

Estonia

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Introduction – Key Issues

In 2018, the Republic of Estonia will celebrate its Centenary. The planned anniversary programme of the Centenary of the Republic of Estonia will cover almost all the main fields of life and will give the society an opportunity to look back on the history of our country, highlight the present and set new tasks for the future. To be ancient and modern at the same time, to hunger for knowledge and to believe in oneself.¹ Besides various communities, citizens' associations and institutions, special attention will be paid to children and young people.²

One of the most important projects currently is the construction of a new building for the Estonian National Museum. The building will be completed by December 2015 and the museum will be opened in October 2016. More information on the museum building and exhibitions can be found at the webpage of the Estonian National Museum³

Museums have become more and more popular in Estonia. The attendance of museums has doubled since 2007 and reached to 3,8 million in 2014. It makes 2,92 visits per inhabitant.

The most popular event in Estonian museums is the annual Museum Night when most museums get crowded.⁴

Definition of Museum

Estonia has implemented the international definition of museums:

A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment. (ICOM Statutes, adopted by the 22nd General Assembly (Vienna, Austria, 24 August 2007)

It is translated in Estonian as follows: *Muuseum on ühiskonna ja selle arengu teenistuses olev mittetulunduslik, alaline, külastajatele avatud institutsioon, mis hariduse, teaduse ja meelelahutuse otstarbel kogub, säilitab, uurib, kommukeerib ja eksponeerib inimese ja teda ümbritseva keskkonna ainelist ja vaimset pärandit.*

Existence of Museum-related Laws

Today the work of museums in Estonia is regulated by the Museums Act.⁵

Cultural heritage related activities are regulated by Heritage Conservation Act.⁶

Work of Estonian archives is regulated by Archives Act.⁷

Categories used regarding Type of Collection

The categories of museums by type of collections were reviewed in cooperation of Estonian Council of Museums, Estonian Ministry of Culture and Statistics Estonia in 2010 and the categories are as follows:

Archaeology and history museums – the aim of history museums is to present the historical evolution of a region, country or province over a limited period or over the centuries. Museums of archaeology are distinguished by the fact that they owe all or part of their collections to excavations. This group includes museums of collections of historical objects and relics, memorial museums, museums of archives, military museums, museums of historical figures, museums of archaeology, museums of antiquities, etc.

Art museums – museums for the display of works of fine art and applied art. This group includes museums of sculpture, picture galleries, museums of photography and cinema, museums of architecture, including art exhibition galleries permanently maintained by libraries and archives centres.

Ethnography and anthropology museums – museums displaying materials on culture, social structures, beliefs, customs, traditional arts, etc.

General museums – museums which have mixed collections and cannot be identified by a principal field.

Natural history and natural science museums – museums for the display of subjects related to either one or several of the disciplines such as biology, geology, botany, zoology, palaeontology and ecology.

Regional museums – museums which illustrate a more or less extensive region constituting a historical and cultural entity and sometimes also an ethnical, economic or social one, i.e. the collections refer more to a specific territory than to a specific theme or subject.

Science and technology museums – museums in this category relate to one or several exact sciences or technologies such as astronomy, mathematics, physics, chemistry, medical science construction and building industries, manufactured articles, etc. Planetaria and science centres are also included in this category.

Specialised museums – museums which are concerned with research and display of all aspects of a single theme or subject not covered in one of other museum categories.

Categories used regarding Type of Ownership

Type of ownership is classified by Estonian classification of type of owners.⁸

Starting from 2012 the network of museums has been rearranged and the legal status of museums has been changed on the basis of the specifics of a museum and local circumstances.

The state has established four new museum foundations, local governments now manage three former state museums.

Foundations are preferred to state institutions as this form gives the museums more flexibility in management and more opportunities to take regional or professional specifics into account.

Together with all branches there are 256 museums in Estonia.

The Ministry of Culture administers nineteen state museums and five foundations.

A complete list of Estonian museums can be found from the [webpage](#) of the Information Centre of Estonian Museums.⁹

Existing Data – Basic Figures and Diagrams of Estonian museums

Figure 1. Number of museums by type of collection 2010 – 2014.

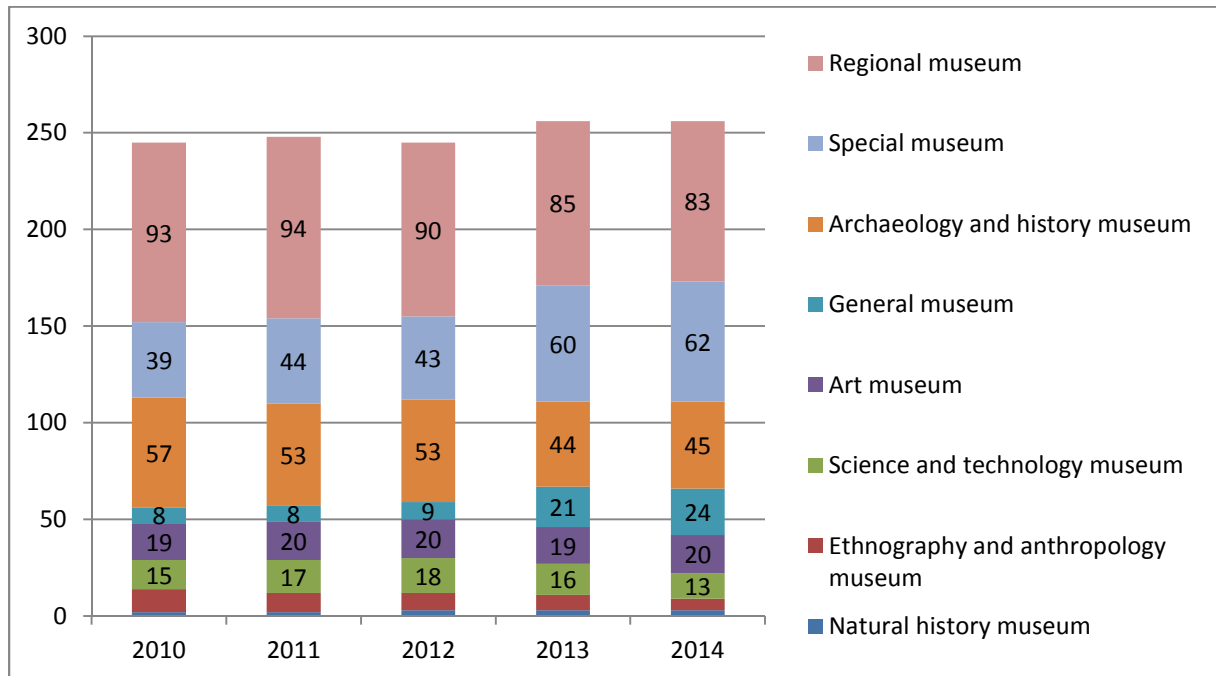


Figure 2. Museums per 100000 inhabitants 2011 – 2014.

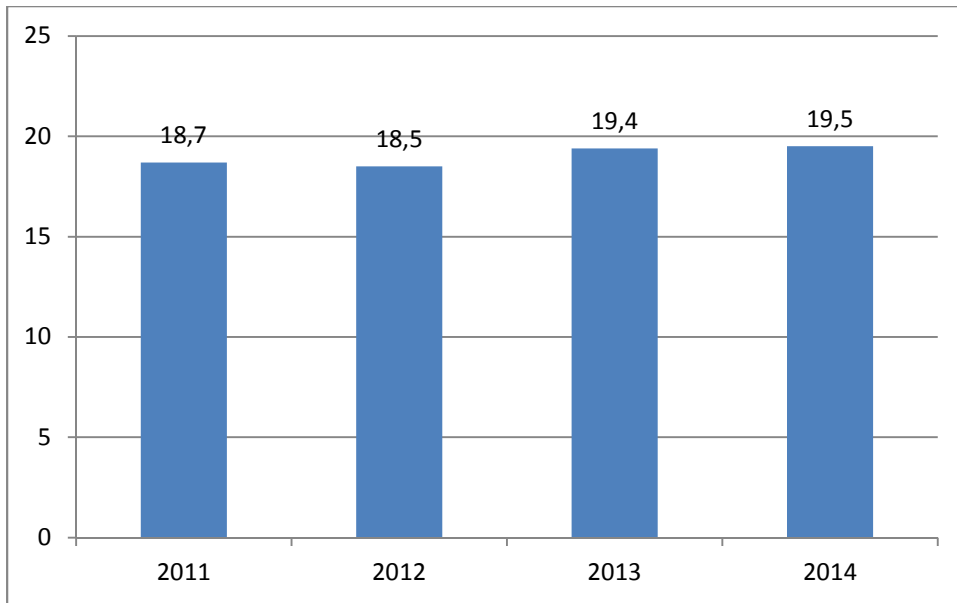


Figure 3. Attendance of museums 2011 - 2014, millions.

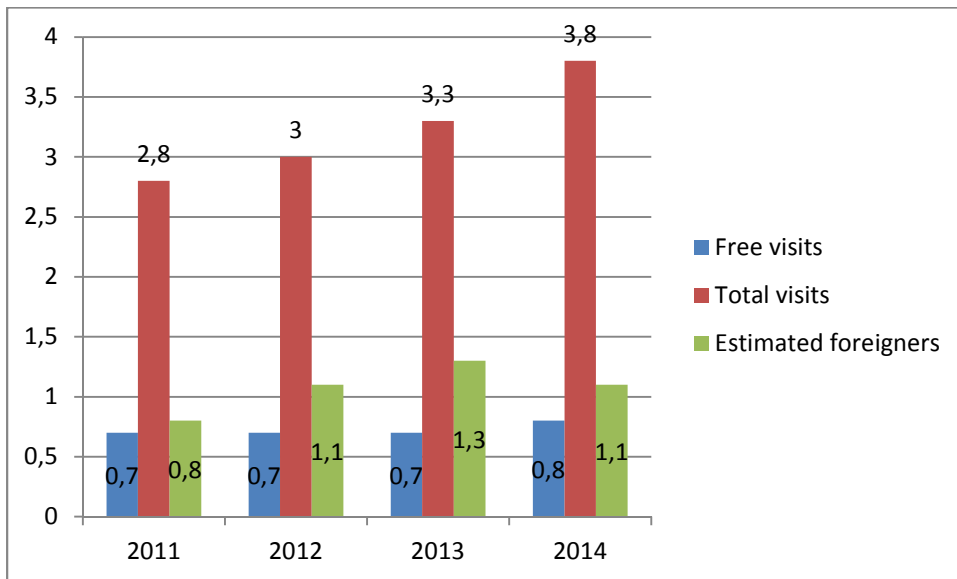


Figure 4. Attendance by type of museums 2010 – 2014.

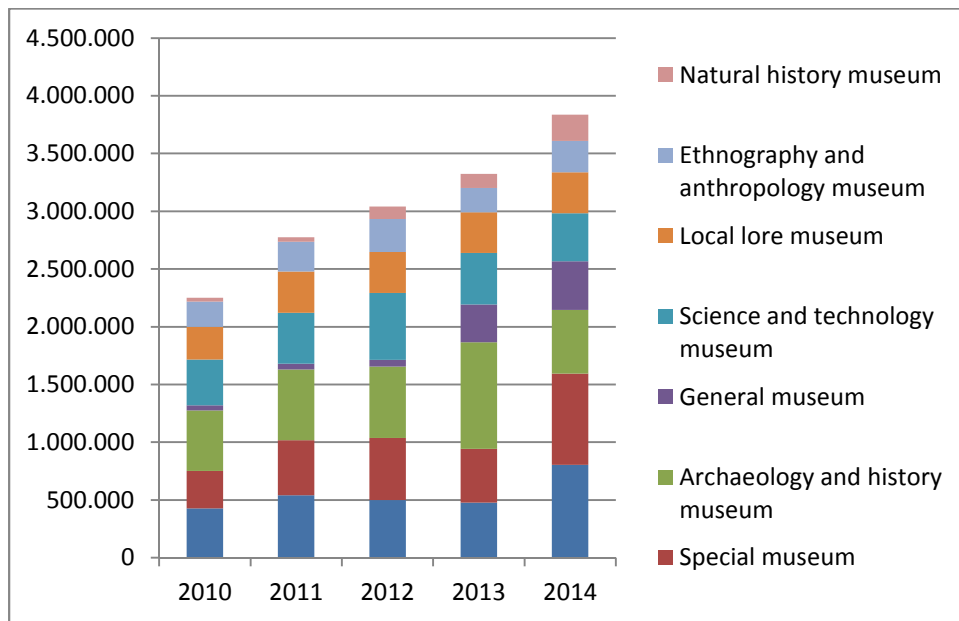


Figure 5. Visits per 100000 inhabitants 2011 – 2014.

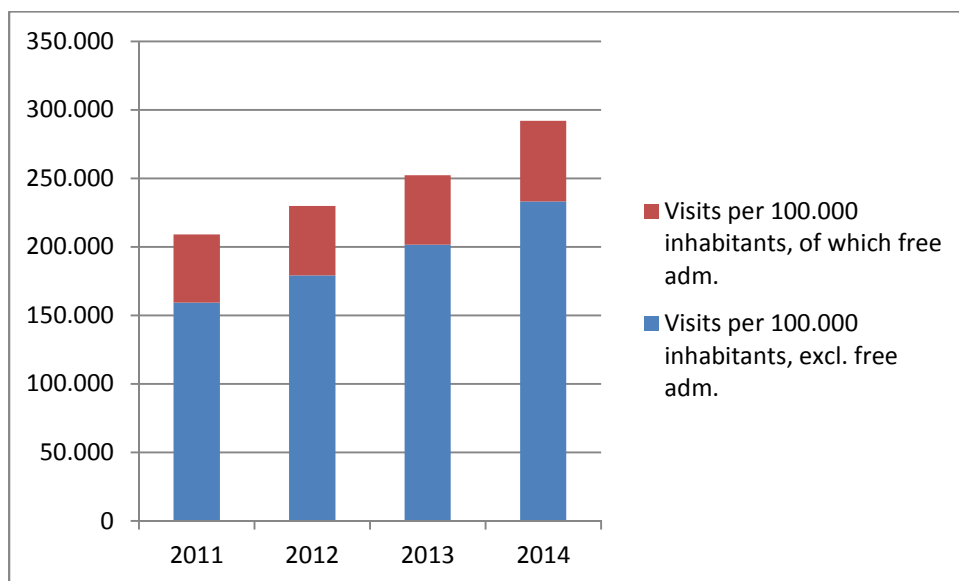


Figure 6. Total staff of museums 2011 – 2014.

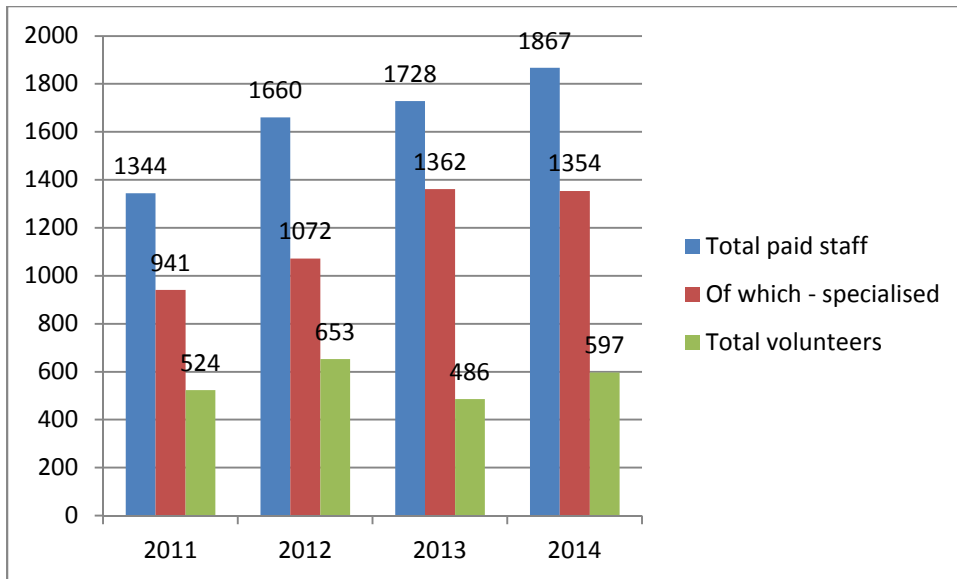


Figure 7. Temporary exhibitions 2011 – 2014.

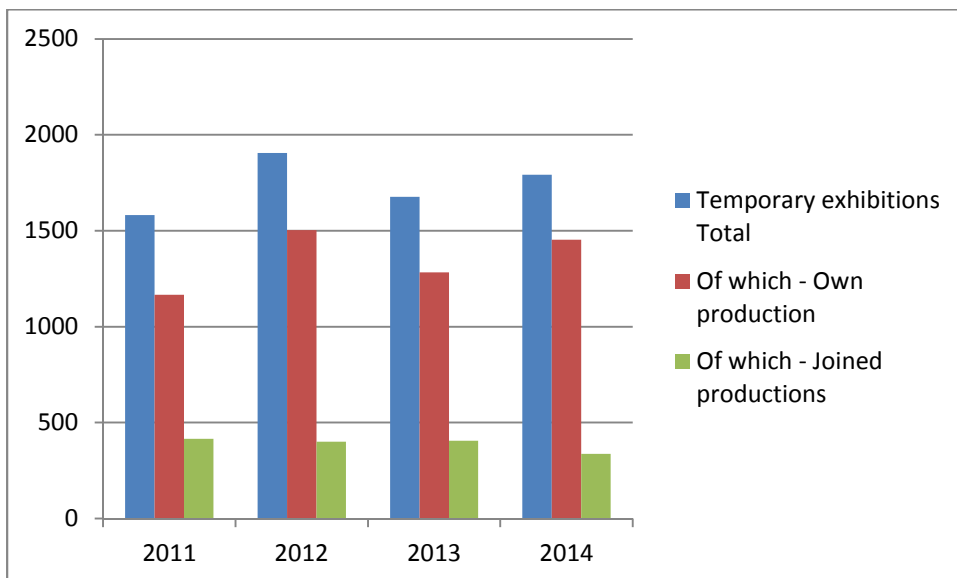


Figure 8. Incomes of museums 2011 – 2014, euros

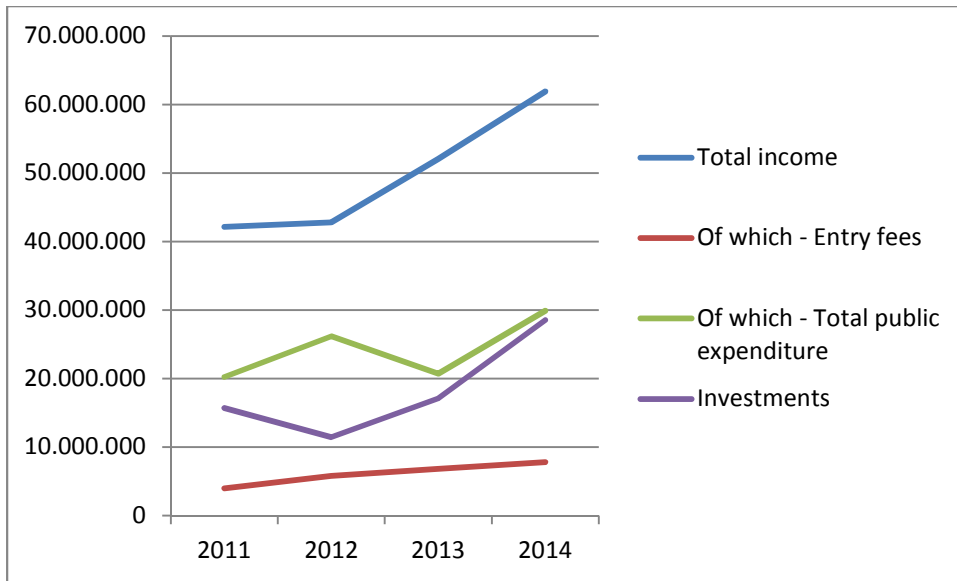


Figure 9. Expenditures of museums 2011 – 2014, euros

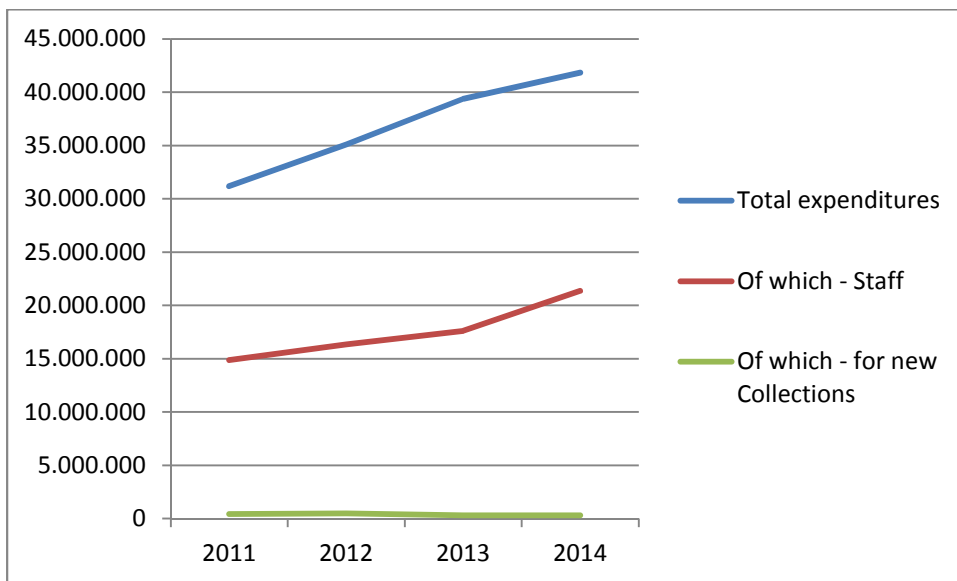


Figure 10. 20-64 year old population who have visited a cultural institutions at least once a year by domain 2007 – 2013, %

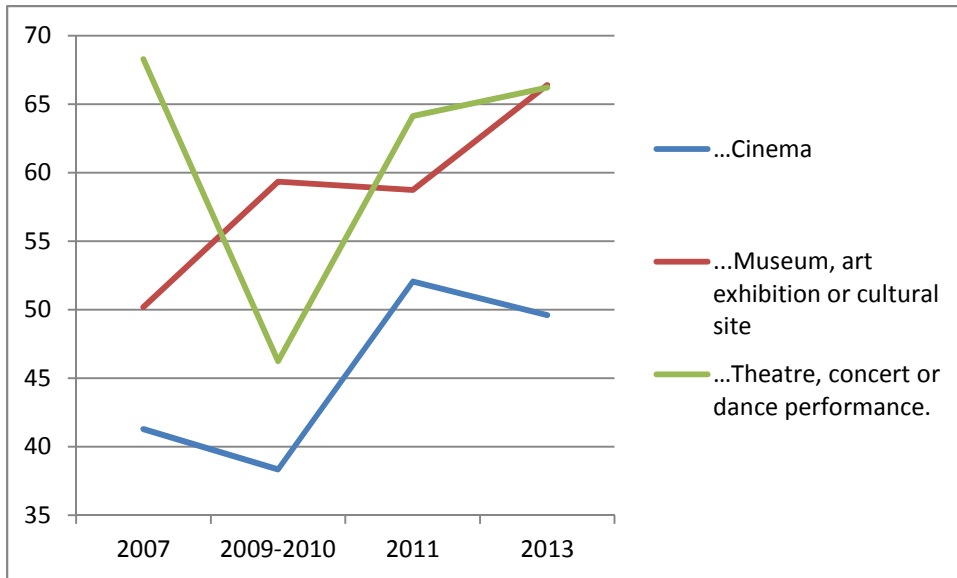


Figure 11. Average expenditure per household on last visit 2013, euros¹⁰

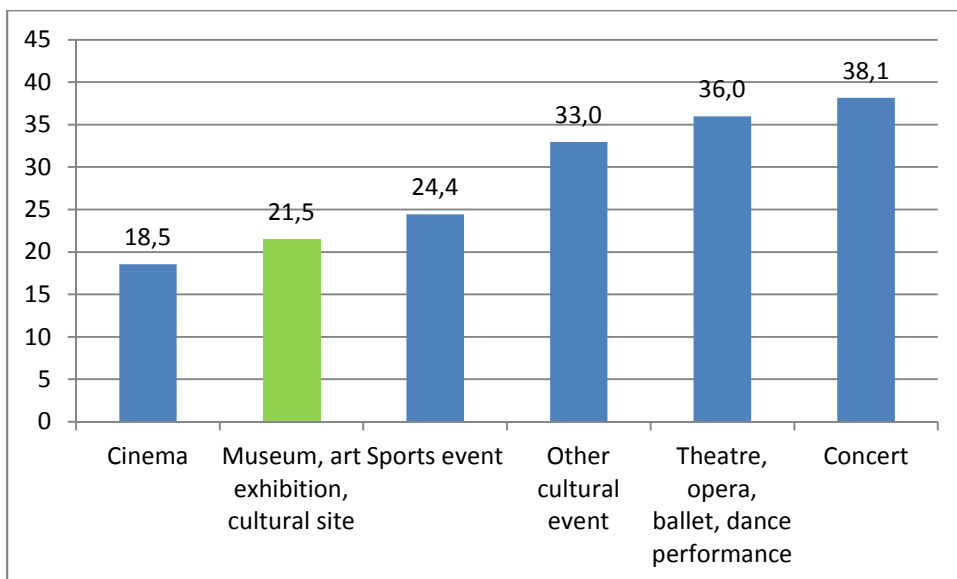
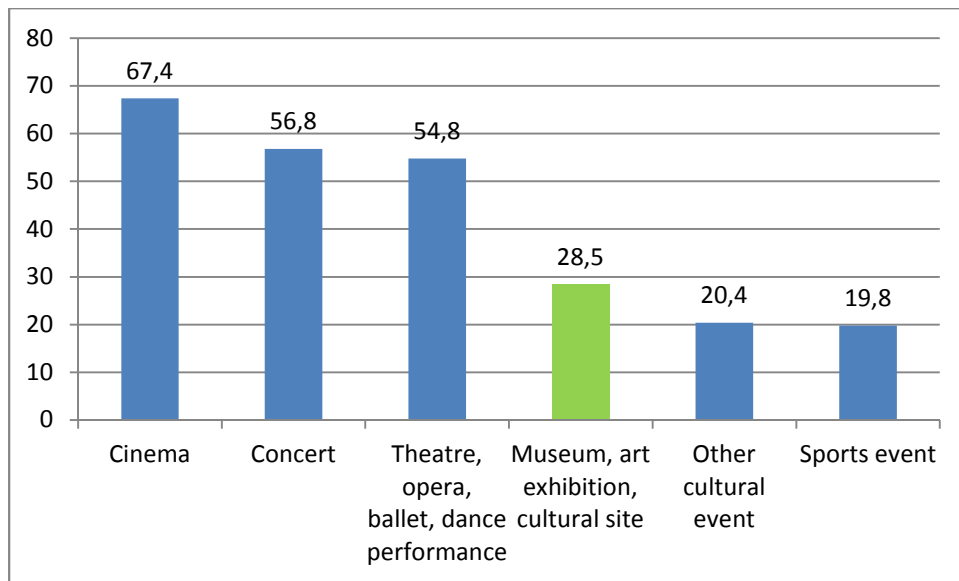


Figure 12. Total households' expenditure on visiting cultural institutions per year in Estonia 2013, million euros



List of References

¹ <https://ev100.ee/en/m%C3%A4rks%C3%B5nad/kultuurip%C3%A4rand>

² <https://riigikantselei.ee/en/estonia-100>

³ <http://www.erm.ee/en/about-us/new-building>

⁴ <http://www.muuseumioo.ee/en>

⁵ <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/530062014002/consolide/current>

⁶ <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/517062015012/consolide/current>

⁷ <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/508042015003/consolide/current>

⁸ http://metaweb.stat.ee/view_xml_linear.htm?id=3449917&siteLanguage=en

⁹ <http://www.muuseum.ee/en/>

¹⁰ <http://pub.stat.ee/px-web.2001/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=CUT017&ti=TOTAL+HOUSEHOLD+EXPENDITURE+ON+VISITING+CULTURAL+INSTITUTIONS+PER+QUARTER+AND+AVERAGE++EXPENDITURE+PER+HOUSEHOLD+ON+LAST+VISIT+BY+CULTURAL+SECTOR+AND+TYPE+OF+EXPENDITURE%2C+2013+%28QUARTERS%29&path=../I+Databas/Social+life/01Culture/15Participation+in+cultural+activities/&lang=1>