

FOREWORD

The book “**Exploring Belarus: Statistics for Schoolchildren**” is the third enlarged and updated official edition prepared by the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

The publication is designed to provide insight, in a nutshell, into the socioeconomic and demographic development of our country using the language of numbers, to show trends over several years, and to introduce you to selected statistical indicators through the prism of which one can create a chronicle of the development of any state or the world in general.

Governments, businessmen, researchers, mass media and students use statistical data. Statistics are published in official data books and are widely drawn upon in newspaper and magazine articles, television and radio programmes. All this proves that the arrangement and development of any state is closely connected with statistics.

From our point of view – the point of view of professional statisticians – today's pupil must become familiar with the unique and important throughout all his or her life science – statistics. Even if the knowledge acquired is rather general, it will help you understand numbers and use, analyse and compare them meaningfully. And most significantly, basic statistical literacy will broaden your outlook and enhance your knowledge.

We hope that a pupil – and perhaps a teacher – will find here interesting information for additional study of a number of school subjects.

Statistics is not at all boring or difficult, and one can really enjoy studying it.

Don't be lazy, discover Belarus in figures!

Team of the National Statistical Committee
of the Republic of Belarus