

INTRODUCTION

This year the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) prepared already fourth updated issue of the brochure: "The Information Society in Figures ". Just as in previous years, this brochure is conceived in such a way as to provide, in an easy-to-read form, a sufficient amount of official statistical data on developments in the information society in the Czech Republic and enable a comparison to be made with individual EU states.

The aim of this brochure is to give a basic overview of the state of and developments in the spreading and way of use of ICTs in the main areas of our society. This brochure is divided into the following seven chapters:

- A. The **Telecommunication and Internet Infrastructure** chapter contains basic data on the available telecommunication and Internet infrastructure and their structure.
- B. The **Households** chapter contains information on households' access to fixed telephone lines, mobile telephones, personal computers and the Internet, as well as data on households' expenditures on ICT equipment and services.
- C. The **Individuals** chapter contains information on the users of mobile telephones, personal computers and the Internet among the adult population. This basic information is supplemented with data on the place, frequency and way of using computers and the Internet as well as on selected activities performed on the Internet, with a focus on Internet shopping.
- D. The **Enterprises** chapter contains an overview on the spread, degree and purpose of Internet and website use among enterprises, on the number of employees using a computer at work or on electronic commerce and other electronic processes used in the business enterprise sector.
- E. The **Public Authorities** chapter provides information on the spread and the use of internet among public authorities, on the provision of services via websites of public authorities and on the use of the Internet for interaction with public authorities by individuals and enterprises.
- F. In the **Schools** chapter the reader learns about how well equipped schools are with computers, the availability of broadband Internet at schools or about the number of students and teaching staff using the Internet at school.
- G. The **Health Institutions** chapter gives an overview of how well equipped health facilities are with information technologies, data on the use of computers and the Internet at independent doctors' surgeries for selected activities, and also information on the use of the Internet by individuals for seeking health-related information.

Data on ICT use by individuals are further classified according to the main socio-demographic characteristics such as gender, age and education. Data related to enterprises are classified according to the industry or the size of the enterprises. Data on ICT use in schools and health establishments are available according to the types of these institutions.

Besides the above-mentioned classifications, most of the data contained in the brochure is available also in the form of regional and international (EU, Norway and Iceland) comparison.

For more detailed information, please visit our website at www.czso.cz, sections titled **Information society**:

http://www.czso.cz/eng/redakce.nsf/i/information_society

Prague, April 2009