

*Dear Readers of the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2014,*

*I am pleased by the interest in work of statisticians, evidence of which is the fact, that you use one of the most important publications of the Czech Statistical Office. The Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic forms a symbolic summit of the all-year-long work of hundreds of persons, who processed a huge amount of data from numerous economic activities, sectors, and spheres of life of the Czech society.*

*In 2014 the Czech Statistical Office commemorated several important anniversaries. The major one was 95 years since the State Statistical Office was established. Yes, a modern state statistical service has been in this country since 1919. A number of generations have already become familiar with its outcomes. The institution of the Czech Statistical Office, which was providing for statistics of the Czech part of the former Czechoslovak Federation since 1969, was formed a bit after. And in 1993 this Office took over the role of the central statistical institution of the independent Czech Republic. Last but not least, it is necessary to mention the fact that ten years ago the Czech Statistical Office moved from its original, but flood destructed, residence in Karlín, Prague into a new building at Skalka, Prague.*

*Yet, let us deal with the publication itself. This year the Yearbook contains 30 chapters, which bring a number of novelties to readers. One of the most important novelties relates to a revision of national accounts, which has been performed all over the world. In relation to the transition to a new system of European accounts of the ESA 2010 a lot of partial changes were carried out to “National Accounts” chapter. The revision of methodology as well as making of certain current estimation methods more precise affected majority of indicators published in the aforementioned chapter.*

*Further novelties can be found, for instance, in data on the national economy structure. The source for it was data kept in the Statistical Business Register, which was in 2013 updated according to the basic Administrative Business Register. Since 2013 there has been no recognition of difference in between natural persons incorporated and non-incorporated in the Commercial Register. Chapter “Science and Research” newly includes table “Indirect public support of research and development in the business enterprise sector”. Following a year pause chapter also involves six tables with data on innovations. Chapter “Education” also brings interesting novelties – tables with data on pre-primary education, or on higher professional schools, for instance. The last new table in the chapter captures the numbers of students of full-time studies at universities by group of fields of study and further broken down by bachelor, master, and doctoral study programme.*

*Chapter “Health” newly gives results of the Sample Survey on Persons with Disabilities, which was a joint project of the Czech Statistical Office and the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic. Tables with data in chapter “Social Security” were expanded by foster care benefits and benefits for persons with disabilities. Numerous users certainly find interesting to study new tables in chapter “Agriculture”, which present results of the Farm Structure Survey 2013 and provide comparisons with results of agricultural censuses in 2010. The publication last chapter provides results of the elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR and the elections to the European Parliament, including the list of elected Members of the European Parliament.*

*Closing the foreword allow me, please, to express my thanks to all people, who contributed to the preparations of the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2014. Then I wish to you, Readers, to take only all good decisions, which high quality statistical data will surely assist you with making them.*

Iva Ritschelová

President of the Czech Statistical Office