

## Introduction

The relationship of economic development and environmental protection has been making the headlines for many years. The drastic change in the environment is the price we pay for technological progress and economic development. Expenditure on environmental protection is a widely used environmental care indicator. Our issue is: What is the environmental expenditure in the Czech Republic and what procedures are used to obtain the relevant data?

To achieve high explanatory power of any assessment, it is necessary in the first place to clearly define the methodology and procedures of obtaining statistical data. Environmental protection expenditure consists of investment expenditure and non-investment expenditure, i.e. current expenditure<sup>1</sup>. The Czech Statistical Office has measured expenditure on environmental protection investment since 1986 and the survey underwent many phases and experienced multiple changes in methodology. The most important change was the launching of a new EU survey project under which also first non-investment expenditure data were produced for the year 2003. Both investment and non-investment expenditure have thus been observed in the Czech Republic since 2003, which allows more complex examination of environmental protection expenditure.

The aim of this publication is describing the trends of environmental protection expenditure, both investment and non-investment ones, in the Czech Republic and in the regions of the country, including economic benefits resulting from environmental protection.