

Introduction

At the end of March, the Czech Statistical Office published its summary publication “**Information Society in Figures 2018**”, which brings the newest information on the development of **information and digital society** in the Czech Republic and other EU countries by means set of tables and figures outputs.

In this data publication you will find on its 170 pages, 86 tables and 260 graphs that contain the newest data mainly concerning the **internet usage by individuals and enterprises**, as well as by **public administration, education or healthcare**. It also includes data and information concerning the **telecommunication and internet infrastructure**. Each chapter is supplemented by brief guidance and commentaries to the figures. This includes the most interesting findings concerning the information society in the Czech Republic and other EU countries.

The complete version of *Information Society in Figures* **may be downloaded for free** here: <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/information-society-in-figures>

The publication is followed by this summarized text commentary “Development of the Information Society in the Czech Republic and Other EU Countries” you are reading right now. This text summary mainly reflects the data contents of the Information Society in Figures 2018, however, some of the information is elaborated further. The report places emphasis not only on the developmental point of view (in some cases the time series begin since the early 1990s), but also on attempts to capture the latest trends in a highly changing and innovative ICT environment. At the same time, there are international comparisons for selected indicators within the EU countries.

The data provided in this publication arises mainly from the **official yearly investigation of the Czech Statistical Office**, which is performed in accordance with the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council (ES) No. 808/2004 concerning Community statistics on the ICT usage among individuals and enterprises. The detailed result of this year’s publication of the aforementioned investigation is available at the website of CZSO: https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/vyuzivani_informacnich_tehnologii

The **international comparison** arises from data resources of Eurostat, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Furthermore, **administrative data sources** were used for the needs of the publication; these included for instance: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czech Financial Administration, Czech School Inspection, among others.

Over a long period of time, the CZSO has not only been monitoring the ICT usage in individual spheres of the society, but also the production of these technologies including the data related to investment, foreign trading, and qualified human resources in this field. This data has been processed in the publication named **Information Economy in Figures**. Its up-to-date version is available under the following link: https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/information_economy_in_figures

We believe that the statistics provided here will provide readers with valuable information. If you have any questions or comments about the published data, please do not hesitate to contact us. We also welcome any suggestions for improving our statistics.

