Statistical programme of the Natural Resources Institute Finland

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STATISTICS

LUKE

2025–2027

Natural Resources Institute Finland, Helsinki 2024

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Foreword

This programme includes the statistics, statistical surveys and services related to the statistical programme of the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke). The programme also presents key statistical development actions for the next few years. Luke's statistics are based on the EU's statistics regulations and national data needs. All activities are based on the European Code of Practice governing the statistical sector and its principles. Luke plays a key role in collecting, organising and publishing factual data about the food and natural resources sectors.

In addition to published statistics, we serve users by providing information services and various data products. Key services for users of statistics include the online luke.fi/en/statistics service and the statistical database, whose data are openly accessible for all. We supplement statistical data with blogs, texts and infographics that expand the background of each phenomenon. We disclose data collected for statistics for research and statistical surveys following the principles of the Statistics Act. We also provide data collection services, as well as customised surveys and analyses funded by customers.

As one of Finland's four statistical authorities, Luke is a central part of the statistical ecosystem. Development guidelines for the statistical ecosystem for 2024–2026 were published in December 2023. Luke will implement the jointly agreed development guidelines by carrying out this statistical programme in close cooperation with others.

The regulation-based statistics obligations for the statistical programme will expand at the beginning of 2025. The expansion of statistical data is based on the SAIO regulation on agricultural production inputs and outputs about to enter into force at the beginning of 2025. Statistics on environmental accounts will also expand to cover forest accounts, environmental subsidies and ecosystem accounts. During the statistical programme period, the extensive Farm Structure Survey (IFS) will also be conducted, whose data content is determined in EU regulations. Luke's statistics on livestock production, crop production, prices, pesticides and nutrient balances will be changed and expanded. In addition, statistics on the volume and value of the growing stock will expand.

At the same time as Luke's regulation-based statistics obligations expand, Luke must respond to savings pressures in general government finances. This means that statistics not based on any regulations will be reduced and more inputs will be allocated to new regulation-based statistics, development activities that improve efficiency, and customer-funded activities. We requested comments with Statistics Finland, based on which we heard the opinions of users of statistics on the reduction of statistics not based on regulations. Decisions on the statistics to be discontinued were made based on the comments received and assessments of the statutory nature of statistics, the availability of alternative data sources and the opportunity to produce relevant data using customer funding.

Through Luke's statistical programme, our goal is to provide data to support decision-making processes and to monitor the impact of decisions. Statistics on food and natural resources play a key role
in (European) agricultural policy, the monitoring of the bioeconomy, support provided for the green transition, the measurement of sustainable development, as well as in questions related to food security and self-sufficiency.

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1. Introduction

This programme includes all statistics compiled by Luke and related development measures. In this programme, Luke's statistics have been classified under three themes: agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and hunting. In accordance with the Statistics Act (280/2004), Luke is one of the four Finnish statistical authorities. Other statistical authorities are Statistics Finland, the National Institute for Health and Welfare, and Finnish Customs. The statistical authorities have the right to collect data for statistical purposes on the basis of the disclosure obligation laid down in the Statistics Act. In addition to the Statistics Act, Luke's statistics are compiled based on the act on food and natural resources statistics (562/2014) and the Act on the Natural Resources Institute Finland (561/2014).

According to Luke's Rules of Procedure, the Statistical Services unit is responsible for Luke's statistical programme. The statistical programme consists of statistics compiled by Luke as a statistical authority. Luke compiles the statistics laid down in the act on food and natural resources statistics (27 June 2014/562). Pursuant to section 2 of the said act, Luke produces and publishes statistics concerning:

1. *the structure of agriculture; production methods and inputs; crop, horticultural and livestock production; the impact of production on the environment; and prices of agricultural products;*
2. *the financial use of forest;, the functioning of the wood market; forest management; and forest protection;*
3. *fishing; aquaculture; fisheries; and markets for fish products;*
4. *food safety.*

The statistics included in Luke's statistical programme are described in Appendix 1. The statistical programme also includes the statistical surveys that are described on our data collection pages (https://www.luke.fi/fi/tilastot/kyselyt-ja-tiedonkeruut), as well as online services and publications related to the publication of statistics.

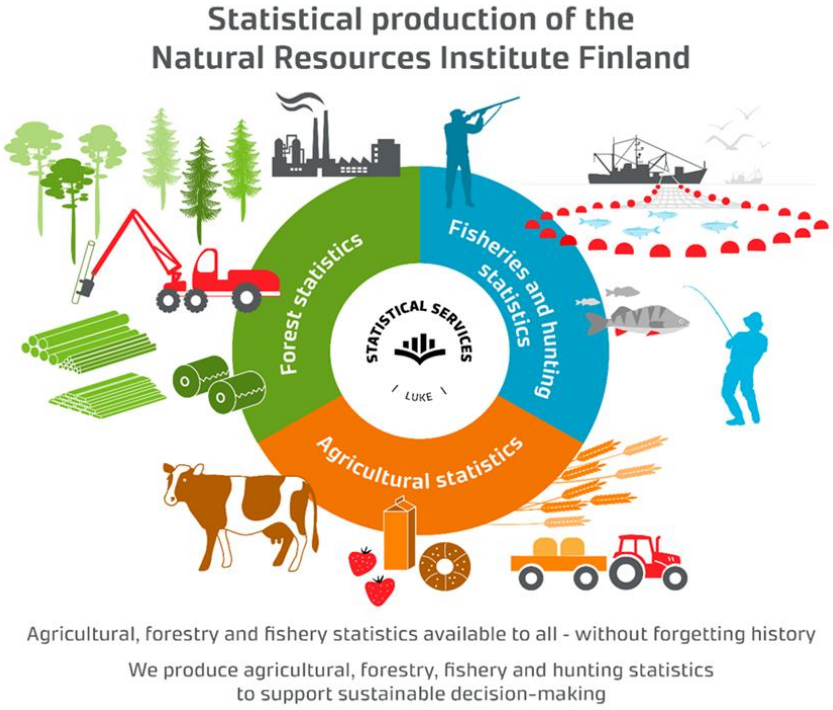

Figure 1. Statistical production of the Natural Resources Institute Finland

2. Focus areas in the development of statistics

The main goal set for the development of statistics is to reduce the labour intensity of statistical production. Key development goals set for the programme period include accelerating the electronic collection of data and improving the usability of online forms, the use and quality assurance of registered data, as well as the harmonisation of analysis and processing phases in statistical production, especially regarding the processing of non-respondents, editing, weighing, and data protection in statistics.

We will highlight the results of our development activities in the form of experimental statistics. Experimental statistics mean such piloted statistics that are still in the development phase, which is why no quality description or future publication schedule has yet been prepared for them. Experimental statistics can use new types of data sources or be based on new calculation methods.

We are actively engaged in European cooperation in the statistical sector and participate in projects funded by Eurostat. We participate in the preparation of new EU statistics regulations and are engaged in a dialogue with users of statistics and data providers regarding any changes proposed for statistics and data collection processes.

Development of statistics legislation

The data content of statistics will be updated as a result of amended EU regulations. Roughly three quarters of Luke's statistical production are regulated by the EU's statistics regulations. By being engaged in the development of the EU's statistics regulations, we help address Finland's national data needs in new acts, and we can highlight, at an early stage, the costs arising from responding to the data needs set out in regulations (and therefore have an impact on upcoming grant calls), assess how current administrative datasets respond to new data needs in Finland, and notify Finnish data providers and users of statistics early of the changes expected in our operating environment.

The regulation on statistics on agricultural inputs and outputs (SAIO) aims to promote key objectives included in the 2020 agricultural statistics strategy: the production of high-quality statistics that efficiently and effectively respond to data needs and improving the comparability and coherence of statistics. The SAIO regulation entered into force at the end of 2022, but its application will begin from 1 January 2025. As a result of the SAIO regulation, Luke's statistics on livestock production, crop production, prices, pesticides and nutrient balances will be changed and expanded.

The EU's statistics regulations have not, so far, directly regulated Luke's forest statistics and their production. The situation will change from 2025 when statistics on forest accounts will become regulation-based. The forest accounts describe key features of forests and land areas connected to them, wood resources, as well as forestry and harvesting. The new statistics help measure the forest sector in particular and the part of it that is available for harvesting, as well as changes over time. The first statistics on forest accounts will be published in the autumn of 2025.

The development of EU law on fishery statistics, which is currently underway, combined with the reform of the EU control regulation will cause changes in recreational fishing statistics. The

amended regulation on fishery and aquaculture statistics addresses the registration of recreational fishing as required by the new control regulation. As a result, new recreational fishers and their vessels, catches, unintentional by-catches and certain types of gear will be subject to registration after a transition period. Currently, it appears that the new main regulation under EU law on the fisheries statistics regulation would be ready for a round of approval at the beginning of 2027 and implementing regulations would be ready at the end of the same year.

In addition to the EU's statistics regulations, the national statistics legislation has been amended. The amendments to the Act on Statistics Finland and the Statistics Act entered into force on 1 March 2023. These amendments do not have any significant impact on Luke's statistical production. The development of national statistics law will continue, especially in conjunction with the updating of the Act on the Natural Resources Institute Finland (561/2014) and the act on food and natural resources statistics (562/2014).

New data sources and the development of data collection

The key goal of Luke's data collection is to keep the data providers' response burden as low as possible. We have for long been pioneers in the use of administrative data. The key goal of the upcoming programme period is to increasingly shift the collection of data to online forms. At the beginning of 2025, we will collect all data without using any paper forms and develop our online forms in a more user-friendly direction.

3. Agricultural statistics

Presentation of agricultural statistics

Luke compiles statistics on the structure of farms, crop and livestock production, as well as related producer prices. As a result of the amendments to EU regulations, statistics on organic and crop production, crop protection products and the nutrient balance will expand. Currently, the agricultural sector consists of a total of 23 statistics, 20 of which are ESS statistics and 15 of which are OSF statistics. The production of ESS statistics is regulated directly by the EU statistics regulation, or they are used as sources for other ESS statistics.

In the autumn of 2024, Luke decided to reduce the number of statistics. According to the decisions, some agricultural statistics will be discontinued after the publication of data for 2024. As a result, food potato storage statistics, the balance sheet for food commodities, and statistics on foreign trade in agri-food products will be discontinued. After these reductions, the agricultural sector will consist of 20 statistics. Further information is presented in Appendix 1.

First and foremost, agricultural statistics seek to describe the state of food production in Finland. Agricultural statistics shed light on food production from several perspectives. The data produced serve to assess the sufficiency of food, the financial standing of farms, food security and various other factors. The statistics meet the data needs of citizens, food sector operators and societal decision-makers alike.

In recent years, the role of the impact of agriculture on the environment has become more important, including in statistics. Food production has various impact on the surrounding world. Often, the data collected lay a solid foundation for new data needs, as such or modified. In addition, the focus points of statistics can be changed. For example, the focus of statistics

on the use of crop protection products and fertilisers, as well as data about organic production, will shift increasingly in the coming years.

An extended structural change has been underway in Finnish agriculture. In addition to the decrease in the number of farms, work carried out in agriculture and horticulture has decreased, even though the production volume has remained unchanged. On the other hand, the availability of hired employees and seasonal foreign workforce, in particular, has increased. New data about the labour force and other business activities of farms will be obtained from the 2023 Farm Structure Survey, data for which were collected at the end of 2023 and at the beginning of 2024. The results will be published in 2025.

We compile monthly statistics on milk production and dairy products, meat production, and producer prices of agricultural products. Our quarterly statistical production concerns egg production and data about cereals purchased, used and stockpiled by industry and trade. Other agricultural statistics are mainly published annually.

Development of agricultural statistics

The most significant short-term changes in agricultural statistics are presented below. The data content of statistics will be updated as a result of amended EU regulations. In the data content of the statistics, we also take into account national data needs, where possible. The most significant amendment in progress affecting agricultural statistics is the SAIO regulation (statistics on agricultural input and output), according to which we will provide data for Eurostat from 1 January 2025.

The SAIO regulation is part of the EU's agricultural statistics strategy implemented since 2020 and aimed to modernise the EU's agricultural statistics. The regulation concerns statistics on agricultural inputs and outputs, such as statistics on animal production (including the number of animals, outputs), statistics on crop production (such as yields, cultivation areas, crop balances), statistics on organic production, agricultural price statistics (price indices and absolute prices), as well as statistics on crop nutrients and crop protection products. Luke is responsible for the statistics defined in the regulation, apart from price indices, the production of which is the responsibility of Statistics Finland. New up-to-date data needs to which the regulation responds include the data needs of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the European Green Deal, as well as the related Farm to Fork strategy and the biodiversity strategy. As a result of the SAIO regulation, statistics on organic production will be expanded further. We already expanded the statistics on organic production during the update of data systems related to statistics on the purchase, use and storage of cereals, meat production statistics, and statistics on producer prices of agricultural products. The SAIO regulation will change the frequency for compiling statistics on the use of crop protection products in agriculture to one year in place of the current five years after the transition period. In addition, some of the statistics we currently deliver voluntarily to Eurostat (based on ESS agreements), including crop balances, nutrient balances, nutrients sold in fertilisers, and egg production statistics, will become statutory.

The main statistical register for the production of agricultural statistics is the so-called MAPU register (the register of agricultural and horticultural enterprises). The MAPU register contains annual data about farms engaged in agricultural or horticultural production in Finland, and the register acts as a source for farm statistics and a sampling frame for sample surveys. Luke has updated the MAPU register's data content, databases and data flows in recent years. The update of the MAPU register continues. Users of statistics will see the changes in the form of

longer time series and the quicker publication of statistics. As a result of the update, data on the number of organic farms will be added to agricultural structural statistics.

4. Forest statistics

Presentation of forest statistics

Luke produces statistics on the Finnish forest sector: forests, forestry and forest industries. Statistics on wood trade and commercial fellings are published monthly and statistics on energywood trade on a quarterly basis. Annual data on these and other forest statistics are also published.

In the autumn of 2024, Luke decided to reduce the number of statistics. According to the decisions, some forest statistics will be discontinued after the publication of data for 2024. As a result, statistics on forestry as an investment, ownership of forest land, foreign trade in roundwood and forest industry products, forest resources, flows of wood material, seed and seedling statistics (as part of the statistics on silvicultural and forest improvement work), and operating profit in non-industrial private forestry will be discontinued. In addition, the publication frequency was changed so that only one verbal publication of annual statistics will be made.

After the change, nine forest statistics will be compiled, of which six are ESS statistics and seven OSF statistics. The range of statistics also includes bioeconomy calculations that are based on the national accounts but are not yet classified as statistics. Forest statistics are mainly compiled for domestic data needs, but they are also required and used as part of the international statistical system. Further information on forest statistics is presented in Appendix 1.

Roundwood harvested from Finland's forests is used as industrial raw materials and renewable energy. At the same time, forests constitute a significant carbon sink and provide habitats for threatened species and recreational opportunities for people.

Changes affecting the forest sector and its structures take place constantly in and around the sector. At the time of writing this text in the autumn of 2024, demand for forest industry products in domestic and export markets was recovering, driven by slower inflation, decreasing interest rates and the end of destocking. Impact can be seen in the forest industries through domestic products, exports, wood trade and felling volumes. In addition, increases in the production capacity, the decrease in wood imports and the discontinued burning of peat, combined with the increased price, are reflected in the wood markets and the use of wood as energy.

The data compiled by Luke help monitor and assess the development of forest resources, the felling potential and its use. Statistics are also used to record and monitor the generation and consumption of renewable and wood-based energy. Luke's statistics are also key data sources for the calculation, reporting and monitoring of carbon sinks, greenhouse gases, emissions and particulate emissions.

Biodiversity, forest conservation and restoration are hot topics nationally and internationally. Forest protection statistics provide valuable basic data for a lively societal dialogue and processes revolving around the theme. The previous forest conservation statistics were published in 2022, and the next publication will take place in the autumn of 2025.

The National Forest Strategy 2035 describes the key goals of the forest sector, on which public administration will focus as part of joint development. Forest statistics are an important data source for the preparation of the National Forest Strategy and regional forest programmes, and the monitoring of the goals set.

Development of forest statistics

Forest accounts, part of Eurostat's environmental accounts, have become statutory which means that the collection of data for them will be more extensive from 2025. Luke's statistical unit and the National Forest Inventory have developed the calculation methods needed for the production of the data required, whereas Statistics Finland produces part of the data. These data will also be published in Luke's statistics portal as new statistics on forest accounts.

Opportunities to develop wood trade statistics will be investigated and implemented with wood market operators. During 2024, the electronic collection of data directly from wood buyers' data systems was increased. Statistics on the pricing of whole stems in wood trade will be developed further by investigating the availability and publication opportunities of the data. Statistics will be compiled, if possible. Another goal is to merge statistics on industrial wood trade and energywood trade into a single set of statistics.

The data content of felling statistics will be expanded. In 2022, municipal felling data were published as open data in the statistics on commercial fellings. The data content of annual statistics on felling, as well as roundwood removals and drain, will be expanded using variables relative to the forest area. In addition, the opportunity to compile commercial felling statistics by felling method will be investigated. Experimental statistics on the carbon sinks of forest by region will be continued alongside Luke's greenhouse gas calculation and the National Forest Inventory.

The aim is to produce new data about small-scale fuelwood consumption for wood consumption statistics with Statistics Finland. An estimate of silvicultural work conducted independently by forest owners, which has not previously been included in statistics, is to be added to silvicultural and forest improvement work.

A development project was carried out for bioeconomy statistics in 2023. Its goal was to specify the definition of the bioeconomy and the calculation method applied to it. While new calculation principles have already been deployed in part, development needs to be continued.

The aim of data collection for forest statistics is to minimise the response burden. Nearly all statistical data are collected from forest sector enterprises. Part of the data required is already obtained so that data providers send data collected using calculation software from their systems to Luke through electronic interfaces. The aim is to continuously increase the proportion of such data collection.

5. Fisheries and hunting statistics

Presentation of fisheries and hunting statistics

Based on act 562/2014, Luke compiles and publishes statistics on fishing, aquaculture, fisheries and markets for fishing products. The statistical programme has consisted of statistics on commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, fish producer prices, fish processing, fish consumption, foreign trade in fish, fishery industry companies, and hunting. In addition, we have produced financial monitoring reports and analyses on the profitability of fishery industry companies. In the autumn of 2024, Luke decided to reduce the number of statistics. According to the decisions, some fisheries statistics will be discontinued after the publication of data for 2024. As a result, the range will consist of five fisheries statistics and a single set of hunting statistics. Statistics on commercial marine fishery, commercial inland fishery, producer prices for fish, aquaculture, and recreational fishing will remain in production. All of them are OSF statistics, and three of them are ESS statistics. Further information is presented in Appendix 1.

On the basis of time series for fisheries and hunting statistics, the administration and sector evaluate ongoing changes and consider the direction and focus points for the development of the sector. The statistics are used to set policy goals and to monitor their achievement, both nationally and within the scope of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in the Baltic Sea. The revised Fishing Act and the principle of sustainable use have increased data needs for fisheries statistics. Statistics-based analyses are often necessary to assess the abundance of fish resources, to evaluate both the sustainable catch volume and the impact of policy measures, and to identify the drivers of development in the sector. In particular, catch statistics provide important initial data for fish stock assessment and for forecasts of the impact of fishing on stock abundance. Financial indicators and statements also help monitor the profitability of fisheries and the financial standing of fishery industry companies, and produce current reviews of the industry.

Statistics on recreational fishing and hunting describe the recreational benefits obtained by citizens. Statistics help to understand the importance of ecosystem services as a factor of well-being. The financial value of recreation and the dynamics of fishing tourism are also assessed on the basis of statistics. Statistics on fish consumption describe the health benefits obtained by citizens as part of the Balance Sheet for Food Commodities. The statistics are topical and important in the programme for promoting the consumption of domestic fish, which sets goals for increasing the use of fish for food and for the development of the fishery value chain. Background calculations for the fishery administration's data needs are also produced using the data.

Fisheries and hunting statistics are based both on national legislation and the EU's statistics regulations, as well as on the obligations of the EU data collection programme for the fisheries sector. Basic statistical data are provided for international statistical programmes (Eurostat, FAO and OECD). The European Commission has launched the reform of European regulations on fisheries statistics, which is expected to be completed by 2027. The work is coordinated by Eurostat.

Development of fisheries and hunting statistics

As in our other statistics, fisheries statistics consider national and international data needs for administration and research in the assessment of fish resources and in monitoring the impact of policy measures. New statistical variables include fishing efforts regarding the major commercial fish species and the number of salmon caught in commercial marine fishery, as well as the amount and value of the total catch by fisher group in commercial inland fishery statistics. The data content of recreational fishing statistics will also be expanded to correspond to the data content of statistics published until 2012. Furthermore, the themes of different statistics will be discussed during customer meetings, at which customers will also be taught how to use Luke's new website.

The regional division by county will be added to relevant statistics. In addition, the opportunity to start presenting sampling errors in statistical estimates will be investigated regarding recreational fishing, hunting and commercial inland fishery statistics. These statistics include more uncertainties, which the subsequent users of statistics should consider.

The data content of statistics will also be updated as a result of amended EU regulations. Amended EU legislation may result in significant changes in the content or production of statistics. The amendments will mainly have an impact on recreational fishing statistics, and slightly on aquaculture statistics. Statistical production is also guided by the EU control regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy, which was approved in January 2024, as well as the national multi-annual plan (EU-MAP). These set requirements for the content of fisheries statistics as well as data collection resources.

Automation will be increased in data processing for several sets of statistics. Fine tuning of the citizen science app for recreational fishing data will be continued, and the technology of the data collection app for hunting statistics is to be updated to enable responding to surveys on mobile devices as well.

6. Communication and promoting the use of data

6.1. Statistical communication at Luke

Luke's statistics describe the state, development and market of agriculture, forestry, as well as fisheries and hunting in Finland. The purpose of statistical communication at Luke is to communicate these statistics to data users in a manner that is as comprehensible, even-handed and accurately timed as possible, using selected communication channels.

Statistics only produce benefits when they are used. Luke's all statistics are available openly, free of charge and in computer-readable format on Luke's website. Users can subscribe to the most recent statistical publications by email. The most recent versions of statistics are published in accordance with the publication calendar available on Luke's website.

We also publish a brief release in conjunction with various publications to present key information about any changes in statistical figures. Our goal is to present the background of various phenomena behind all the numbers by taking on interesting themes, writing news and blogs about them and preparing infographics about the changes and phenomena the

statistical figures represent. We present the backgrounds of statistical figures and make them understandable based on the professional skills and subject knowledge of our statistics specialists.

We have defined key messages for statistics: Luke's statistics lay the foundation of bioeconomy growth and digitalisation. We produce food and natural resource statistics to support sustainable decision making.

6.2. The development of the new website continues

As the second largest statistical authority in Finland, Luke produces food and natural resources statistics, which are published on the luke.fi website.

The construction and development of the site continues. Practices to publish statistical data will be harmonised and other data products of statistical services will be highlighted better. Alongside Luke's strategy, the statistical website update has been steered by the statistical programme, legislation, OSF publication instructions, as well as the jointly agreed principles and practices of statistical activities. Most recent statistical data are updated in Luke's statistical database. We also publish a brief release in conjunction with various publications to present key information about the most significant changes. The publication calendar for statistics defines when the most recent statistical figures are published and also indicates whether we publish a brief release at the same time.

6.3. Data products and services

Luke's statistics are published on Luke's website (www.luke.fi/en/statistics). A central part of this online service is the statistical database (statdb.luke.fi) in which the spreadsheet-based data related to our statistics, including their extensive time series, are available to everyone as open data.

We also publish other data products on the website. In the online service's "Indicators" section, we publish the performance indicators of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP indicators), the follow-up indicators of the National Forest Strategy 2035, bioeconomy indicators, and nutrient recycling indicators.

We also publish data produced by other data providers in our online service. These data include the weekly monitoring of wood trade by the Finnish Forest Industries Federation, data about forest resources, and data about catches in the Baltic Sea as compiled by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). Data about forest resources will be published for the last time in the statistics portal at the end of 2025, after which the data will be published in the Natural Resources Data service (luonnonvaratieto.luke.fi).

The data service helps customers with data needs concerning Luke's statistics. It produces reports and various data products based on administrative and statistical registers and other sources of data.

7. Data sources for Luke's statistics

The key goal of Luke's statistical production is to use the existing registers and other datasets as much as possible in the production of statistics, while minimising the response burden in direct data collection. Since the beginning of Finland's EU membership, we have used the registered data of agricultural administration as a data source for agricultural statistics. In fisheries statistics, the central national register on commercial fishery (KAKE) is a significant data source. We use Statistics Finland's Business Register and the Finnish Tax Administration's datasets to determine populations for various statistical surveys. The Incomes Register was used in the statistics on agricultural and horticultural labour force as part of the agricultural survey for 2020 and in the 2023 Farm Structure Survey for the same purpose.

We are investigating the opportunity to use Fingrid's datahub as a source of electricity data for statistics on the energy consumption of agricultural and horticultural enterprises, together with Statistics Finland. In recent years, we have investigated the use of satellite data to compile harvest estimates, crop production statistics and land coverage statistics funded by Eurostat's grant projects, and as a result a single set of experimental crop production statistics was published in 2024. The assessment of new data sources will also continue in the coming years.

Data will next be collected for the statistics on the use of pesticides in agriculture at the beginning of 2025. After this, the statistics will be compiled in accordance with the SAIO regulation starting from data for 2026 and annually from 2028. Opportunities to establish a joint register, in which data about the use of crop protection products would be collected from crop planning systems used on farms, based on farmers' consent given for the use of data, is being investigated with other authorities and system suppliers. In addition, we will continue to investigate the opportunity to use data based on people's observations in statistical production. Examples include the Omariista and Omakala services.

Registered data and other available datasets account for approximately two thirds of the data sources used for our statistics. Other important data sources are Luke's own statistical surveys, which produce approximately a third of the source data for our statistics. In 2025–2027, Luke will conduct 28 different statistical surveys. Of these, nine are monthly, three quarterly and 16 are more infrequent, usually repeated once a year. In addition to the statistical surveys included in the statistical programme, we use data collection processes under Luke's VOAS programme, particularly as a data source for fisheries statistics.

Regarding direct data collection, we will develop a data collection platform for Luke to enable various electronic data collection processes securely and cost-effectively, while meeting accessibility requirements. Data collection systems will better address different devices, and data collection through interfaces will be further developed with data providers. The use of strong authentication in statistical surveys enables the use of pre-completed information in data collection forms. From the beginning of 2025, we will collect data without using paper forms for giving responses. We will continue to send letters by post if we do not know the respondent's email address. We will develop online apps to be more user-friendly.

Luke's statistical surveys in 2025–2027 are described on our data collection pages (luke.fi/fi/tilastot/kyselyt-ja-tiedonkeruut).

8. Luke's role in the statistical ecosystem

Luke is one of the four statistical authorities in Finland, producing statistics in its sector in co-operation with Statistics Finland. Other statistical authorities are Statistics Finland, Finnish Customs, and the National Institute for Health and Welfare. Statistics Finland is the primary statistical authority in Finland and coordinates the statistical work of the authorities producing statistics in Finland and provides guidelines for all authorities that produce statistics.

Luke is part of Finland's statistical ecosystem. The statistical ecosystem is a network of statistical authorities in which the participants produce Official Statistics of Finland (OSF), statistics of the European Statistical System (ESS), and other statistics. The statistical ecosystem consists of 11 government agencies and organisations, as well as two other statistical institutes. The advisory council for the Official Statistics of Finland acts as a joint forum for the authorities that produce statistics in promoting the development guidelines for official statistics and the goals set for the coordination of the ESS at a national level. The development guidelines for the statistical ecosystem for 2024–2026 were prepared in cooperation between the members of the statistical ecosystem as coordinated by Statistics Finland.

Statistics on sustainable development, natural resources and the environment are compiled by several government organisations, depending on each organisation's sector. Statistics on these phenomena will expand and change, and coverage requirements will increase soon. As a result, Statistics Finland as the coordinating authority has appointed a cooperation group for natural resources, green development and environmental statistics to develop statistics on these phenomena. The group's tasks include:

- ensuring that comprehensive and relevant data on these themes are produced in Finland; monitoring national and international needs to develop data on these themes; and preparing and coordinating the distribution of tasks related to them;
- carrying out key statistical activities in this area, and presenting proposals to develop cooperation between government organisations;
- carrying out strategic preparations related to EU affairs and other international cooperation;
- identifying and preparing development projects in this area, and providing guidance for the grants project portfolio under Eurostat statistical production; and
- improving the coverage, availability and usability of data, as well as their use in research.

Mari Ylä-Jarkko, a representative of Statistics Finland, chairs the cooperation group, while Faiz Alsuhail from Luke is its vice chair. The Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) is the third member of the cooperation group. The cooperation group's first meeting was held in May 2022, and the group convenes roughly two times a year.

The majority of Luke's statistics are based on EU regulations or other international obligations. The UN steers the development of global statistical production, where the development of statistics on agriculture and other natural resources is an important focus area. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) defines guidelines for fisheries statistics through international agreements and EU regulations. In addition, the FAO and the OECD have direct data needs in this sector, and data are provided directly and via Eurostat. The Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management is the most significant body that steers the development of international forest sector statistics.

The European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), consisting of the directors general of national statistical authorities, steers statistical activities in the EU. Directors' groups of different statistical areas operate under it to coordinate the work of working groups in their respective sectors. The directors' group on agricultural statistics (DGAS) and the directors of sectoral and environmental statistics and accounts (DIGESA) are the most important statistical directors' groups for Luke. The ESSC confirms the European statistical programme. The European statistical programme for 2021–2027 entered into force on 3 May 2021 as one of the sub-programmes of the programme and funding framework regulation on the single market and European statistics. The actual statistical sub-programme is included in Annex II of the regulation, including eight policy areas. Luke's statistics are mainly included in the policy area of sustainable development, natural resources and the environment. Statistical regulations determine the mandatory statistical production of the Member States, and they are prepared in the comitology procedure.

In addition to official international forums, we are engaged in international statistical cooperation in other forums. For example, producers of agricultural statistics meet regularly between the Nordic and Baltic countries. Representatives from other countries in the Baltic Sea region also participate in a similar forum regarding forest statistics.

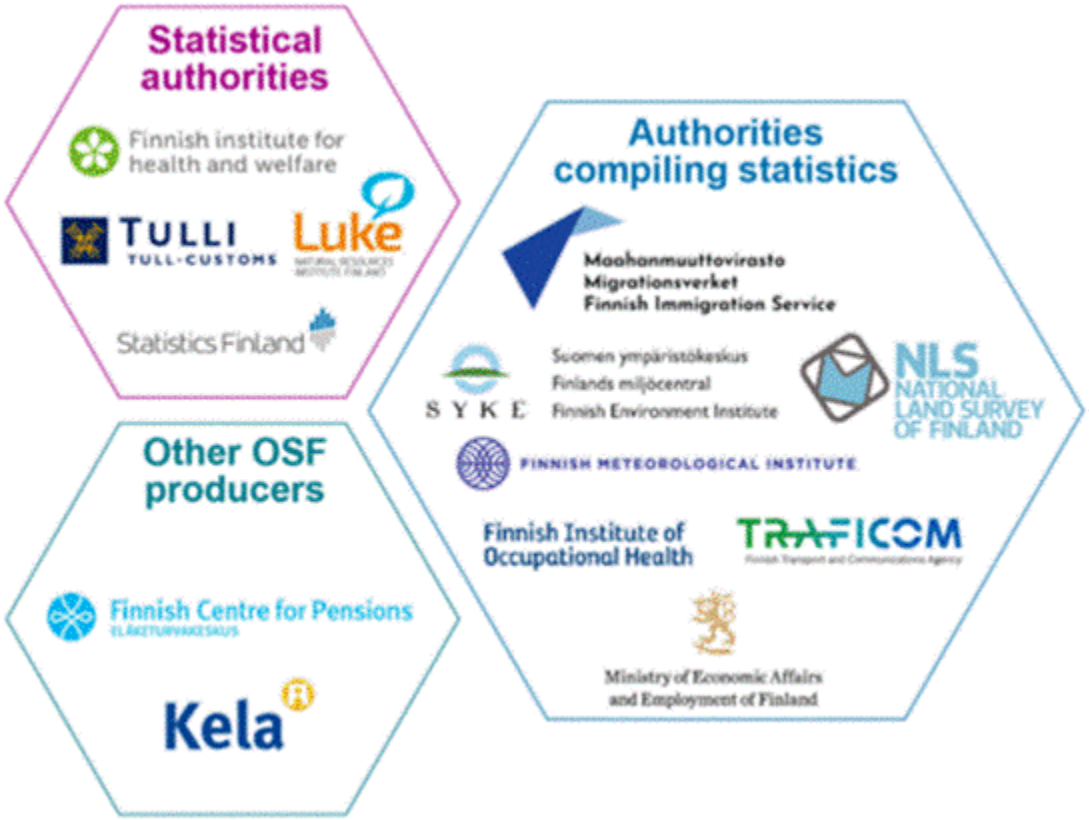

Figure 2. Members of the national statistical ecosystem (Source: Development guidelines for the statistical ecosystem for 2021–2023)

9. Appendices

Appendix 1. Statistics of the Natural Resources Institute Finland

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