

## INTRODUCTION

In many countries the information and communication technologies (ICTs) have been a significant driver of the economic growth, knowledge, technology and employment creation and many other development opportunities such as educational, health, cultural, social and welfare benefits. ICTs have penetrated every sector of the economy and society and to some extent, every sector of the economy has adapted to ICTs in order to better deliver services, conduct business, and share information.

The Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) issues the brochure 'Information Economy in Figures' for the first time to complement 'Information Society in Figures' similar brochure published by CZSO regularly since 2005.

The aim of this brochure is to provide basic overview of a state and progress in the following four areas:

- **Chapter A: 'ICT professionals'** brings an insight into the quantity and structure of the specialists (occupations) who have the capability to specify, design, develop, install, operate, support, maintain, manage, evaluate and research ICT and ICT systems. It provides population estimates of ICT professionals in the Czech Republic for the main socio-demographic characteristics, such as sex, age, education and regions of residence, their employment according to industry (CZ- NACE activity) and occupation categories.
- **In chapter B: 'ICT sector'** the main economic indicators for economic activities that are primarily engaged in the production of ICT products (goods and services) are presented. The ICT sector may have considerable impacts on economic performance, as it is characterised by very high rates of technological progress, output and productivity growth. These characteristics imply a considerable contribution of the sector to economy-wide performance."
- **Chapter C: 'External trade in ICT products'** informs about the value of Imports (exports) of ICT goods and services that enter (leave) our domestic territory.
- **Last chapter D: 'Investment, Research and Development in ICTs'** brings apart from the main information about investment and R&D expenditures in ICT products also additional data for ICT sector. Among indicators of ICT-related innovation are the numbers of ICT patents granted in the Czech Republic presented here.

Brochure also offers a comparison with other advanced economies in the Europe or in the World.

Data in this publication came from the variety of the Czech Statistical Office sources. International data came mainly from OECD, Eurostat and EU KLEMS sources.

For more detailed information, please visit our Science and IT website at [www.czso.cz](http://www.czso.cz). If you have any questions not answered there, please contact us directly. Your suggestions will be an incentive for further improvement of future releases.

In Prague, April 2008

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