



Annual Report 2005

Czech Statistical Office

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1. President's look back at 2005

A year has gone by and the Czech Statistical Office carries out its duty: it presents to the public at large the traditional Annual Report summarizing information on activities and management of an institution which has a firm place in the structure of the state.

To a great extent 2005 was a standard year for the statistical office, which has been fulfilling basic tasks in the collection, processing and publication of statistical outputs in a way expected by the expert and general public. The past year can be labelled as standard also because the CZSO already acted as a fully-fledged member of the European Statistical System, which is an important part of the EU's information infrastructure. The overall work of the Office and its activities in the areas of management quality and data quality improvement reflected the constantly increasing demands on data quality, in particular timeliness, accuracy and availability.

Membership of European structures affected the number of international contacts, participation of CZSO employees in a range of expert meetings and engagement in European statistical projects. In this connection I would like to mention the fact that last year Czech statisticians inter alia successfully prepared and carried out the first survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC), even though initial conditions for its implementation in the Czech Republic were not by far optimal. Readers will find more about this in Chapter 5 which deals with individual statistical areas in detail.

From the point of view of internal processes in the Office, important was the beginning of practical implementation of the key document Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals and Sub-goals of the CZSO, which was integrated into the planning system in January 2005. It was described in detail in the CZSO Annual Report 2004. To the priorities of the Office belongs with no doubt quality. That is why we give exceptional attention to quality management within the TQM Committee. Closely related to quality is the satisfaction of users, respondents, and CZSO staff alike. The level of satisfaction among these groups is regularly surveyed, and the past year was no exception. The results of these surveys along with outputs from internal methodological audits are a valuable guideline for us to further improve the quality of our work.

In concrete terms, this should be manifested by passing an amendment to Act No. 89/1995 Sb., on the State Statistical Service, whose preparation belonged to our main legislative assignments. The amendment will make possible to replace some of the statistical surveys with administrative data from central government sources. For today's respondents this will mean a certain reduction of reporting burden caused by the obligation to complete statistical reports. The reduction of this burden, while maintaining the quality of statistical outputs, is simultaneously one of the main priorities of the Reform of Statistical Surveys which we intensively started to prepare.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to last year's statistical outputs which I consider as extraordinary. Among them, in the framework of our publication activity, are the Statistical Yearbook of Science and Technology and the School Statistical Yearbook. The latter by a popular form informs students of grammar schools and secondary schools about our work. In cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior we published, after thirteen years, updated Statistical Lexicon of CR Municipalities 2005. At the end of last year our users noticed a new image of our web pages www.czso.cz. The aim of this change was to improve the structure and hence the layout and availability of information.

Jan Fischer
President
Czech Statistical Office



2. Position of the Czech Statistical Office in society

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

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

The CZSO develops its activities in compliance with the main principles, which are independence, impartiality, transparency, and data confidentiality.

The property used by the CZSO is owned by the state. Under Act No. 219/2000 Sb., the CZSO is a central authority with an independent chapter of the state budget.

The Czech Statistical Office is headed by its President who is appointed by the President of the Czech Republic on grounds of a proposal made by the Government.

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

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

➤ The Czech Statistical Council

The Czech Statistical Council is headed by 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.

Discussed and considered by the Council are:

- draft principles and contents of the Programme of Statistical Surveys,
- generally binding draft legal regulations concerning the state statistical service, prepared by the CZSO,
- conceptual issues of the development of the state statistical service.

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

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

Members of the Czech Statistical Council in 2005 were:

Jan Seger, Dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, University of Economics

Jaroslav Dostal, Representative of the Czech Association of Insurance Companies

Jan Frait, Director of Branch and member of the Bank Board, Czech National Bank

Vlastimil Gejdoš, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the CR
Richard Hindls, President of the University of Economics
Michal Illner, Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the CR
Stanislava Janáčková, Advisor to the President of the Czech Republic
Jana Jurečková, Department of Probability and Mathematical Statistics, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University
Jiří Kohoutek, Member of the Board of the Economic Chamber of the CR
Josef Kraus, Research Institute of Agricultural Economics
Václav Lidický, Director, Management and Organization Department, Ministry of the Interior of the CR
Zdeněk Liška, Director General, Confederation of Industry of the CR
Václav Matyáš, President, Confederation of Construction Entrepreneurs of the CR
Vlasta Mazánková, Director, Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the CR
Bedřich Moldan, Senator and Director of the Environmental Research Centre, Charles University
Bedřich Myšička, Director, Economic Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR
Edvard Outrata, Vice-President of the Senate
Jiří Patočka, Deputy Minister for Regional Development of the CR
Zdeněk Pavlík, Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies and Economics, Purkyně University
Tomáš Prouza, Deputy Minister of Finance of the CR
Eduard Souček
Michal Ševera, First Vice-President of the Czech Confederation of Commerce and Tourism and Director of GfK Praha, s.r.o.
Pavel Štěpánek, Deputy Managing Director, Czech Banking Association
Markéta Zichová, Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister

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

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

Members of the Top Management Meeting:

Jan Fischer, *President of the CZSO*
Jiří Křivák, *First Vice-President of the CZSO*
Stanislav Drápal, *Vice-President of the CZSO*
Olga Bětíková, *Director, Office of President of the CZSO*
Ladislava Schwarzová, Jan Matějček, Jiří Rolenc, *Directors of Branches*
Roman Prorok, *Press Agent of President of the CZSO*

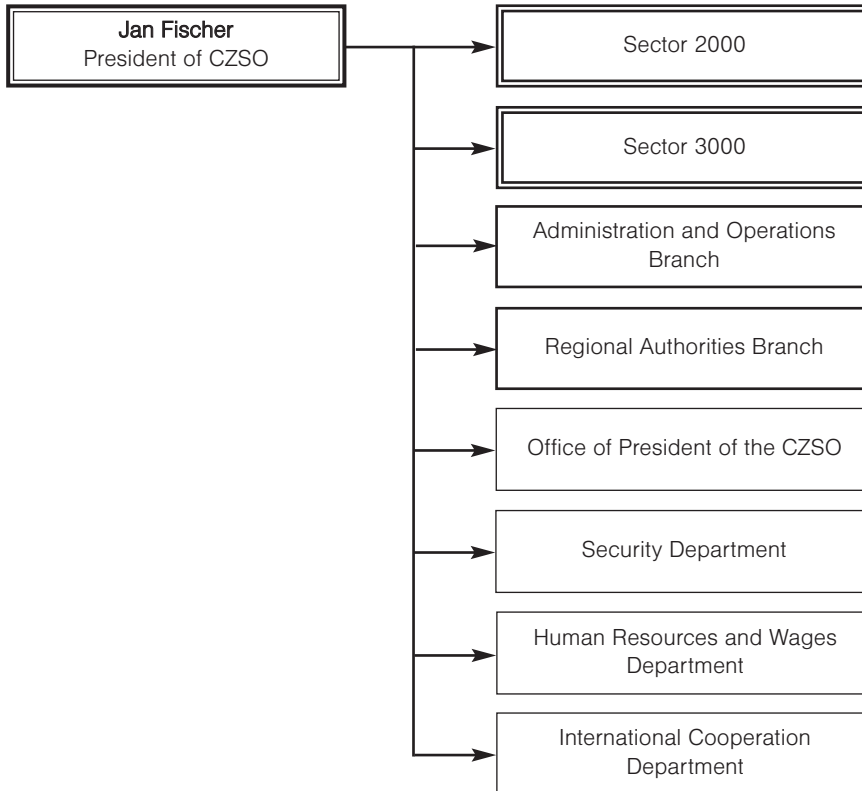
➤ **The President's Board** debates in particular conceptual materials from the sphere of the state statistical service resulting from the function of the Czech Statistical Office, the Programme of Statistical Surveys, and other tasks decided upon by the President of the CZSO.

Members of the President's Board are all members of the Top Management Meeting, directors of branches, and respective directors of the Macroeconomic Analyses and Analytical Methods Department, General Methodology Department, and International Cooperation Department.

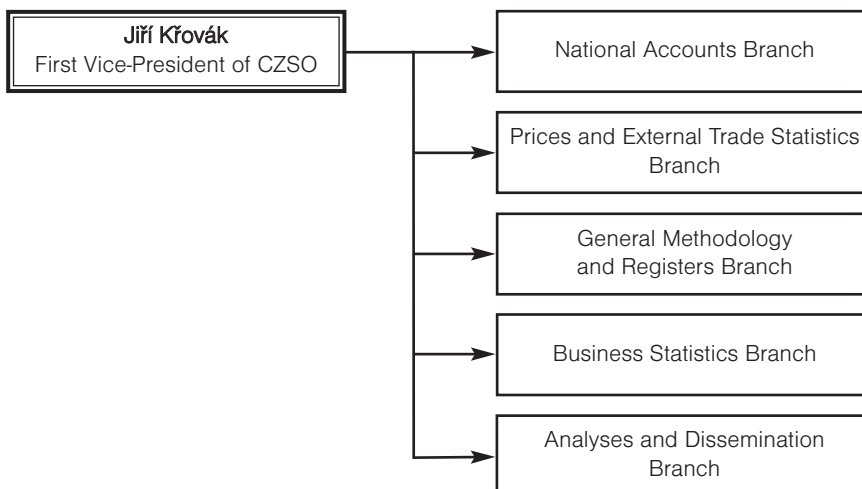


3. Organization of the Czech Statistical Office

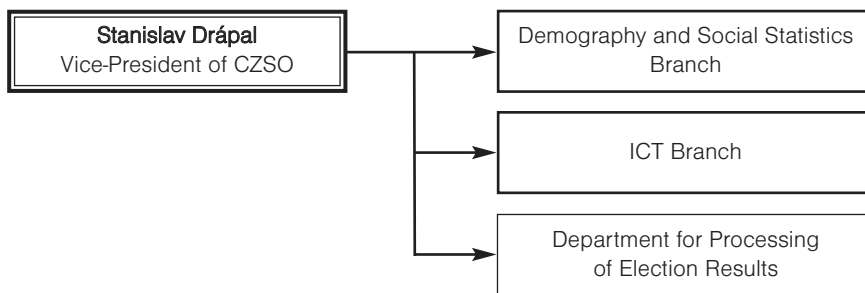
1. Sectors, branches and departments subordinated to the President of the CZSO



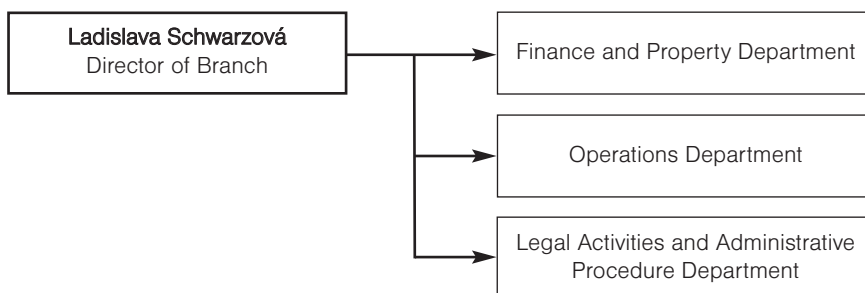
2. Branches and departments subordinated to the First Vice-President of the CZSO (Sector 2000)



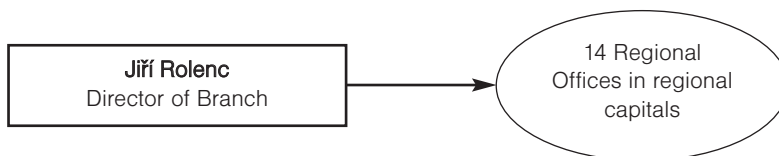
3. Branches and departments subordinated to the Vice-President of the CZSO (Sector 3000)



4. Departments subordinated to the Director of the Administration and Operations Branch



5. Departments subordinated to the Director of the Regional Authorities Branch





4. Review of the main activities in 2005

The year 2005 was the second one when the Czech Statistical Office implemented the key strategic document Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals and Sub-goals of the CZSO, which plays inter alia organising and communicating roles in the work of the CZSO.


In 2005 the Czech statistical Office became fully involved in the European Statistical System, which is an important part of the information infrastructure of the European Union. The collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data were backed by the five-year and annual statistical programmes of the EU and by statistical legal standards adopted by EU bodies. There are increasing demands on the production of harmonized statistics from the point of view of key data quality aspects (especially timeliness, accuracy and availability), which was reflected in overall work and activities of the CZSO in the areas of management quality and data quality improvement. The participation in preparing the comprehensive strategic intentions of further development of the EU statistical service entailed wide engagement in all bodies of the European Statistical System in charge of statistical development and planning, preparation and implementation of new or amended statistical legislation responding to the new needs of the EU development. Active participation in committees of the European Commission and particularly in the working group for Council statistics allowed gaining valuable experience to be used in the preparation of the Czech Republic for EU Presidency in 2009. The implementation of projects of the Multi-beneficiary Phare programme and National Phare programme, which came to an end, contributed significantly to the strengthening of CZSO capacity necessary for the Transition Facility programmes that are in preparation on a new qualitative basis and especially for the application of the system of financial assistance used in the EU member states.

In the area of **national accounts**, work continued on full harmonization with the European standards set out in the European System of Accounts (ESA 1995) and related documents. The compilation of requested tables and comments for notifications of government deficit and debt reached the routine stage. Also quarterly outputs for the general government sector are compiled and published in a standard way. As far as annual accounts are concerned, the allocation of the item FISIM (Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured) into individual uses was prepared as required by Eurostat. At the same time, on the basis of revised outputs from annual structural surveys were compiled data for the final revision of time series since 1995, which should be completed in the first half of 2006. The work on preparing flash estimates of gross domestic product continued. Requirements of international and domestic users for various breakdowns of national accounts (annual and quarterly) were continually satisfied.

In **external trade statistics**, both systems of data production, i.e. Intrastat and Extrastat including the methodology of export and import statistics, were modified in compliance with the new EU regulations. Data quality was improved through a new system of checks made by appropriate customs offices. As required by the CNB, the group of measured services in the statistics of export and import of services was enlarged.

In the area of **price statistics**, a complex revision of price indices was prepared together with methodological adjustments according to EU harmonization requirements. Simultaneously, a new system was prepared of measuring real estate prices in compliance with the European Central Bank and Eurostat.

In the area of **general methodology**, a medium-term conception was prepared, discussed and endorsed, embracing all crosscutting issues of the statistical system, metainformation system, classifications, statistical registers, application of mathematic and statistical methods, and data confidentiality and security. Besides the classic preparation of the annual Programme of Statistical Surveys, the work on the statistical system was focused on cooperation in the CZSO priority project Reform of the Statistical Surveys System. Significant progress was achieved in



work on the statistical metainformation system. As required by the EU, work was started at the revisions of classifications CZ-NACE and CZ-CPA and a proposition was prepared concerning division of the Czech Republic into new units NUTS 1. As to the Business Register, work commenced on the inclusion of another type of so-called groups of enterprises; by an amendment to the State Statistical Service Act, the Census District Register is ready to include the characteristics of houses and dwellings. The work on the application of exact methods was oriented to the quality of statistical surveys, coherence of individual statistics and use of SW Argus for data protection.


Business statistics underwent partial adjustments to quarterly and annual structural surveys aimed at easing respondent burden. The activities focused on the improvement of statistical data consistency continued. Work commenced on a new way of calculating the industrial production index. An iron and steel survey in compliance with Regulation (EC) No 48/2004 was taken in cooperation with company Hutnictví železa a.s. The results were transmitted to Eurostat. Another part of the survey on agriculture (Agrocensus) took place in 2005. It will be completed, including data interpretation and analysis, in 2006. Compiled were economic accounts for agriculture. Environmental expenditure statistics were widened. Improvements of monthly retail sale statistics effective from January 2006 were prepared in 2005. The work on the development of information society statistics went on, both in the business sphere and in households.

In 2005 the CZSO strengthened its analytical activity. In the area of **macroeconomic analyses**, the number of thematic and short analyses was raised; the context of the macroeconomic analysis covering the year 2004 was broader (sustainable development, competitiveness, structural changes, convergence of the Czech Republic to the European Economic and Monetary Union). This analysis was followed by briefer quarterly macroanalyses published with a minimum time lag after the presentation of quarterly GDP figures. The analysis system was completed with brief quarterly crosscutting and branch analyses. In appropriate cooperation, the CZSO prepared the Analysis of the Development of Numbers of Self-employment Persons for the meeting of the Economic Council of the Government of the Czech Republic.

In the area of **social statistics**, the CZSO prepared and implemented the first survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC). After the failure of derogation negotiations aimed at putting the deadline for implementing this survey in households back by a year, we were able to prepare and conduct the survey by the deadline requested by the EU regulation. EU-SILC in 2005 was implemented without drawing on EU resources. The work on the design of a statistical survey on handicapped persons was completed. The resulting information was on the agenda of a Cabinet Meeting. In compliance with the relevant national programmes, the CZSO again prepared - in cooperation with government departments - and produced (40 000 copies) a yearly publication on the position of men and women in society and a yearly publication on the integration of foreigners in the Czech Republic. A noticeable activity was the publication of the Statistical Lexicon of CR Municipalities 2005 - for the first time after 13 years. The data from the Population and Housing Census 2001 were updated and arranged according to the division of towns and municipalities effective on 1 January 2005. This publication was prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and published by a commercial publisher without any need of drawing on the state budget. In 2005 the CZSO also started internal preparation for the design of the Population and Housing Census 2011.

Providing of statistical information and services was characterized by the continuing trend towards increasing volumes of information available in electronic form - either over the Internet or on electronic carriers. All information presented on the CZSO web pages is free, which resulted in lower sales and necessitated changes in the structure of provided information. The statistical web pages attract increasing numbers of users (1.1 million saw the CZSO main page in 2005). A new version of CZSO web pages was put into operation at the end of 2005.

The area of innovating the forms of presentation saw a significant shift in the implementation of the **public database**. New applications were prepared during the year making possible the



completion of data files with important metainformation. Work commenced on alternative possibilities of data inputs direct from processing. An application, which allows the presentation of pre-defined tables, was being improved, and the Internet access to the public database was prepared on 31 December 2005. Significant steps were taken towards interlinking the newly drawn up metainformation system, in particular the blocks of indicators and classifications, and the public database.


There was a further enlargement of available **regional information**. An inventory was made of internal and external data sources for regional statistics and CZSO general policy was approved in the area of regional statistics. Work started on publishing the first list of key regional indicators. In progress was very close cooperation with the Ministry for Regional Development embracing preparation of strategic documents on regional development and operation plans, and in particular preparation of data support projects. Together with our foreign partners we continued developing the regional Cross-border Friendship Database. An abundant set of data was produced in the framework of the Urban Audit project to be used for international databases containing basic information on large European cities and preparations commenced for an enlargement of Czech towns and cities for this project. Cross-border cooperation of CZSO regional workplaces was further developed.

In the area of **processing election results**, the relevant CZSO department was in 2005 responsible for processing the results of by-elections in those municipalities where by-elections to municipal councils were called in accordance with the Election Act. Besides, work was underway on several publications and on completing web pages with election results (www.volby.cz). At the close of the year the preparation peaked of the factual publication "Before Elections 2006", which should be published at the turn of March 2006. It compares key statistical data on the CR and the EU and presents the main characteristics of all 14 regions of the Czech Republic since 2000. The aim of the publication is to provide statistical information to political parties, candidates, the media and general public before the three main types of elections planned for 2006 are held.

In the **ICT area**, work continued on boosting the quality of technological tools for data collection and processing. Attention was still oriented on improving conditions for and promoting of electronic data collection from respondents in business statistics. Conceptual work was focused on standardization and effectiveness both in the area of software used and in the development of equipment for printing, copying, scanning and faxing. This work will go on in 2006. The Phare project of technology preparation for the Document Management System (DMS) continued.

In the area of implementing the principles of **Total Quality Management (TQM)**, continually underway were methodological audits in the planned areas of statistics (five methodological audits were started in consumer price statistics, price statistics of agriculture, construction and services, labour and wages statistics, household budget statistics, and environmental statistics - in total six methodological audits have been completed) and other activities such as the preparing of dissemination policy, user satisfaction survey and staff perception survey, the starting of descriptions of important processes, annual staff performance reviews, etc. The project "Self-assessment using the EFQM model" was started in 2005. Its output was a self-assessment report and a review of areas and subjects to be improved. Six "pilot" statistical surveys from various areas of statistics took part in the international project "Quality in Statistics". Basic outputs of this project were quality reports including the calculation of obligatory indicators on relevance, accuracy and comparability, a list of quality indicators in use or being developed, both for individual surveys and in total, and detailed self-assessments according to the DESAP questionnaire.

The participation in the 36th session of the UN Statistical Commission and activities in its expert groups, just like involvement in the Conference of European Statisticians and active part in the activities of the OECD Statistical Committee, its Bureau and specialized working groups, was completed by cooperation with the WTO, FAO, ISI, IMF and WB. The involvement



in statistical activities of international organizations made possible to apply experience and intentions of the CZSO in further development of statistical standards worldwide and to strengthen the position of the CZSO in the international context.

In 2005 the CZSO prepared and submitted to the Government and then to the Parliament of the Czech Republic a draft amendment to Act No. 89/1995 Sb., on the State Statistical Service, as amended, and other related laws.



5. Legislative activity

In 2005 the legislative activity of the CZSO was mainly focused on own legislation, because another amendment to Act No. 89/1995 Sb., on the State Statistical Service, as amended, and other related laws were under legislative procedure. The Government submitted the draft amendment to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 1 September 2005. The main aim of this amendment are especially changes in statistical registers maintained by the Czech Statistical Office, whereby some statistical surveys will be substituted by statistical information from administrative data sources of other central authorities. Hence, the state statistical service will be more efficient, statistical information more accurate and usable, and burden on respondents lower. Another reason for the amendment is the need to respond to legislative development in the European Communities and the European Statistical System. This amendment is supposed to come into effect on 1 April 2006.

Three decrees were prepared and discussed in 2005; great attention was given to the decree, which lays down the Programme of Statistical Surveys for respective year. Decree No. 421/2005 Sb., defining the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2006, contains statistical surveys intended to collect statistical data with the aim to produce overall statistical information based on the needs of government departments, local government and self-government, requirements of the European Union and other international organizations, and last but not least based on a resolution of the Czech Republic Government.

At the same time the decree serves as an implementing regulation for legal acts of the European Communities.


Another decree, Decree No. 201/2005 Sb., concerning statistics on exported and imported goods and ways of communicating data on trade between the Czech Republic and other Member States of the European Communities, is an implementing regulation to the Customs Act and defines the form, content and essentials of a document for statistical purposes as well as the scope of data for running statistics. It simultaneously implements relevant laws and regulations of European legislation.

Decree No. 271/2005 Sb., amending Decree No. 576/2004 Sb., which lays down the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2005, contains an addition to the statistical survey on conditions of founding enterprises (companies).

On top of the above-mentioned draft legislation, the Government of the Czech Republic received for discussion two documents dealing with important issues of "Conception of Statistics on Handicapped Citizens" (Government Resolution No. 1575 of 7 December 2005) and "Determination of Units NUTS 1 in the Czech Republic" (Government Resolution No. 9 of 4 January 2006).

The need to pursue equal opportunities, which also concerns handicapped persons, is increasingly urgent around the world. Detailed data on the issues of the handicapped are necessary in particular for analytical, norm-setting and conceptual activities in social, health, educational and financial areas as well as for influencing development of the labour market and integrating handicapped persons in social life.

The proposition for new determination of units NUTS 1 in the Czech Republic was debated by the Government in view of the fact that following the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union on 1 May 2004 the CR faces with the duty to bring the territorial division of the country for statistical purposes in line with binding and directly applicable Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS). On a legal basis the national statistical institutions are expected to verify and harmonize their national classifications NUTS with the principles of this Regulation. The Regulation distinguishes



between two basic types of territorial units - administrative units and non-administrative units. The adjusted classification with the new determination of NUTS 1 units is supposed to come into effect on 1 January 2008.

Further, seven communications of the CZSO concerning statistical nomenclatures and classifications were published in the Collection of Laws of the CR in 2005.

Work started on the preparation of an important and exacting law concerning the Population and Housing Census in the Czech Republic in 2011. This is a part of the global programme of population and housing censuses coordinated by the UN.

In the area of external legislation, i.e. consideration and submitting of comments on draft laws and regulations prepared by ministries and other institutions of central government, the CZSO submitted in total 384 opinions.



6. Quality management

Activities related to Total Quality Management have become an integral part of the work of the Office since 2003. These activities are coordinated by the TQM Committee and include in particular:

➤ **User satisfaction survey**

Like in the preceding years, a user satisfaction survey was taken at the beginning of 2005 (between 1 January and 15 February). In total 302 respondents (by 51 fewer than a year earlier) filled in the questionnaire - nearly 60% of them responded electronically.

Compared with the preceding year the questionnaire was rather different (considerably reduced). Hence, only a small part of the questions was comparable with 2004. Among the main results were:

- Over 80% of respondents regarded themselves as regular users of statistical outputs - i.e. by 10 percentage points more than in 2004.
- The most usual way of getting information is e-mail - it is used more frequently than the phone.
- Probably the most comprehensive assessment was given by the question where respondents used the 1-5 rating for provided statistical information and statistical services. The overall rating 2.29 was by 0.05 worse than a year earlier. This corroborates the fact found in 2004: when the customer gets in contact with a CZSO employee, they are satisfied.
- No less important area are blank spots in providing information - it should be found out what users are missing most. In the preceding year it was comprehensive information on certain statistical areas, time series, and data broken down by region. Unfortunately, users missed these kinds of outputs in 2005 as well.
- A new question was included with the aim to determine information that could be reduced in need. Some areas were identified where, according to the respondents, data could be "left out". These are especially forestry, non-market services, elections, national accounts, science and research, the environment, and agriculture. However, an in-depth analysis should be made to generalize this information.
- Comparing the numbers of questionnaires arrived, the user satisfaction survey 2005 was slightly behind that in 2004. Still, 302 respondents were a satisfactory result, taking account of a number of other surveys that emerged at that time.

➤ **Regular meetings of the management of the CZSO with representatives of the main groups of users**

The organization of informal meetings with users from among analysts and economic journalists proved successful as one of the forms of pursuing open communication policy of the Czech Statistical Office. In 2005 such a meeting took place on 6 June. It was provoked by the need to inform the expert and general public sufficiently ahead, inter alia, about the main titles of national accounts revision. Mr Jiří Křivák, First Vice-President of the CZSO, opened another important topic - coherence, consistency and comparability of statistical indicators. He informed that a Committee and Working Groups had been established to increase the coherence and comparability of statistical indicators. He described the activity of Working Groups, which is focused mainly on the identification and elimination of some discrepancies between data of branch statistics - e.g. industry (CZ-NACE 10-41) or construction - and data from national accounting. These discrepancies came under criticism. Discussion also included the hot topic of that time, i.e. the way of statistical coverage of imported fighters Jas-Gripen by the Czech Statistical Office and by the Czech National Bank whose analysts participated in the meeting.

➤ **Staff perception survey**

All key aggregate results of the second staff perception survey taken in 2004 were published on the CZSO Intranet in January 2005. Some of the results were also presented to the 2nd conference devoted to quality in the areas of central government and self-government held in Plzeň in December 2005. As the response rate decreased to 47.8% in 2004 (from 60.4% in 2003), the causes of this decrease were looked for. All findings were used for the preparation of the third staff perception survey conducted in 2005. This survey again guaranteed strict anonymity of respondents; the probability of identifying employees through answers was reduced to a minimum. To achieve a good comparability of results, only as few questions as possible were changed. The survey took place on 28 November - 14 December 2005. Taken measures raised the response rate to over 53%. The results of the staff perception survey 2005 are overall the same as the results of the survey 2004 (35 questions received better assessment, 7 questions the same, and 37 questions were assessed worse). An increasing share of employees have a feeling that their performance appraisal by the superior is correct, employees' assessment of their immediate superior remains at the same good level.

➤ **Respondent opinion survey**

For the first time the CZSO in 2005 used comments and findings of respondents gained through a survey for the purpose of developing electronic report capture. The respondents could fill in the questionnaire straight on the web pages of the CZSO or send it in electronic form or in hard copy together with a completed report - 483 questionnaires arrived in total.

The highest number of respondents answered the basic question of the survey, namely if it is simpler to fill in the statistical report in hard copy (29 respondents) or to use the system of electronic report capture (419 respondents). Within another question "Which features of electronic report capture do you appreciate?" - the possibility to carry out plausibility checks in the report received the best average rating 1.52, the quality of methodological explanatory notes received 2.36 on average, and the comprehensibility of data description 2.41. Another question examined the way of getting programs for electronic report capture preferred by the respondents: 54% of respondents prefer downloading from the web pages.


As to the technical possibilities of respondents' access to the Internet, more than 90% of the respondents answered that they had a computer with access to the Internet just at the workplace filling in reports. Nearly third of the respondents have available computers with CD drives without access to the Internet. We were also interested in the assessment of our information and instructions. Information is clear and comprehensible for 64% of respondents and rather complicated for 22% of respondents.

The CZSO gives special attention to the preparation of web pages for electronic report collection. The conclusions drawn from the evaluation of the respondent opinion survey show the necessity for development and strong support of electronic forms of report collection and communication with respondents over the Internet.

➤ **Methodological audits**

The purpose of methodological audits in individual statistical segments is to verify whether and to what extent international methodological standards and best practice are observed. According to the CZSO schedule of methodological audits endorsed by the Czech Statistical Council in July 2003, groups of auditors where external experts on relevant statistical segments prevail examined eight segments of the Czech statistical service in 2005.

The methodological audit of annual national accounts - final report was discussed at the CZSO Top Management Meeting in January 2005. The group of auditors was led by Ms Stanislava Hronová, Sub-dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Statistics of the University of Economics. Tasks assigned after final report was discussed: to update the system of presenting national accounts data on the Internet. A schedule was approved of creating corresponding time and manpower capacity for non-routine work such as detailed preparation of methodology in writing and development of methodology including experiments.



Ms Stanislava Hronová led other two methodological audits dealing with quarterly surveys as a frame for quarterly estimates of GDP (P3-04) and with annual structural surveys (P5-01). Tasks assigned after final report on P3-04 was discussed: the report was not in favour of discontinuing quarterly surveys in businesses of selected production branches but recommended substantial innovations. Tasks assigned after final report on P5-01 was discussed were measures of both operational and strategic nature. They should improve the existing system of annual surveys, eliminate increases of burden on reporting units, and essentially influence the character of structural surveys in the long run.

The groups of auditors for the consumer price index (CPI) and for the statistics of prices in agriculture, construction and services were led by Mr Jaroslav Jílek, University of Economics, the group of auditors for labour and wages statistics was led by Ms Stanislava Hronová.

Tasks assigned after final report on CPI was discussed: to link the re-basing with the determination of methodological conceptual difference between the national CPI and the HICP, to clarify the roles of the HICP CR and of the (national) consumer price index in the system of Czech statistical information, and to present a CZSO conception satisfying the needs of regional differentiation of consumer prices development.

The methodological audit of statistics of prices in agriculture, construction and services was again focused on judging the integrity of statistical surveying, processing and dissemination and on considering the methodological level of work. Among the tasks assigned after discussion about final report was for example a recommendation that handbooks on individual statistics should contain explanations of procedures used in the substitutions of representatives.

The methodological audit of labour and wages statistics was aimed at considering the current system of surveying and processing of data on employment and wages, coherence of basic indicators from the point of view of periodicity, basic data sources including administrative and registration ones, in a link to the demands of basic users. Tasks assigned after final report was discussed: to give more attention to regional differences and, at least in the area of unemployment, to publish in the future e.g. the variation coefficient.


For discussion by the Top Management Meeting are prepared conclusions from the audit of household budget statistics led by Ms Jiřina Moravová, University of Economics, and from the audit of environmental statistics led by Ms Iva Ritschelová, Vice-Rector for Research and External Relations of the Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem.

At the same time and in compliance with the above-mentioned schedule of methodological audits, the audit of statistics of prices in industry (CZ-NACE 10-41) and audit of external trade statistics were prepared in December 2005; the group of auditors will be led by Mr Jaroslav Jílek.

➤ **System of analytical activities in the CZSO**

A draft conception for the area of analyses for the near future was submitted to the CZSO President's Board in 2005. The draft described the basis of the current system, proposed development trends of analytical activities and ways of ensuring them in 2006, and outlined the development of analytical activity after 2006.

The fundamental mission of the CZSO, which is the production of quality statistical information, determines one of the development trends of analytical activity in 2006 - to make internal analyses focused on the evaluation of coherence and comparability of statistical data and indicators (from the factual, time and spatial point of view) more in-depth. The second development trend of analyses is to improve the comprehensibility of analytical comments and thus to enlarge the circle of regular users previously not attracted by statistics. The third development trend relies on strengthening the relation between quarterly crosscutting and branch analyses and the respective part of macroanalysis.



To create conditions for the development of the system of analyses after 2006, a discussion should be held in next year based on a conceptual study (containing possible alternatives) prepared by the Macroeconomic Analyses and Analytical Methods Department.

The second internal survey picking the best regular (quarterly) analysis of the year (under consideration was the use of context information in dependence on time and space, explanation of development trends, etc.) was a recurrent motivating activity in the analytical area. The assessment is performed by 12 experts regularly participating in final discussions on quarterly analyses. As the best was chosen the quarterly analysis "External trade", the second best the analysis "External trade price indices" and the third place was taken by the analysis "Employment and unemployment LFSS".

➤ **Annual staff performance reviews**

Regular performance appraisals, which took place in the CZSO for the second time, constitute significant powers for managers and one of their tools of personnel management.

Some new principle measures resulting from the staff perception survey 2004 were taken for annual performance reviews in 2005. One of them was the organization of seminars with the aim to explain to employees the purpose and importance of annual performance appraisals and to prepare assessors and staff assessed for a constructive dialogue. The contents of the seminars were prepared in cooperation with external lecturers and seminars were organized in headquarters and in the regions. Each employee had available the Handbook on Conducting Performance Appraisals, which was extended with approaches and views by staff assessed and made available on the Intranet before performance appraisals started.

Performance appraisals consisted of three basic areas:

1. assessment of the past period
2. setting goals for the future
3. programme development of training needs

The conclusions of performance appraisals are becoming an important source of information for evaluating the work of employees throughout the year. They also provide a basis for defining training needs of employees and at the same time training priorities of the CZSO as a whole. Performance appraisals also serve as a starting point for making changes in staff remuneration and for their career planning.

➤ **Training and seminars for (managerial) staff**

Below are given training and courses organized in 2005 partly within and partly outside the CZSO; the latter were attended by employees either abroad or in the State Administration Institute or in other external educational organizations.

Training organized in the CZSO

1. Self-assessment using the EFQM method, a seminar led by a lecturer from TrimCon company, 34 employees predominantly in leading positions took part in two terms.
2. Leading of teams for middle management, a course led by company Psycho&Educo, 12 employees took part.
3. Basic managerial skills, a course provided by Business Training Centre company, 11 employees in leading positions took part.
4. Time management, a course provided by company Pragoeduca, 27 employees took part in two terms.
5. Risk analysis and management in public administration, a course provided by ČMUD company, 11 employees took part.
6. Quality management in statistics, a course lectured by Mr Vladimír Mašát, Director of Macroeconomic Analysis and Analytical Methods Department, 36 employees took part.

7. Conducting staff performance reviews for management, courses in seven terms were led by lecturer Ms Irena Pilařová from TrimCon company, 93 employees in leading positions took part.
8. Seminar on staff performance reviews for employees was in 17 terms, lecturers were Ms Irena Pilařová and Mr Jaromír Floryk (Dr. Orlita's Academy). In total 418 employees took part.
9. The art of communication with the media and crisis communication, a course led by lecturers from Free-Com Group company ran in two terms, 23 employees in leading positions took part.
10. Communication skills, lectured by company Psycho&Educo, 126 employees took part in nine terms.
11. Selected aspects of social communication, a course for IT Branch employees, lectured by Ms Libuše Hájková, 20 employees took part.
12. Stress control, provided by Complex Health company and Ms Lenka Čadová, 55 employees took part in four terms.
13. Legislative procedures in the EU, a course lectured by employees from the International Cooperation Department and the Legislative Section of the CZSO, 83 employees took part in four terms.
14. Working hours, a course lectured by a worker of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR, 45 employees took part in two terms.
15. Conception of the statistical metainformation system, a course lectured by Ms Jana Melíšková, CZSO external co-worker. Due to the importance of the subject, predominantly employees in leading positions took part, in total 35 employees.

External courses

In 2005 employees of the CZSO also attended courses abroad, listed below are courses related to quality management or management and decision-making procedures and legislation in the EU.

1. Quality Management in Statistical Agencies, given in Sweden, 2 employees took part.
2. Committees and Commitology in the Policy Process of the EU, given in the Netherlands, 1 employee took part.
3. How can Member States effectively influence the European Decision-making Process, given in Belgium, 1 employee took part.
4. EU Negotiations in Practice, given in Belgium, 1 employee took part.


The CZSO often took courses offered by the State Administration Institute, for example:

Management by goals (2 employees), Process management as a tool (1), Leading of teams for middle management (1), Basics of the EU law (3), Transposition and implementation of EC directives in the EU member states and in the CR (2), Extending course on decision-making processes in the EU (2), Ethics as essential part of professionalism in public administration (1), Problematic negotiations (1).

From among the short-term courses offered by other external educational companies were attended: The new Code of Administrative Procedure (2 employees), Current issues of the labour law (3), Project management (2), Optimisation of manager's activities (2), The Model of the National Quality Award of the Czech Republic (1).

➤ Self-assessment by the EFQM model

The aim of this project was to find in the CZSO spots for improvement and then to project the findings obtained into the strategic and operational goals and sub-goals of the Office and its priorities. Firstly, future assessors were trained and a project team for compiling the self-assessment report was appointed. In accordance with the structure of the model which contains 9 criteria - five criteria cover prerequisites (Management, Leadership, Policy and strategy, Human resources, Partnership and resources, Processes), four criteria cover results (Results in relation to users, Results in relation to employees, Results in relation to society,



Main results of activity) - nine four-member teams of trained employees were set up to assess these criteria. In total 36 employees of the CZSO took an active part in self-assessment by the EFQM model.

The self-assessment report was prepared in two rounds, the first version (prepared till the end of June) was adjusted in accordance with the comments of an external consultant; the second version (September) was reviewed by the external consultant and then by the top management of the CZSO. The self-assessment report was finished in November - all managerial staff of the Office obtained the report in a written version. Apart from that, the report was published on the Intranet for all CZSO employees. Based on this report, spots for improvement were identified till the end of the year.

Self-assessment questionnaire to the Code of Practice

In May 2005 there was a "Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical authorities". Its part is also the recently adopted Code of Practice (CoP). This code is a common summary of European standards for statistical authorities and the entire ESS (European Statistical System) and consists of 15 rules (professional independence, mandate for collecting data, adequacy of sources, quality obligation, statistical confidence, impartiality and objectivity, correct statistical methodology, corresponding statistical procedures, adequate demands on respondents, cost effectiveness, relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability, availability and comprehensibility). A system of indicators was developed for each rule.

To achieve the equilibrium between this support and the requirement of accountability, the Commission made a decision to monitor the observation of the Code of Practice within the European Statistical System.


The monitoring of CoP observation will follow a three-year period of phasing in. In the first stage the member states and Eurostat prepared introductory self-assessment reports based on an extensive questionnaire designed by the CoP Task Force (a group of experts from 11 member states and Eurostat) according to individual indicators. The questionnaire was filled in by the national statistical authorities till the end of 2005. Next stages will follow.

Description of processes in the CZSO

The purpose of this action was to find out what processes in the CZSO are in progress and to divide them into those which according to the Mission, Vision and Strategic Goals of the CZSO should be viewed as the key ones and those which can be regarded as supporting. Their description started in 2005, instructions and examples how to describe processes were prepared as early as the end of January (to make the matter clear, descriptions of three processes were made: data dissemination, creation of the system of analytical activities, and use of administrative data sources of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs).

The comprehensive key process of the Office, "The Process of Production and Providing of Statistical Information" was selected for description as the first. The formed working group prepared a block diagram for the description of this key process and its phases (component processes), also examples of inputs, activities and outputs of a component process and examples of applying block diagram to a specific survey (e.g. tourism survey). It turned out, however, that the first need is to uniform the terminology and conception of description of processes with other projects that will use it (e.g. SMS). That is why at the end of 2005 the above working group joined forces with the SMS project team and with the team preparing the reform of the statistical surveys system in order to jointly prepare uniform methodology. The outcome of the hitherto cooperation is a seminar on description of processes for managerial staff of the CZSO planned for January 2006.

The work on the descriptions of processes in the CZSO was in progress simultaneously with (i) the process audit of Nationwide Data Processing Departments (responsible in the CZSO for



statistical data processing) led by Deloitte&Touche analysing the existing processes of business statistics processing, (ii) the Phare project "Strengthening the Capacity of the CZSO", and (iii) the preparation of process audits according to project A.2 as part of the central government reform.

The finished analysis of the processes of business statistics processing contains process maps and process diagrams which document the progress of these processes and their interrelations. The process of data processing in business statistics is one of the key processes in the work of the CZSO. Its revision proved to be very contributive because in a process like that:

- primary data changes occur,
- the process binds a significant amount of financial resources,
- it concerns one of the pillar problems in the revision of surveys.

The analysis brought a significant finding: no fatal mistakes were found. However, problem areas were identified and measures recommended for improvement of the problem areas. The conclusions of the analysis mention:

1. Strategic problem areas (cost controlling, ICT)
2. Operational problem areas (e.g. extent and comprehensibility of questionnaires, monitoring of quality of statistical surveys)
3. Recommendations exceeding the original assignment (to support ICT improvements, to finish the mapping of processes and their optimisation, hence inter alia to identify secondary functions, to eliminate duplicate and ineffective activities, to optimise the staff load in individual processes and to continue the analysis of processes also in other CZSO branches). This experience proved the advantage of using services of an external consultant because an outside view may bring other methods than the usual ones used on a customary basis.

Project "Quality in Statistics"

The pilot project "Quality in Statistics" was a part of the "Phare Multi-Beneficiary Statistics" programme. The main activities took place from December 2004 to April 2005.


Six statistical surveys took part in the project: labour force sample survey, labour costs survey, structural business statistics were represented by the manufacture survey, short-term statistics by the retail trade survey, science and research statistics by the innovations survey, and environmental statistics by the waste survey.

The aim of this project was to describe the existing situation, extend and improve activities in the area of quality assessment. The project was focused on quality reports, quality indicators providing the basis for these reports, and self-assessment using the DESAP (Development of a Self Assessment Programme) questionnaire.

Self-assessment is structured according to individual phases of the process of a specific survey, from initial draft to survey management. The main output is strengths and weaknesses, suggestions for improvement and well-arranged diagrams assessing individual quality aspects. Results for individual surveys of the project were summarized and listed according to the importance in the DESAP Synthesis Report. The report also summarizes themes common to more surveys or specific for selected surveys. It serves as a basis for the decision-making of survey guarantors or methodologists.

With the support of the project, a compact set of quality indicators¹⁾ was developed. It is based on the Eurostat document "Standard Quality Indicators", it contains methodological information and also indicates the level of implementation of individual indicators (in general and for individual surveys). In some of the (European) indicators, further development is

¹⁾ CZSO Quality Indicators



assumed. The Director of the Mathematical and Statistical Methods Department of the CZSO then defined which indicators are the key ones and which should be, if relevant, used compulsorily.

Quality reports are mentioned in more and more European regulations. They are usually quite large documents. Within the project, three quality reports were updated and three were prepared for given surveys for the first time. A discussion with the expert on his mission helped to improve reports in the future.

In conclusion of the project a mission of Mr Jorgen Dalén (previously Statistics Sweden) from consortium Artemis took place on 4-6 April 2005. The subject of the mission was the content of quality reports and also results and experiences of the DESAP questionnaire. In the end the expert prepared ten recommendations which are included in the final report to the project. One of the ten recommendations involves significant capacity demands. It concerns system monitoring and editing assessment. This recommendation will be applied in the creation and implementation of a new data processing system. Other recommendations are applied directly by guarantors.

An explanatory English-Czech glossary of methodological quality concepts was compiled in the framework of the project. It is predominantly based on the glossary of the DESAP questionnaire.

The results of the project were presented to the CZSO seminar on 29 September 2005 and to the meeting of project national coordinators on 20-21 June 2005 in Tallinn.

Experience of the project will inter alia help in the preparation and improvement of quality reports and already facilitated the building of a basis for the set of quality indicators which will be part of the upcoming metadata system.



7. International cooperation

The European Union

In 2005 the Czech statistical service was fully involved in the European Statistical System (ESS), performed tasks in accordance with European statistical legislation, took an active part in the development of the ESS including preparation of new EU legal standards in the area of statistics, and became involved in the activities of the ESS bodies. The President of the CZSO is a regular member of the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC), which is in charge of debating draft legislation in the area of EU statistics and most important common activities including annual and five-year programmes of statistical cooperation. Three sessions of the SPC took place in 2005. Besides the above issues, they dealt with the preparation of the Code of Practice whose objective is to increase the independence, accountability and quality of work of the national and Community statistical authorities. In 2005 the President of the CZSO was also a member of the Partnership Group, which prepares SPC sessions and is an important link for cooperation with the EU Council. Besides the SPC membership, representatives of the CZSO took part in sessions of other eight statistical committees within the European Commission (in the areas of statistics on agriculture, national accounts, balance of payments, external trade, data confidentiality) and in other actions organized by Eurostat, especially working sessions of directors and working groups. There is a high demand for the engagement of CZSO experts in Task Forces dealing with demanding issues of statistical development in selected areas.

During 2005 the CZSO started preparations for the Czech Republic Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2009. As representatives of a member state, CZSO experts took part in meetings of the EU Council working group for statistics in Brussels.


An important part of the involvement of the Czech statistical service in European structures is the participation in the Phare programme aiming at assistance to countries before accession to the EU and in the Transition Facility programme allowing the continuation of assistance to countries that have already joined the EU, in the first years of their membership. The CZSO participated in the national part and in multi-beneficiary activities of both programmes.

Projects focused on strengthening the institutional capacity of the CZSO were underway in 2005 within the National Phare Programme (NPP). Within the NPP 2003 project "Strengthening the Capacity of the CZSO", the technical assistance project "Document Management System for the CZSO" was underway focused on computer-aided running of selected processes in the CZSO. A subject of the projects was also equipment supply. The work on the projects commenced in 2005, conclusion is planned for 2006.

Also the Transition Facility (TF) national programme was started in 2005. The project "Improving the Processing of Results of Surveys in Households" is implemented within TF 2004 in the CZSO and consists of two sub-projects: "Pilot Project of Surveys in Households" and "Supply of Programming Tool Blaise"; the latter will follow the completed pilot project in 2006. A new project "Statistical Metainformation System of the CZSO" was suggested in 2005 for the TF 2006 programme.

A regular audit by the Ministry of Finance took place in the CZSO in spring 2005. Examined were selected projects of Phare and TF national programmes. The audit found no serious deficiencies in the implementation of Phare/TF projects, the final report mentioned only minor drawbacks concerning accounts on co-financing by the beneficiary.

The year 2005 was the last one when the CZSO was involved in the Multi-Beneficiary (MB) Phare programmes "Technical Assistance within the Multi-Beneficiary Programme for Statistics", which - in contrast to the National Programme - makes use of so-called synergetic effect arising from the cooperation of all participants in this programme from the new member



states and is implemented through grants awarded to national statistical institutions. The grant MB Phare 2002 was completed in April, its audit was performed and final report sent to Eurostat. From May was implemented the grant MB Phare 2003, which covered, like the previous grants, three basic areas:

- Technical support - participation in meetings of Eurostat working groups, sessions concerning data collection projects, training and secondment abroad (1 employee of the CZSO on secondment in Eurostat and 2 employees in the national statistical institutions of Portugal and Germany);
- Data collection projects - CZSO took part in 17 projects out of 20 common ones;
- Providing expertise for specific statistical areas in the form of study visits to EU member states, EFTA countries and international organizations, or consultations of experts from these countries in the Czech Republic.

The implementation of MB Phare 2003 was concluded on 31 December 2005.

Based on the application for "Transition Facility Multi-beneficiary Programme for Statistical Integration 2004", a contract for the implementation of this programme in 2006-2007 was signed in December 2005. The projects are mainly focused on quality improvements of statistics on national accounts, foreign affiliates, health, demography, etc. In 2005 continued also the implementation of projects supported by grants from institutions of the European Commission, particularly Eurostat, awarded in 2004. Besides, the CZSO gained other grants on the basis of applications submitted in 2005. These grants, intended for statistical institutions within the European Statistical System, support especially the implementation of new statistical surveys (e.g. in the areas of ICT use, agricultural statistics, price statistics, statistics on income and living conditions EU-SILC, business statistics) and also the introduction of new activities such as free providing of statistical data from Eurostat sources.


International organizations

The involvement of the CZSO in the activities of the UN Statistical Commission and expert groups continued in 2005. At the regional level, the CZSO is a member of the Conference of European Statisticians within the EEC; besides involvement in the preparations and running of the Conference, the CZSO takes part in expert group meetings and common actions of the EEC and other international institutions (e.g. Eurostat, OECD, FAO) in various areas of statistics such as migration statistics, statistical dissemination, data confidentiality, agricultural statistics, national accounts statistics, business registers, etc. For the year 2006 the CZSO was entrusted with organising the international seminar "Human Resources and Training in Statistics" to be held in Paris in June 2006 within the Conference, therefore its preparation was underway already in 2005.

In June 2005 representatives of the CZSO took part in the second session of the OECD Statistical Committee. The President of the CZSO was involved in the work of the Bureau, to which he was elected in 2004 for a tenure of two years. More than 20 representatives of the CZSO took part in other activities organized or co-organized by the OECD, such as seminars, working groups and committees devoted to various statistical subjects (e.g. dissemination, financial statistics, external trade statistics, tourism statistics, short-term statistics).

Bilateral cooperation

The cooperation with statistical institutions of other countries continued also in 2005. Meetings with foreign experts were purely working and took place mainly within the Phare programme or other EU projects. Seminars organized by some EU member states were aimed at enriching existing knowledge, exchange of experience, and problem identification and solution.



The cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic traditionally embraces many areas of statistics. In 2005 it was focused on EU-SILC and other areas of social statistics, for example lifelong learning, demography (migration, the next population and housing census), on external trade statistics and Intrastat, tourism statistics, structural and short-term statistics, compilation of quarterly accounts for institutional sectors, satellite account for non-profit institutions. Stimulating was a meeting where the CZSO presented its current practice of collection, processing and presentation of election statistics. An important consultation on common claims was held before the mission of representatives of Eurostat, DG ECFIN and ECB on the Excession Deficit Procedure in Prague. Another very beneficial event was a meeting of representatives of relevant departments of the CZSO and the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic on the issues of grants and technical assistance. Meetings of the Presidents of both Statistical Offices take place regularly. They are focused on solutions to system approaches and on selected areas of statistics. The main subjects in 2005 were: the role of central methodology, grants, TQM and preparations for the population and housing censuses around 2010.

The cooperation with the Federal Statistical Office of Germany was underway within the programmes of MB Phare 2002 and 2003. Talks were held on the projects of Cross-Border Friendship Database and retail trade statistics, on external trade statistics (mirror comparison and Intrastat), tourism statistics and illegal activity statistics. There was also a meeting concerning the common project of migration statistics agreed during the visit of Mr Johann Hahlen, President of the FSO of Germany, to the CZSO towards the end of 2004.

The cooperation with France also continued in the framework of MB Phare programmes, but was less intensive than in the preceding years. In 2005 talks took place on tourism statistics, external trade statistics and Intrastat. Employees of the CZSO took part in various courses organized by INSEE, for example on national accounts or on aspects of and approaches to quality in statistics.


Mr Len Cook, Head of the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, visited the CZSO on 10-11 February 2005. During the visit was agreed bilateral cooperation in selected areas (e.g. coherence of data of branch and macroeconomic statistics).

Another visit to the CZSO, important for bilateral cooperation, was that by Mr Donal Garvey, Director General of the Central Statistics Office Ireland, between 30 June and 1 July 2005. In conclusion of the visit the focus of cooperation was agreed: issues of further development of the ESS and exchange of findings and experiences in selected areas of the state statistical service. The following areas were selected for the next period of time: management and human resources, social statistics - quarterly surveys in households and ICT statistics. On top of these activities, agreed was the providing to CZSO experts of documents concerning the issues of grant policy, Presidency of the EU, progress indicators, measurement of illegal activities.

Multilateral cooperation initiated by the Central Statistical Office of Austria was started: representatives of the national statistical institutions of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia (Presidents, Vice-presidents and Directors of international cooperation departments) met in Vienna in September 2005. Among the subjects presented, four priority ones were selected: use of administration data, "new" migration statistics, use of administration data for population and housing censuses, and external trade statistics. The CZSO is responsible for the migration statistics project.

Technical assistance

In 2005 the CZSO was a sought-after partner for providing technical assistance in statistics to other countries. Within the EU project for the State Institute of Statistics of Turkey, five consultations took place in Prague for Turkish experts. They were devoted to business statistics, PRODCOM, regional databases, farm register, administrative data sources and



registers. Under the mediation of a short-term expert, the CZSO became involved in the twinning project for Bulgaria where three business trips to Bulgaria were taken to consult data quality improvement in the system of national accounts - shuttle trade. Under the mediation of short-term experts, the CZSO took part in the preparation of a twinning project for Macedonia in the areas of building the capacity of a statistical office, national accounts with a focus on grey economy and illegal activities, registers. These two twinning projects are led by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. During the year the CZSO got involved in several other consortia and cooperated in the preparation of other draft projects for public tenders (such as TACIS/STATS 8 for the countries of central Asia, Caucasus countries and the Ukraine, MEDSTAT). However, the consortia gained no projects through public tenders.



8. Providing of statistical information and services

Total sales of services including sale of publications, classifications, nomenclatures, electronic outputs from databases, and services reached in CZSO headquarters CZK 5.7 million, which was by 17.4% less than in 2004. Sale of librarian services reached CZK 35 thousand. Information services of CZSO regional offices recorded sales amounting to CZK 730 552.

Sales of Business Register information made up 57.7%, non-standard outputs made up 23.3% of total sales. Staff in charge of the cash desk and invoicing made out 3 191 payment documents, of which 2 028 were invoices, 96 postal money orders and 1 210 bills of cash payment.

In the area of providing information services, a total of 13 840 orders and inquiries were registered, of which approximately a half were over the phone. From the total number of inquiries, 98% were non-recurrent. Almost 80% of inquiries were answered immediately or till the next day. The biggest share in inquiries had companies (35.9%), students made up 9% of the clients, 7.5% of inquiries were from abroad.

Other approximately 4 600 orders concerned electronic outputs, most clients were interested in the Business Register including the verification of company registration numbers. The majority comprised of permanent orders (700 subscribers to publications, 42 customers using SCP boxes, 170 subscribers to the Business Register). In 2005, 6 204 printed publications and 1 133 electronic publications were dispatched, 2 000 through SCP boxes.

An important area of providing information services is cooperation with international organizations and other entities. During the year, 246 questionnaires were completed and transmitted. Of these most were for the European Commission (49), Eurostat (48) and the International Monetary Fund (43), which together represented 56.9% of the total.

Within the service of European Statistical Data Support (run within a grant from the European Commission) started in Q4 2004, 620 inquiries were answered during the year. Most of them concerned labour and social statistics (95), prices (66) and national accounts (53). There were 101 combined inquiries comprising various statistics. The Czech version of the ESDS web pages was daily seen by 74 unique visitors on average under a constantly increasing trend in access numbers during the year.


The Central Statistical Library became officially a part of the national network of libraries with specialized library stock. During 2005 there were 427 newly registered readers, 2 436 visitors, and 62 605 searches recorded in the online catalogue.

In total 5 772 photocopies from publications were made and 12 displays of new books were organized for users. Registered and catalogued were 5 147 books and registered were 457 journal titles. Using analytical description, 189 article titles were processed. The library stock reached 21 010 volumes on 31 December 2005.

In 2005, 163 809 publications with 80 670 black and white and 4 644 coloured pages were printed. In total 3.5 million black and white pages, 177 thousand coloured pages and 46 thousand covers were produced. Compared to 2004, it was by 44 209 black and white and 51 055 coloured prints more.

In 2005 staff of information services sections in regional offices provided in total 18 651 pieces of information and sold services for CZK 731 thousand (sales by the Regional Office Hl. m. Praha are included in sales by headquarters).

In comparison to 2004, there was a nearly 16% decrease in the number of information provided. This is closely connected with the fact that users look up a lot of simple information on the web pages, which is proved by the constantly increasing numbers of visitors to these web pages.



In 2005 all regional offices prepared a number of publications (regional yearbooks, bulletins, analysis of demographic, social and economic developments of the region) and detailed information for socio-economic analyses, which are going to serve the preparation of Programmes for regional development 2007-20013. Apart from data sources, some of the regional offices were involved in examining materials, or they independently analysed some of the chapters (e.g. population, housing). At the same time, these documents are produced also at the level of regions of coherence NUTS II. Also for these materials extensive background information was prepared in some of the regional offices.

The CZSO web pages are an increasingly sought-after source of information. During the year there were more than a million visitors to the main page of the CZSO web presentation, the main page was displayed 2.5 million times. As in 2004 an increase on the previous year occurred. The average daily number of visitors to the main page in December 2005 was almost 2800. Most of them were interested in regional information, among the most frequently visited pages were also population, the Business Register, Intrastat or classifications.

The most important change in 2005 was a modification of the web pages to allow the access for blind and visually impaired persons. The CZSO was thus the first state institution that put into operation such an extensive web presentation also for the visually handicapped. At the very end of the year, completely new web pages of the Czech Statistical Office were made available. This change was guided by an effort to make search for required information easier for the user.

An exceptional project of 2005 was the publication of the "School Statistical Yearbook". This book was beyond the usual standard of the CZSO's production; it is exceptional both in form and content. Its aim is to popularise statistics as a scientific discipline and as a field of human activity. The School Statistical Yearbook is intended for a so far rather ignored target group of users - students of secondary schools and their teachers. The publication had a printing of 4000, distribution was organized by an external publisher which supplied selected schools with one free issue. The CZSO also placed a full version of the yearbook on its web pages (in the pdf format) and published 500 pieces of the yearbook on CD.



9. Providing of information under Act No. 106/1999 Sb.

Providing of information under Act No. 106/1999 Sb., on free access to information, is defined by an internal directive.

A) Information provided in 2005 on request


No information under Act No. 106/1999 Sb. was requested or provided in 2005.

| | CZSO headquarters | CZSO regional offices |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Number of written requests for information | 0 | 0 |
| Number of appeals filed against decisions | 0 | 0 |
| Copies of substantial parts of each court judgement | x | x |
| Results of proceedings on sanctions for the violation of Act No. 106/1999 Sb., excluding individual data | x | x |
| Other information related to the application of Act No. 106/1999 Sb. | x | x |

B) Information provided by publication

The following information was made available on public notice boards in CZSO headquarters and regional offices and on the web pages:

1. The full official name of the CZSO
2. The reason and way of establishment of the CZSO incl. conditions and principles of its operation
3. Description of organization structure
4. Contact postal address
5. Bank account number
6. Company registration number (IČO)
7. Tax identification number (DIČ)
8. Data on approved and adjusted budget, budgetary income and expenditures in the preceding year
9. Contact addresses and connections to information services in headquarters and regional offices
10. Where requests or complaints can be filed, suggestions presented and decisions received
11. Place, deadline and way of applying for a remedial measure against decision of the liable entity incl. expressly set out requirements put in this context on the applicant as well as the description of rules and procedures that have to be observed during these activities
12. The name of appropriate form and the way and place of getting it
13. Procedure descriptions (instructions for solutions to real-life situations)
 - assignment of company registration numbers (IČO)
 - request for statistical information
 - filling in and sending of statistical information by CZSO respondents
14. A review (list) of the most important regulations guiding in particular the activity and decisions of the liable entity, laying down the right to require information and regulating other rights of citizens in relation to the liable entity, including information where and when these regulations can be seen
15. Price list of providing information

- 
16. Annual reports at least for two preceding calendar years on the activity of the entity in the area of providing information
 17. List of established organizations

Jana Bondyová
Director of Department



10. Key indicators on the Czech Republic

Key indicators on the Czech Republic 2005

| | |
|---|--|
| Area | 78 866 km ² |
| Population (1 January 2005) | 10 220 577 persons |
| Females | 5 239 664 persons |
| Population density per km ² (1 January 2005) | 130 persons |
| Average age (1 January 2005) | 39.8 years |
| Life expectancy (2004) | |
| Males | 72.6 years |
| Females | 79.4 years |
| Natural increase/decrease per 1 000 population (2004) | -0.9 ‰ |
| Persons employed in the national economy (LFSS) | 4 764 thous. persons |
| Average monthly gross wage of employees in the national economy | 19 030 CZK |
| Real wage index in the national economy | 103.5 % |
| Inflation rate | 1.9 % |
| General unemployment rate (LFSS) | 7.9 % |
| Gross domestic product | 2 931 071 million CZK, current prices |
| Year-on-year growth rate of real gross domestic product | 6.0 % |
| Share of the private sector in GVA | 79.7 % |
| Gross national income | 2 785 185 million CZK, current prices |
| Exchange rate EUR/CZK | 29.784 CZK |
| GDP by exchange rate CZK/EUR | 98 411 million EUR |
| Exchange rate USD/CZK | 23.947 CZK |
| GDP by exchange rate CZK/USD | 122 398 million USD |
| GDP per capita | |
| Current prices | 286 367 CZK |
| By exchange rate CZK/EUR | 9 615 EUR |
| By exchange rate CZK/USD | 11 958 USD |

11. Contacts

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Basic information on the development of economic indicators of the Czech Republic (inflation rate, GDP, wages, unemployment, most important demographic data)

Publications Shop, Cash Desk

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Central Statistical Library

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