

FOREWORD

The Statistical Yearbook of the Karlovarský Region is a key publication of the Regional Office of the Czech Statistical Office in Karlovy Vary. It brings a summary statistical overview about the Region and its individual territorial units. Thanks to its scope, it can depict, in more detail and in a summary way, demographic, social, and economic development of the Region. Besides that, it provides also selected data on the environment. This year, when we commemorate two decades from the establishment of Regions in their current territorial structure in 2000, the jubilee 20th volume of this yearly fundamental regional publication is issued. It was always an important advantage of all previous editions as well as of this year's one that along with a content-unified structure in all Regions, as for the structure of chapters, the publication followed the relevant edition of the national Statistical Yearbook published by the Czech Statistical Office.

This year's yearbook naturally follows the previous editions issued. In the Chapter on Elections, readers can find results of elections to regional councils and one third of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic that were held in October. Data on the Region are published, basically, for the period from 2017 to 2019; in selected indicators it is in a longer time series since 2000. The publication is available mainly in electronic form on the Internet, but also in printed form.

In relation to changes to territories of military districts as at 1 January 2016, borders of some Regions and Districts changed. More detailed information on changes to the territories is provided in the Chapter on Basic characteristics, Districts. It has to be underlined that all published data (including cartograms) correspond to the territorial structure valid in the relevant year.

As far as territory is concerned, besides information on the Region, also available data by District and by administrative district of municipalities with extended powers are published in the Yearbook together with selected data on administrative districts of municipalities with authorised municipal authority, on towns, and several indicators on individual municipalities. Readers will find comparisons of Regions in the electronic form of the Yearbook on the website or directly in a separate publication Comparison of Regions in the Czech Republic (to be published on 18 January 2021).

With regards to the extent of the regional statistical yearbook, it is impossible for tables to contain a more detailed breakdown of data. Readers who are interested in more detailed data can directly address a regional workplace of the Information Services Unit of the Czech Statistical Office.

Methodological notes on individual chapters are summarised after the data section. References and links to data sources used for preparation of the Yearbook, explanation of abbreviations used therein, as well as explanations of symbols used on the geographical map of the Region are also added.

State statistical surveys are basic sources for the published data. Besides data sources of the Czech Statistical Office, available data from ministries and other institutions (listed in detail in an overview "Data sources taken over from ministries and other institutions" as well as in relevant tables, graphs, and cartograms) were used. A large part of published data is regularly fed to the regional databases of the CZSO – e.g. KROK (data on Regions and Districts) and MOS (statistics of towns and municipalities) and, as the case may be, provided in a long-term time series. The Public Database is an important data source. It is accessible on the CZSO website at: <https://vdb.czso.cz/vdbvo2/faces/en/index.jsf>.

The regional statistical yearbook is not intended to encompass all pieces of information collected and processed by the State Statistical Service. More detailed data on development of the Region, Districts, administrative districts, municipalities, or micro-regions are also published in other products of the Regional Office (e.g. Statistical Bulletin, publications on demographic matters, thematically focused analyses, etc.), which are available mainly in an electronic form on the Internet. Many other pieces of useful information can be found namely on the website of the Regional Office of the Czech Statistical Office in Karlovy Vary (www.kvary.czso.cz), not only the latest data, but also interesting information about the Region, graphical outputs, information for respondents of statistical surveys, information about own activities of the Regional Office, and much more. In the end of August 2020, another analysis was published, this time with the topic of "Basic trends of demographic, social, and economic development of the Karlovarský Region" (Czech only; in Czech it reads: "Základní tendence demografického, sociálního a ekonomického vývoje Karlovarského kraje"); as every year, it was elaborated according to a unified template in all Regions.

Our long-term experience and users' interest in information in regional breakdown makes us believe that our regional statistical yearbook will continue to be a sought-after source of information for both professionals and lay readers. The same as in previous years, we welcome your potential suggestions and comments as to the Yearbook's content, which may be of valuable contribution to the preparation of regional publications in 2021.

We express our thanks to all authors and colleagues for the effort and time they devoted to the preparation of the content as well as technical matters of the Yearbook.