Introduction

The publication you hold in your hands freely follows its earlier edition, and at the same time further expands it. It is mostly concerned with comparing the Czech Republic with European Union countries, but also with other world countries, in the form of selected indicators with tables and graphs. The major used country groups are exactly defined below. The selection of data was primarily governed by the interests of users and also by the existence and availability of data in international sources.

Also this year, there are 13 thematic areas in the publication, covering economic, social as well as environmental areas of life. Apart from the standard information regarding population, labour market, environment, individual economic sectors and macroeconomic data, especially the GDP, were also included indicators on information society, selected regional indicators and many others. A wide range of data and tables of international comparison, can also be found on www.czso.cz, or in other publications produced by the Czech Statistical Office.

Differences in data

This publication primarily uses data published by Eurostat. It may differ from the data published by the CZSO. Among the causes of these differences are: methodological differences, use of other models for seasonal adjustment, different indicators, variant definitions of general indicators, different coverage (e.g. different size groups), rounding, harmonization (comparability between states) and so on. For more information see the website of the Czech Statistical Office:

https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/rozdily_mezi_daty_zverejnovanymi_ceskym_statistickym_uradem_a_eurostatem

Differences in data released in individual years of this publication may be caused by changes in methodology which the statistical offices of all member countries make in different years. For example, the new classifications (NACE, CPA ...) get into use. In some cases, the data is recalculated backwards, the aggregates or basic years change. As a result of changes in the economy, the data in some countries become confidential and cannot be published. Differences arise also through the use of new data sources. If the source used failed to update data in a given year and it is already certain that no update will be performed, we tried to replace it with another source and we put a new definition of the indicator. Some tables disappeared completely, some new, hopefully interesting for users, were added.

For all tables, the data source and the date of which the data are valid are indicated.

The Czech Statistical Office is not responsible for data from other sources.

Explanatory notes:

EU 28 represents the European Union - an economic and political grouping of 28 countries of Europe. Recently expanded on 1 July 2013, when Croatia joined.

EU 27 is the European Union of 27 countries after the accession of Bulgaria and Romania on 1 January 2007.

The Treaty on European Union came into force on the 1st of November 1993 after the Maastricht Treaty was signed by the following 12 countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Greece, Spain and United Kingdom. On the 1st of January 1995, the European Union was extended by another three countries: Austria, Finland and Sweden. On the 1st of May 2004, 10 new countries joined the EU: Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Eurostat is using the following codes for the various EU aggregates (from 27 February 2020): EU27_2020 (European Union – 27 countries (from 2020)), EU28 (European Union - 28 countries (2013-2020)), EU27_2007 (European Union – 27 countries (2007-2013)).

Euroarea refers to the territory of the EU Member States, which adopted the euro as the common currency in compliance with the Treaty establishing the European Community. The special supreme session of the European Union, held in May 1998 stated that eleven of its countries had qualified for the introduction of the common "Euro" (Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain). The exchange rates of the currencies of these countries to the euro, were permanently fixed as of the end of 1998, in the form of conversion coefficients.

In 2001, these countries were joined by Greece and Euroarea (11 countries) and became Euroarea (12 countries). Euroarea further extended. Slovenia joined the Euroarea on the 1st of January 2007 – Euroarea (13 countries), Malta and Cyprus on the 1st of January 2008 – Euroarea (15 countries), Slovakia on the 1st of January 2009 – Euroarea (16 countries), Estonia on the 1st of January 2011 – **Euroarea (17 countries)**, on the 1st of January 2014 Latvia – **Euroarea (18 countries)** and on the 1st of January 2015 Lithuania – **Euroarea (19 countries).**

Purchasing Power Standard (PPS) is an artificial currency that reflects differences in national price levels, that are not taken into account by exchange rates. This unit allows meaningful volume comparisons of economic indicators over countries. Aggregates expressed in PPS are derived by dividing aggregates in current prices and national currency with the respective Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).

Purchasing Power Parities (PPP) are the currency exchange rates that equalise the purchasing power of different currencies. This means that a given sum of money, when converted into different currencies at the PPP rates, will buy the same basket of goods and services in all countries. In other words, PPPs are the rates of currency conversion, which eliminate the differences in price levels among countries.

The data within Chapter 5, **Industry, energy and construction,** were extracted from Eurostat database and are based on the classification NACE Rev. 2.

In the chapter 8 **Macroeconomics**, indicators relating to the national accounts were compiled in accordance with the new European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010), wherever it was already possible. Tables according to the ESA 1995 are marked.

Chapters 12 **Regions** and 13 **Geographical breakdown** are devoted to the regions of the European Union. The publication contains maps and charts, serving for a quick comparison of economic levels and social characteristics of individual regions. Regions are classified according to the classification NUTS (La nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques), which is an administrative classification dividing the European Union (EU) into regions at three levels (NUTS 1, 2 and 3). The current NUTS 2013 classification is valid from 1st of January 2015 and lists 98 regions at NUTS 1, 276 regions at NUTS 2 and 1342 regions at NUTS 3 level.
In this publication, we give either NUTS 3 regions data, either only NUTS 2 regions for different countries. Due to the limited extent of this book, it was not possible to give data for all 1342 (NUTS 3) regions, or view the maps of large countries (France, Great Britain) in such a detailed breakdown. In the chapter 13, there are some countries (United Kingdom, Greece and Slovenia) still with the boundaries NUTS 2010.
Given that some of the regions within the EU have the same name, the distinction is made by adding the appropriate shortcut of the state. Some NUTS regions occur at multiple levels (e.g. Luxembourg is the state, and at the same time the region at NUTS 1, 2 and 3 level). In these cases, the code ends at zero for the region with the identical territory at the next lower level. Coding must not be identical for different NUTS levels, even if the territorial extent of these regions is identical.
Maps should allow the user to locate individual regions, but their borders are only indicative. The map scales for individual countries vary. For each country map, the name of the state in Czech, English and the national language is given. Czech translations are provided with the names of some regions that are normally given only in the national languages. The overseas territories are located in small windows at the side of the map. For better orientation selected significant headquarters are drawn, the size of the circle corresponds to the approximate number of inhabitants in the administrative or geographic boundaries.

The countries are listed alphabetically by abbreviated Czech names. Abbreviated Czech and English names of countries are taken from the nomenclature Číselník zemí (CZEM) amended on 19 June 2019. The Czech Republic is given an abbreviated name Czechia. Please note, that the Czech abbreviated name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is **Velká Británie**, the English abbreviated name is United Kingdom. The nomenclature Číselník zemí (CZEM) can be found on the CZSO website under the following link:

https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/ciselnik_zemi_-czem-

The aim of this publication is to serve a wide range of users, interested in information, relating to the position of the Czech Republic in comparison with other countries. The CZSO employees welcome any further ideas and comments from the readers, and will use them to improve their work.