

STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF LITHUANIA

Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as Statistics Lithuania, SL) is a **leading statistical institution** producing about 75 % of European statistics in Lithuania and **coordinating other institutions producing official statistics**.

Mission of SL – to prepare and disseminate relevant, quality statistical information on economic, demographic, social processes of the State and reflect changes ongoing in the society and environment.

SL is accountable to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. It is **headed by the Director General** of SL, who is appointed by the Prime Minister for an unlimited term. General procedure of the appointment and dismissal of heads of government institutions is regulated by the Law on Public Service of the Republic of Lithuania.

SL implements a uniform State policy in the fields of organization and methodology of statistics. According to the Law on Statistics SL have the following rights:

- 1) to get from State and local self-government institutions and agencies information on the forthcoming statistical surveys intended for the preparation of the The Work Programme of Official Statistics;
- 2) to get free of charge statistical data necessary for the implementation of the WPOS from respondents, State registers and information systems;
- 3) to organise statistical household surveys, to conduct voluntary statistical surveys;
- 4) to organise and conduct total censuses, when necessary enlisting the assistance of the population, in accordance with the procedure established by law or the Government;
- 5) to organise publishing of statistical information;
- 6) to check whether the submitted data have been calculated in accordance with the present methodologies;
- 7) when necessary, to invite experts in order to check the reliability of data.

Organisational structure of SL can be downloaded from SL website
http://www.stat.gov.lt/uploads/docs/Schema_EN%2020070618p.pdf

Main legal act regulating statistics is [The Law on Statistics](#), which consolidates the concept of official statistics and general principles of its organization, stipulates the rights and duties of respondents, defines the tasks, rights and duties of institutions producing official statistics and their liability for violation of law. It is adjusted with the legal provisions of the European Union, which are compatible with Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community Statistics.

Main Government resolutions regulating statistics:

1. Government Resolution No. 696 of 17 May 2001 on the classification of economic activities;
2. Government Resolution No. 285 of 12 March 2001 on the approval of the Provisions of the Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, composition of the Statistical Council and Provisions of the Statistical Council;
3. Government Resolution No. 569 of 16 May 2001 on the introduction of the European System of National Accounts;
4. Government Resolution No. 1086 of 10 July 2002 on the approval of the Provisions of the Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on foreign trade and value added tax data collection procedure;
5. Government Resolution No. 247 of 3 March 2005 on the administration and application of international and national classifications in State (public) registers and information systems.

The Work Programme of Official Statistics (hereinafter referred to as WPOS) is regulated by the Law on Statistics of the Republic of Lithuania and Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 19 December 2001 No 1549.

The WPOS is a list of statistical works (surveys), which are indispensable for the state administration and public use, assigned to SL, its RSOs, other institutions producing official statistics.

WPOS includes two parts:

- I. Works, which are carried out by SL;
- II. Works, which are carried out by other institutions producing official statistics.

The preparation of the WPOS is coordinated by SL, which is also responsible for submitting the draft WPOS to the Statistical Council for endorsement. When the agreement from the Statistical Council is received, the Director General of SL approves the WPOS. The right to approve the WPOS is delegated to the Director General by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

A report on the implementation of the WPOS is prepared by SL, which organizes discussions at the Statistical Council meeting. Report on the implementation of the WPOS is subject to approval by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

The **statistical system of Lithuania** comprises the SL, five regional statistical offices (hereinafter referred to as RSOs) of SL, and other institutions producing official statistics, i.e. ministries, other state institutions, the Bank of Lithuania.

RSOs are legal entities established by SL. There are 5 RSOs operating in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai and Panevėžys. Main functions of RSOs are data collection and entry thereof into primary databases. They are also responsible for the provision of local self-government institutions and public at large with statistical information.

There are more than 20 **institutions producing official statistics** in Lithuania. After consultations with SL institutions producing official statistics approve statistical questionnaires, establish order and time of the data release.

In 2006, an interinstitutional working group on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice has been established. It consists of representatives of institutions which are responsible for the management of official European statistics. Main producers of European statistics are represented in the working group: Ministry of Finance, Lithuanian Health Information Centre, Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economy, Fisheries Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Labour Medicine Centre of the Hygiene Institute, etc. The Bank of Lithuania participates in the meetings of the working group as an observer.

The Statistical Council to Statistics Lithuania is an advisory institution of SL operating since 1994. It focuses on the analysis of the key issues of organising statistics and methodology, considers programmes for censuses, registers, main surveys and the WPOS as well as the main outcomes of statistical surveys and places proposals to SL. Its members represent main user groups, respondents and producers of official statistics. Structure and regulations of the Statistical Council are approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Dissemination policy. All users have equal rights to receive statistical information. Statistical information is announced to all users at 11 a. m. The officially established date of release of statistical information is indicated in an advance release calendar of press releases <http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/news>, placing of publications on the SL website, publication of statistical indicators in the Statistical Database as well as in the Catalogue of Statistical Publications.

SL releases more than 100 publications per year and approximately 15 press releases per month. Most of the publications are both in Lithuanian and English. Starting from 2007, SL website offers free access to all publications.

More information can be found on **the website of SL** <http://www.stat.gov.lt>