

## FOREWORD

*The Statistical Yearbook of the Plzeňský Region is a crucial publication of the Regional Office of the Czech Statistical Office. It has been bringing a complete statistical overview of all economic activities of the national economy derived from available data. It is published, similarly as in other regions, in already the fifteenth edition of continuous series, both in the electronic and printed version. These traditional publications present a structure-unified content and follow the national Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic, which is compiled at the headquarters of the Czech Statistical Office. Data on the region are basically published for the period 2012 – 2014 and for selected indicators also in a longer time series since 2000.*

*This year regional yearbooks underwent minimal changes as for their contents and form. The chapter on Agriculture publishes results of a structural survey, which took place in autumn 2013. The Energy chapter contains figures on production and consumption of electricity from the data of the Energy Regulatory Office. Up to now published data on consumption of fuels and energies are since 2014 unavailable in the regional breakdown. Information in the Science and research chapter was also extended. In the Election chapter readers will find results of elections to local councils, which took place since 2002 out of regular terms announced for all municipalities of the Czech Republic.*

*Other changes consist only in omitting of information from ad hoc surveys, indicators, which have lost their reason, and in adding new pieces of information reflecting processes of the economy transformation, harmonization of the Czech statistics with procedures, standards, and classifications used by Eurostat, and a 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 administrative districts of municipalities with authorized municipal authority, towns, and several indicators on individual municipalities can be found there as well. The enclosed CD contains inter-regional comparisons. Methodological notes on individual chapters are summarised after the 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.*

*State statistical surveys are basic sources for the published data. 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, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Health, Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic, and the Ministry of Transport. 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), and in long-term time series. The Public Database (VDB) is an important information source for users. It is accessible on the CZSO website and enables to view statistical data in pre-defined tables in the breakdown by subject matter, territory, and time in ever greater detail. The database newly allows users to compile also tailor-made tables. Information on the Public Database can be found at: <https://vdb.czso.cz/vdbvo2/faces/en/index.jsf>.*

*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, economic, and social development of the region, districts, municipalities, or micro-regions are published in specialized products (Statistical Bulletin, publications on demographic matters, thematically focused analytical materials, etc.), which are available mainly 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](http://www.plzen.czso.cz)), not merely the latest updates of results of statistical surveys, but also information on the CZSO activities. On the website, you can also find an analysis Senior citizens in the Plzeňský Region (Czech only) issued in the end of October 2015 and other analytical and data products.*

*The sense of obtaining and processing of statistical data is to acquire knowledge, seek for trends in the development, but, first of all, to meet the requirements of the society for statistics, i.e. the data utilisation in practice. 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 professionals and lay readers. 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 to our work on the yearbook and will be a valuable contribution to the preparation of regional publications in 2016.*

*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.*