

## Contents

1. President's introduction .....	3
2. Position in society .....	5
3. Organisation of the CZSO .....	7
4. Major agreements concluded with partners in 2003 .....	10
5. Review of the main activities in 2003 .....	11
6. International cooperation .....	15
7. Financial data .....	18
8. Provision of information .....	21
9. Key indicators of the CR .....	24
10. Contacts .....	25



Jan Fischer  
President of the Czech Statistical Office



## 1. President's introduction

The year 2003 was a turning and unique year in many respects for the Czech Statistical Office. This Annual Report outlines the reasons why we call 2003 so. Let me mention some of the key facts that significantly influenced the work of statisticians in the third year of the third millennium.

The year started with an error in external trade statistics, which seriously affected the credibility of statistical figures. In-depth analyses concluded that particularly insufficient communication between the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) and the data supplier – Ministry of Finance-Directorate General of Customs – was the underlying cause of the error.

The top priority of the new management that assumed powers and responsibilities at the end of April 2003 was, therefore, to regain the confidence in statistical production and to restore the healthy self-trust of the CZSO as a whole, because the most precious thing that a statistical service can possess is the credibility, transparency, and reliability of statistical data.


Communication and openness have become the key concepts for us: communication in the sense of a well-founded dialogue with the professional and general public, with respondents and users of statistical outputs; openness in the figurative and literal sense – the CZSO should be more open to criticism, openness as the opposite of isolation.

The need of filling these concepts with concrete contents appeared very urgent already in May when the CZSO was confronted with another problem: erroneous data of external trade statistics for the first quarter of 2003 were received from the Ministry of Finance-Directorate General of Customs (MF-DGC). Full responsibility for this error caused by technical problems in data processing was accepted by the MF-DGC. Nevertheless, also statisticians had to come up with a new solution, such as a switch from monthly to quarterly data updates. This and preceding experience entailed a radical change in the quality of mutual communication between the two institutions, which has been indispensable also with respect to intense joint preparations for a smooth implementation of the statistical system INTRASTAT, which will serve the statistical measurement of commodity flows between the Czech Republic and the other EU Member States.

The completion of the transformation represented another big priority of 2003. The new CZSO management is committed to bringing the Czech Statistical Office in the community of European statistical services as a fully-fledged partner. Our active participation in the work of Eurostat and other European institutions proves that we are able to do so.

The European statistical harmonisation, which undergoes significant changes and anticipates new challenges, is a process to continue after May 2004. In this context, there is an increasing need, for example, to break down regional data in a more detailed way, to identify areas beyond the focus of statisticians so far, such as the process of globalisation and the signs of the forthcoming informatisation of society and their impacts on economic and social life. Statistical work is topped with an analysis, which enhances the value of the data collected and processed. That is why the Czech Statistical Office has been completing the key indicators with quarterly analytical comments since mid-2003 that meet with a very positive response. On a quarterly basis, the CZSO releases macroeconomic analyses where readers can find the evaluation of economic growth and of its factors, with useful interconnections.

A strong emphasis must be put on the consistence of statistical outputs, the observation of methodological standards and the parameterisation of statistical processes. The CZSO started a series of internal methodological audits in 2003 where leading experts of the academic community have been engaged. The first results of a methodological audit of gross domestic product calculation are available at the time of this Annual Report coming into being.



The basic message of the audit report is that our methodology of preparing this key economic indicator is compatible with the European standard. Simultaneously with the audit of GDP calculation, preparations are under way for a methodological audit of the indices of industrial production and construction output and other macroeconomic indicators.

The work could be renewed in 2003 of the Czech Statistical Council – a consultative body to the President of the CZSO consisting of representatives of ministries, business and employer associations and experts from the academic community. The common goal is not merely to fulfil the programme of two meetings every year, but primarily to make use of this think tank in the work of subject matter departments of the Czech Statistical Office. Positively received was thus the idea of setting up expert groups participating in the solution of current and conceptual tasks facing the state statistical service.

In 2003, the Czech Statistical Office had to tackle all the tasks laid down by the State Statistical Service Act in difficult conditions of ten provisional workplaces scattered across Prague and its vicinity. It was a price to pay for the flood of 2002 that deprived statisticians of their many-years (yet also provisional) headquarters in Prague-Karlín. In these circumstances, the CZSO coped error-free with a very important piece of work: the computation of results of referendum held in June on the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union. Statistical information was being prepared and regularly provided as dictated by the Catalogue of Publications. Striving to regain the good reputation and prestige and to bring the results of the Czech state statistical service closer to a wide range of users, the CZSO restored the quality communication with the professional and general public alike.

I am very pleased to mention that this year – when the 85th anniversary of an independent statistical service established in former Czechoslovakia is commemorated – the provisional circumstances came to an end and the Czech Statistical Office moved to a new address, a respectable residence in Prague-Strašnice. From a managerial point of view, this change has brought easier life and undoubtedly enhanced the quality of management and internal communication. On the other hand, it entails a commitment. The cost of the new building for taxpayers was more than CZK 800 million. It belongs, therefore, not to statisticians, but to the public – in the same way the statistical information is a public property. Good quality of statistical information is the only way for us to justify the investment.



Jan Fischer  
President  
of the Czech Statistical Office



## 2. Position in society

The position of the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) as a central authority is defined by Competence Act No. 2/1969 passed by the Czech National Council, as amended. The mission, tasks, organisation structure, rights and duties of the CZSO are regulated by Act No. 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, as amended.

The fundamental mission of the CZSO is to provide an objective and comprehensive picture of socio-economic development in the Czech Republic (CR). To this end, the CZSO develops methods and tools to survey existing and new phenomena in society, incl. their interrelationships and causes and effects. Statistical information produced is analysed by the CZSO and data on trends compared with international development. The CZSO makes comprehensive data available for use by the central government and public administration and for the purposes of integrating the Czech Republic into European structures. It also coordinates the state statistical service within the country.

The main principles of CZSO activities are as follows: freedom from political interference, impartiality, transparency, and data confidentiality.

Property used by the CZSO is owned by the state. According to Act No. 219/2000 Coll., the CZSO is a central authority with an independent chapter of the state budget.

The CZSO is headed by the President appointed by the President of the Czech Republic on grounds of a proposal made by the Government.

According to Article 6, Act No. 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, as amended, the Czech Statistical Council, headed by CZSO President (see below), is a consultative body to the CZSO.

Consultative bodies to the President of the CZSO are: Top Management Meeting (see below), President's Board, and Regional Council. The terms of reference and composition of consultative bodies to the CZSO President are regulated by rules of procedure for consultative bodies of the President.

### Czech Statistical Council

The Council is headed by the President of the CZSO. The members of the Council are appointed and recalled by the President of the Czech Statistical Office from among experts in statistical theory and practice. The Council has at least 11 and at most 25 members.

The Council considers:

- draft principles and contents of the Programme of Statistical Surveys for the need of the Czech Republic,
- drafts of generally binding legal regulations concerning the State Statistical Service, prepared by the CZSO,
- conceptual questions of development of the state statistical service.

Membership of the Council is personal and honorary and does not constitute a claim on remuneration.

Members of the Council are subject to confidentiality of state, economic or professional secrets they have knowledge of as a result of membership.

Here is the list of members of the State Statistical Council in 2003:

**Jan Seger**, Head of Department of Economic Statistics, University of Economics Prague, Vice-Chairman of the Czech Statistical Council,

**Jaroslav Dostal**, representative of the Czech Association of Insurance Companies,

**Michal Frankl**, First Deputy Minister of Informatics of the CR,  
**Jaroslav Gacka**, Deputy Minister for Regional Development of the CR,  
**Vlastimil Gejdoš**, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the CR,  
**Richard Hindls**, Dean of Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, University of Economics Prague,  
**Michal Illner**, Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the CR,  
**Stanislava Janáčková**, Advisor to the President of the CR,  
**Jana Jurečková**, Professor, Department of Probability and Mathematical Statistics, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University Prague,  
**Josef Kraus**, Research Institute of Agricultural Economics,  
**Václav Lidický**, Director, Concept and Organisation Department, Ministry of the Interior of the CR,  
**Zdeněk Liška**, Director General, Confederation of Industry of the CR,  
**Vlasta Mazánková**, Director, Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the CR,  
**Bedřich Moldan**, Director, Environmental Research Centre, Charles University Prague,  
**Bedřich Myšička**, Director, Economic Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR,  
**Edvard Outrata**, Senator,  
**Zdeněk Pavlík**, Professor, Demography and Geodemography Department, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Charles University Prague,  
**Helena Pískovská**, President, Czech Confederation of Commerce and Tourism,  
**Eduard Souček**,  
**Pavel Štěpánek**, Director, member of the Bank Board of the Czech National Bank,  
**Jaroslav Šulc**, Deputy Minister of Finance of the CR,  
**Milan Veverka**, President, Confederation of Construction Entrepreneurs of the CR,  
**Růžena Vintrová**, Advisor to the Prime Minister of the CR.

As the secretary of the Council has been appointed **Olga Běťíková**, Director, Office of President of the CZSO.

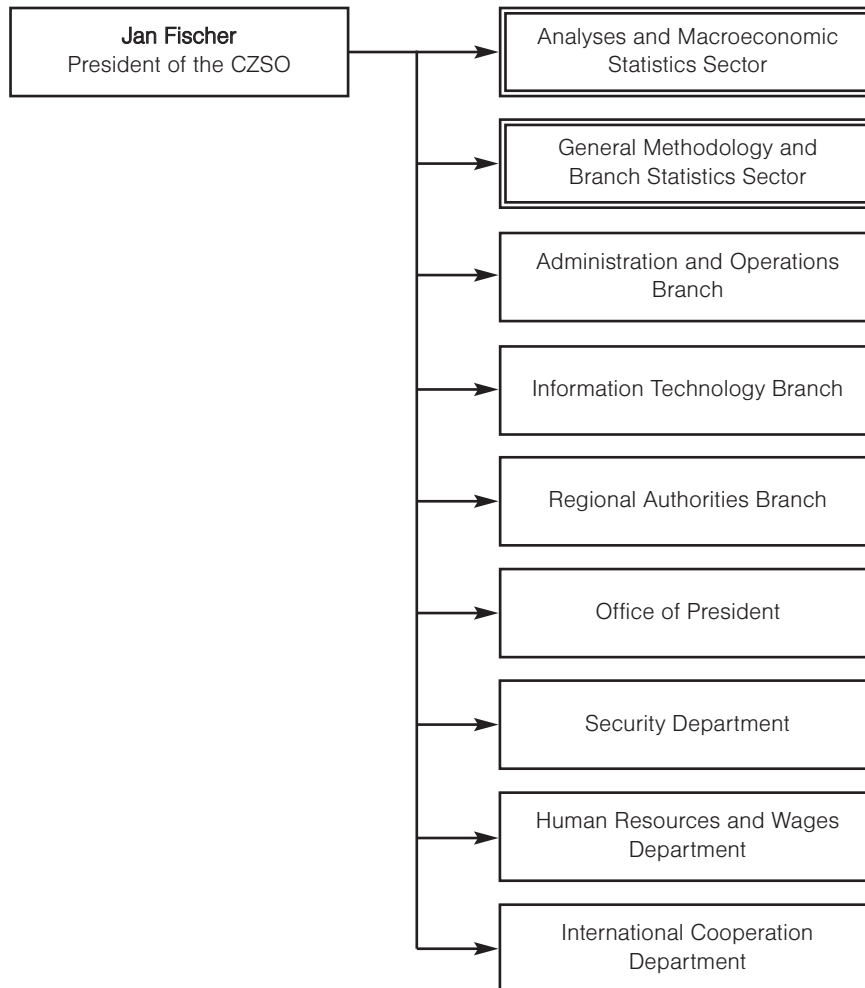
## The Top Management Meeting

The Top Management Meeting (TMM) deals particularly with the operational management of the CZSO, fulfilment of current tasks, and with other assignments if they need involvement of the President of the CZSO; TMM records important decisions taken at other CZSO managerial forums.

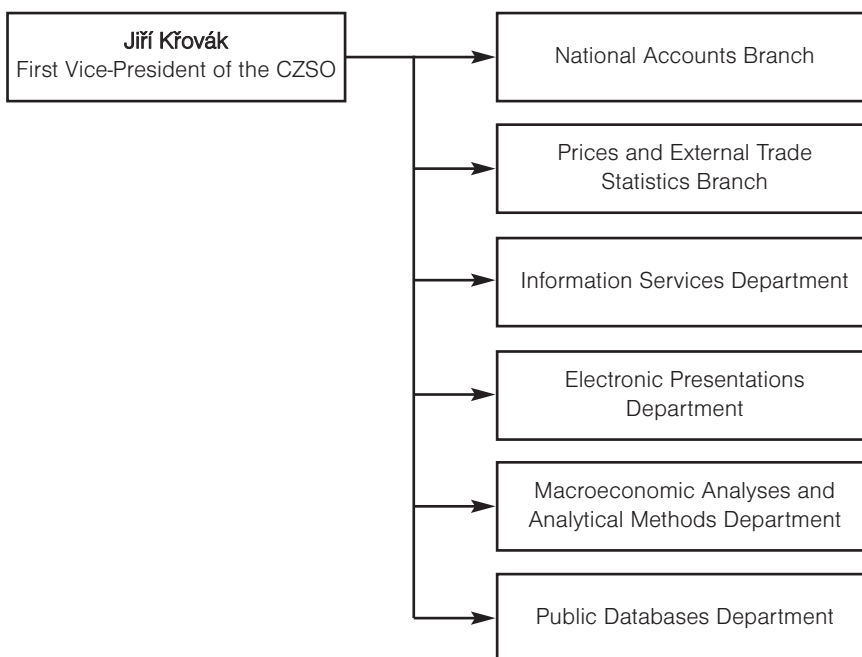
Members of the Top Management Meeting: Jan Fischer, *President of the CZSO*  
Jiří Křovák, *First Vice-President of the CZSO*  
Stanislav Drápal, *Vice-President of the CZSO*  
Olga Běťíková, *Director, Office of President of the CZSO*  
Ladislava Schwarzová, *Director, Administration and Operations Branch*  
Jan Matějček, *Director, Information Technology Branch*  
Jiří Rolenc, *Director, Regional Authorities Branch*  
Roman Prorok, *Press Agent of President of the CZSO*

### 3. Organisation of the CZSO

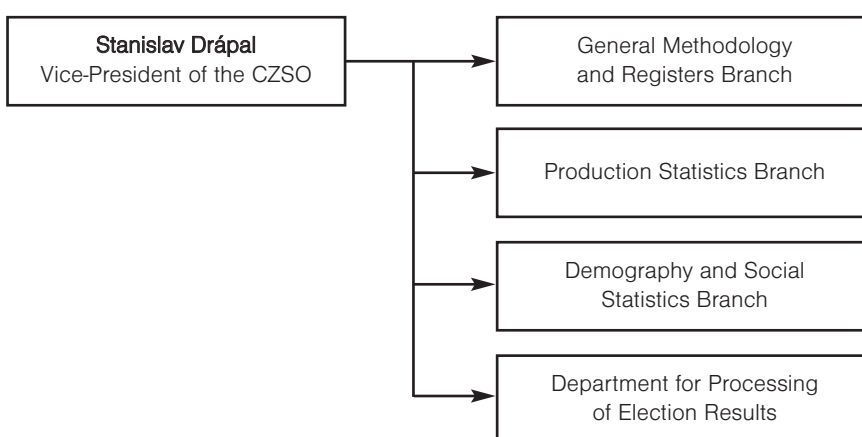
#### 1. Branches and departments subordinated to President of the CZSO



**2. Branches and departments subordinated to First Vice-President of the CZSO**  
(Analyses and Macroeconomic Statistics Sector)

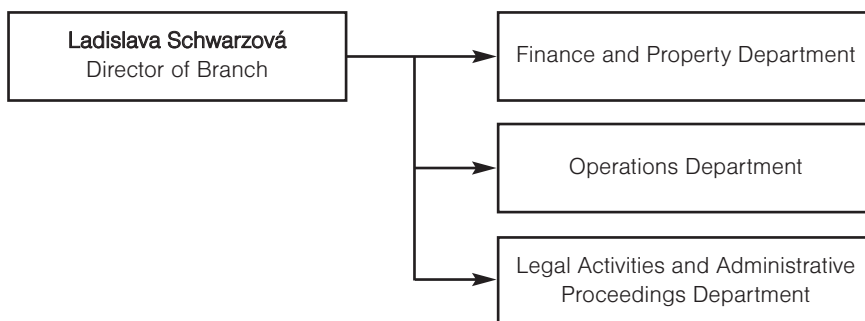


**3. Branches and departments subordinated to Vice-President of the CZSO**  
(General Methodology and Branch Statistics Sector)

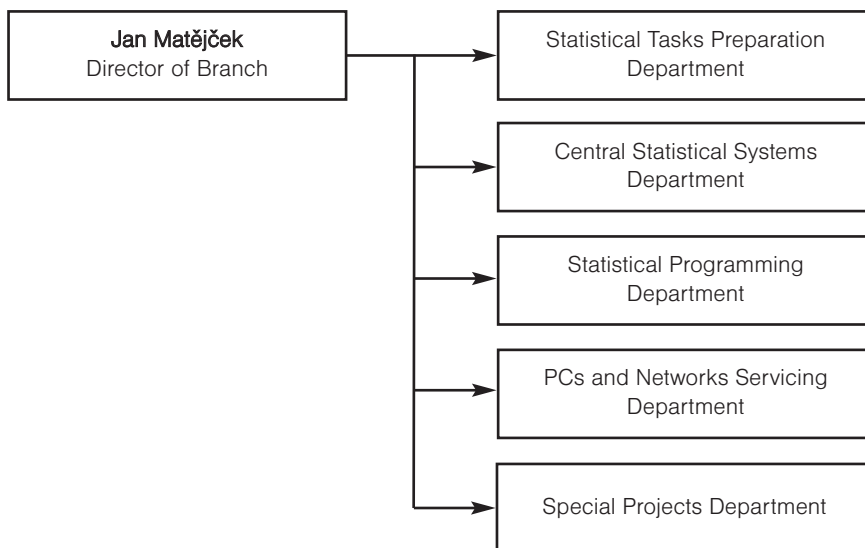




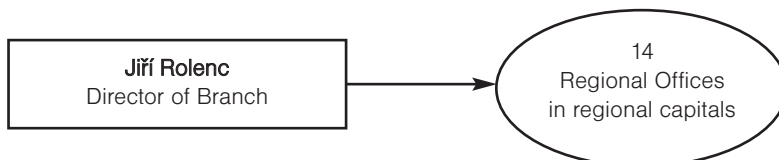
4. Departments subordinated to Director of Administrative and Operations Branch



5. Departments subordinated to Director of Information Technology Branch



6. Departments subordinated to Director of Regional Authorities Branch





## 4. Major agreements concluded with partners in 2003

In compliance with the long-term intentions, the Czech Statistical Office cooperates with a number of institutions, universities, research institutes and business and employer associations in the areas of data collection, data processing, and mutual supply of information. This cooperation is based on agreements and contracts concluded, e.g., with the following partners:

Ministry of Finance – Directorate General of Customs,  
Confederation of Industry of the CR,  
Ministry for Regional Development of the CR,  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR,  
Chamber of Commerce of the CR,  
Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the CR,  
Czech Association of Insurance Companies,  
Charles University Prague – Environmental Research Centre,  
Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, University of Economics Prague,  
Research Institute of Labour and Social Affairs,  
University of West Bohemia Plzeň,  
Volksbank CZ, a.s.,  
Czech Confederation of Commerce and Tourism,  
Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University Prague,  
Český Telecom, a.s.,  
Faculty of Natural Sciences, Charles University Prague,  
Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University Brno,  
GEOVAP, s.r.o.,  
University of Economics Prague,  
Administration of State Material Reserves,  
Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, University of Economics Prague,  
Vodovody a kanalizace Hradec Králové, a.s.



## 5. Review of the main activities in 2003


The Czech Statistical Office had to deal with sizeable complications throughout 2003, in consequence of the destruction of its headquarters and workplaces for Prague and for the Středočeský Region by the floods in 2002. The work went on in ten various locations all over Prague, in Říčany and Benešov. This affected – on top of higher time demand on CZSO employees and worse conditions of communication between departments and sections – also higher costs of data transmission, telecommunications and operation of office cars, as well as the need to equip the replacement workplaces with technology and other articles. The transfer of computer technology and of the Information Technology Branch to the new building started at the turn of the year. This dislocation was under way up to March 2004.

The above-mentioned complications notwithstanding, the CZSO worked fully in compliance with fundamental documents and programmes laying down the contents of CZSO activities, i.e. particularly in compliance with the Programme of Statistical Surveys for 2003 and the Catalogue of Publications 2003. In total, 128 surveys were approved for the year 2003, of which 46 were on a monthly basis, 26 on a quarterly, 34 on a yearly, and 4 on a half-yearly basis. The remaining 18 surveys are irregular or non-recurrent. As the vast majority of harmonisation projects related to the EU was completed by the end of 2002, efforts were primarily focused on the finishing of legislative, methodological and organisational preparations for quite new statistics measuring the flows of goods between the Czech Republic and the other EU Member States – INTRASTAT. These statistics, produced in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance-Directorate General of Customs, will be produced immediately from 1 May 2004, when the Czech Republic becomes a member of the EU. Detailed information for respondents and users was published and the system was tested by a pilot project. Intense work was in progress throughout 2003 to ensure the transfer of preparing all outputs of external trade statistics from the Ministry of Finance-Directorate General of Customs to the CZSO as from 1 January 2004.

A process of discussions about amendment to the State Statistical Service Act was under way in 2003. The amendment is above all aimed at completing the contents of the Business Register so that new statistics INTRASTAT can be produced, improving statistical data confidentiality, and at the same time extending the possibilities of providing anonymous non-identifiable individual data for scientific and analytical purposes. The House of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR completed the debate on the amendment before the end of 2003, and Act No. 81/2004 Coll., amending Act No. 89 1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, was passed by Parliament of the Czech Republic on 22 January 2004.

In the area of **methodology**, the CZSO focused in 2003 mainly on the preparation of the above-mentioned INTRASTAT system. Work started on an update of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics CZ-NUTS, according to Regulation (ES) No. 1059 of 26 May 2003. This update will be completed in the first half of 2004. The CZSO began to participate in joint activities of Eurostat and the UN Statistical Commission aimed at fundamental innovation of international standards of classifications of economic activities (Czech version CZ-NACE) and products by activity (Czech version CZ-CPA), which will become valid worldwide in 2007. Work on the improvement of the Business Register continued. An administrative data source – the Czech Social Security Administration – has been used since the beginning of 2003 to make the contents more precise and objective. Work continued on the development of the Register of Census Districts and its link to the Business Register, which will contribute to better quality and efficiency of preparing statistical surveys.

In the area of **national** accounts, the harmonisation with the European System of Accounts ESA 1995 progressed. A model of fixed capital replacement was created and valuation of transport infrastructure at replacement prices was completed. The set of annual national accounts for 2001 was compiled, reflecting important methodological improvements in




the accuracy of calculating gross domestic product and national income, particularly in calculating housing-related services and non-market services. The whole set of national accounts for 2000 was revised simultaneously. A revised time series since 1990 should be published in 2004. A study "Source Material for the Methodological Audit of Quarterly GDP Estimate (with Illustrative Figures for the 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2003)" was prepared. A methodology was prepared of creating a database containing data from quarterly surveys that are inputs for the calculation of quarterly GDP estimates. The methodology of quarterly GDP flash estimates (T+45) was completed and would internally be tested on data for the 4th quarter of 2003. Indicators of household sector accounts were regionalised – primary distribution of income account and secondary distribution of income account at NUTS 3 level for the years 2000 and 2001. A methodology of compiling quarterly non-financial general government sector accounts was prepared, and the methodology of compiling tables according to the transmission programme ESA 1995 was updated. Statistical surveys covering semi-budgetary organisations and general government on a quarterly and annual basis, respectively, were put into practice.

In **price statistics**, the harmonisation required by Eurostat of existing price indices and the work on new measurements in the areas of construction prices and real estate prices continued.

In the area of **business and microeconomic statistics**, the generally convenient supply of data on the Czech Republic to Eurostat was developed. Considerable attention was given to the improvement of methods of seasonal adjustment, data quality management and evaluation, and elimination of inconsistencies between data from various surveys. A third of agricultural businesses (approx. 40 000) were covered by Agrocensus, which was focused on agricultural capacity and production. The pilot testing and implementation of IT statistics both in the production sphere and in households continued. Great attention was given to statistics of industry and construction, housing construction, and wages. Analyses published were accompanied by press conferences and meetings with analysts and other experts.

**In the area of social statistics and demography**, the computing and publishing of the results of the Population and Housing Census 2001 was fully completed in 2003. So-called Microcensus 2003 was taken, based on the results of the Population and Housing Census 2001. Due to budgetary constraints, Microcensus 2003 covered only 0.25% of households (0.5% in Prague) and concentrated on household incomes. The data processing was completed at the end of 2003 and beginning of 2004. The main user of the results is the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to assess trends in household incomes and formulate a policy of providing social benefits. Increased attention was given to gender statistics, measuring conditions of life of women and men. The CZSO became involved in a twinning project implemented by Swedish experts under the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. In the framework of the project, the CZSO prepared a factual publication on the position of women from various walks of life in the Czech Republic. The publication was brought out by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in a circulation of 40 000 for secondary schools and its English version was available to the public at the end of the year. Also the pilot project testing the possibility of making changes in the production of family budget statistics (incomes, expenditures, and structure of consumption) continued. Based on tasks ensuing from a resolution of the Government of the CR, proposals were submitted for statistical monitoring and evaluating the integration of Roma minorities and work started on a system of monitoring and evaluating the situation of disabled people. At the turn of the year, the CZSO presented the Population Projection for the Czech Republic up to 2050. Press conferences were organised on the occasion of all key outputs.

Organisation of all activities related to the computing and presenting of results of elections is an area where the CZSO plays a statutory and irreplaceable role. Of a key importance in this area was the historically first computation of the results of the national referendum on the accession of the CR to the EU. In cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, regional



authorities and local self-government, we were able to compute the referendum results without problem in an exceptionally short time. There were also several by-elections for municipal councils in 2003.

The **presentation of statistical information** saw a consolidation in 2003 that had to be solved by provisional measures after the floods in the preceding year. Nevertheless, conditions were created for as smooth communication with users as possible.

With the exception of the book lending service of the Central Statistical Library (the workplace was dislocated outside Prague), the scope of all services provided, i.e. the publications shop and information services, was fully restored. The sales reached the level usual in the years before the flood, in spite of a partially decreasing sale of publications that are available unabridged on CZSO websites. This decrease is gradually offset by an increasing volume of more demanding non-standard orders.


Compared with the preceding years, the number of publications brought out grew, which was particularly affected by those containing data on the Population and Housing Census 2001. This applies to titles published by headquarters and regional offices alike. Particularly good were above all analytical publications prepared by regional offices and covering each district and region. Regional Statistical Yearbooks were published for the third time. Other 20 publications with the results of some non-recurrent surveys and referendum results not included in the Catalogue of Publications came out. The printing of large part of publications containing the results of the Population and Housing Census 2001 was contracted out because of insufficient CZSO machine capacity. The current production according to the Catalogue of Publications took place in the CZSO. In total, 31 863 pieces of booklets, more than 2 million black and white prints and 82 thousand colour prints were produced. The tendency towards more publications provided in electronic version continued. For users preferring hard copies, printed publications made to order were introduced for publications offered otherwise only in electronic form. Work continued on the restoration of the library stock – automated cataloguing, completing of publications by way of lending and duplication of missing copies, book binding. Arrangements for the lending service in the new building got in full swing to prepare the use of electronic access to catalogues, electronic registration, etc.

With the forthcoming accession of the CR to the EU, **data supply to international organisations** expanded and more data incl. international comparisons are provided to the general public. The CZSO became significantly involved in the communication strategy, particularly before the referendum, because we brought out a one-off publication and supplied data and information to a number of institutions and the media.

To enhance information services, two opinion polls targeted at users were prepared. The first one focused on services provided via the Internet, the second one examined opinions about information services provided and the scope and availability of statistical data. Two meetings with users – representatives of the media and analysts – were convened and held, to keep both parties informed about data needs and availability. Meetings like these continue to be organised. The CZSO provides its users also with various databases. On top of the traditional Business Register, a new product appeared – the Nomenclature of Houses with House Numbers, which is a database of houses identified not only by the house number, but also by their geographical coordinates.

The year 2003 was a year of changes for the CZSO Internet presentation – based on the opinion poll among users and a number of consultations; the websites were changing to better meet the demands of users. The partial restructuring of web pages was underlined by a different colour conception. The changes made have been well received.

New classes of methodological tools (classification aspects, properties) were designed for the needs of a public database. METIS tools, particularly nomenclatures and catalogue of indi-



cators, were very intensively updated, with respect to the increasing need of completing data files for the public database with meta-information.

The implementation of the public database required adjustments of important tools serving the preparation of projects of statistical tasks, their processing and generating the resulting set-ups. Using external experts and CZSO programming capacity, the core of the public database was optimised and the first pilot input data files tested. The first outputs from the public database appeared on CZSO Intranet.

Standard sets of publications on regions and municipalities were prepared, but publishing activity was also focused on cooperation in producing international publications (Portrait of the Regions) or preparing one-off publications. The quality and tools of presenting regional databases improved significantly. Methodological and technical basis for common Cross-border Friendship Database was built together with foreign partners.

In the area of **macroeconomic analyses**, activities were substantially enlarged in 2003. A new System of Analytical Activities of the CZSO was initiated and implemented. Besides the annual large macroeconomic analysis, brief quarterly flash macroeconomic analyses started to be published in electronic form as from the 2nd quarter of 2003, as a follow-up to the release of quarterly GDP estimates. Quarterly branch and cross-cutting analyses were introduced in 2003, published following the relevant quarterly data, which started closer links between branch and cross-cutting analyses towards macroeconomic analyses. Further, the time series of key macroeconomic indicators were introduced and presented on the Internet. Also standard comprehensive publications were produced, such as the Statistical Yearbook of the CR, CZSO Bulletin, etc., and journals like Statistika, CZSO Newsletter, etc. Seminars in the areas of analysis and methodology were organised, aimed at better quality of analytical texts, interpretation of statistical results and methodology used.

In the area of **preparation and automated processing** of statistical tasks and informatics support of statistical activities, most work was focused on the processing of standard statistical surveys and the computing of the results of the Population and Housing Census 2001. With respect to the contents, periodicity, and ways of data surveying, processing and presentation, nearly the whole range of activities of the CZSO were in principal harmony with international standards and demands of users.

Apart from operating the existing Business Register where a switch to a considerably higher version took place, the CZSO developed and maintained other registers necessary for Business Register operation – mainly registers of census districts, farms, and accommodation establishments.

One of the top priorities for the Czech Statistical Office is permanent enhancement of all its activities, outputs, and services. To achieve this, the CZSO adopted the principles of Total Quality Management and took the first steps towards their systematic application. Two opinion polls were carried out in 2003 inquiring users about how they perceive statistics and a poll among own employees about how they perceive their jobs. The results of these opinion polls will be taken into account by the management of the CZSO in adopting operational measures in 2004 and in medium-term strategic planning. An important international project “Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities” was started in cooperation with the Federal Statistical Office of Germany at the end of the year.

Work on developing individual statistical areas was closely linked with the need to complete **the harmonisation of the Czech statistical service with the statistical service of the EU, which was one of the conditions of joining the EU**. This area of statistical harmonisation was actually completed at the end of 2003.



## 6. International cooperation

### European Union

Preparation of the Czech Statistical Office for the accession of the CR to the EU culminated in 2003. The signing of the Treaty of Accession made the Czech Republic one of the ten acceding countries that are assessed as very well prepared for joining the EU in the area of statistical harmonisation.

In the framework of this process, attention was focused in 2003 on areas of economic and social statistics where the process of harmonisation was being completed in relation to already existing legal regulations of the EU, and tasks were fulfilled ensuing from the new European legislation. Efforts continued for aligning legal aspects of the state statistical service in the CR with European practice, and harmonisation activities in the area of statistical infrastructure and in individual statistical fields went on.

The Action Plan of economic, monetary and financial statistics for the candidate countries, adopted as required by the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) in May 2003, identified particularly national accounts, statistics of government debt and deficit, harmonised index of consumer prices, statistics of long-term interest rates, statistics of the balance of payments and statistics of external trade as areas of key importance for statistical production to meet the needs of the European Commission and the European Central Bank (ECB). The “filling” of missing data as required (some going as back as 1991, predominantly national accounts) is the top priority. To be able to monitor how the conclusions of the Lisboa summit are fulfilled, selected general economic indicators called “structural indicators” were measured – data on employment, innovations and research, economic reform, social cohesion and the environment. These data on the acceding countries were for the first time used for so-called Spring Report presented to the Council of Europe. Work on short-term statistics was mainly aimed at reducing the delay before dissemination and enlargement by new indicators.

The results could be achieved thanks to the assistance programmes of Phare, which contributed to this process mainly by form of common projects of the acceding countries in the areas of national accounts, price statistics, PRODCOM, statistics of small and medium-sized enterprises, energy statistics, business cycle surveys, external trade statistics, regional statistics, innovations statistics, social statistics (employment, health, education, social protection), agricultural statistics, and environmental statistics.

Also projects in the framework of the National Phare Programme were in progress in 2003. Work on a project in the area of regional statistics was completed at the end of the year. Preparatory work and procedure of granting permission were under way on a project focused on the strengthening of statistical infrastructure in the areas of IT and dissemination. A project was launched on strategic planning and management of statistical activities oriented on system solutions, aimed at enhancing the quality and efficiency of CZSO operation. Particularly a project concentrated on strategic planning enables us to make use of experience gathered by our twinning partner – the Federal Statistical Office of Germany – and to lay down and pursue the mission, vision and strategic goals of the CZSO, using the principles of Total Quality Management.

The process of involvement of statisticians in the structures of the European Statistical System was topped in 2003: as observer, President of the CZSO participated in meetings of the Statistical Programming Committee of Eurostat/European Commission, which is authorised to approve legal regulations at the level of the European Commission related to legislation adopted by the European Council and European Parliament. This participation (subject to the same rules as the participation of the Member States, except for voting) made possible to express our opinions about presented proposals and to become better acquainted with the operation



of this institution, which is important for our future active participation in decisions about the shaping of the European statistical service. Similar experience was gathered also at meetings of other committees of Eurostat/European Commission (committee for monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics, European advisory committee for statistical information in economic and social spheres, data confidentiality committee, committees for external trade, agricultural statistics, harmonisation of GDP at market prices).

As from 2002, the European Commission's attention is increasingly focused not only on the assessment of the overall preparedness, but particularly on the monitoring of statistical data availability level. As it was found that New Cronos, the basic database of Eurostat, offers a considerably lower availability of data on the acceding countries, compared with the member countries (approx. 15% in total, about 20% for the Czech Republic), a study on data availability and the state of data transfers to Eurostat was prepared in the first half of 2003 to check the situation in individual acceding countries. The study showed markedly better results (data availability 79.6% for the CR, data transferred to Eurostat 62%), although some requirements do not yet apply to the acceding countries (e.g. INTRASTAT in external trade statistics).

The results reached in the course of statistical transformation and harmonisation create favourable conditions for the involvement of the Czech Statistical Office in the European Statistical System as a fully-fledged member and co-creator of the European statistical service not only in the area of statistical data transfers, but particularly in strategic planning, in the preparation of European legislation and other standards and collective actions in other areas (statistical dissemination, metadata, etc.).

## International organisations

In 2003, the Czech Republic was a member of the UN Statistical Commission, which is the principal institution issuing statistical standards worldwide and coordinating statistical work of other international government organisations with wide international activity (ILO, FAO, UNESCO, OECD, IMF, World bank, UN Regional Commission, etc.). Representatives of the CZSO took active part in talks of the UN Statistical Commission and the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) alike; the latter is a joint institution of the Economic Commission for Europe and the UN Statistical Commission. CZSO experts participated in other 10 sessions of CES bodies and expert group meetings (statistical information system, statistical data confidentiality, migration and population census, registers, agriculture, national accounting, and information society) in 2003.

Particularly through their participation in working groups and preparation of the Economic Forum, further 12 experts were involved in collective activities focused primarily on statistical development in the areas of national accounts, external trade, tourism, information society, science and technology, short-term statistics, and statistics of small and medium-sized enterprises.


Due to the importance of statistics for a wide range of users and the need of statistical data being comparable, statistics is among priority areas in the activity of international organisations and institutions. The CZSO made every effort, therefore, to get relevant experts actively involved in activities focused on international statistical coordination and development.

## Bilateral cooperation

Cooperation with statistical institutions of other countries highly intensified in 2003. Talks with experts from France, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Norway were no more characterised by an exclusive one-way information flow, but rather by exchange of experience collected in statistical work.

Cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic dealt predominantly with the preparation of external trade statistics after joining the EU (INTRASTAT), services and tourism





statistics, labour and family budget statistics, short term indicators, regional statistics, information society statistics, R&D statistics.

In the framework of cooperation with France – particularly seminars devoted to seasonal adjustment of time series, regional statistics with a stress on zoning methods, coordination of statistical activities, activities of the statistical council, individual data protection, and links between business statistics and national accounts contributed significantly to our knowledge that would be used by relevant CZSO departments and sections.

Cooperation with the Federal Statistical Office of Germany included predominantly business statistics, statistics of services, external trade statistics, publication system, and information technology security. Progress was achieved in an important project of regional statistics – the building of a Cross-border Friendship Database.

Talks with the National Institute of Statistics of Spain dealt with regional statistics, statistical dissemination, and family budget statistics.

After a year's interruption, cooperation with the National Statistical Institute of Portugal was renewed – a consultation on INTRASTAT took place.

Cooperation with Statistics Norway included national accounting – U/S and I/O tables.

CZSO staff of 381 went abroad to participate in 274 professional events. The CZSO was pleased to host 110 representatives of statistical institutions and international organisations from abroad, particularly from Eurostat (24), Slovakia (15), France (23), Germany (26) – 53 delegations in total.

## The most important visits and events

- Having taken office, President of the Czech Statistical Office visited the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic to discuss with its President, Mr. Peter Mach, questions of mutual cooperation, the forthcoming accession of both countries to the EU with a focus on statistics, and legislative conditions of statistical activities in both countries;
- President of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic came to the Czech Statistical Office in December 2003 to continue the discussion on the preparation of our membership of the EU incl. arrangements for elections for the European Parliament; CZSO experience of statistical dissemination and cooperation with users was presented;
- At working visit to INSEE France, President of the CZSO became familiar with the operation of the statistical council and took part in a session of its regional committee;
- CZSO President's visit to Great Britain was focused on management issues and selected questions of methodology;
- CZSO President's visit to Vietnam, under a French-Vietnamese project, was a follow-up to a Vietnamese delegation being received in the CR and the subject was, in the framework of assistance provided, Czech experience in the transformation of the state statistical service;
- Eurostat mission was received at the beginning of the year to discuss issues of external trade to consider the high deficit of trade balance and its impact on GDP estimates;
- Eurostat programming mission at the end of 2003 to assess the progress achieved in the harmonisation of the Czech statistical service and arrangements for Phare programmes;
- Mission from Eurostat, ECB a DG ECFIN to prepare the notification of government debt and deficit – talks were held in cooperation with the Czech National Bank and the Ministry of Finance of the CR;
- INSEE Programming mission to evaluate and plan the bilateral cooperation with France;
- Programming mission from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany taken in the framework of a workshop on regional statistics – the project of Cross-border Friendship Database – in Hradec Králové.

## 7. Financial data

### Income

Indicator	Actual, thousand CZK				Index 2003/2002
	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Income from self-activity	11 089	9 404	8 016	10 587	1.32
Sanction payments received	26	0	0	0	
Sales of non-capital goods	558	724	1 134	1 191	1.05
Sales of capital goods	882	31	214	96	0.45
Phare and other funds received	4 269	2 485	13 619	22 759	1.67
<b>Income, total</b>	<b>16 824</b>	<b>12 644</b>	<b>22 983</b>	<b>34 633</b>	<b>1.51</b>

Income from self-activity amounting to CZK 10 587 000, which was by CZK 2 571 000 more than in 2002 and by CZK 8 848 000 more than the budgeted level, was the main source of CZSO income. The free availability of statistical information on CZSO websites is increasing, which reduces the sale of publications, classifications and nomenclatures in the long term. Income produced by the CZSO Information Service in 2003 was favourably affected by sale of publications presenting the results of elections held in 2003 and the results of the Population and Housing Census 2001. However, the flood in August 2002 totally devastated the CZSO Publications Shop, incl. the sales stock and the complete mailing list of customers. For this reason, the sale of standard and other services provided by the Information Service in Prague was limited in 2003 and the book lending service of the library interrupted. This situation affected income in 2003.

The higher total income was thus due to a transfer of CZK 17 876 000 from the CZSO own reserve fund, a transfer of CZK 4 616 000 from Phare resources, and a transfer of CZK 266 000 from the Fund of Cultural and Social Needs.

All income of the CZSO was transferred to the state budget.

### Current expenditures


Indicator	Actual, thousand CZK				Index 2003/2002
	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Czech Statistical Office	615 268	644 846	778 727	790 149	1.01
Population and Housing Census	233 894	1 169 607	106 595	31 833	0.30
Parliamentary election and the national referendum	6 317	420	63 845	49 326	0.77
Council elections	46 236	875	76 118	3 869	0.05
Other	5 648	61	17	22	1.29
<b>Current expenditures, total</b>	<b>907 363</b>	<b>1 815 809</b>	<b>1 025 302</b>	<b>875 199</b>	<b>0.85</b>
Salaries and other remuneration for work	461 841	1 210 932	501 382	484 734	0.97
Number of employees (in public service of CZSO)	2 258	3 070	2 064	1 896	0.92
Average salary (public service of CZSO) in CZK	15 547	15 426	18 672	19 785	1.06

## Capital expenditures

Indicator	Actual, thousand CZK				Index 2003/2002
	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Building of the CZSO Information System	504 387	160 489	28 753	9 844	0.34
Reconstruction and completion of CZSO headquarters (individual expenditures)	77 985	41 279			
Renovation of buildings, replacement and refurbishing of machinery and facilities	39 422	36 503	60 376	1 361	0.02
Programme 345 010, total	621 794	238 271	89 129	11 205	0.13
Acquisition, replacement and operation of ICT				13 551	
Acquisition, replacement and refurbishing of passenger cars and utility vehicles				3 254	
Development and replacement of material and technical basis of CZSO in Prague (individual expenditures)				339 532	
Development and replacement of material and technical basis in regions			942	3 003	3.19
Programme 245 010, total			942	359 340	381.46
Fund of cultural and social needs - reconstruction of sanitary installations in the <i>Lipno</i> recreational facility		500			
Fund of cultural and social needs - construction of a sewer connection in the <i>Lipno</i> recreational facility				266	
Fund of cultural and social needs, total		500		266	
Capital expenditures - reserve fund				7 122	
Capital expenditures, total	621 794	238 771	90 071	377 933	4.20
<b>CZSO expenditures, total</b>	<b>1 529 157</b>	<b>2 054 580</b>	<b>1 115 373</b>	<b>1 253 132</b>	<b>1.12</b>

Current expenditures in 2003 on CZSO routine work, i.e. excl. expenditures on the Population and Housing Census 2001, were by CZK 11 422 000 higher than in 2002.

Material expenses (§ 6141) went down by CZK 33 507 000, compared with 2002. Unusually high material expenses in 2002 were due to the necessity of settling damage caused by the flood. A large part of material damage was successfully settled and the operation of the CZSO in provisional circumstances was soon renewed.



Capital expenditures in 2003 were in total by CZK 287 862 000 higher than in 2002. The drawing on capital expenditures included also the first instalment of the cost of the new building in Prague-Strašnice amounting to CZK 339 532 000.

Compared with 2002, expenditures on the Population and Housing Census 2001 were lower by CZK 74 762 000; expenditures related to parliamentary election, council elections, and the national referendum went down by CZK 86 122 000.

Salaries were raised as from 1 January 2003 as a result of valorisation. The average salary thus increased from CZK 18 672 to CZK 19 785.

The CZSO average full-time equivalent was 1 896 employees in 2003, of which 1 831 were permanent staff, 46 persons concluding the work on the Population and Housing Census 2001, and staff of 19 working on a non-recurrent survey on costs of raising children.

Total expenditures on salaries, incl. other remuneration for work, stood at CZK 484 252 000 in 2003 and included the current budget, budget for the Population and Housing Census 2001, the payroll for elections and the referendum, funding of the Phare project, resources for a non-recurrent survey on costs of raising children, processing of the report Nem-Úr, and the Conception of Integration of Aliens in the CR. Compared with 2002, expenditures on salaries and other remuneration for work decreased by CZK 17 130 000, owing to a substantially lower number of employees. The staff working on the Population and Housing Census 2001 was reduced by 143, and 9 employees dealing with the questions of birth certificate numbers were delimited from the CZSO to the Ministry of the Interior.

The average salary, incl. all the above-mentioned surveys where overtime additional payments and bonuses were paid by form of salaries, leaving aside the other payments, reached CZK 19 779 (CZK 19 727 current budget, CZK 22 260 work on the Population and Housing Census 2001, and CZK 18 738 elections).

As for the age structure of employees, the CZSO saw – for the first time since 2000 – a desirable increase in young employees aged up to 30, who now account for 13.1% of the CZSO total employment. The proportion of age group 31-40 fell by 0.4%, yet the group of employees up to 40 years made up 30.7% of all employees, which was by 0.9% more than in 2002. Nevertheless, among CZSO employees still prevail those aged 41-60 (64.4%, i.e. by 1.4% less than in 2002). Figures show that improvement in the age structure is a gradual process and no leap may be expected. Age group of CZSO employees 61+ recorded a rise of 0.5%. This figure reflects the fact that retirement age increases and that the attainment of retirement age is not a reason for leaving the labour market; these employees continue working with the CZSO, whether or not they concurrently receive old-age pension.

As far as the qualification structure of CZSO employees is concerned, 37.5% of employees are university graduates, 54.6% have full secondary or higher professional education, 6.5% completed secondary technical or vocational schools, and only 1.4% have basic education (these employees are paid according to the lowest wage classes for which basic education is prescribed by a wage regulation).

Training of employees in 2003 took place in provisional circumstances, CZSO had no own rooms available. Training was primarily focused on tasks resulting from a government resolution concerning the preparations of the CR for accession to the EU, on language courses, specialised courses of statistics, computer skills, etc. The teaching took place in hired rooms, CZSO employees often attended courses organised by external organisations. In spite of provisional conditions, the volume of the training was nearly 3 500 person-days in 2003, which represented 1.75 training days per employee on average. The average cost of training per employee stood at CZK 2 133, which was 0.9% of the total labour costs. Employees were also sent to courses and long-term secondment in other countries. In total, 12 employees took part in courses abroad and 6 employees were sent to long-term secondment.

## 8. Provision of information

Provision of information according to Act No. 106/1999 Coll. is defined by an internal directive.

### *- Information provided in 2003 on request*

In response to 6 written requests, headquarters of the CZSO provided information concerning (non-)existence of minutes of important official meetings and observation of conditions for assigning identification numbers (IČO), information about the number of CZSO employees, of which employees with disabilities incl. other related items. One decision was rendered about non-compliance with a request. All information was provided free of charge. A judicial proceeding was in progress as a response to a legal action taken in 2002.

	CZSO headquarters	CZSO regional offices
Number of written requests for information	6	0
Number of appeals filed against decisions	0	0
Copies of substantial parts of each court ruling	x	x
Results of proceedings on sanctions for violation of Act No. 106/1999 Coll., with no individual data	x	x
Further information related to the application of Act No. 106/1999 Coll.	x	x

### *- Information provided by publishing*


The following information was made available on public notice boards put up in headquarters (only in the workplace Josefská 6, Prague 1, due to CZSO operation in more locations) and in regional offices, as well as on CZSO websites:

1. Full official name of the CZSO;
2. Why and how the CZSO was established and conditions and principles of its operation;
3. Organisation structure
4. Contact postal address;
5. Bank account number;
6. Identification number (IČO);
7. Approved and adjusted budget, budgetary income and expenditures in preceding year;
8. Contact addresses of and connections to information services in headquarters and regional offices;
9. Prices of providing information.

## Information services

Total sales of services incl. sale of publications, classifications, nomenclatures, and electronic outputs from databases reached nearly CZK 7.8 million. More than 15 600 users contacted the Information Services Section at headquarters, of which 3 600 inquiries arrived by e-mail and 1 300 by mail or fax. About 600 clients came in person. Largely prevailing were inquiries by phone. Questions culminated in January (information about inflation) and in October (theses and dissertations were being completed and collective agreements being prepared). Also information services sections at regional offices recorded a similar structure of contacts.

As for electronic outputs, employees of the Electronic Outputs Section complied with further approx. 2 500 requests for statistical information, particularly extracts of identification numbers (IČO), extracts from the databases of RES (Business Register), KROK (data on regions and districts), MOS (community and municipality statistics), SLDB (population and housing cen-



suses), and demographic and election data. In addition, they provided 350 files containing nomenclatures and classifications, 1 150 pieces of CD with product RES-MS (Business Register), and 15 products of the Nomenclature of Houses with House Numbers. The service of providing publications in electronic form via Internet, using so-called SCP box, was renewed and extended in 2003.

In 2003, 188 planned titles of publications were brought out at headquarters and 160 planned titles at regional offices. Twenty-five publications came out, which were not included in the Catalogue of Publications. Among a total of 379 titles coming out, 280 were published on an annual or irregular basis. All publications were produced in both printed and electronic form, and their unabridged publishing on CZSO websites kept on. The share of bilingual (Czech-English) publications further rose. Apart from the national statistical yearbook and regional yearbooks, publications with the results of the Population and Housing Census 2001, prepared by both CZSO headquarters and all regional offices, were among the important ones brought out in 2003. A special publication containing data on individual municipalities was prepared and distributed to all mayors. Among non-recurrent publications prepared at all regional offices were particularly regional analytical publications evaluating the final results of the Population and Housing Census 2001, in time and spatial comparisons.

The Central Statistical Library was closed to the public all the year round (dislocation outside Prague). On top of securing periodicals, work aids, etc., the librarians worked on the new stock. In total, 8 953 books, 521 titles of journals, and 277 analytical descriptions of articles were acquired, cleaned, labelled, and subsequently catalogued and stored. All this was acquired using a librarian system of Clavius. Exchange with 130 partners abroad was re-established and about 500 publications and 90 titles of journals were sent in the framework of international exchange.

In total, 109 questionnaires were completed in the framework of supplying information to international organisations. The production of the quarterly publication CANSTAT Statistical Bulletin in cooperation with national statistical institutions of the candidate countries and updates of metadata pages for SDDS and the IMF continued, a number of contributions of international comparisons were prepared for CZSO publications and particularly for the media and the public before the referendum.

## Internet presentation

CZSO Internet presentation was in the year 2003 one of the most important means of providing statistical information to the public. A new version of websites was put into operation just before the end of 2002 – unlike the previous static version, the new system of dynamic presentation is at a considerably higher technological level (publication system in Lotus Notes). This switch enabled us to introduce some new sections to make easier the user's orientation in the large presentation. We continued publishing full versions of a large majority of publications on CZSO websites in 2003 – embarking on this practice as provisional after the flood. However, users received this solution very well and we decided to adhere to this practice. The websites were developed and improved during the year. A decision was taken in mid-2003 about changes in presentation to better reflect the new strategy of the CZSO – the strategy of openness.

Prior to the decision proper, an opinion poll among users was taken. The CZSO received 180 answers that identified some basic areas where changes were necessary. These areas were particularly time series, shortage of data broken down in a more detailed manner by region, insufficient or insufficiently comprehensible methodological notes, etc.

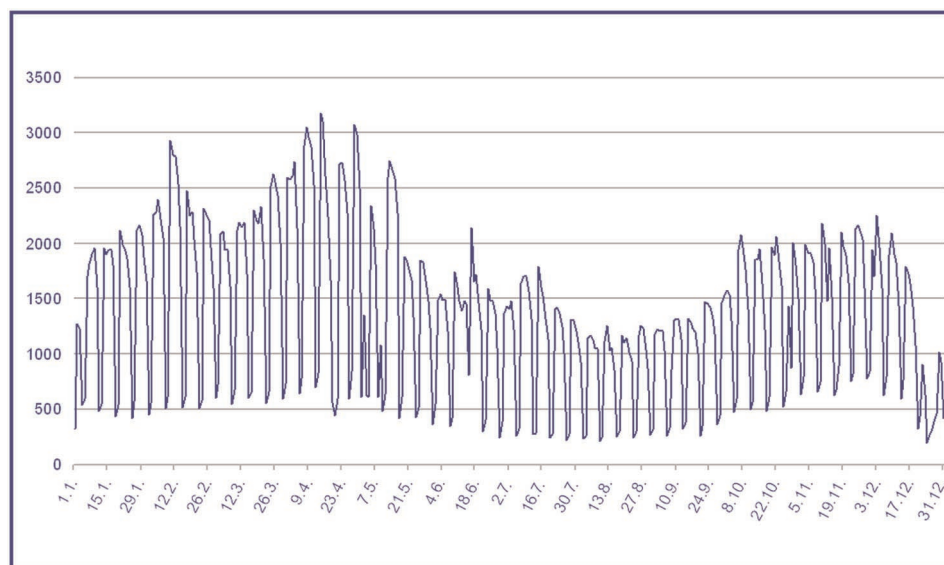
The results of the opinion poll were taken into account in making the changes in CZSO web presentation and provided basis for the introduction of new sections, such as CR: key macro-

economic indicators, Analyses, comments, What is it?, European Union, or INTRASTAT. To enhance the user's comfort, an overview is being prepared of news releases to be published next and of new publications, etc. Among of the most noticeable changes were design adjustments.

Users appreciate these changes, as an opinion poll carried out at the beginning of 2004 showed – 97.5% of users who noticed the changes in CZSO websites evaluated them positively.

Thanks to the above-mentioned new website technology, access numbers could be observed all the year round – see the chart.

CZSO main page access number  
(unique users)



The first half of a year is always very interesting for users, because information for the preceding year is being published (e.g. GDP or wages always in March), which affects higher access numbers. Of a certain influence were problems of the CZSO with foreign trade at the beginning of 2003. As expected, access numbers decreased in the summer months and, after the changes were made, they were on a gradual increase up to the end of the year. Holidays at the end of the year had a negative effect, but the growing trend was set again at the beginning of 2004.

## 9. Key indicators of the CR

### Key indicators of the Czech Republic 2003

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Area	78 866	km <sup>2</sup>
Population on 1 January 2003	10 203 269	persons
Females	5 236 563	persons
Population density per sq. km on 1 January 2003	129	persons
Average age on 1 January 2003	39.3	years
Life expectancy (in 2002)		
Males	72.07	years
Females	78.54	years
Natural increase/decrease per 1000 citizens (in 2002)	-1.5	‰
Average number of workers in national economy (estimate)	4 862.3	thous. persons
Average gross monthly wage of employees in national economy	16 917	CZK
Index of real wages in national economy	106.7	%
Inflation rate	0.1	%
Registered unemployment rate on 31 December 2003	X.31	%
Gross domestic product (GDP)	2 410 123	million CZK, current prices
Share of private sector in GDP by activity	81.5	%
Current account of balance of payments/GDP ratio	-6.5	%
Gross national income (GNI)	2 293 478	million CZK, current prices
Exchange rate CZK/USD	28.23	CZK
GDP per capita		
Current prices	236 243	CZK
According to exchange rate	8 369	USD
Purchasing power parity	16 523	USD
GNI per capita		
Current prices	224 810	CZK
According to exchange rate	7 964	USD
Purchasing power parity	15 723	USD



## 10. Contacts

### **Czech Statistical Office**

Na padesátém 81  
100 82 Praha 10 - Strašnice,  
Phone: +420-274 051 111

### **Office of President of the CZSO**

Phone: +420-274 052 378, +420-274 052 017  
e-mail: stygler@gw.czso.cz

### **Press Department**

Phone: +420-274 054 017, 274 054 016 fax: +420-274 052 133  
e-mail: pistora@gw.czso.cz, prorok@gw.czso.cz

### **Information Services Section**

Phone: +420-274 052 304, +420-274 052 648, +420-274 052 451, +420-274 052 765  
e-mail: infoservis@gw.czso.cz

### **Publication Shop, Box Office**

Phone: +420-274 052 400  
e-mail: prodejna@gw.czso.cz

### **Central Statistical Library**

Phone: +420-274 052 354  
e-mail: csu-knihovna@iol.cz





The new building of the Czech Statistical Office

## CZSO Information Centres

### REGIONAL OFFICES

#### **Regional Office Hl. m. Praha**

Na padesátém 81, 100 82 Praha 10  
Phone: (+420) 274 052 815  
Fax: (+420) 274 052 538  
E-mail: [infoservispraha@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservispraha@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/pr/hlavni.htm>

#### **Regional Office for the Středočeský Region**

Na padesátém 81, 100 82 Praha 10  
Phone: (+420) 274 054 175,  
(+420) 274 052 666  
Fax: (+420) 274 054 177  
E-mail: [infoservisstc@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservisstc@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/st/index.htm>

#### **Regional Office České Budějovice**

Žižkova 1, 370 77 České Budějovice  
Phone: (+420) 386 718 440,  
(+420) 386 718 682  
Fax: (+420) 386 718 450  
E-mail: [infoserviscb@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoserviscb@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/cb/hlavni.htm>

#### **Regional Office Plzeň**

Slovanská alej 36, 326 64 Plzeň  
Phone: (+420) 377 612 111  
Fax: (+420) 377 612 219  
E-mail: [infoservisplzen@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservisplzen@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/pl/hlavni.htm>

#### **Regional Office Karlovy Vary**

Sportovní 28,  
360 09 Karlovy Vary – Drahovice  
Phone: (+420) 353 223 719  
Fax: (+420) 353 222 677  
E-mail: [infoserviskv@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoserviskv@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/kv/index.htm>

#### **Regional Office Ústí nad Labem**

Špálova 2684, 400 11 Ústí nad Labem  
Phone: (+420) 472 706 121,  
(+420) 472 706 173  
Fax: (+420) 472 770 855  
E-mail: [infoservisul@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservisul@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/ul/index.html>

**Regional Office Liberec**

Nám. Dr. E. Beneše 26, 460 01 Liberec 1  
Phone: (+420) 485 244 130,  
(+420) 485 110 223  
Fax: (+420) 485 110 308  
E-mail: [infoservislbc@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservislbc@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/li/index.htm>

**Regional Office Hradec Králové**

Myslivečkova 914, 500 03 Hradec Králové 3  
Phone: (+420) 495 762 322,  
(+420) 495 546 965  
Fax: (+420) 495 546 965  
E-mail: [infoservishk@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservishk@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/hk/index.htm>

**Regional Office Pardubice**

V Ráji 872, 531 53 Pardubice  
Phone: (+420) 466 743 418  
Fax: (+420) 466 743 441,  
(+420) 466 304 962  
E-mail: [infoservispa@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservispa@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/pa/hlavni.htm>

**Regional Office Jihlava**

Věžní 26, 586 01 Jihlava  
Phone: (+420) 567 304 060,  
(+420) 567 310 402  
Fax: (+420) 567 310 006  
E-mail: [infoservisvys@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservisvys@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/ji/index.htm>

**Regional Office Brno**

Jezuitská 2, 601 59 Brno  
Phone: (+420) 542 528 115,  
(+420) 542 528 200  
Fax: (+420) 542 528 325  
E-mail: [infoservisbrno@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservisbrno@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/br/hlavni.htm>

**Regional Office Olomouc**

Wellnerova 5,  
779 11 Olomouc  
Phone: (+420) 585 731 508  
Fax: (+420) 585 411 320  
E-mail: [infoservisolom@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservisolom@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/ol/index.htm>

**Regional Office Ostrava**

Repinova 17, 702 03 Ostrava  
Phone: (+420) 596 136 645,  
(+420) 595 131 211, ext. 230, 233  
Fax: (+420) 595 131 231  
E-mail: [infoservis\\_ov@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservis_ov@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/ov/hlavni.htm>

**Regional Office Zlín**

tř. Tomáše Bati 1565,  
761 76 Zlín  
Phone: (+420) 577 210 164  
Fax: (+420) 577 435 629  
E-mail: [infoservis-zl@gw.czso.cz](mailto:infoservis-zl@gw.czso.cz)  
<http://www.czso.cz/kraje/zl/index.htm>