

INTRODUCTION

The role of information and communication technologies (ICT) has recently received considerable attention in all developed countries due to their exceptional role in enhancement of economic growth and social change. Even though the production and expansion of ICT varies significantly between and within countries, a general agreement prevails that it is necessary to collect reliable and comprehensive indicators with a purpose to track development and usage of new information technologies. Having reliable information is the ground for analysing the relation of ICT and economic and social development.

Thanks to the increasing importance of the ICT (as mentioned above), a progress has been made in developing internationally comparable ICT statistics. This brochure was compiled by the Czech Statistical Office in order to provide a comprehensive overview of statistical indicators about the development of the ICT. It contains characteristics of ICT describing the situation and development in the Czech Republic as well as in other developed countries so the international comparison can be made immediately.

The brochure consists of following chapters:

- Chapter A: '**ICT professionals**' brings an overview about the quantity and structure of the professionals working in the ICT fields (computing professionals and computer associate professionals).
- Chapter B: '**ICT Expenditure and Investment**' includes main economic indicators about intermediate consumption, investments and final consumption of ICT equipment and services.
- Chapter C: '**ICT Research and Development and Patents**' provide data not only about expenditure in ICT research and development (ICT equipment and software separately) but also brings an overview about granted and valid ICT patents.
- Chapter D: '**ICT International Trade**' includes exports and imports both of the ICT goods (in more detail Communication equipment, Computers and related equipment, Consumer electronics, Electronic components and ICT parts n.e.s.) and of the ICT services (Telecommunications and IT services).
- Chapter E: '**ICT sector**' consists of main economic indicators (as employment, investment, R&D expenditure, value added and turnover) for industries that are primarily engaged in the production of ICT goods and services.

For more detailed information, please visit our Science and IT website on www.czso.cz. If you need any further information or if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us directly. Your suggestions will be incentives for further improvement of future releases.

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