

Dear Users of the Statistical Yearbook,

The Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2009 is released in the year when the Czech Republic presided over EU for the first time. The Czech Statistical Office had the privilege to preside over the Council Working Group on Statistics as well as carrying the duty to supply the Czech presidency with high-quality, updated and comparable data.

2009 was also a year when it had been 90 years since the establishment of official statistics in the Czech Lands and when the CZSO hosted an international conference "Statistics – investment into the future 2", inspired by this anniversary. Statisticians more than ever before concentrated on the main aim of statistics, which is to provide true, updated, timely and clear information on the whole society and supply high-quality data for the decision-making related to its future development.

Numerous modifications required by users during the preparation of the last editions of the Statistical Yearbook or initiated by changes in the system of data collection and presentation were incorporated and now our traditional publication acquired a fixed form. There were only few changes this year and users are offered maximum comparability of data in time series.

However, we would like to point out some novelties and changes recommended by users, data providers and by editorial team.

Long-term time series in Chapter 1. **Key national economy indicators** are extended by the following indicators: Gross domestic income, Net lending and Net borrowing, Total area under crops and Students and teachers at conservatoires. Chapter 3. **Environment** was extended by data on Greenhouse gases provided by the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute. Particular indicators on waste management were equipped by codes divided into groups by the manner of waste management. Chapter 9. **Income, expenditure and consumption of the population** was extended by time series of key indicators for the first four-year cycle of Living Conditions Survey. Chapter 13. **Science and technology, information society** offers for the first time data on municipal offices using in 2007 the information technology for interaction with citizens. Chapter 17. **Construction** contains as before the table showing data on domestic construction work broken by region of construction site and Chapter 18. **Trade, hotels and restaurants, tourism** offers a new table Gross fixed capital formation in tourism. Chapter 21. **Education** provides new information on applicants for admission to public and private universities by the form of education and group of education and main results of Adult Education Survey in 2007. In Chapter 24. **Social security** a new classification by employees and self-employed persons (sickness insured) is applied instead of the former classification by sectors with low information value. After an adoption of the Social Services Act a new classification of social service establishments was introduced. Detailed information on community care services is included. A review of expenditures of territorial self-governing units on social care are constructed and after the promulgation of the Act regulating Assistance in Material Need the benefits of assistance in material need and social services benefits are newly introduced. In Chapter 26. **International comparisons** tables show data for the Eurozone – EA 15 countries. This year's publication includes again "occasional" chapter 28. **Elections** which brings information on elections to the regional councils, to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic (2008) and to the European Parliament (2009).

Electronic version of the Statistical Yearbook will be available on our website www.czso.cz free of charge three months after the release of the printed publication.

Like in the previous years we would like to extend our thanks to all who contributed to the preparation of the yearbook and also to the publishers NAKLADATELSTVÍ SCIENTIA, which arranged for printing and distribution of this publication.

I believe that you will find this year's issue of the Statistical Yearbook useful and I will be more than happy to welcome your suggestions and recommendations.



Jiří Křovák
First Vice-President and Acting Head of the Czech Statistical Office