

Dear Readers

In “Czechoslovak Statistics”, a publication from 1928, an important and noble aim of the state statistics was expressed very well by the following beautiful sentences: “The target of the statistical service is to give picture on the condition and development of state of affairs in the entire country, the final aim of which is to reach economic welfare, virtuousness, fitness, and health of all population. These efforts, however, cannot be governed by chance, traditionalism, or a mere instinct, but consciously according to a plan, precisely and systematically, i.e. in a scientific manner. Naturally, that requires namely knowledge of all facts and relations in the state”¹⁾. One of the most comprehensive overviews of economic, social, demographic, and environmental state of affairs is given by this basic compendious and representative statistical publication of the Czech statistical service, the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic.

Statistical Yearbooks of the Czechoslovak Republic were published regularly, without an interruption, from 1957, i.e. for the period of thirty-six years. Nevertheless, they were preceded by similar publications: German Handbuch (from 1913), Statistical Handbook (in 1920, 1925, 1928, and 1932), and Statistical Yearbooks (in 1934–1938, 1941–1944, and 1948). The first statistical yearbook of an independent Czech Republic was issued in 1993. During the period of its long-time existence, the publication underwent many changes in its contents, several changes of its typographical layout, as well as inner arrangements of the surveyed data. Besides its traditional book form, it has been issued for several years already on a CD-ROM, too. You can find the electronic version of the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2011 also on the website of the Czech Statistical Office at www.czso.cz that is available for users already at the moment of the issue of the printed form (in the past there was a few months gap).

National economy experts, politicians, and entrepreneurs will find there detailed tables related to national accounts, data on currency and balance of payments, and other data and indices, which can help them evaluate the position of their ministry or enterprise. Not only economists, but also politicians and sociologists may be interested in data on income, expenditure, and consumption of households broken down by territory. Those interested can find there information on individual branches of the national economy starting from agriculture up to services. Interesting data are provided also in chapters focusing on the issues of health that are discussed all the time. Sports fans will be certainly interested in retrospective data on results of our sportsmen. At time, when many discussions are devoted to the national and European identity, it might be interesting to look at the position of the Czech Republic within the European Union or at its comparison with other countries of the world. Pedagogues, students, and other representatives of the general public the Yearbook will equip with empirical data that illustrate and help them understand mechanisms of various parts of life of our society.

Attention of especially the permanent users of the publication shall be drawn to rather significant changes in the Yearbook in comparison to the previous edition. Addition of several new tables presenting data that have not been published in the Yearbook, yet, will be definitely appreciated.

Chapter 1 “Key national economy indicators” includes, for the first time, long-term time series related to science and research. Chapter 3 “Environment” after five years again provides detailed data on water management works. Chapter 5 “National Accounts” already includes results of a revision of the 1995–2008 time series as well as of 2009 and 2010, which have been published in the end of September 2011. Chapter 13 “Agriculture” contains three new tables resulting from the Vineyard Survey 2009.

Chapter 19 with the original title “Transport” is now called “Transportation, information and communication” and the respective tables were moved to it. Chapter 21 “Information and communication technologies” newly shows average wages of IT professionals in the respective table. You can find there also a new summary table “External trade in ICT goods and services” and three new tables monitoring usage of information technologies by municipal authorities in 2009.

Changes are also in Chapter 23 “Education”. Users can find there two new tables with data on number of pupils and teachers of nursery schools and basic schools by school founder and citizenship. Newly included are also data on pupils of secondary schools by citizenship. Relevant tables in Chapter 26, in its part “Sport”, contain updated types of sports, in which Czech sportsmen have won medals at world and European championships during the last three years.

Chapter 27 “Justice, crime, accidents” shows selected criminal offences for 2010 already according to the new Criminal Code valid since 1 January 2010. Tables eliminated from Chapter 28 “International

comparisons” have been replaced by new, of which we can mention, for example, “General government debt”, “Inflation rate”, “Unemployment rate”, and “Expenditure on care for the elderly”. The last Chapter 30 “Elections” contains data on results of the last elections in 2010 for local councils and to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

In closing I would like to thank to all members of the Editorial Board of the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic, employees of the Czech Statistical Office, and external workers, who have contributed to the preparation and processing of this issue. I believe that also this year’s publication will fulfil your expectations and will be a valuable source of information for you, it will provide you with a background for your decision-making and it will be an inspiration for your future plans.

Iva Ritschelová

President of the Czech Statistical Office

¹⁾ *Statistics from history to present. Prague: Czech Statistical Office, 2006.*