

FOREWORD

The Statistical Yearbook of the Plzeňský Region is a key publication of the Regional Office of the Czech Statistical Office in Plzeň. It brings a summary statistical overview about the Region and its individual territorial units. Thanks to its scope, it can depict demographic, social, and economic development of the Region in more detail and in a summary way. Furthermore, it also provides selected data on the environment. Already the 23rd volume of this publication is issued this year. It was always an important advantage of all previous editions as well as of this year's one that besides a content-unified structure in all Regions, as for the structure of chapters, the publication followed the relevant edition of the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic prepared by the Czech Statistical Office.

The content of this year's Yearbook follows in many aspects the previous editions issued. In this edition, the main change in terms of the content is that we extended information published in the chapter called "Health" and included further data from the 2021 Population and Housing Census in the relevant chapter. Furthermore, in the chapter called "Elections", readers can find results of January election of the President of the Czech Republic. Data on the Region are published, basically, for the period from 2020 to 2022; 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.

As at 1 January 2021, pursuant to the Act No 51/2020 Sb, on the Administrative Territorial Structure of the State, boundaries of some Districts and administrative districts changed; new boundaries have been reflected in maps in the beginning of the Yearbook. A chapter called "Basic characteristics, Districts" provides more detailed information on changes to the territories. However, it is necessary to underline that all data published therein (including cartograms) correspond to the territorial structure valid precisely in the relevant year.

In terms of territory, besides information on the Region, available data by District are also published here; in the chapter called "Administrative districts, municipalities" data by administrative district of municipalities with extended powers are published. Furthermore, selected data on administrative districts of municipalities with authorised municipal authority, on towns/cities, and several indicators on individual municipalities are provided. Readers will find well-arranged comparisons of Regions in the electronic form of the Yearbook on the website or directly in a separate publication called "Comparison of Regions in the Czech Republic" (to be published on 18 January 2024).

It is impossible for published tables to contain a more detailed breakdown of data due to the extent of the Yearbook. Readers who are interested in more detailed data can directly address Information Services Units of Regional Offices of the Czech Statistical Office.

Methodological notes on individual chapters are provided together, as a summary, after the data section. References and links to data sources used for preparation of the Yearbook, explanation of abbreviations used in the Yearbook and of symbols used on the geographical map of the Region are also added to them.

State statistical surveys are the basic source 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 of "Data sources – links to ministries and other institutions" as well as in relevant tables, graphs, and cartograms) were used. A large part of published data is regularly entered into regional databases of the CZSO – e.g. KROK (data on Regions and Districts) and MOS (statistics of towns and municipalities) or it is provided in long-term time series. The Public database that is accessible on the CZSO website at: <https://vdb.czso.cz> is also an important data source.

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 in 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 Plzeň (www.plzen.czso.cz), not only the latest data, but also interesting information about the Region, graphical outputs, information for respondents of statistical surveys, information about activities of the Regional Office itself, and much more. In the end of October 2023, another regional analysis was published, this time with the topic of "2021 Population and Housing Census" (Czech only; in Czech it reads: "Sčítání lidu, domů a bytů 2021"); it was elaborated in all Regions according to a unified template.

Our long-term experience and users' interest in information in regional breakdown make us believe that our regional statistical yearbook will continue to be a sought-after source of information for both professional and lay public. The same as in the previous years, we welcome your potential suggestions and comments as to the Yearbook's content – they can be a valuable contribution to the preparation of regional publications in 2024.

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.