

FOREWORD

The Statistical Yearbook of the Karlovarský Region is one of the fundamental publications of our Regional Office of the Czech Statistical Office. It has been bringing numerous data on the demographic, social, economic, and environmental developments. It is published, similarly as for other regions, in already the eleventh edition of continuous series. These publications present a structure-unified content and follow the national Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic, which is developed at the headquarters of the Czech Statistical Office. Data on regions are basically published for the period 2008 – 2010; yet for selected indicators then also in a longer time series since 1995. These publications covers have been modified within the context of the change of the CZSO visual style.

Following rather essential changes to the content of regional statistical yearbooks carried out the last year, which users accepted with ease, the authors has decided the content and form of regional statistical yearbooks shall be changed in a minimal way. There is a certain modification consisting in omitting of information from ad hoc surveys for indicators, which have lost their reason, and in adding new pieces of information more and more reflecting processes of the economy transformation and harmonization of the Czech statistics with procedures, standards, and classifications used by Eurostat (as application of the new CZ-NACE classification for data breakdown by activity, for instance). Furthermore, a part of the tables has been simplified when more detailed data breakdowns were neglected. If readers are interested in such breakdowns, they can address directly the nearest Department of Information Services 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 towns, and several indicators on individual municipalities can be found in as well. The enclosed CD contains, first of all, inter-regional comparisons and also time series trends of selected indicators in 1995 – 2010 in the entire Czech Republic. Methodological notes on individual chapters are summarised after the publication data section. References and links to data sources, which were used in the preparation of the regional statistical yearbooks, are cited in the methodology notes.

The basic source for the data published is state statistical surveys. 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 of the CR, Ministry of Finance of the CR, Ministry of the Interior of the CR, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the CR, Institute for Information on Education, Ministry of Health of the CR, Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic, and the Ministry of Transport of the CR. A vast portion of the data published is maintaining in the regional databases of KROK (data on regions and districts) and MOS (statistics of towns and municipalities). The Public Database (VDB) has been gradually filled-in as well. It is accessible on the CZSO website and enables to view statistical data in the pre-defined tables from the standpoint of their subject matter and territorial breakdowns in ever greater detail. More detailed information on the Public Database you can find at: <http://vdb.czso.cz/vdb/>.

The regional yearbooks, 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 regions, districts, municipalities, or micro-regions are published in specialized products (Statistical Bulletin, publications on demographic matters, thematically focused analytical materials, etc.), which are mostly available in the electronic form on the Internet. Many other pieces of information can be found on the website of the CZSO Regional Office in the Karlovarský Region (www.kvary.czso.cz), not merely the latest updates of results of statistical surveys, but information on the CZSO activities as well.

The sense of obtaining and processing of statistical data is acquiring knowledge, seeking for trends in the development, but, first of all, finding the data utilisation in practise. Long-term experience with the users' interest in information in regional breakdown, which has been significantly growing recently, make us believe that the regional statistical yearbooks will continue to be a sought source of information both for the professional public and the general one. Like in the previous years, we will welcome your potential suggestions and comments on the yearbooks' content. We hereby thank you for all remarks very much. They are very helpful in our work on the yearbooks and shall be a valuable contribution to the preparation of regional publications in 2012.

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.