

FOREWORD

The Statistical Yearbook of the Plzeňský Region is one of the fundamental publications of the newly established Regional Office of the Czech Statistical Office. It has been bringing numerous data on the demographic, social, economic, and environmental developments. It is published, similarly as in other regions, in already the twelfth edition of continuous series. These publications present a structure-unified content and follow the national Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic, which is developed at the headquarters of the Czech Statistical Office. Data on the region are basically published for the period 2009–2011 and for selected indicators also in a longer time series since 2000.

This year, regional yearbooks have been altered only slightly as for their contents and formal side. The main change is that selected data from the Population and Housing Census, which was carried out in the end of March 2011 have been included. The Census results are published mainly on our web pages. A publication with basic data in a detailed breakdown by territory will be issued in the end of 2012, an analysis of Census results in the region will be issued in the end of September 2013. The regional yearbook provides to our readers again the chapter on Elections with the results of Regional Council Elections in October and one third of the Senate of the Parliament of the CR. Other changes consisting only in omitting of information from ad hoc surveys, indicators, which have lost their reason, and in adding new pieces of information more and more reflecting processes of the economy transformation, harmonization of the Czech statistics with procedures, standards, and classifications used by Eurostat and wider use of administrative data sources. Published tables do not contain more detailed data. If readers are interested in such breakdowns, they can address directly the nearest Information Services Unit of the Czech Statistical Office. Besides information on regions, available data by district and by administrative district of municipalities with extended powers, selected data on towns, and several indicators on individual municipalities can be found there as well. The enclosed CD contains, first of all, inter-regional comparisons and also time series trends of selected indicators in 2000–2011 in the entire Czech Republic. Methodological notes on individual chapters are summarised after the publication data section. References and links to data sources, which were used in the preparation of the regional statistical yearbook, are cited in the Methodological notes.

The basic source for the data published is state statistical surveys. Besides data sources of the Czech Statistical Office, available data from areas administered by respective ministries were also used, especially from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR, Ministry of Finance of the CR, Ministry of the Interior of the CR, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the CR, Ministry of Health of the CR, Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic, and the Ministry of Transport of the CR. A vast portion of the data published is kept in the regional databases of KROK (data on regions and districts) and MOS (statistics of towns and municipalities). The Public Database (VDB) has been gradually filled-in as well. It is accessible on the CZSO website and enables to view statistical data in the pre-defined tables from the standpoint of their subject matter and territorial breakdowns in ever greater detail. Information on the Public Database you can find at: <http://vdb.czso.cz/vdb/>.

The regional yearbook, of course, cannot contain all pieces of information collected and processed by the state statistics. More detailed data from respective sections of demographic, social, and economic development of the regions, districts, municipalities, or micro-regions are published in specialized products (Statistical Bulletin, publications on demographic matters, thematically focused analytical materials, etc.), which are mostly available in the electronic form on the Internet. Many other pieces of information can be found on the website of the CZSO Regional Office (www.plzen.czso.cz), not merely the latest updates of results of statistical surveys, but information on the CZSO activities as well. On the website, you can also find the analysis "Basic tendencies of demographic, social, and economic development of the Plzeňský Region in 2011" (Czech only) issued in the end of August.

The sense of obtaining and processing of statistical data is acquiring knowledge, seeking for trends in the development, but, first of all, finding the data utilisation in practise. Long-term experience with the users' interest in information in regional breakdown, which has been constantly growing recently, make us believe that the regional statistical yearbook will continue to be a sought after source of information both for the professional public and the general one. Like in the previous years, we will welcome your potential suggestions and comments on the yearbook's content. We hereby thank you for all remarks very much. They are very helpful in our work on the yearbook and will be a valuable contribution to the preparation of regional publications in 2013.

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 this publication.

Publishing extracts from this book is possible, except for commercial purposes, on condition that a reference to their sources is made. Quotations may only be published, if the source "Statistical Yearbook of the Plzeňský Region 2012" and the origin of statistics contained in it are given.

The following symbols have been used throughout:

The symbol of dash (-) in place of a figure indicates that the phenomenon did not occur.

The symbol of dot (.) shows that the figure is not available or cannot be relied on.

The symbol of horizontal small cross (x) shows that the figure is not applicable.

The symbol of (0) used in table designates figures smaller than a half of the unit of measure chosen.

The abbreviation "i.d." used in the tables stands for individual data, which are protected and cannot be released.

The calculations in the tables are performed using unrounded figures (including the sums).

The data given in the Yearbook are valid as at 30 November 2012 and update the data and estimates published before.

Unless stated otherwise, the data published are derived from statistical surveys taken by the CZSO.