



Raport anual Annual report 2006

❖ FOREWORD

Official statistics constitutes an essential component in the process of knowledge gaining. At the same time, it represents one of the most important pillars of a good governance, revealing in a must condition for the decisional argumentation at micro-and macroeconomic level. Official, objective, qualitative and prompt statistics in compliance with international methodologies confer the quantitative dimension to efficiency and utility of governmental and public decisions concerning national economy.

In order to comply with the public utility criteria, statistics must be relevant, reliable and sound allowing an easy and appropriate use of it. The key to fulfill this goal is by knowing users needs.

Official statistics of Republic of Moldova (NBS) is based on fulfillment of fundamental functioning principles of official statistics, adopted at the 47th meeting of United Nation Economic Commission for Europe from April 15, 1992 and approved by United Nation Statistical Commission two years later.

These are the principles:

- Relevance, impartiality, and equal access;
- Professional standards and ethics;
- Accountability and transparency;
- Prevention of misuse;
- Cost-effectiveness;
- Confidentiality;
- National coordination (for the achievement of consistency and efficiency in the statistical system);
- International coordination and international cooperation.

National Bureau of Statistics is the specialised authority of the central public administration that as a central statistical body conducts and coordinates the activity of the country in statistical field. It has the status of legal person, being under Government subordination, financed from state budget, the organization and functioning of which is regulated by Governmental Decision of the Republic of Moldova no. 1049 from 06.10.2005.

Main functions of the National Bureau of Statistics:

- ❖ Coordination of the country's national official statistical system;
- ❖ Elaboration of the system of statistical indicators, methodologies of calculation, methods, techniques and specific standards for obtaining indicators;
- ❖ Harmonization of national statistics to international standards, especially to European Union's, taking into account the socio-economic peculiarities of the Republic of Moldova;
- ❖ Organization and conduction of statistical surveys related to socio-economic phenomena and processes, fulfilled in correspondence with yearly programs approved by Governmental Decisions;
- ❖ Satisfaction of all user categories needs for statistical data and information, as well as provision of methodologies, methods and techniques used for calculation of statistical indicators.

NBS in its organization and coordination of official statistics of the Republic of Moldova is ruled by the following *principles*:

- impartiality
- confidentiality
- transparency
- relevance
- statistical deontology
- cost-effectiveness

❖ GOALS AND PRIORITIES OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS IN 2006

The main goal of the statistical development continues to be the complex reformation of the official statistical system of the Republic of Moldova for the assurance of public administration, economic agents and general public with qualitative statistical information, comparable at international level regarding the country's socio-economic situation and development.

Priority activity directions of NBS for 2006 had been the following:

- **Publication of population census data**, regarding demographic, national, linguistic, cultural, socio-economic characteristics and population migration;
- **Improvement of system of indicators, methodology of their calculation, the data collection method in accordance with international standards, especially to European Union's one;**
- **Continuation of works related to the creation of a new business statistics system**, improvement of the National Register of Statistical Units, that makes the core of enterprise statistics. Conduction of important work for the improvement of data collection system and statistical tools in industry, constructions, trade, etc;
- **Development of statistical surveys in agriculture and rural area** according to the provisions of the National Program „Moldovan Village”;
- **Continuation of works related to the preparation for the First General Agricultural Census;**
- **Continuation of information infrastructure development;**
- **Improvement of the reporting and statistical questionnaire system.** Enhance co- working with central and local public administration bodies for a more active use of administrative data sources, exclusion of statistical reports with a low informational value, which will allow to decrease the informational burden on economic agents, more efficient use of budgetary resources;
- **Development of statistical marketing**, oriented towards studying users' needs and especially by establishing systematic relations with users;
- **Enhance of collaboration with external donors**, in order to attract technical assistance for the implementation of international standards in statistical activity;
- **Maintenance of informational communication** with all central and local public administration authorities, economic agents, different user categories of statistical information, international organisations, statistical offices in different countries, mass-media, as well as internal and external public;
- **Improvement of the staff from the statistical system.**

❖ SPECIAL DATA DISSEMINATION STANDARD

On the 2nd of May 2006 the Republic of Moldova became the 63rd state (from 184 member states of IMF), that presents key economic information in accordance to the best international practices-based on the Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund.

As a result, a series of economic data related to the Republic of Moldova are regularly published on the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) of IMF.

National Bureau of Statistics together with the National Bank of Moldova, Ministry of Finance, National Securities Commission disseminates daily high qualitative economic information in accordance to international standards, on the **National Summary Data Page** (NSDP), which includes a large number of macroeconomic indicators (data categories) related to four sectors of national economy: Real, Fiscal, Financial and External, as well as regarding Population. NSDP is updated in accordance to the **Advanced Release Calendar** (ARC), which is monthly developed and contains preliminary information about the date of dissemination for a 4 month period of time.



Subscription to SDDS is an important step for Moldova, comfortable placing it among European countries, and a step ahead of many developing countries. It is expected that this step will bring considerable benefits, assuring access of investors, decisional makers, and public as a whole to complex and timely statistical data.

Studies show that SDDS subscription improves financial markets' functioning, by substantially reducing loan costs from the external capital markets (in average by 20%). In general, a higher transparency degree contributes to the increase of trust from the investor's side, for the implementation of some sustainable macroeconomic policies and for reaching a consensus on economic development priorities.

With this occasion, on 3rd of May 2006 within the premises of NBS a press conference regarding the subscription of the Republic of Moldova to IMF' SDDS had been organised.

❖ POPULATION CENSUS

In 2006 processing of materials from the Population Census conducted in 2004 continued.

During the year totals regarding the population's demographic, national, linguistic, cultural, economic, and migrational characteristics, as well as the household's characteristics had been presented to users and placed onto the NBS Web page.

The republican database on totals of population census from 2004 had been finalised at country, municipal and regional level serving as a basis for elaboration, publishing and an eventual dissemination of statistical publications that is to be continuously administrated.

The first two volumes of the statistical publications with the results of the population census had been developed and published in state language, Russian and English, which have success to the users:

Vol. 1. Population Census. Demographic, national, linguistic and cultural characteristics

Vol. 2. Population Census. Population migration



❖ MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS IN 2006

In the reporting period the *adjustment process of national statistics to international standards continued*, especially to EU ones, taking into account country's peculiarities. In this respect:

- New statistical data collection and processing methods were tested and implemented;
- Statistical tools had been improved in correspondence with the need to align to international norms and users' requests of statistical information. Thus, for year 2007, 13 statistical reports (works) were canceled, because they lost their actuality and have a low informational value or for exclusion of doubling data collection that will be substituted with alternative administrative data sources; the frequency of elaboration changed for 2 reports (works);
- The harmonisation process of branch statistics to European standards continued;
- Works on the improvement, maintenance and updating of statistical registers were made;
- *Classification of Educational Programs from Republic of Moldova* was developed in accordance to ISCED-97 concepts and definitions, as well as changes and additions in the existing classifications and nomenclatures were introduced;
- Intense co-working with central and local public administration bodies for a more active use of administrative data sources, exclusion of statistical reports with a low informational capacity, which will allow to decrease informational burden on the economic agents, more efficient use of budgetary resources.

The experience of EU countries is continuously studied in order to identify harmonisation needs and priorities of national statistics to EU norms in statistical fields that eventually are applied into practice or become measures foreseen for the future. From time to time, specialists from statistical fields are invited to participate in different international seminars, conferences, workshops thus making it possible to be as much in line with the most recent developments as possible.

❖ STATISTICAL ACTIVITY

Macroeconomic statistics

In 2006, a series of important summary works have been realised in the field of macroeconomic statistics, the purpose of which was to produce indicators and improve National Accounts methodology.

In 2006, works were carried out on finalising of quarterly and annual Gross Domestic Product calculations for previous period and fulfilling the calculations for current period.

The Supply – Use table was developed by economic activities for 2005 in current and comparable prices.

Works on the elaboration and balancing of national accounts by institutional sectors for 2005 were carried out.

The balance of fixed assets and national wealth was developed.

The informational base was accumulated for the elaboration of Domestic Product by small business enterprises (grouped by economic activities).

The information note on „Gross Domestic Product for January–September 2006” was elaborated and presented to the beneficiaries.

Works were realised on the reconciliation of quarterly calculations of the GDP under the annual ones in current and constant prices with the application of seasonal adjustments for 2000-2005.

Elements of Non-Observed Economy were estimated quarterly and annually.

The information necessary for the production of the financial account was accumulated.

It is to be mentioned that for the fulfillment of all the works, an efficient collaboration was undertaken with the specialists from the Ministry of Economy and Trade, Ministry of Finance, National Bank of Moldova, National Securities Commission, State Directorate of Taxes and other public authorities.

For the first time, GDP was calculated separately for IV quarter 2005 in current and comparable prices broken down by economic activities and by those 7 aggregates.

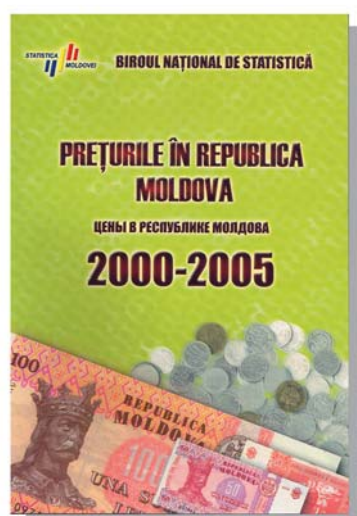
Dissemination of national accounts data was accomplished through statistical publication *National Accounts, 2004*.



Price statistics

Statistical survey on consumer prices of the population assured collection of prices and tariffs for 400 groups of goods-services (collected from the representative sample of 760 units of all kinds of traders and service providers from 8 towns), based on which the overall trend of prices in current period against previous ones was determined, through consumer price index calculation (inflation level).

Data dissemination was mainly realised under the form of flash information, monthly publication *Statistical Bulletin on Prices* and annual specialised statistical compilation of *Prices in the Republic of Moldova, 2000-2005* as well as in other summary statistical editions elaborated by the NBS (Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Moldova, Moldova in figures, Socio-economic situation of the Republic of Moldova, Quarterly Statistical Bulletin).



In 2006, NBS continued to calculate producer price index in industry, of agricultural products sales, construction prices.

Monthly, the sample survey of average prices for more than 3 thousand representative goods wholesale picked up from a sample of 18 warehouses and wholesale markets are quarterly published in the *Statistical Bulletin on Prices*.

Fulfillment of the program on global comparability of the purchase power parity of national currencies of CIS for 2004 and 2005 imposed a huge amount of work. In accordance with the decision of the UN Commission for Statistics and the organisational plan coordinated with the Inter-state Committee for Statistics of the CIS countries for 2005, the registration, analyses and calculation of average prices for more than 1300 of representative goods and consumption services,

construction materials, machines and equipments collected in 8 centers of the country or 124800 price quotations was carried out. In 2006, 1351 average prices representative for Republic of Moldova were calculated, analysed and sent to the Coordinating Committee of global comparability works. Also, GDP disaggregating for the 2004 was done by groups of expenditures.

Agriculture Statistics

The system of statistical sample surveys of small agricultural producers (households and farms) continued. These surveys allow obtaining the information on sown areas, average and global harvest, animal productivity, and data necessary for the calculation of volume and dynamics of the obtained agricultural production by small producers as well as for the whole country.

The data regarding the surveys' results on agricultural production in the individual sector have been presented in the special publication *Agricultural activity of auxiliary individual households and farms in the Republic of Moldova in 2005*.

In the first half of 2006 the sample survey was conducted regarding the prices for goods and services bought by agricultural enterprises in 2005 in the agricultural enterprises and organisations – suppliers of goods and services for agriculture with an eventual price index calculation necessary for macroeconomic calculation on agriculture.

The works continued for the elaboration of:

- Experimental calculations of economic accounts on agriculture according the EU methodology (EAA-97);
- Methodology of Supply-Use balance by main agricultural products in accordance with Eurostat methodology.

In order to provide central and local public authorities with authentic and complete data regarding the situation of households in rural and urban areas, a series of works have been fulfilled related to the practical application of new registers of households from the 1st of January 2007.

The works on the organisation of the First General Agricultural Census continued.



Business statistics

The information about the activity of small and medium sized enterprises was elaborated in accordance to the criteria stated in the Law no. 206-XVI from 07.07.2006 “On support of small and medium sized enterprises”.

Based on the results of statistical survey „Annual Sampling Structural Survey on Enterprises”, the following publications have been developed and disseminated:

- Results of the sampling structural survey of enterprises-for the whole of national economy;
- Results of the sampling structural survey of small enterprises for business sector with employment up to 50 persons.



Industry Statistics

For the alignment of *industry statistics* to European standards, in 2006 the efforts were directed towards the reformation of industrial production prices:

- measures for the implementation of the new nomenclature of industrial products and services PRODMOLD aligned to the European standard PRODCOM were undertaken;
- the pilot-survey was organised with the purpose of elaborating the nomenclature of product-variety for the regular (monthly) survey on prices in year 2007 and establishing a new base year 2006 for producer price index calculation;
- the statistical tools used for the survey on industrial production prices PREȚIND for 2007 was improved (questionnaire and methodological notes on how to fill it in according IMF recommendations in price statistics);
- new samples of enterprises and commodities were designed for the survey on industrial production prices for 2007.

Investments Statistics

For the improvement of the *system of statistical indicators regarding investments* and for its adjustment to international standards, especially to the European Union ones, 2 statistical surveys (quarterly and annual) “Regarding investments” and methodological guidelines on how to fill them in were elaborated.

As a result, the information on investment activity by financing sources, types of ownership in territorial aspect (by rural and urban area) were obtained and disseminated.

The calculation of price index for machinery and equipment was improved.

Transport Statistics

Priority directions in this field were oriented towards the conduction of statistical surveys regarding transport and communication statistics and obtaining of information on ways and means of transportation, freight and passenger transportation for each transport mean (road, railway, airway and inland water) etc.; postal means, tele and radio-communications, postal activity and telephony etc.; equipping of legal persons with computers and Information Technologies, informatics services, expenditures for informatisation etc.

In order to attract into the statistical flow administrative information, a round table was organized with representatives of ministries and other institutional stakeholders, owners of freight road vehicles databases. At the above mentioned meeting problems related to obtaining of data on road transport ways and solutions for solving these problems were discussed; examination of survey methodology specifically for this field etc.

Quarterly, specific statistical surveys for each transportation mean – road, railway, airway and inland water were carried out.

For the adjustment of freight road transportation statistics to the European Union standards, the sample statistical survey of natural persons – owners of trucks was conducted.

In order to decrease the burden on economic agents and in compliance to the user requests of statistical information, statistical tools on road transport statistics had been modified. A training seminar had been organized for the specialists of regional statistical offices in order to inform them about the changes occurred.

Data dissemination regarding the situation in road transportation was accomplished via 8 flash information releases.

Tourism Statistics

Statistical data regarding the capacity and reception of the tourist collective accommodation structures, as well as the tourist activity of economic units holders of license on tourism, etc. was obtained.

In order to ensure central public authorities and other user with statistical information on tourism activity, 5 flash information releases were developed and disseminated.

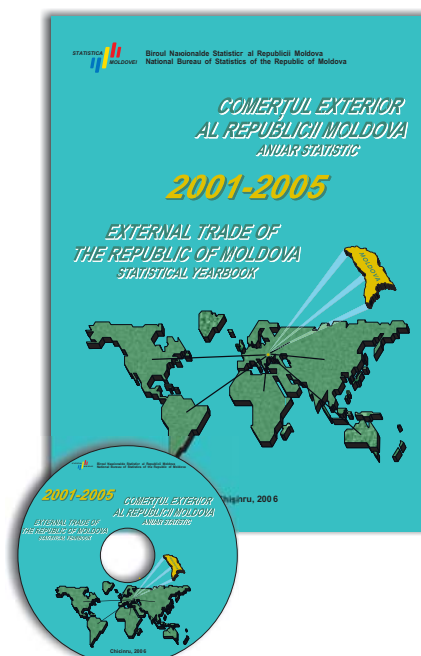
External Trade Statistics

Statistics of external trade in goods

For the alignment of external trade statistics to UN standards and European Union Regulations the new edition of „Methodological norms on external trade in goods statistics” was developed and approved by Decision of NBS Colegium no. 6 from October 06, 2006.

The statistical yearbook on “External trade of the Republic of Moldova in 2001-2005” was elaborated and published, both on paper and CD-ROM. The actual editions structured in 170 tables with a large volume of information and presents statistical time series regarding the export, import, trade balance by totals, by continents, by countries, by groups of countries, by groups of goods according to the Nomenclature of Goods, Standard Classification of International Trade, Big Economic Categories, as well as by countries – groups of goods. This publication contains also value index by totals, by groups of countries, annual variation by countries, groups of countries and goods, unit value index and volume index for exported/imported goods by totals, groups of countries and goods, structure of exports and imports by totals, by countries, groups of countries and goods. For ensuring the accessibility and correct interpretation of data published in the given edition there were introduced, as well, some methodological notes regarding the content of indicators and the assessment way, information regarding used sources.

Jointly with Customs Service works have been carried out towards the use of methodological norms on external trade in goods statistics and use of common Classifications of general interest aligned to UN standards and EU Regulations, improvement of data quality obtained from the customs declarations, respecting confidentiality of external trade statistics.



Statistical information received from the external trade database was updated on a regular basis.

The methods of presenting and disseminating statistical information on external trade in goods were improved, in particular data transmission via e-mail in Excel format. As a result users received the information in more restrained time frames and in an adequate format for new data processing requirements.

Monthly:

- information notes on external trade activity of Republic of Moldova for the corresponding period were sent to leading and economic bodies of the country.
- 1243 tables with huge data content (Excel format) regarding exports, imports, trade balance by totals, by countries, by groups of countries; export, import by groups of goods and groups of countries; export and import of goods broken by country groups and countries, external trade with each separate country, for the reporting period and corresponding period of previous years were presented (via e-mail) to the Ministry of Economy and Trade and to interested ministries.

On quarterly bases, the indicators of the physical volume and the indicators of unit value for the exported and imported goods by total exports (imports) and separately by each commodity, by groups of goods, by groups of countries were calculated and presented.

Statistics of external trade in services

During the year methodological guidelines on external trade in services were revised in order to complete them with more detailed methodological explanations for the main types of international services.

The software for processing of statistics on export and import in services was improved; as a result the information is presented to users on a quarterly basis in Excel format, which is adequate to new data processing requirements.

Statistics of domestic trade in goods and services

During the year the statistical data on volume of sales in retail trade, wholesale trade, as well as the volume of chargeable services provided to the population by total and by goods and services were elaborated and disseminated.

Every quarter based on the data obtained from the Household Budget Survey estimations were made for the assessment of retail sales volumes in non-organized trade sector of the country.

Demographic statistics

The database in the field of demographic statistics in 2006 had covered: the number of present and stable population by sex and age in territorial profile, by area, the life expectancy at birth for men and women, fertility rate, as well as data and analysis regarding the evolution of natality, mortality, marriage and divorces. Based on the above mentioned calculations analytical notes and flash information were elaborated and disseminated to users.

For promoting gender equality and gender statistics two statistical leaflets were elaborated:

- “Human gender characteristics by age, nationality, religion, education, civil status”,
- “Population migration of the Republic of Moldova in gender aspect”.

Improvement of informational base of population standard of living and labour force market statistics

In order to improve the informational base of population standard of living and labour force market statistics and in compliance to the Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy, starting with 1st of January 2006 an integrated *multifunctional sample for surveys from social field* (EMDOS) with a common network of interviewers was implemented.

Creation of a common network of interviewers was driven by:

- a) exhaustion of old samples;
- b) more efficient use of personnel – locally, specialists are presently involved in two surveys (instead of one survey until 2006);
- c) need for a geographical expansion for both surveys that will lead to:
 - increase of data precision,
 - data production at the level of statistical zones.

As a result of the implementation, it was possible to obtain an increase in coverage area of the surveys and to improve the design and quality of data obtained within Labour Force Survey and Household Budget Survey. Also, the precision increased for national estimators from both surveys, as well as the representative estimators in territorial aspect, in the case of 4 statistical zones: North, South, Centre and Chisinau.

In parallel with this, a series of improvements to the tools of both surveys were introduced.

The Governmental Decision no.471 “On statistical surveys on households in social field” was approved on the 3rd of May 2006. Thus, the legal framework for conducting LFS and HBS based on the new sample had been established.

Standard of living statistics

Nowadays, Household Budget Survey constitutes the main informational support for the standard of living statistics. Data from this survey is used for consumer price index calculation, household’s final consumption, subsistence level etc.

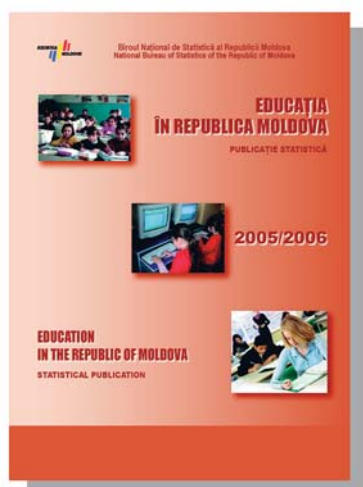
During 2006 with the support of ISAS financed by DFID the results obtained from the HBS implementation on the new EMDOS sample in the context of assuring comparability in time of statistical indicators and their comparability with other data sources (population census, LFS, national accounts) were examined.

Based on the results of Household Budget Survey the statistical publication *Aspects of population’s standard of living for 2003-2005 was developed*.

During 18-22 September 2006, with FAO support the workshop “Foodstuff security statistics and consumption based on HBS” took place. Representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Trade, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, who have responsibilities of analysing the situation concerning the population foodstuff security, participated at this workshop.



Educational statistics



In order to adjust the system of statistical indicators regarding education to international standards, in cooperation with Ministry of Education and Youth the *Classification of Educational Programs in Republic of Moldova* (MoldCED) was finalised and published according to ISCED-97 concepts and definitions. MoldCED implementation will allow compilation, generalisation and presentation of statistical data on education according educational levels and grades assuring compatibility at national and international level.

Classification contains standard concepts and definitions, covers all training possibilities for children, younger population and adults that have a stabile and organised character, including persons with

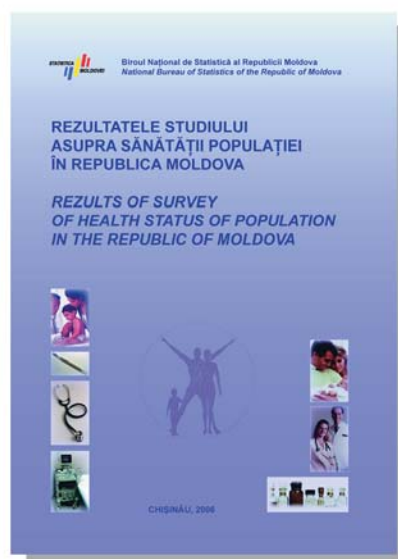
special educational requirements, regardless of the type of educational institution, organisation or the way educational process is conducted.

Data dissemination on educational statistics had been realised through statistical publication *Education in Republic of Moldova, 2005/2006*.

Health statistics

Based on the results of a selective study on population's health, access to medical services, the statistical publication *Results of Survey of Health Status of population in the Republic of Moldova* was developed with the support of World Bank.

The given publication contains an analysis of indicators describing population mortality, drug consumption, and access to medical services. At the same time, the information is presented in the context of the most important demographic factors (sex, age, civil status, educational level) or behavioral factors that have a direct impact on health (tobacco consumption, alcohol, habitat, physical activity etc.). The main indicators are comparable at international level due to the fact that the questionnaire was standardised from the perspective of methodological and organisational concepts, definitions and classifications used.



Labour force statistics

In 2006, all planned activities were fulfilled, all planned objectives were reached. The tools of the LFS were improved in correspondence with the latest ILO recommendations. In the field of salary statistics, the statistical reports on enterprises were improved by exclusion of out-dated indicators and new ones had been included necessary for analysis and decision making.

Subjects covered by labour force statistics are: economically active population, employment and unemployment with lots of derivation indicators, remuneration and number of employees etc.

The main labour force indicators are: activity rate, employment rate, unemployment rate, salaries and labour costs, etc.

During 2006 the activities of improvement subject – matter statistics continued in order to provide public administration, economic agents and public with qualitative statistical information on labour force situation comparable at international level.

The main objectives were:

- improvement of Labour Force Survey (LFS) questionnaire content for the purpose of its harmonisation with the latest international recommendations (International Conferences of Labour Force Statisticians from 1998 and 2003);
- improvement of statistical reports on enterprises according to the labour legislation in force and users needs;
- acquainting users with statistical methods and definitions through seminars, round tables etc.;
- improvement of data dissemination.

In the field of *employment statistics* the activity was focused on the further harmonisation to international standards, improvement of data quality and analysis of results (the common sampling frame for LFS and HBS (creation of a unique network of interviewers, 150 persons), methodological changes related to the treatment of new indicators and handling of new subjects in LFS).

Methodological changes cover treatment activities of long term absences in *employment* and application of a new definition for *underemployment*; adjustment to labour legislation; improvement of questions flow and their formulation; improvement of discouraged persons measurement; elaboration of new indicators for the economically inactive population; changing the way number of hours worked de facto are registered for the improvement of data quality.

New questions had been introduced in the LFS for additional and complete data obtaining regarding labour force, using the basic survey in correspondence to the International Labour Office resolutions. *New subjects were:* underemployment; inadequate employment situations, stability and security of the working place; labour security; employment income; social dialog and labour relations; migration of labour force (partly new).

In the field of *salary statistics* the activity was focused on the adjustment of indicators from monthly, quarterly and yearly statistical reports to the Labour Code and to users needs. Essential modifications had been introduced in the reports: *Number and remuneration of employees, Mobility of employees and working places; Effective number of employees and working places at economic agents up to 20 employees.*

Based on the knowledge gained within the technical assistance project Statistics 7, the experimental calculations on quarterly indicators of labour force costs according European norms were made.

Together with the Monitoring Unit of the Central Public Administration Reform, Ministry of Economy and Trade and Ministry of Finance the statistical report *Number of civil servants* was improved.

Dissemination of data on labour force statistics was fulfilled through the following statistical publications:

- *Labour Market in the Republic of Moldova*
- *Labour Force in Republic of Moldova. Employment and Unemployment.*



❖ STATISTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

During 2006, the *process of improvement of national statistical tools* continued in order to ensure statistical data comparability at the international level, to meet users' informational requirements, taking into account the need to reduce the response burden on economic units.

Statistical registers

In the frame of management works of statistical registers (RENIM – Inter-administrative Register of Moldova, RENU – National Register of Statistical Units, RGȚ – Farm Register) activities on both enterprises and organisations registration, and their permanent update were performed.

There have been made efforts to create and improve the *Statistical register*, which, currently, is in a formation phase and which must constitute the main instrument in the organisation of statistical surveys of enterprises. Thus, the automatic program of data reception from the Ministry of Informational Development on newly created and closed legal units, modifications in registration documents of legal units necessary for the completion and update of the Statistical Register was developed.

The work on the complement of Statistical Register with the local units in order to produce qualitative statistical information in territorial aspect started.

We cooperated with the bodies of public administration, in order to get the administrative data sources necessary for the organisation of statistical surveys.

Statistical classifications

Modifications and complements of the Statistical Classification of Goods (goods and services) of the Republic of Moldova were developed according modifications of the Classification of Goods of European Union (revision 2002).

In order to adjust the system of education statistical indicators to international standards, in cooperation with Ministry of Education and Youth the *Classification of Educational Programs of the Republic of Moldova* (MoldCED) was finalised and issued following the ISCED-97 concepts and definitions.



❖ TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Development and improvement of statistical information system in 2006

In 2006, the development and improvement of statistical information system continued by initiating various activities: started the development of informational system concept of information technologies, with the support of local experts (representatives of MID, CST, and Moldtelecom), and international experts, in the framework of TACIS Project – Statistics 9.

A particular attention was paid to receiving data from various administrative sources: register of legal units, population register, and transport register. The collaboration with the Ministry of Informational Development became a long-term priority for the National Bureau of Statistics.

The necessity to train the personnel in IT area, as well, became a prerogative in developing the IT potential of NBS. Thus, during this year, the NBS specialists attended training courses on following topics: ORACLE DBA ADMINISTRATION (Kiev, Ukraine); introduction in SQL (local, using NBS training room); PC-AXIS use and management (local, experts from Statistics Norway and Statistics Denmark); Introduction in

Information Technologies, Informational Bases (Academy of Public Administration nearby the President of the Republic of Moldova for the specialists from the regional divisions/sections). It is to be mentioned the effectiveness of training courses organised in the Academy of Public Administration, the professionalism of didactic personnel and the technical-material equipment.

The collaboration in the framework of technical assistance projects with international experts continued. We had a special interaction with Statistics Norway. There had been analysed more issues, concerning experience of Northern countries in using administrative data in the process of production of statistics.

Management of statistical data fund and maintenance of statistical software

There have been verified and processed the data in the frame of works of informational insurance of statistics of 808,6 thousand statistical forms (2,4% more in comparison with the previous year and with 6,5% more than in 2004), of which, in labour statistics – 394,6 thousand, financial-accounting reports – 259,4 thousand, agriculture – 63,6 thousand, industry – 53,3 thousand, etc.

In 2006, 567 complex bulletins (centralised reports) with aggregated data for various fields of activity, of which 248 annual, 167 quarterly and 152 monthly were developed and disseminated to bodies of central public administration.

The works of statistical registers management (RENIM, RENU, and RGȚ) consisted in registering the enterprises and organisations and the modification of management complex. During this year, over 8,6 thousand new enterprises and organisations were introduced in RENIM register, over 9 thousand modifications were processed, 2,7 thousand entries and approximately 150 modifications were registered in RGȚ.

❖ DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICAL DATA AND INFORMATION

In 2006, it was possible to perform the dissemination of statistical information free of charge or by payment to central and local public authorities, as well for internal and external users from all areas of activity (journalists, education, research, economic units, etc.).

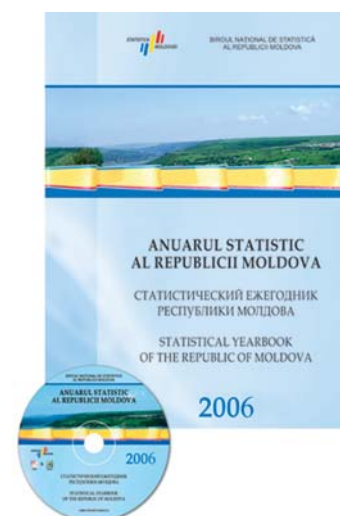
Data and information dissemination respected the principles of statistical data transparency and confidentiality, in conditions of equality for all users, according the *Law on Official Statistics of the Republic of Moldova* (nr. 412-XV from 09.12.2004).

Statistical data and information obtained from the statistical surveys are disseminated *free of charge* – to local and central public administration bodies (President, Parliament, Government, ministries, National Bank of Moldova, and other authorities of public administration, etc.), mass media, international organisations (Eurostat, ILO, IMF, UN, World Bank, etc.) – in form of flash information, analytical notes, press releases, and statistical bulletins, aggregated tables, as well through the Web page of NBS. Dissemination *by payment* (to legal and natural persons) has the form of special information and publications produced at the request of users.

Statistical publications issued in 2006

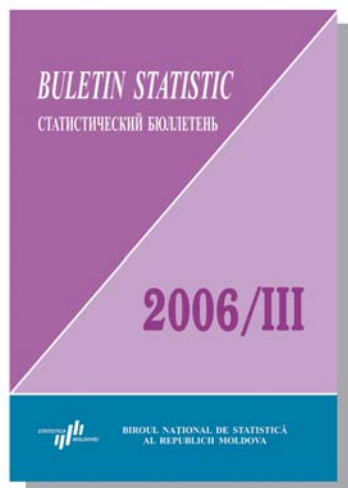
The system of publications represents a wide window to public opinion, to requirements of economic units, of all beneficiaries of statistical information, following the process of restructuring and modernisation of statistical activities.

During 2006, NBS developed and issued 40 statistical publications with a total run of 6400 copies (including



branch compilations – 12 titles, total run – approximately 2600 copies), of which 16 publications with annual periodicity, 3 – quarterly and 1 monthly. Of total publications, 5 were issued in 3 languages (state language, Russian and English); 13 – bilingual (6 – in Russian and state language, 7 – in English and state language) and 2 – in state language.

Based on the data of 2004 Population Census, the volume I and II, *Demographic, national, linguistic, cultural characteristics* and accordingly *Population migration*, and statistical leaflet *Women and men in the Republic of Moldova* were published.



The compilation *National Accounts 2004* was developed and published.

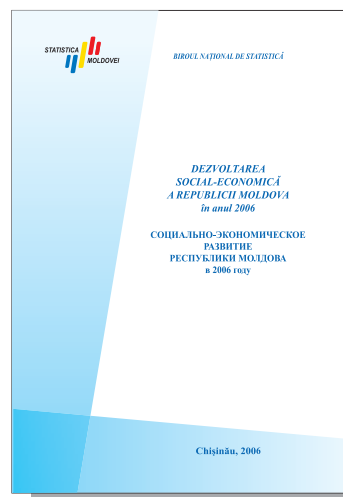
Issues 2006 of the *Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Moldova* and the *Statistical Yearbook on External Trade* were developed and presented on CD-ROM both in PDF and Excel formats. The publications were customised for the wide range of users in the most accessible and convenient form, in order to promote a wider use of statistical data.

119 press releases and issues were disseminated (analytical notes and operative information) on the situation and trends in social, demographic, economic and cultural life of the country. Moreover, 567 statistical bulletins with aggregated data by various activities were developed, of which 152 – monthly, 167 – quarterly and 248 – annual.

NBS official web page

NBS official web page www.statistica.md had been permanently updated with news, the most recent statistical data according the time schedule of flash information, information on the publications issued in 2006. The publications „Moldova in figures, 2006” and „Women and men of the Republic of Moldova” were presented on the NBS web site, as well. The column *Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of IMF* was added, in this context the *National Summary Data Page (NSDP)* was updated during 2006 with the main macroeconomic indicators according Advanced Release Calendar (ARC).

In 2006, the number of visits of the NBS web page increased to 451,4 thousand. The number of visitors exceeded 40 thousand. The most visited column of NBS web page was: *Statistical data* (291 thousand accesses), where both the monthly, quarterly and annual statistical indicators and the data of the Statistical Yearbook of Moldova are published, the *Main* page (78,7 thousand accesses), *Methodology* (25,1 thousand accesses), where the main data characteristics are described and the users may get acquainted for a proper data use, and other necessary information, *Publications* (13 thousand accesses) – the NBS *Catalogue of publications and services*, *Links* (10,8 thousand accesses) – the



links to other international statistical organisations, governmental institutions, other organisations are presented, *Classifications* (9,3 thousand accesses) – the system of statistical classifications, *About NBS* (7,9 thousand accesses), *Population Census* (6,1 thousand accesses) – totals of the 2004 Population Census, *Feedback* (3,7 thousand accesses), *NSDP* (3,2 thousand accesses).

The Web page is best viewed by the browsers MS Internet Explorer – 75%, Firefox – 11%, Opera – 5,4%, as well some others such as: Alt, Myle2, Maxthon, Netscape, AOL, Mozilla.

According statistics of visits on www.statistica.md, calculated for 2006, we could outline the first ten extensions that access the NBS web page: Moldova – 46%, United States – 13%, Romania – 9 %, Germany and Russian Federation – with 4% each, Great Britain – 3,4%, Italy – 2,4%, and Ukraine, Poland, Mexico – with 2% each.

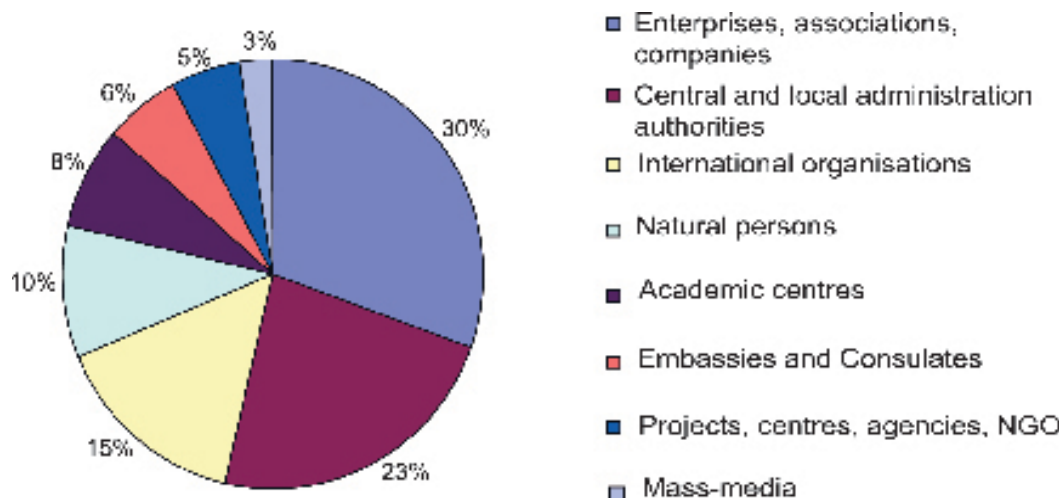
Relations with users

In 2006, about 700 users were registered in the database of users of statistical information, of which the majority constituted the enterprises, associations and companies, central and local administration authorities and international organisations. Of the total number – 327 (47%) are permanent users, while 190 (27%) – became new users in 2006.

Despite the big volume of work, NBS specialists are permanently available to meet the increasing user requests for statistical information.

Thus, in 2006, 2875 requests were met, which was 981 more (34%) than in 2005. Of the total number: 1509 (53%) answers were sent by email, abroad – 119 (4%), for payment – 651 (23%). Of the total number of requests, 1408 (49%) were for the data on trade and services, 450 (16%) – labour market, 327 (11%) - prices, 208 (7%) – financial reports, etc. The most popular indicators were: exports and imports at the most detailed level, number of employed population, average wages, Consumer Price Index, data from the financial reports, minimum living standard and population by ages, ethnicity, education level according 2004 Population Census data, etc.

Structure of users by areas



Relations with mass media

In order to meet the needs of the public opinion and to consolidate the reliability of statistical system, NBS develops and maintains good relations with approximately 20 mass media bodies – press agencies, broadcasting companies, newspapers, and magazines, etc.



In this context, in 2006, 11 press releases and 91 flash information (in average 8 per month) on the totals of Population Census, inflation level, average salary, population number, external trade activity, Gross Domestic Product, labour force etc. were sent.



It must be mentioned the cooperation with the issue “Экономическое обозрение” (Economic overview) (the brief versions of the quarterly report “Social-economic situation of the Republic of Moldova” were published); „Независимая Молдова”; „Комсомольская правда в Молдове”; and broadcasting company TeleRadio Moldova.

On May 3, 2006, the press conference with the occasion of subscription of the Republic of Moldova to the Special Data Dissemination Standard of IMF was organised.

Participation in exhibitions

During May 4-6, 2006, NBS participated in the exhibition „Small business 2006” organised at Moldexpo, and during August 27-September 2 – at the exhibition organised in the National Library with the title „International book hall, 2006”, in order to promote a good image of statistics, in special, having good communication relations with both current and potential users.



NBS Library

The NBS Library is operative with a rich fund of statistical publications, where all persons interested in statistical data have free access. The book fund is continuously increasing due to information flows between NBS and the statistical offices of other countries, and the international organisations as well.



❖ INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Technical assistance offered to NBS during 2006

International statistical collaboration plays an important role in the process of reforming of national statistical system of the Republic of Moldova, thus becoming a decisive pillar in the harmonisation of Moldovan statistics with international standards.

In 2006, the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova benefited of technical assistance from the following international organisations and partners:

- *European Union* through the TACIS Technical Assistance Programme Statistics 9;
- *Department for International Development (DFID)* of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the framework of Memorandum of Understanding „Improving Social and Agricultural Statistics, their use and analysis”;
- *Statistics Norway*, with the financial support of Norway Government in the framework of Memorandum of Understanding between Statistics Norway and the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova concerning the support in the development of the statistical system of Moldova;
- *National Institute of Statistics of Romania* based on the cooperation Protocol in Statistics between the National Institute of Statistics of Romania and the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova;
- *Programme for Food Security (FAO)*.

Participation of NBS representatives in meetings, workshops and international conferences

During this year, the NBS representatives attended a number of meetings, workshops and international conferences organised by the Department for International Development of Great Britain (DFID), Statistics Norway, United Nations Statistics Division, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), European Free Trade Association (EFTA), United Nations Social and Economic Commission for Asia and Pacific, „PARIS 21” Consortium, Institute of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, Statistical Commission of European Union (Eurostat), Joint Vienna Institute of the International Monetary Fund, and Finland Statistics.

As significant event of 2006 should be mentioned the launch of the technical assistance project „Statistics 9” in the framework of TACIS Programme.

Thus, in September 2006, the visit of project manager responsible for Moldova was organised, on the implementation of TACIS „Statistics 9” project activities and the visit of the international expert on global assessment of national statistics. The objective of that mission was to determine the correspondence degree of national statistics to EU standards and to prepare a strategy of completing the possible lacks with a list of priority fields.

The results of Global Assessment will be available and presented in May 2007 in the framework of International Conference concerning the adjustment of national statistics to EU standards.

In the frame of „Memorandum of Understanding between Statistics Norway and the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova concerning the Support in developing the statistical system of Moldova” two missions were organised: study of organisation and use of official statistics in Norway and study of demography statistics and Population Register.

The cooperation with the National Institute of Statistics of Romania in the area of bilateral relations continued and the missions on the following topics were organised:

- Work program duration and topology;
- Agriculture Statistics;
- Statistical Register.

NBS information supply to international organisations

Following the request of international organisations, NBS supplied various statistical information, which cover all statistical areas with various frequencies: monthly, quarterly, and annual. Thus, during this year, 37 questionnaires were filled in and presented to international organisations, according the Program of Activity and 8 additional questionnaires.

Information on main social economic indicators for the country was sent monthly to Interstate Statistical Committee of CIS countries.

Statistical information on the external trade of the Republic of Moldova was presented quarterly, according the bilateral Memorandum between Eurostat and NBS.

Diverse statistical information on the social economic situation of the country was prepared at the request of the representative offices of World Bank, IMF, other international organisations located in Chisinau, and diplomatic missions of the Republic of Moldova was prepared.

International collaboration in the field of statistics supposes the mutual share of information; data production according international standards, in order to ensure their comparability, in conditions of continuous improvement of statistical methods; information technologies and presentation of information to international organisations, according responsibilities committed by the Republic of Moldova. Thus, during this year, the Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Moldova was sent to 45 statistical offices of various countries and over 10 international organisations.

❖ REGIONAL STATISTICS

Activity of territorial divisions and sections for statistics

The activity of territorial statistical offices (TSO) consisted, mainly, in collecting primary data from the reporting units, initial checking, validation and entry on hardware of the data of various statistical surveys and financial reports (accounting), their centralisation and presentation of centralised data to Main Accounting Centre (MAC) of NBS. Thus, during 2006, territorial statistical offices presented 808,6 thousand reports to MAC, collected from approximately 44 thousand of respondents.

Simultaneously, during 2006, territorial statistical offices developed and presented to local public authorities 154 reports, 204 analytical notes, and 294 flash information concerning the social economic and demographic situation of the district (municipality). The Main Division for Statistics of municipality Chisinau developed and issued the statistical yearbook *Chisinau in figures, 2005*.

Taking into account the local public administration's increasing request for regional data, they were sent aggregated statistical information and statistical bulletins, reports or aggregated tables (7271).

The requests for statistical data from various users increased; this is an additional effort for the territorial statistical offices, not included in the Program of Activity.

Simultaneously, it is to be mentioned the assistance provided by territorial statistical offices to reporting economic units, for the filling in of statistical reports and accounting reports.

During the year, territorial statistical divisions and sections cooperated with the bodies of local public administration (Tax Authority, Finance Division, State Registration Chamber, State Inspection in Constructions, Regional Ecology Agency, etc.) organising or attending workshops for economic units in the territory, concerning problems on the region social economic situation, improving reporting discipline, explaining methodological notes on the filling in of statistical reports.

Permanently, the heads and specialists of local statistical offices studied at the training courses organised by the Academy of Public Administration nearby the President of the country.

Simultaneously, territorial statistical offices faced some problems, fact that impeded the efficient activity of specialists, of which the most essential are: shortage of modern IT equipment in the territorial statistical offices, the need to improve the software for statistical information processing, to increase the personnel number in the territorial statistical offices in order to insure a reasonable burden on the specialists of the territorial statistical offices.

❖ HUMAN RESOURCES

According the situation at 1 January 2007, 964 persons were working in the system of National Bureau of Statistics.

In the NBS headquarter and subdivisions, of all 203 occupied positions - 197 (97%) are the heads and branch specialists, 6 persons (3%) – assisting personnel and workers.

In the frame of territorial statistical offices, of the total of 761 employees - 720 are the heads and branch specialists (94,6%), while the assisting personnel and workers constitute 41 persons (5,4%).

There are two self-management institutions in the NBS subordination:

Centre for Technologic Modelling “Informstat” – 5 persons,

Printing House “Statistica” – 46 persons.

A specific aspect of the structure of personnel is the majority share of women– 87% (839 persons).

The civil servants represent 61,1% (560 persons, including 16 – without qualification degree); 579 persons (63,1%) with higher education, 10 (1,1%) – incomplete higher education, 294 (32,1%) – secondary vocational education, 34 persons (3,7%) with no specialised education of the total number heads and branch specialists of the system of National Bureau of Statistics (917 persons).

The heads and branch specialists are distributed according work experience in the state statistical bodies as follows:

- Up to 5 years – 316 persons (34,4%);
- 5 to 10 years – 298 persons (32,5%);
- 10 to 20 years – 140 persons (15,3%);
- Over 20 years – 163 persons (17,8%).

In 2006, the personnel fluctuation for the whole system constituted 7,1% (68 persons).

Human resources of the National Bureau of Statistics as of 01.01.2007

		Employees	Education:		Of total personnel:	
			higher	Secondary vocational	women	men
Total employees in %		964 100	579 60,0	294 30,5	839 87,0	125 13,0
NBS	<i>Headquarter</i>	108*	102	3	96	12
	of which:					
	Functionaries	106*	102	3	95	11
	Assisting personnel	2	-	-	1	1
NBS subdivisions						
	Main Division of Population Census	5	5	-	4	1
	Main Division of Information Technologies	88	48	22	74	14
	of which:					
	Functionaries	86	48	22	74	12
	Assisting personnel	2	-	-	-	2
	Section of administration (account of special means)	2	-	-	1	1
Territorial units	Functionaries	720**	424	269	664	97
	Assisting personnel	41	-	-	23	18

* 5 specialists hired at NBS for the duration of maternity leave (care for a child under 3 years) of a permanent employee

** 18 specialists hired at TSO for the duration of maternity leave (care for a child under 3 years) of a permanent employee

During 2006, *personnel training* was organised and carried out with the support of international organisations, which consisted in continuous study of advanced methodologies and practices of other countries in the field of statistics (ISAS/DFID of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Statistics Norway, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nation Development Program, Project UNDP - Moldova, IMF, Project Tempus-TACIS-Europe, European Free Trade Association (EFTA), SOROS, United Nations Social Economic Commission for Asia and Pacific, Federal State Statistics Service of Russian Federation, etc.).

Thus, during this year, 40 persons participated in study visits and attended work meetings, workshops, conferences, trainings and short-term training courses; one person attended long-term training course.

Four NBS specialists attended the training courses organised by the Academy of Public Administration nearby the President of the Republic of Moldova.

In April 2006, a 5-day training course for the heads of territorial statistical offices on „Organisation and management of human resources”, and in September – an IT training course for 25 specialists from territorial statistical offices were organised. It is to be mentioned that some NBS specialists were consultants and taught some hours in the frame of these courses.

During this year, two TSO heads graduated the Academy of Public Administration, and currently, one TSO head and one specialist continue their studies at the speciality „Economy and public management” in classes for distance learning.

One NBS head of division attended the training course „Personnel training in negotiation skills and creation of influence abilities in negotiations with EU” organised by the Ministry of Economy and Trade and the Foundation of Social and Economic Investigations – CASE from Moldova.

The management and specialists of NBS headquarter and of the IT Division nearby NBS participated at the training seminars organised for the specialists from the territorial statistical offices, as well, participated specialists involved in:

- Survey of agricultural households (1 seminar);
- Household Budget Survey and Labour Force Survey (quarterly);
- Survey of Road Transport of Goods (one seminar).

A 48 hours training course “Writing a report” was organised in the framework of ISAS/DFID Project (in state and English languages), 21 NBS specialists attended.

Annually, in the frame of NBS and IT Division it is organised the *production and license practice for the students* of Academy of Economic Studies of the Republic of Moldova (speciality “Cybernetics, Statistics and Economic Informatics”, „Statistics and economic prognosis”; „Finance and Insurances), Technical University of Moldova (speciality “Information Technologies”), Corporatist-Commercial University of Moldova (speciality „Informatics and Foreign Languages applied in Economy”), College of Informatics from Chisinau (speciality „Informatics”). The heads of divisions or sections, their deputies or high skilled specialists are appointed as heads of students’ practice.

During 2006, 29 students of above-mentioned institutions performed their practice hours in the frame of NBS; moreover, two of them were hired later on at NBS.

Of the total number of 18 specialists hired during 2005-2006, currently, only nine continue to work at NBS.

❖ FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The key problems connected to NBS financial-economic activity faced during 2006 were as follows:

- Making the expenses more efficient for all chapters in order to correspond to the items approved in the Budget Law for 2006;
- Works connected to the development of draft Budget Law for 2007-2009.

The funding of NBS activity during 2006 was financed from the means approved by the Budget Law for 2006, accordingly from allocations of the state budget and means as the result of services connected to data and statistical publications sale and the rent of unlivable premises (by TSO).

In 2006, the financing of NBS activity followed the below objectives:

- Statistical surveys covered in the Program of Statistical Works approved for 2006;
- Program of Statistical Information Dissemination;
- Aggregation and dissemination 2004 Population Census information;
- Development and update of NBS IT network;
- Ensuring the works necessary for the creation of decent work conditions in the new NBS premise and its territorial offices.

In 2006, the state budget allocated 6656,5 thousand lei for the maintenance of NBS headquarter, 13183,7 thousand lei – for the maintenance of territorial statistical offices, 8343,9 thousand lei – for the implementation of the Program of Statistical Works and Publications, 614,2 thousand lei – Population Census works, and 6132,1 thousand lei – for the labour force survey and household budget survey.

The analysis of State Budget execution for 2006 is presented in the annex „Execution of the financing plan for the system of National Bureau of Statistics as of 01.01.2007”.

Execution of Financing plan for the system of the National Bureau of Statistics as of 01.01.07

	Year 2006																	
	Planned						Executed						including:					
	Population Census			Labour Force Survey and Household Budget Survey			Planned			Executed			Planned			Executed		
	thousand lei	%	thousand lei	%	thousand lei	%	thousand lei	%	thousand lei	%	thousand lei	%	thousand lei	%	thousand lei	%		
Total budget	36690,0	100,0	34930,4	95,2	951,7	100,0	614,2	64,5	6462,6	100,0	6132,1	94,9						
Of which:																		
Personnel expenditures																		
- Expenditures for salaries	20071,8	54,7	19333,6	96,3	509,4	53,5	305,3	59,9	3220,1	49,8	3021,7	93,8						
- Compulsory state social insurance contributions	4538,6	12,4	4319,2	95,2	119,9	12,6	73,6	61,4	710,0	11,0	656,0	92,4						
- Primes of compulsory insurance and medical insurance paid by employers	355,1	1,0	329,8	92,9	9,1	1,0	5,6	61,5	58,8	0,9	49,4	84,0						
- Official work visits	357,0	1,0	286,5	80,3	26,4	2,8	5,0	18,9	98,6	1,5	92,3	93,6						
Expenditures for goods and services																		
- Post and telecommunication services	1016,4	2,8	900,2	88,6	31,1	3,3	8,3	26,7	87,8	1,4	77,1	87,8						
- Rent and maintenance of transport means	121,3	0,3	105,2	86,7														
- Current repair of premises and rooms	408,2	1,1	408,1	100,0					0,5	0,0	0,5	100,0						
- Communal facilities	1787,7	4,9	1542,9	86,3	71,8	7,5	71,1	99,0	219,3	3,4	208,2	94,9						
- Other expenditures (books, household equipment, printing services, etc.)	3802,2	18,9	3516,0	92,5	184,0	19,3	145,3	79,0	621,6	9,6	605,6	97,4						
Purchase of fixed assets	2254,7	6,1	2212,8	98,1					1445,9	22,4	1421,3	98,3						
Capital repair of administrative premises	1977,0	5,4	1976,1	100,0														

In 2006, the financing of the statistical system from the Gross Domestic Product, constituted 0,25%.

❖ PRIORITIES FOR 2007

The basic objective of statistical development continues to be the complex reforming of the system of official statistics of the Republic of Moldova, in order to insure the public administration, economic units, and public opinion with qualitative statistical information comparable at the international level, which would reflect the social economic and demographic situation of the country.

NBS priority directions of activity for 2007 are:

- **Continue developing the IT infrastructure** by elaborating the concept of IT system of NBS, creation of an integral statistical database and of the portal e-Statistica, for a closer interaction with users of statistical data;
- **Work out the development concept of demography statistics using IT;**
- **Improvement of system of indicators, their calculation methodology, method of statistical information collection according international standards, in particular of European Union;**
- **Improvement of system of statistical reports and surveys.** Improving the collaboration with central and local public administration bodies for a more active use of administrative data sources, exclusion of statistical reports with low information capacity, fact that would allow decreasing response burden on economic units and more efficient use of budgetary means;
- **Continue the works for the creation of new system of Business Statistics;**
- **Continue the works connected to the organisation of the first General Agriculture Census, organisation and carry out of the Pilot Census;**
- **Improvement of publications quality, dissemination of statistical information and relations with users;**
- **Enhancement of collaboration with foreign donors** in order to attract the technical assistance for the implementation of international standards in the statistical activity;
- **Communication maintenance** with all bodies of local and central public administration, economic units, various categories of users of statistical information, international organisations, statistical offices of other countries, mass media, as well the public opinion, both internal, and external;
- **Training of personnel from the statistical system.**

