

The role of national statistical systems in the new data ecosystem

How COVID-19 impacted the transition of NSOs

Mart Mägi
Director General

Changes in the environment and new data ecosystem

Strategic questions

What will be the role of national statistical offices and official statistics in the society?

UNECE

Paper

68th
plenary
session

What are the traditional functions that national statistical offices have to maintain? How might the new role change values and traditions?

How will national statistical offices respond to competition from other organisations, and what strategic partnerships are needed?

How to maintain high trust in delivering quick insights to changes in the society?

Major COVID impacts

How can we increase co-operation in the international statistical community to respond to data, platforms and skills gaps?

Which functions do we need to review, as demands have changed?

How can we co-ordinate work and information between data and information providers? Is it time for real Data Stewardship?

How can we become more user-centric (with real-time need) and ensure that the society maintains great trust in us?

Use of data (1) with confidentiality and protection (9)

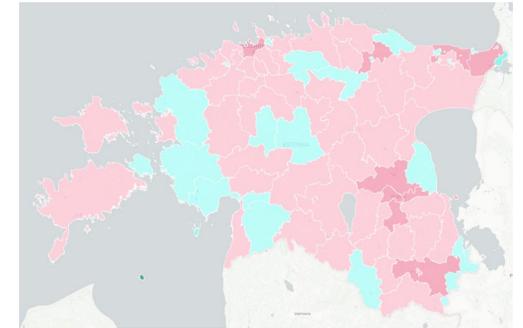
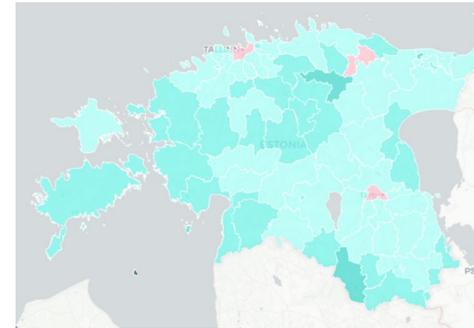
- Mobile phone data were used during COVID-19 lock-down to monitor the impact of lock-down rules on mobility.
- Daily information based on signal data was obtained from all mobile operators.
 - Location
 - Time spent
 - Average distance travelled
- Daily interviews about confidentiality and trust

% of sedentary mobile phones

04.04.2020

Saturdays

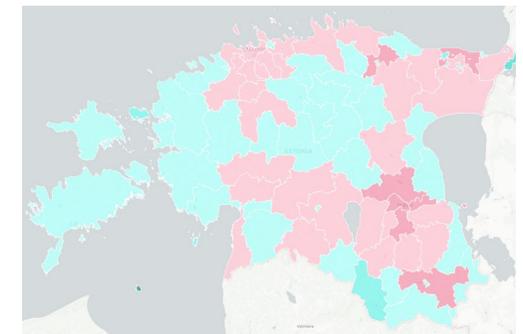
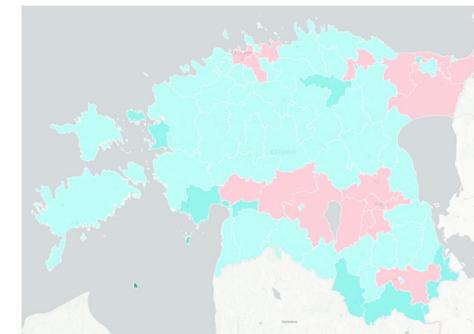
09.05.2020



30.03.2020

Mondays

11.05.2020

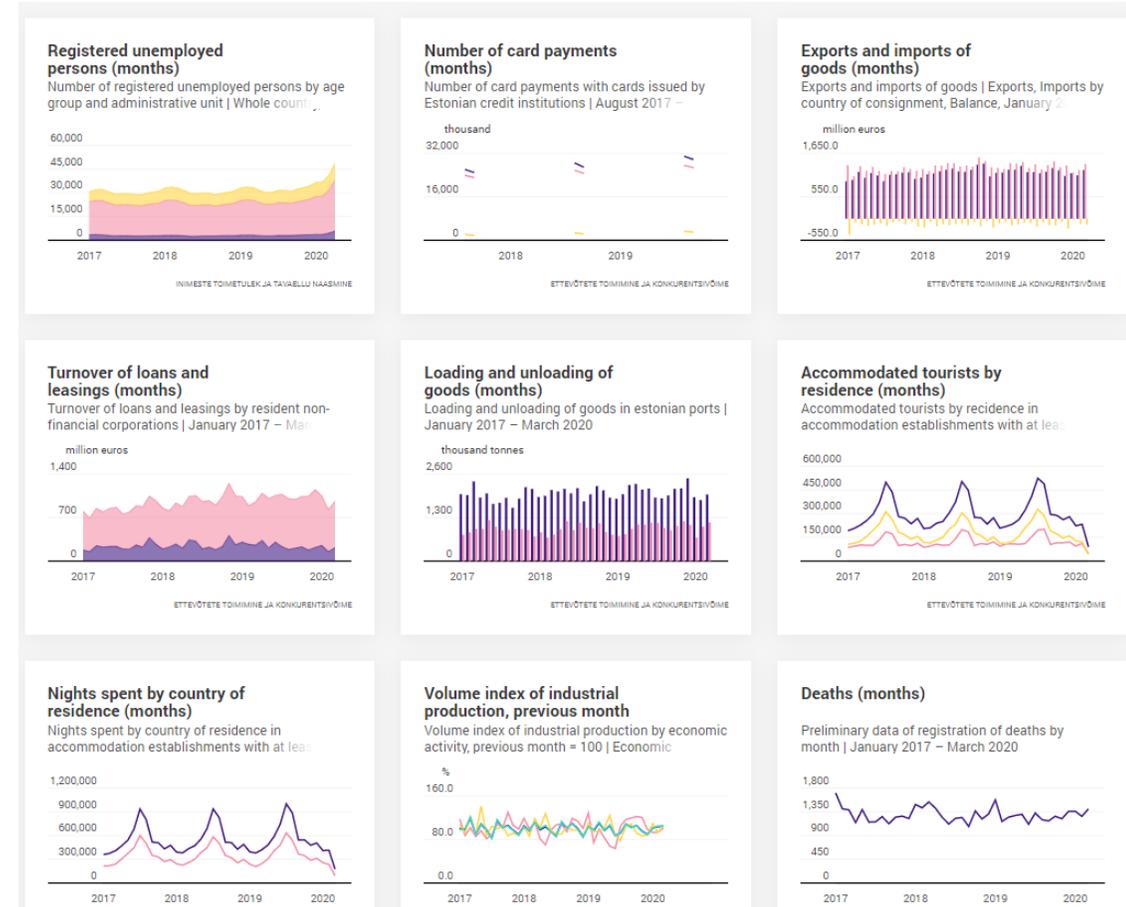


*% of sedentary mobile phones
(darker green is more sedentary)*

Indicators as close to real-time as possible (15) and developing analytical capabilities (16)

Statistics Estonia was appointed immediately by the Cabinet as the central co-ordinator and producer of all key social and economic indicators:

- health data: COVID-19 (daily) (delivered by the Health Board);
- mobility (daily);
- consumption (daily);
- deaths (weekly);
- labour market (weekly);
- economy (monthly).



7 key considerations among 21 general considerations

- 1: NSOs (could) **should** start discussions within the national governments in order to **establish a legal system enabling use of data.**
- 2: NSOs could initiate discussions within national governments on how they **could be involved in the elaboration of national data strategies**, either in an advisory or leadership role.
- 3: NSOs **should work closely with the international community in sharing experience in data governance.**
- 10: NSOs **should encourage other government bodies to review their data quality, especially for administrative sources.**
- 14: NSOs **should consider both internal and external communication as a strategic question** to engage policy makers, professional communities and staff in the office. NSOs should pay special attention to citizens' needs to be informed, and their concerns about data use.
- 15: NSOs **should work closely with customers to deliver needed indicators as close to real-time as possible and drop indicators that are not needed.**
- 16: NSOs **should develop analytical capabilities, more specifically in the areas of data literacy, data science and data engineering, to support effective data management.**

Conclusion

- The framework for official statistics should be enlarged to include the new roles of NSOs. The scope of the NSS is widening, as new data sources become available and the society's expectations are changing regarding what new information data and statistics can provide.
- Effective communication promoting what NSOs have to offer is crucial for creating win-win partnerships with policy makers, other government agencies and the private sector.
- The international statistical community could widen its role and scope, developing new partnerships to create an international statistical and data community.
- A specific action plan is needed for supporting NSOs as part of a larger new data ecosystem and for sharing good practices of data use.

Thank you!

Mart Mägi
Director General
mart.magi@stat.ee

STATISTICS ESTONIA
www.stat.ee
Tatari 51, 10134 Tallinn