

## **Preface**

*The Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) brings out already the sixteenth publication in a row focusing on comparison of differences between women and men in various areas of life in a modern society. Statistical exploration of data classified by sex serves to achieve many goals. Differences between men and women rest not only on physical differences, but they also pose a cultural and social issue – women and men play different roles in life and have different preferences. These differences vary in time and space and many of them may complicate the life of women and men or even discriminate them.*

*One of basic principles of a democratic state is the requirement to make equal opportunities for all its citizens so that they can accomplish their life aspirations irrespective of whether they are men or women. Statistical data can serve to that in two ways: firstly, as a basis for proposing of relevant measures - as a support for the decision-making of the general government and legislators, and, secondly, as a description and checking of how the principle of equal opportunities of both genders is fulfilled in practice.*

*By this publication, among others, the CZSO fulfils provision of the paragraph 7.3 of the Government resolution No 456/2001 of 9 May 2001, on “Updating trends in pursuing the policy of equal opportunities for men and women”, by which the Government of the Czech Republic requested the Czech Statistical Office to publish statistical data on women and men periodically.*

*This year’s publication “Focus on Women, on Men” provides updated statistical data obtained from statistical surveys in the time series usually until the end of the year 2014. Mainly in the Chapter Health there are some missing tables because these data are not available. Significant methodological changes were made in the chapter Labour and Wages.*

*Besides updating of the time series, also some other changes have been made.*

*Some tables have been modified or added, some have been deleted; in some cases the methodology to presented data has been modified and added.*

*Based on suggestions of members of the Editorial board, new outputs have been included, e.g. planned duration of parental leave of women.*

*The final part of the publication includes selected information from the results of some sociological researches and surveys on gender issues.*