastat form. Reporting units were encouraged to send their reports by e-mail since more than 90% of all items were sent electronically in 2005.

Impact of the new EU legislation on foreign trade statistics

In 2005, there were some changes in keeping Intrastat statistics as a result of the new basic Regulation⁶¹ in force since January 2005 and the new implementing Regulation⁶² for Intrastat which, in addition to

⁶¹ Regulation (EC) no. 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) no. 3330/91.

⁶² Commission Regulation (EU) no. 1982/2004 of 18 November 2004 implementing the Regulation (EU) no. 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member

simplifications in gathering information, also provide for an improvement in quality. The basic Regulation facilitates a uniform verification of data quality by means of uniform indicators and regular quality reports, while the purpose of the implementing Regulation is to achieve a coordinated operation of the system by using uniform definitions and concepts.

States and repealing Commission Regulations (EEC) no. 1901/2000 and (EEC) no. 3590/92. The implementing Regulation was supplemented by the Commission Regulation (EC) no. 1915/2005 of 24 November 2005 amending Regulation (EC) no. 1982/2004 with regard to the simplification of the recording of quantity and specifications on particular movement of goods.

TRADE IN SERVICES and BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Drafting the concept of direct reporting for the balance of payments

Balance of payments statistics is subject to negotiation and concerted action both on the level of EU institutions and within Slovenia. In the area of balance of payments statistics, the Bank of Slovenia drew up a new concept of direct reporting by participants in non-resident transactions. Due to the EU regulation on cross-border

payments in euros within the EU, which requires an elimination of reporting for balance of payments statistics under a specific reporting threshold, in the interim period before the introduction of the euro, the Bank of Slovenia entered into a special arrangement with banks in order to maintain reporting that facilitates the maintenance of consistency in balance of payments statistics in the period of ERM 2 operation.

ECONOMIC GLOBALISATION INDICATORS

A growing integration of national economies into world globalisation trends requires statistics to measure more adequately economic activities in such modified circumstances.

Statistical monitoring of economic globalisation has several dimensions and includes different statistical zones: statistics of foreign direct investments, statistics of international company activities, foreign-trade statistics, statistics of international trade in services, research and development activity statistics, and a statistical business register as an infrastructural basis for defining units under foreign control.

OECD manual on economic globalisation indicators

An important achievement in statistical measurement of globalisation is the publication of the first OECD manual on economic globalisation indicators in 2005. The implementation of at least the majority of the recommended indicators will be a demanding long-term assignment that most countries will not be able to carry out in a shorter period of time, partly because of the lack of practical guidelines for defining such indicators. In the initial period, SORS will focus primarily on the computation of indicators derived from information about the structure and activities of foreign-controlled units, collected in accordance with the latest EU regulation and foreign trade indicators.

Gradual introduction of indicators – foreign control influence

With a gradual introduction of a system of indicators that will be used to measure the integration of Slovenia's economy into the world globalisation trends, activities in 2005 were carried out primarily on the

creation of a methodology for determining foreign-controlled units and available sources of information. To this end, a detailed analysis of foreign direct investments in the corporate sector by non-residents in Slovenia was made for 2002. The main objectives of the analysis included the following: a study of the structure and methodology of provided information; laying down the methodology for defining units under direct and indirect foreign control, including the most important investing country also in the event that investors come from several countries; highlighting the characteristics of foreign-controlled units in connection with the business register; partial analysis of the time schedule of foreign-controlled units, particularly from the viewpoint of new and eliminated units within the information available for previous years that was not fully comparable.

SORS used the methodological knowledge acquired by this analysis in the first stage of the project of foreign-controlled units statistics, when the information had to be reported to Eurostat for the first time in 2003. Foreign-controlled units for 2003 were defined according to the same methodological procedures as in the initial analysis for 2002. In the second half of 2005, information on foreign trade enabling an analysis of the role of these companies in Slovenia's trade in goods was also obtained for foreign-controlled units in 2002.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS and use of administrative sources of information

The use of administrative sources of information within national statistics is particularly explicit in the area of monitoring agricultural statistics. In this respect, we should stress the role of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, which is striving, together with SORS, for the maximum possible interaction and improvement in the quality of information and records in this area.



In its efforts to reduce the burden imposed on reporting units and the costs of data collection, SORS also interacted actively with other institutions in the area of monitoring the development of registers and records as well as acceptance and use of administrative information in 2005.

Eurostat's TAPAS project

In 2005, activities on Eurostat's project TAPAS 2004 relating to the acceptance and analysis of information from the bovine register (MAFF) continued. The object of the project was to use administrative sources in the area of cattle farming for statistical purposes and reduce the burden imposed on reporting units and reduce costs.

In addition to Slovenia, participants in the *TAPAS 2005 project – inventory of small units in Agriculture* – include Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia. Slovenia is expected to start activities on the project in March 2006 and hopes that the project will confirm that agricultural statistics meet the requirements of EU regulations on data capture for agricultural production statistics; supplementing of data for sampling structural statistics for the purposes of economic calculations for agriculture and national accounts; completion of data on agricultural production for the purposes of supply balance sheets; opportunity for a partial update of the statistical register of agricultural holdings.

In 2005, changes in agricultural statistics also became more explicit on an international level: Eurostat's proposals on participation of national statistical offices in Eurostat's sampling surveys and in setting up consolidated statistical registers of agricultural holdings, which will represent a basis for future sampling on the EU level, met with a marked response.

Farm structure and typology

"An average-sized agricultural holding cultivates 6.3 ha of farmland (the same as in 2003) and rears 6.6 livestock units (6.9 in 2003)." (Source: SORS)

Structural surveys of agricultural holdings⁶³ provide the basic information necessary to conduct the EU's common agricultural policy and are, at the same time, a source of microinformation on socioeconomic

characteristics of family farms, farmland use, livestock and machinery, representing a statistical basis for the

selection of agricultural holdings for sampling surveys by other agricultural statistics.

Conducting the sampling survey on the structure of agricultural holdings

In 2005, SORS carried out a sampling survey of the structure of agricultural holdings, which is one of the EU's most important agricultural statistics surveys, in accordance with EU requirements. Preliminary results of the agricultural holdings survey for 2005 show that the structure of agricultural holdings has not changed significantly as compared with 2003. End results of the survey will be published in April 2006, when the structure of agricultural holdings will also be shown with regard to manpower, machinery, supplementary activities and production typology of agricultural holdings.

"The sampling survey by means of which a census of livestock as at 1 December 2005 and of the areas sown in that year was made shows that the total number of animals has increased in all main species of animals." (Source: SORS)

Survey of areas sown and of the livestock number

Sampling, a field survey of areas sown and livestock numbers were combined with a survey of the structure of agricultural holdings, in which detailed information on the livestock number by individual species and categories was gathered as at 1 June 2005. The information on the livestock number as at 1 December was collected by means of a sampling field survey Annual report on the livestock number and areas sown in the autumn sowing at the end of the year.

Agricultural incomes and prices

Economic accounts for agriculture and economic accounts for forestry were given a legal basis in 2003. Priority tasks in the area of economic accounts for agriculture are those relating to the introduction of EAA 97 Rev. 1.1 methodology – improvement of the quality of information in accordance with the new or qualitatively improved sources of agricultural statistics and other sources, and laying down the methodology for Slovenia.

Economic accounts for forestry were SORS's priority task in 2004; however, their formulation was deferred until 2005. According to the EU methodology, EAF 97

⁶³ A census every 10 years, and three interim sampling surveys.

Rev 1, a methodology was laid down for Slovenia in 2005. Production account and revenue account items were calculated for the period 1995-2003.

"The real factor revenue for the full workforce in agriculture declined in 2005 as compared with the 2004 level by 4.2%." (Source: SORS)

Agricultural satellite accounts

With the development of a satellite account for agriculture, based on national accounts methodology (SNA 93 or ESA 95), but not taking account of special features of agriculture (EAA 97 methodology), agriculture is becoming more complex. Agricultural and other statistics and information provided by other institutions represent a basis for calculating production and revenue indicators such as value added and factor revenue. The computed value added enables an international comparison of Slovenia's agriculture, calculation of the share of agriculture in the country's gross domestic product, and comparison with other activities. The entire system of accounts, which includes production, revenue, enterprise and accumulation accounts, also enables an intrasectoral analysis of individual categories.

Impact of the new acquis

The Regulation of the European Parliament⁶⁴ and of the Council applies to the methodology of economic accounts for agriculture and forestry. Adoption of the Regulation in the area of economic accounts for agriculture does not represent any additional burden for SORS since SORS fully adopted the EU norms, including evaluations of real agricultural revenues, in 2003 when agricultural accounts were still one of the development tasks. As EAA is a comprehensive information system, cooperation was established with other institutions that are in possession of information, which results in a higher level of account quality.

An audit of the survey of intermediate goods, means of production and services in agriculture was completed by the end of April 2004. In 2005, prices of intermediate goods were monitored according to a methodology that is fully in line with EU recommendations.

Calculation of socioeconomic types of family farms

Within the framework of socioeconomic characteristics of family farms, SORS determined the adjustments to the method of calculating socioeconomic types of family farms, in agreement with the Biotechnical Faculty of Ljubljana and the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia. Owing to the possibilities offered by the information collected on manpower, this method is still short of providing standard methods for calculating such types. For the purpose of a comparable calculation of socioeconomic types of farms, SORS should provide additional information about the volume of work in supplementary and additional activities, working time taken up for paid work outside agricultural holdings, and

information about the volume of work by persons not residing at the address of the head of the family farm. The new method of calculating socioeconomic types is scheduled to be used in the 2010 Census.

Crop production

Crops and farmland use

All regular surveys comprising information about sown or planted areas and average yields in 2005 were carried out for crop production statistics. A sampling field survey of sown areas and of the number of cattle was combined with a survey of the structure of agricultural holdings, in which detailed information about crops and farmland use as at 1 June 2005 was gathered.

Use of mineral fertilisers on family farms by crops

Within its survey Annual report of business entities regarding the use of intermediate goods, SORS carried out a pilot telephone survey on the use of mineral fertilisers on family farms by culture in November 2004. The results of the study will serve as a basis for further development of these statistics.

Assessment of crops

In the EU, information regarding crop assessments, representing a basis for assessing categories of economic accounts for agriculture, i.e. assessment of real agricultural income, is very important. In 2005, SORS was involved in the continuation of activities on the AGROMET pilot project that facilitated the acquisition of information concerning the assessment of major agricultural produce.

Livestock farming

Milk and dairy products

SORS started collecting milk and dairy products statistics for 2004 in accordance with Eurostat recommendations (monthly, annual and triennial data reporting). Methodological improvements of these statistics were carried out within a pilot project that was completed in the first half of 2005.

Accounts of animal stocking - Eurostat project

Eurostat's activities on the project of assessing the production and direct consumption of animal products, meat and milk, continued in 2005. The result of the project will be an early assessment of meat production and improvement of milk and dairy product statistics.

Fisheries

In 2003, acting within the fisheries statistics working group called together on the initiative of the statistical advisory committee on agriculture and fisheries, SORS proposed an agreement defining a new, more rational allocation of tasks in connection with monitoring fisheries statistics. No agreement was signed in 2005 since the tasks and responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food had not yet been defined, so the agreement should be signed in 2006.

⁶⁴ (EC) Regulation n° 138/2004 of 5 December 2003 on the Economic Accounts for Agriculture in the Community SORS with authorised producers

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS –

statistics of waste and recycling, rare and dangerous materials, emissions, etc.

The area of the environment is gaining importance owing to the increasingly noticeable changes in our surroundings. The tendency towards reducing man's direct and indirect impact on the environment is in part reflected in both national and EU legislation. SORS monitors the substantive diversity of this field by introducing new surveys and adapting existing ones in close cooperation with the relevant environmental protection institutions. In the area of waste water, waste and environmental expenditure statistics, SORS maintains successful relationships with the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for the Environment and the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. Moreover, it works in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance in the sphere of environmental expenditure, and with the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief and the Phytosanitary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia.



The audit of surveys regarding the reduced burden imposed on reporting units continued in 2005. SORS also regularly monitored the development of environmental indicators, energy-environment indicators and transport-environment indicators within the EU.

"According to the Kyoto Protocol, Slovenia must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8% of the 1998 level by 2010." (Source: SORS)

Waste statistics

A major audit of the waste survey was conducted by SORS in 2002 and 2003. In subsequent years, surveys were harmonised as a result of the requirements of the Waste Statistics Regulation⁶⁵. SORS set up a database on waste management for the purpose of reporting under this Regulation in 2004. Preparations for reporting under this Regulation will continue into 2006, with June 2006 representing the first deadline for data reporting for 2004.

Surveys on waste were carried out in cooperation with the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for the Environment (ARSO). All these surveys have become a standard method of collecting data on waste and meeting international requirements.

"In 2004, production and service activities generated 5,893,306 tonnes of waste, of which 104,073 tonnes were hazardous waste." (Source: SORS)

"In 2003, each resident of Slovenia generated 1.1 kg of waste per day on average. (Source: SORS)

Waste packaging statistics

In 2005, SORS completed a pilot project on waste packaging statistics, which was carried out in three stages: in the first stage, SORS determined the

generation of waste packaging in households, the generation of waste packaging in production and service activities in the second, and the quantity of packaging placed on the market in the third stage. The final conclusion was that the results of regular statistical surveys combined with appropriate reporting units could satisfy the need to change information on waste packaging for Slovenia and for international purposes.

Waste import and export statistics

SORS had already been monitoring the total imported and exported quantities of waste by carrying out regular statistical surveys, although it had not applied any detailed division of waste imports and exports. To this end, a detailed analysis of the possibility of more detailed delineation of waste import and export was carried out in 2005. The main conclusion was that, under the principle of imposing the minimum possible burden on reporting units, the existing surveys should only be supplemented by an additional question on possible imports or exports of waste to/from EU countries or to/from non-EU countries.

Preparatory method of waste management statistics

In 2005, SORS also examined the possibility of recording preparatory methods of waste management. There were ongoing coordinating activities with ARSO (within the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning) regarding the possibility of including these data in the basic statistical surveys.

Concessionaires for special types of waste

SORS monitored the information provided by concessionaires for special types of waste within special surveys. The results obtained were then compared to ARSO records. SORS will use these results in the coming year for its regular surveys.

Environmental protection expenditure

SORS has been improving the quality of statistics on environmental expenditure in the past few years. It carried out a survey of environmental expenditure for the fourth time in 2005 and thus collected information

⁶⁵ Commission Regulation (EC) no. 783/2005 of 24 May 2005 amending Annex II to the Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council no. 2150/2002 on waste statistics (Text with EEA relevance), *Official Journal L 131*, 25/05/2005 P. 0038 - 004

about environmental expenditure by investors' activity and by purpose. In this way, it paved the way for calculating macroeconomic aggregates and compliance with international obligations⁶⁶. The survey also collected data received from manufacturing activities on the revenues of reporting units stemming from environmental protection activities. SORS's methodology of collecting environmental protection data is also used by reporting units in introducing environmental accounting.

Monitoring of environmental protection expenditure for non-industrial activities

For the purpose of meeting its national and international liabilities, SORS supplemented the provisional methodology of presenting the public sector's environmental protection expenditure data collected by the Government in the fiscal budget and other administrative sources of information in 2005. SORS will verify the collected information with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Environment and the Environment Agency (ARSO) prior to reporting them for the purpose of JQ (Eurostat's Joint Questionnaire) in 2006.

Environmental protection expenditure incurred by specialised manufacturers

In 2005, an experimental survey of environmental protection expenditure incurred by providers of environmental protection services for 2003 and 2004 was carried out.

Environmental protection expenditure incurred by households

In 2005, SORS monitored activities in the development of data collection on environmental protection expenditure incurred by households. A more detailed methodology of monitoring information on environmental protection expenditure incurred by households should be established together with Eurostat experts.

Environmental protection expenditure incurred by industrial activities

In 2005, an audit was performed regarding the possibility of partial data collection for industrial activities according to the official records of the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, Ministry of the Economy, and other institutions. A particularly detailed review was made of data collecting methodology and the possibilities of supplementing data for industry environmental protection accounts were examined.

Statistics on use of water and emissions into water

"In Slovenia, the relationship between the quantity of pumped and available water is favourable: the use of water resources indicator is 2.5, which means that of 100 m³ of available water, 2.5 m³ have been pumped and used." (Source: SORS)

In 2005, SORS updated its questionnaire on the use of water and protection of water from industrial pollution. At the same time, it monitored the setting up of new administrative sources at the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy and the Health Protection Institute and examined the possibility of taking information from these sources.

A review of existing legislation and legislation being drafted was made in 2005. SORS succeeded in establishing contacts with the Slovenian institutions responsible for collecting information on waters. For the purpose of setting up and managing a geodifferentiated database on waters, a benchmarking of information, which will include a possibility of taking over administrative data for statistical purposes, will follow in 2006.

Monitoring the water accounts methodology

In 2005, SORS continued formulating the water accounts methodology. It also continued collecting the available information for individual tables and making conversions based on the recommended concept of UN methodology.

Environmental accounts

Pilot project on atmospheric emissions

In 2005, SORS collected data for a pilot project on atmospheric emissions according to NAMEA methodology⁶⁷ based on the latest information provided by SORS and the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, which is obliged to collect information as a result of obligations under conventions according to the CORINAIR⁶⁸ and IPCC⁶⁹ methodologies. The purpose of the project is to improve the quality of information for the requisite tables and to compile appropriate information for completing Eurostat's questionnaire on NAMEA atmospheric emissions, which will be sent to EU Member States in 2006. SORS used the available information to calculate the information based on the requisite tables showing the information on atmospheric emissions, production, value added, interim consumption and employment, household consumption, and use of energy by industry and households by SKD activities. Environmental data are shown on a consolidated basis in connection with national accounts aggregates. The pilot project will be completed in March 2006, and the activity report will be sent to Eurostat.

⁶⁶ E.g. for JQ Eurostat/OECD and compliance with structural statistics requirements

⁶⁷ NAMEA – National Accounts Matrix including Environmental Accounts.

⁶⁸ CORINAIR methodology - CORE Inventory of AIR emissions.

⁶⁹ IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Sustainable development indicators

Owing to the audit of sustainable development in the EU, for which preparations started in 2005, final indicators of sustainable development in the EU that should have been determined by the end of 2004, are still not available. SORS has been constantly monitoring the development of this set of indicators and has been taking an active part in international meetings on this subject. After the publication of the final set of indicators, which will be fully in line with the new requirements of the Commission, SORS will also assess the possible new data requirements.

The current set of indicators for Europe as a whole may be accessed indirectly on the SI-STAT portal, more precisely under the heading Intersectoral Indicators by way of a direct link to Eurostat's website:

www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/sustainabledevelopment

Audit of the EU's sustainable development strategy

The set of indicators is currently made up of 10 priority areas with approximately 155 indicators contained in the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (economic development, poverty and social exclusion, aging society, public health, climate change and energy, production and consumption patterns, management

and natural resources, transport, good governance, global partnership).

In the EU, there is an ongoing audit of the sustainable development strategy, since the European Council expressed a need for developing indicators that would monitor the progress of strategy implementation. In the process of the strategy audit that lies ahead, new priority tasks may emerge, which will bring about changes in the actual set of indicators (from 2004).

In December 2005, Eurostat issued a publication with indicators, which will, from now on, be made every two years, and also created a special Working Group for monitoring sustainable development (the first meeting was in April 2006) which will continue and upgrade activities associated with the indicators. The working group, whose work is scheduled for completion by mid-2008, will also produce a final report in the form of a coherent manual revealing to the user how statistics may support sustainable development.

REGIONAL STATISTICS - monitoring Slovenia's regional and spatial development

SORS provided the Slovenian Government with all the necessary data and metadata support for drawing up proposed cohesion and development regions. To this end, a part of its activities was devoted to cooperation within the Working Group for structural policy and regional development of the Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy within which Slovenia formulates its positions relating to the adoption of regulations in connection with structural funds and the cohesion fund for the period 2007-2013. Equally important was SORS's participation in the Government Commission for the Standardisation of Geographical Names and in the interministerial coordinating group for implementation of the Alpine Convention.

Portrait of municipalities and statistical regions 2005

In 2005, a new revised - and in this case web - version of the publication Portrait of Regions, containing a wide range of information about the geographical situation, history, population, employment, economy, environment, education, health and culture of the European regions, was published. An interesting set of indicators and data (mainly, for 2003) provides the specifics and diversity of each region.

In April 2006, SORS published⁷⁰ on its website a collection of statistical information from various areas - demographic and social statistics, economic statistics, interregional statistics - at the level of statistical regions and municipalities. The data are shown for a relatively long period of time. Users may also find much data gathered in the profile of municipalities and statistical regions for 2005 in the SI/STAT database; the database is regularly updated and upgraded by SORS. SORS is

expected to publish the brochure Regions in Figures in May 2006.

Regional accounts

Gross domestic product for regions

In 2005, SORS reported to Eurostat within a larger project on the current methodology and sources used in Slovenia to calculate regional GDP, including the estimated quality of such sources and methods.

In 2005, data was published for the first time for 2003⁷¹, while a revision was performed for the 2000-2002 period, which introduced a methodological change, i.e. it implemented a new method of allocating financial intermediation services indirectly measured that had to be introduced by year-end 2005 according to ESA-95 requirements (see also the chapter on national accounts).

⁷⁰ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=1026.

⁷¹ See http://www.stat.si/eng/novice_poglej.asp?ID=867.

Urban statistics

Project Urban Audit II

In 2005, work was completed on the Urban Audit II project, the purpose of which was primarily to build a European database of comparable urban statistics for larger EU cities.

Briefly about the project

The project is a result of the joint activities of Eurostat, the Directorate General for Regional Policy and national statistical offices. A set of variables is determined by Eurostat in cooperation with the Directorate General for Regional Policy, while national statistical offices are in charge of collecting information about the selected cities, coordination of information obtained from different sources, both sources within offices themselves and external sources, cooperate with representatives of cities, ensure that the collected information agrees with the methodology, provide for the calculation and evaluation of the information, and report on the progress of activities by individual stages.

The project became more important after its inclusion in the cohesion policy. This policy thus also provided funds earmarked for financing cities and urban areas within structural funds for the duration of the next financial perspective 2007-2013. In this way, the Urban Audit will become a part of the "competitiveness and employment" objective; in this connection, the importance of the urban aspect will be decided by individual countries, and utilization or non-utilization of funds will also be performed accordingly.

More information about the purpose and progress of the project, cities included in the project and collected data is

available in the website Urban Audit Project - presentation of cities⁷².

Regional statistics databases

Cross-border statistics database

The database of cross-border statistics will include statistical information from various areas for the territory of Slovenia and the adjoining regions in neighbouring countries. A Working Group was appointed in 2005; the starting points for the project were defined and the first opinions and ideas of project participants were gathered. In cooperation with the Austrian statistical office, an example of cross-border integration of demographic and economic statistics of Slovenia and Austria as well as a presentation of results in a hierarchic network were made. Here a system for adapting cartographic projections and various classifications was introduced. In compiling cross-border statistics, SORS cooperates not only with Austria but also with Croatia, Italy, and Hungary.

Statistical register of territorial units

The setting up of a statistical register of territorial units based on the Register of Spatial Units continued in 2005. Solutions devised in the project of building a data warehouse of regional statistics were also used. The register will cover all territorial units that are necessary for collection, disclosure and delivery of statistics to users. As a secondary source of information, it will represent a territorial component of other statistical registers maintained by SORS.

⁷² Link to Urban Audit (Slovenian version only): http://www.stat.si/tema_splosno_upravno_UA.asp.

Monitoring the area of REAL PROPERTY

Orderly and integrated real property records represent an essential source of information for the objective formulation and conducting of social, spatial and fiscal policy as well as for the purpose of rational compilation of statistics on the ministerial and national levels. In the past few years, there has been a considerable increase in demand for quality information and information on the movement of prices of various types of real property. Various institutions often required more relevant real property price indices in order to facilitate a maximum possible uniform monitoring of developments on the real property and housing markets in Slovenia. In 2005, SORS paid special attention to the monitoring of real property from two points of view: monitoring real property prices, and support for setting up a Real Property Register and related housing statistics.

The Panel for Real Property Statistics, which held its third meeting at the beginning of 2006, has contributed largely to the separation of responsibilities and duties regarding the monitoring of real property statistics in Slovenia and relationships with professional circles. In addition to the Panel, a special Working Group was set up which will try to define this very area more precisely; moreover it will also record the need for information and draw up a proposal for division of labour among individual institutions, particularly from the viewpoint of real property statistics and definition of the method of data communication to users.

Monitoring of real property prices

It is no news that real property prices, particularly housing prices and consequently developments on the real property markets, are becoming increasingly important both in Slovenia and abroad, since the monitoring of price movements of various types of real property represents one of the key sources of information in formulating the individual country's monetary policy and, therefore, a preliminary condition for rating its financial stability, performing general economic analyses and conducting an appropriate housing policy.

Real property index definition

From SORS's viewpoint, the requirements and needs for monitoring real property prices and calculating appropriate indices stem mainly from the area of price statistics.

For the time being, the basic capture of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) excludes some expenditures, including the costs of living in proprietary housing facilities. As these expenditures represent a considerable proportion and consequently have a significant impact on the economy particularly in certain countries, including Slovenia, efforts have been made for some time to include them in the HICP calculation.

Eurostat's special pilot project

There is a special ongoing pilot project within Eurostat involving the participation of 12 countries. Its main task is to examine the situation on the housing market and in real property transactions as well as to find solutions for calculating appropriate price indices.

In the sphere of price indices, SORS cooperates with the Ministry of Finance, the Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia and the Bank of Slovenia.

Housing statistics

In addition to construction statistics, where SORS compiles synthetically processed information about the age of the housing fund, utility and service provision and the size of the housing fund, surveys conducted in households represent the main source of information. These are only partially useful on lower levels of territorial classification as a result of sampling. In view of the scarcity of data sources for the purpose of monitoring real property, the Census of Buildings and Flats (made simultaneously with the population census in 2002) still represents one of the main sources of information for the purpose of monitoring the area of real property management in Slovenia. In this census, flats are linked to the users, flat owners and household members.

Housing register

There were intense preparations for amendments to real property legislation in 2005. Particularly important is the new proposed Recording of Real Property, State Border and Spatial Units Act, which provides the setting up of a real property register, which includes the housing register, which is of great importance for future housing statistics from the viewpoint of both the future census and current housing statistics. SORS played an active part monitoring the legislation.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY and INNOVATION

By formulating separate questionnaires on research and development by institutional sectors – business sector, government sector, higher education sector and private non-profit sector – and methodological instructions, SORS will facilitate data reporting by data providers and ensure better data quality.

In 2005, information on personnel potential operating in the research and development area by occupation, age category, education level and nationality, including mobility, will be presented on the national statistical level. Gross expenditures for research and development in respect of sources of financing and purpose of use and many other statistical data and information from this area will also be known. All this information will be made available to users for calculating the basic macroeconomic indicators and carrying out extensive comparative studies necessary in the planning of policies on a national level.

Cooperation with Eurostat was maintained in the preparation of harmonised research on innovation activity in EU Member States in order to obtain basic, internationally comparable information about innovation activity in manufacturing and select service activities.

For the purpose of implementing the principle of equal opportunities for men and women in science and research, cooperation continued on the EC projects Women in Science and Comparative Analysis of National Research Policies, and this will provide the

possibility of defining uniform indicators for monitoring national research policies of EU Member States and EU candidate countries.

On the basis of the existing research (secondary resources) such as the Labour Force Survey and education statistics, Eurostat already computes science and technology human potential indicators according to the Canberra methodology for all EU Member States. SORS will present these indicators in its publications in the future. Patent statistics are the responsibility of the Intellectual Property Office, which also sends these data to certain international institutions that are also a source of the above-mentioned Eurostat information.

National classification of research areas

The national classification of research areas, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (now the Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology), has been in preparation for several years. In order to complete this project, it needs to be coordinated with certain areas of science and tested. Elaboration of the classification should be accelerated since it would eliminate the existing confusion in the classification of science in Slovenia.

All statistical data and information provided by SORS quoted herein may be accessed at:
<http://www.stat.si/eng/index.asp>.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF SORS in 2005

SORS conducts and performs statistical services on a national level and meets the demands of the domestic and international environment together with authorised providers of national statistics. The financial resources obtained for the proper attainment of set objectives are presented below.

Legal framework

The legal framework for financing SORS's activities is provided by the following acts and regulations, which apply to the entire state administration and are quoted as a reference taken into account by SORS in its financial operations:

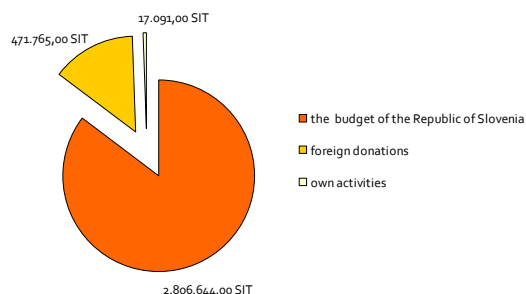
- Budget of the Republic of Slovenia for 2005 and 2006;
- Budget Implementation Act for 2005 and 2006;
- Revised national budget for 2005;
- Rules on the procedures for implementing the budget of the Republic of Slovenia
- Public Finance Act
- Public Procurement Act
- Accounting Act

Financing of SORS in 2005

Funds for SORS's activities are largely provided by Slovenia's national budget, partly by the EU and in a smaller proportion by proceeds from its own activities: selling of publications and services.

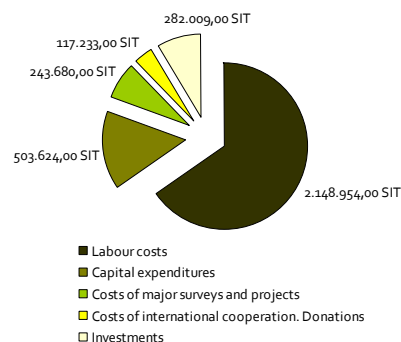
In 2005, SIT 7 million were transferred from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology to SORS for the purpose of implementing the project of facilitating researchers' remote access to statistically protected microdata. At the end of the year, the Government adopted a decision reducing the entitlement to budgetary funds for all budget spending units – in order to finance police salaries – and by SIT 16.7 million for SORS.

Financial operations in 2005 (in 1000 SIT) by sources of funds



In 2005, total expenses were SIT 3.3 billion, of which SIT 2.8 billion came from the Slovenian national budget, SIT 471.7 million from foreign donations, and SIT 17 million from the fees for own activities (see Graph 1).

Breakdown of expenses in 2005 (in 1000 SIT)



Labour costs

In accordance with the personnel plan, SORS had 387 full-time employees as at 31 December 2005. In that year, labour costs for its full-time staff financed from the Slovenian national budget amounted to SIT 2.1 billion – SORS received SIT 30.4 million in refunds; SIT 32 million was paid from donations to the employees involved in projects, and SIT 28.8 million to employees hired to work on the projects on a temporary basis.

Direct costs⁷³

Funds earmarked for offsetting direct costs are used to cover expenses incurred in the performance of SORS's basic activity and costs associated with its basic activity relating to the sale of publications and services.

In 2005, costs of its *basic activity* totalled SIT 287.6 million. The costs of IT services, Slovenia's participation and VAT payments within the Intrastat project totalled SIT 76.7 million. In 2005, recorded direct costs of SORS's *own activity* totalled SIT 16.8 million.

Costs of major surveys and projects

Costs of surveys that require field work, work in the survey studio or in cooperation with other outside contractors totalled SIT 131.4 million and were financed from the national budget.

The following surveys fully financed from the Slovenian national budget were carried out in 2005:

- Labour Force Survey,
- Household Budget Survey,

⁷³ Direct costs and investments also include the costs of Intrastat project. This project was financed both by Slovenia's budget and EU funds (2005 and 2006).

- Survey on Tourism Travel of the Domestic Population,
- Assessment of plant production,
- Livestock number, autumn sowing and crops survey,
- Household Stocks Survey.

The following surveys are financed in part from the Slovenian national budget, and partly by EU funds:

- Business Tendency Surveys,
- Consumer Survey,
- Income and Living Conditions Survey,
- Survey of own account construction activities of households;
- Sampling survey of sown areas and livestock number.

EU funds were used to finance many other pilot surveys. As much as SIT 109.8 million in EU funds were used for this purpose in 2005.

Costs of international cooperation, donations

In 2005, SORS honoured all international obligations assumed under regular programmes of cooperation with international institutions: OECD, the UN and its specialised and related agencies: ECE, CES, IMF, ILO, FAO, WTO, WHO, UNICEF. Slovenia's budget expenditure for this purpose totalled SIT 39.6 million.

Donation funds under two international treaties were used to finance international cooperation in the amount of SIT 75.9 million.

These costs include the following: attendance at meetings, seminars, workshops and participation in working groups in almost any area, organised by Eurostat, OECD and other organisations, several months' training for SORS staff and other training events in the form of study visits, consultations and specialist courses.

Capital expenditures

Capital expenditures in 2005 included the following:

- purchase of computer equipment amounting to SIT 126 million;
- purchase of other fixed assets: office furniture, air conditioning devices, network printers, GSM devices, carpets, binding machine, graphical cutters, ramp, etc. in the total amount of SIT 14.2 million.

The purchase of computer equipment was financed in the amount of SIT 52.5 million (the part allocated to the Customs Service) from EU funds granted within the Intrastat project, and in the amount of SIT 40.3 million through Slovenia's own participation for equipment and VAT.

STRUCTURE OF ORGANISATION of the Statistical Office in 2005

Owing to an extraordinary increase in the number of technical tasks associated with Slovenia joining the EU, international projects with SORS's participation and related statistical surveys in individual areas of work, new requirements and changes in work technology and methods, changes in the work process, management and responsibilities for individual stages of work, SORS drew up nine proposals for the Rules amending the Rules on internal organisation and job classification within SORS in 2005, in accordance with the Decree on internal organisation, job classification and positions and titles within bodies of public administration and judicial bodies.

Section for collecting and processing statistical information and maintaining production bases: The Main Office and dispatch centre were separated and systematised as an independent department.

The number of positions was reduced in organisational units where the number of employees exceeded the actual needs as a result of changes in the technological process, methods of work and work processes.

The number of positions was increased in areas that required additional staffing in order to ensure quality and timely performance. In accordance with SORS's strategic decision, priority was given in 2005 to the Section for general methodology and standards, Section for national accounts and Section for IT infrastructure and technology.

that, on 1 December 2005, it was brought into line with the adopted Joint personnel plan for state administration bodies for 2005.

SORS is composed of 10 sections and 5 departments. Moreover nine of 10 sections are divided into divisions⁷⁴. For the purpose of performing the most demanding tasks, positions of independent operators were created outside organisational units, and directly subordinated to the general manager or heads of first-rank organisational units. There is a total of 387 positions, of which 209 are for administrative officials and 178 for technical professionals.

⁷⁴ See http://www.stat.si/eng/drz_stat_organigram.asp

The number of classified positions was gradually adjusted simultaneously with changes in organisation so

PERSONNEL, personnel policy orientation, EDUCATION and training

According to the Joint personnel plan for state administration bodies for 2005 adopted by the Slovenian Government, SORS is allowed to keep a work force of 387 employees. The budget spending units may exceed the permitted number of employees only by hiring recipients of Slovenian Government scholarships, whose

employment is compulsory according to the scholarship agreement. After the completion of traineeships, when they become regular officials employed for an indefinite period of time, they are included in the permitted number of employees.

Personnel statistics 2005

"The Statistical Office currently has 392 employees. Their average age is 43.7 years, and 12.7% of them are under 30. As much as 68% of the staff are women: of 15 organisational unit managers 10 are women, and women manage 23 departments. Almost half of the staff have university education, 19 hold a master's and 3 a doctor's degree."

As at 31 December 2005, SORS employed 393 civil servants:

- 377 on a full-time basis and
- 16 on a temporary basis – 6 for work on international projects, 6 are substituting for employees on longer sick leave or on maternity leave, and 4 are acting as a replacement for civil servants whose employment in SORS has been terminated.

In 2005, employment was terminated for 20 SORS employees. Thirteen of these were allocated to positions for which higher professional or university education is required, and four to positions requiring higher professional and three to positions requiring secondary or lower than secondary education. Seven retired, five were employed on a provisional basis (for work on international projects and as substitutes for absent

TRAINING of SORS staff

In 2005, SORS continued developing the programme of education for statistical officers, and also actively included authorised producers of national statistics, who took part in some training events together with SORS employees in 2005.

SORS employees took part in training particularly in the statistical and information technology area within the scheme of internal⁷⁵ and external⁷⁶ training.

"SORS employees spent about 11,300 hours on training in 2005."

Cooperation in statistics

Training in the area of statistics was organised only internally for 92 employees and lasted 2052 hours. Subject matters of statistics training by area:

- European Statistical System
- National accounts in practice
- Application of Excel in statistics

International courses in statistics in 2005

SORS organised training courses in statistics partly also by means of grant funds (Phare Multi-Beneficiary). It organised three courses with statistical contents (so-called in-country training course) in Ljubljana for both SORS employees and

⁷⁵ Internal training – training courses organised by SORS in 2005.

⁷⁶ External training – participation in courses, seminars, conferences, etc., in Slovenia and abroad.

employees), seven took a job with another employer, and one employment was terminated by reason of death.

On the basis of 41 public advertisements of vacancies there were 20 new employments in 2005:

- for work on international projects,
- for substituting for employees on longer sick leave or maternity leave and
- substitute employment for terminated employments.

Advertisements were published several times for vacancies for which the required skills were expert knowledge in mathematics and computer science, i.e. IT. The most frequent reasons for repeating the advertisements were the following: inadequate skills of registered candidates and cancellation of application of the selected candidates, who withdrew their applications because of higher pay with another employer or new employment near their homes.

In 2005, three employees successfully completed their off-the-job training: one on the university level, one on the higher education level, and one on the secondary education level.

representatives of authorised operators in the system of national statistics. The courses were well accepted both by SORS and by other institutions.

Information technology training

Training in information technology was extremely varied, since as many as 53 employees attended various forms of training provided in cooperation with outside operators in this area.

Other training events in 2005

Eight employees attended foreign language courses (English and French), since they were organised within the Ministry of the Interior, Department for improvement of professional education and training in state administration. As many as 74 employees participated in training intended for middle and senior management: Drafting of texts and preparations for public appearance (245 employees), Conducting annual interviews with employees (8 employees), Customer communication skills (42 employees), Preparation for examination in document management (6 employees). Other forms of training such as seminars, conferences, and courses were attended by 103 employees.

SORS scholarship holders in 2005

In 2005, the Slovenian Government granted scholarships to 14 students for SORS's purposes: 7 students of information science, 3 students of economics, 1 student of geodesy, 1 student of mathematics, and 1 one student of social science IT. They are all senior year students or graduation candidates; we therefore expect most of them to be employed by SORS in 2006 and 2007.

Off-the-job training

In addition to the above-mentioned courses and lectures, SORS employees also participated in off-the-job training in order to obtain publicly valid titles. At year-end 2005, as many as 27 employees were

participating in off-the-job training, representing 7% of SORS's total work force.

Concluded training contracts in 2005

| Training purpose | No. of contracts |
|---|------------------|
| completion of four-year secondary education level | 1 |
| completion of professional higher education | 8 |
| completion of university education | 0 |
| achievement of master's degree | 18 |

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR OPERATIONS of SORS in 2005

The purpose of this chapter is a brief presentation of the general legal framework for national statistics operations.

Underlying legal framework:

During the validity of the programme, national statistics activities were carried out according to the following underlying legal framework:

- National Statistics Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, nos. 45/95 and 9/2001);
- Medium-term programme of statistical surveys 2003-2007 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 10/2003);
- Annual programme of statistical surveys for 2005 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, nos. 133/2004 and 19/2005).

SORS's regulations adopted in 2005 and used to implement EU directives:

- Instruction on conducting statistical surveys of milk and dairy products (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 52/05);
- Instruction on conducting statistical surveys of pig production (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 75/05);
- Instruction on conducting statistical surveys of cattle production (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 75/05);
- Instruction on conducting statistical surveys of sheep and goat farming (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 75/05);
- Instruction on the contents and method of reporting on paid earnings at legal entities for the purposes of conducting statistical surveys (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, nos. 6/2005, 85/2005).

Drafting of proposals for SORS's legal regulations for 2005

- Decree on the standard classifications of institutional sectors (EVA: 2005-1522-0003),
- Decree on the introduction and use of Standard classification of education (EVA: 1998-1522-0005).

SORS's internal rules associated with the implementation of the annual programme of statistical surveys:

- Instruction on the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia's own activity;
- Rules on the protection of data gathered by means of the programme of statistical surveys;
- Instruction on the publication of data and information on the website;
- Rules on informing the public by means of publishing information of a public nature in the mass media.

Twinning agreements and arrangements concluded in 2005

Due to the complexity of tasks and high degree of responsibility for the quality and timeliness of statistics, SORS entered into special twinning agreements in 2005:

- On 11 January 2005, SORS signed an Agreement on cooperation in performing monthly statistical surveys on earnings paid by legal entities in the Republic of Slovenia with the *Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services*.
- On 23 May 2003, SORS signed an Agreement on intervention and use of data from the central court register with the *Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia*.
- On 13 June 2005, SORS signed a Technical protocol on the exchange of data from the Directory of legal entities and units regarding earnings and information about paid earnings with the *Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services*.
- On 19 July 2005, SORS signed an Annex to the Agreement on the provision of individual data about payments from and into specific public revenue sub-accounts with the *Public Payments Administration of the Republic of Slovenia*.

Published by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Vožarski pot 12

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www.stat.si

Editor in Chief: Irena Križman, M.A., General Director

Editors: Bojana Jemec Zalar, M.A., Nina Stražišar

Language editing: The Office of the Government Secretary-General
Translation, Interpreting and Revising Service,
Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Cover: Nina Stražišar

Layout and design: Nina Stražišar

Printed by: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Edition: 180

ISSN 1854-6587

Use and publication of this information is only permissible with reference to the source