

Annual Report 2006

Czech Statistical Office

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Jan Fischer
President of the CZSO



1. President's hindsight at 2006

The year 2006 was the sixth year of the 21st century when the CZSO continued to pursue the trend of strengthening trust in statistical information, its quality, availability, promptness and timeliness. These are the fundamental and constant priorities to be met by the official statistics as required by law and other provisions and also as outlined in a set of internal strategic documents "Mission, Vision and Strategic Goals of the CZSO" specifying commitments subject to public control.

The task to perfectly prepare, process and publish the election results is considered an exclusive service to a democratic society. The Czech statisticians had to cope with this task three times in the past year and I am happy to say that they stood the test with flying colours. In June, during the elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and also in October during the vote into one third of the Senate and to municipal councils, the CZSO staff handled their tasks without problems, quickly, reliably and user friendly.


The internet is one of the main communication tools and the CZSO therefore continued to extend presentations on the internet in compliance with the following policy: all data and information should be available free of charge on the web pages. A practical example how this policy is pursued is the opening of the public database to the community at large. Also regional offices offer valuable and necessary information within the scope of their competence on their own web pages. The results of traditional user satisfaction surveys prove that our approach to the dissemination of information is right. From the survey conducted on the web pages we learned that over 50% of internet users seeking for statistical information are students. Based on surveys made by the Public Opinion Research Centre at the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Czech public consider the CZSO a credible institution.

Besides regular News Releases which are impatiently expected by analysts, media, general government and academic institutions and by many other users, the CZSO offered a number of analyses based on statistical data. In addition to standard quarterly analyses of individual segments of the national economy, a positive response received ad hoc analyses. Their authors focused on e.g. investment and economic growth in the Czech Republic, development of small and medium enterprises or life of foreigners in the CR.

Every year the flagship publication in the CZSO Catalogue of Publications is the Statistical Yearbook released also last year. Besides this book we published after almost thirty years a Historical Lexicon of Municipalities of the Czech Republic covering period from 1869 to 2005. This publication is a follow-up to the Retrospective Lexicon of Municipalities of the CSSR 1850 - 1970. The Historical Lexicon provides a picture of the long-term development of settlement on present territory of the Czech Republic, broken down by regions, districts, municipalities and municipality parts. It will no doubt become a valuable source of information.

A permanent task is the effort to ease the administrative burden on respondents. These efforts were supported by an amendment to Act no. 89/1995 Sb., on the State Statistical Service, which shall provide statisticians with an easy access to certain administrative data sources. Conceptual documents and related practice are aimed generally at the rationalization of the entire statistical service. This applies to the parts of statistics managed by individual government departments.

Since the needs of society and its demand for statistics develop in conformity with the society itself, statistics and its organization must develop as well. The aim of CZSO is to be a dynamic organism. To this end we started to realize internal structural changes, a new competence arrangement of management and its subordinated departments. The main aim was to create a wider space for statistical production which is becoming more sophisticated and to separate it from supporting activities which can be centralized and made more effective. The new position of the CZSO offices in the regions responds to these changes.



In 2006, the experts of the Czech Statistical Office carried out activities in the domain of international co-operation developing contacts with foreign colleagues. Detailed information is included into this annual report. Anyway, I would like to mention a working visit of Mr. Hervé Carré, the new Director General of Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Communities), in Prague. The meeting was very fruitful because we addressed the issues which we consider important for mutual co-operation. Specifically, we discussed the forms and mechanism of the exchange of information between Eurostat and national statistical offices. Mr Hervé Carré appreciated our initiative and emphasized how useful it was that we did not wait until the European authorities come up with the ideas.

Finally, allow me to mention a positive response received by the CZSO by the year-end. In the prestigious "100 Best Czech Award for 2006" organised by the Pan-European Society for Culture, Education and Scientific & Technical Cooperation, Comenius, the Czech Statistical Office was rated among five independent pillars of a democratic state. In this category the CZSO has the same position as the Czech National Bank, Czech Television, Supreme Court of the CR and Office for the Protection of Economic Competition. It is an important positive assessment of work of the team of professionals which I have the honour to lead for the fourth year.



Jan Fischer
President
Czech Statistical Office

2. From the Statute of the Czech Statistical Office

Mission, tasks, organizational structure, rights and obligations of the Czech Statistical Office as a central authority of state administration are regulated by Act No. 89/1995 Sb., on the State Statistical Service, as amended.

The fundamental mission of the Czech Statistical Office is to provide an unbiased and comprehensive picture of the economic, social, demographic and environmental development in the Czech Republic. The statistical information produced is analysed and data on development trends compared with international development. The CZSO ensures the comparability of the data both on national and international basis. It provides comprehensive statistical source documents and ensures full harmonization of methodological tools, principles and provisions applicable for the whole state statistical service of the Czech Republic with the EU provisions.

The Office coordinates the state statistical service within the country.

In compliance with applicable laws it provides an independent processing and publishing of election results and results of referenda.

The Office publishes results of its activities in form of printed documents, on electronic carriers and on the internet.

The Czech Statistical Office performs a reporting duty for the Czech Republic towards international governmental organizations in the area of official statistics.

The activities of the Office are regulated by valid legal provisions, international treaties which are binding for the Czech Republic and published in the Collection of Laws and Ordinances or in the Collection of International Treaties, by its Statutes and by the government decisions.

The CZSO fully respects the principle of independence and impartiality of statistical service. It consistently cares for keeping confidentiality of any individual data obtained from its own statistical surveys, from surveys performed by other centres of the state statistical service and from administrative sources. All data obtained are protected and used exclusively for statistical purposes. In producing statistical information the CZSO prevents the breach of data integrity. Any principles, methods and tools are clearly and distinctly explained to be transparent and available for the control of impartiality of the information produced. The CZSO fully respects fundamental principles of official statistics adopted by the Statistical Commission of the UNO.


The CZSO is a professional guarantor of working methods used by the state statistical service on the territory of the Czech Republic.

The CZSO co-operates with universities, scientific and research work places, professional public and the reporting unit representatives and creates conditions therefor. The CZSO coordinates the process of providing data and information of the state statistical service to international institutions and opinions of the Czech Republic on the state statistical service at the international level. The CZSO cooperates with international organizations and other institutions.

In performing statistical surveys for physical persons and legal entities the CZSO considers the economic aspect and necessity of these surveys. The CZSO aims that the burden on reporting units and the costs of these surveys be reasonable.

The CZSO provides the information in compliance with Act no. 106/1999 Sb., on Free Access to Information, as amended.

Property used by the CZSO is owned by the state. Under Act no. 219/2000 Sb., on Property of the CR and its Performance in Legal Relations, as amended, the CZSO is a central authority with an independent chapter on the state budget.



The CZSO is headed by its President who is appointed by the President of the Czech Republic. The Czech Statistical Council is a consultative body to the CZSO. Consultative bodies to the President are: Top Management Meeting, President's Board and other. The terms of reference and composition of consultative bodies to the President are regulated by the rules of procedure.

The Czech Statistical Council

The Czech Statistical 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;
- generally binding draft legislative provisions concerning the state statistical service, prepared by the CZSO;
- conceptual issues 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 and professional secrets they have knowledge of as a result of membership.

Members of the Czech Statistical Council in 2006 were:

Jan Fisher, President of the CZSO, chairman of the Czech Statistical Council

Jan Seger, Dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, University of Economics, deputy chairman of the Czech Statistical Council

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

Ondřej Hartman, deputy director of Economic Analyses Department, Office of the Government 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 Prague

Bedřich Myšička, Director, Economic Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR



Edvard Outrata, member 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
Olga Běťíková, secretary to the Czech Statistical Council, Director, Office of President of CZSO

The Top Management Meeting

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

Members of the Top Management Meeting in 2006 were:

Jan Fischer, President of the CZSO
Jiří Křovák, First Vice-President of the CZSO
Stanislav Drápal, Vice-President of the CZSO
Ladislava Schwarzová, Director of Branch
Jan Matějček, Director of Branch
Petra Kuncová, Director of Branch
Jiří Rolenc, Director of Branch
Olga Běťíková, Director, Office of President of the CZSO
Roman Prorok, Press Agent of President of the CZSO

Members of the Top Management Meeting as of 1 January 2007 are:

Jan Fischer, President of the CZSO
Jiří Křovák, First Vice-President of the CZSO
Stanislav Drápal, Vice-President of the CZSO
Jan Matějček, Director of General Methodology and Registers Branch
Ivo Makalouš, Director of Statistical Processing Branch
Marek Rojíček, Director of Macroeconomic Statistics Branch
Josef Vlášek, Director of Business Statistics Branch
Jan Srb, Director of Demography and Social Statistics Branch
Petra Kuncová, Director of Analyses and Dissemination Branch
Ladislava Schwarzová, Director of Operations and Administration Branch
Jana Zdráhalová, Director, Office of President of the CZSO
Marcela Provazníková, Director of HR and Wages Department
Hana Šlégrová, Director of International Cooperation Department
Roman Prorok, Press Agent of President of the CZSO

The President's Board

The Board discusses in particular conceptual materials from the state statistical service resulting from the function and mission of the Czech Statistical Office, the programme of statistical surveys and other tasks that need the decision of the CZSO President. Members of the Board are all members of the TMM, directors of General Methodology Department and Macroeconomic Analyses and Analytical Methods Department.



Jiří Křovák
First Vice-President of the CZSO



3. Review of the main activities in 2006

3.1 Total Quality Management (TQM)

The year 2006 was the fourth one when the Czech Statistical Office applied the TQM in its practice. In the CZSO the TQM related activities have been controlled and co-ordinated by the TQM Committee. Their scope is wide, ranging from articulation of the CZSO strategies in quality management, over the implementation of the CZSO self-assessment through the Effectiveness Excellence Quality Model, methodological audits of individual statistical segments, to surveys of most different types (user, respondent, employee, partner surveys). Some TQM related activities are performed on constant basis or continuously; some of them are single events.

The above mentioned activities undoubtedly contributed to the positive public assessment of the CZSO in 2006. In the prestigious contest "100 Best Czech Award for 2006" organized by Comenius, the pan-European society for culture, education and scientific & technical cooperation, the CZSO ranked among five independent pillars of a democratic country. In this category the CZSO won the same rating as the Czech National Bank, Czech Television, Supreme Court of the CR and the Office for the Protection of Economic Competition.

1. TQM user satisfaction survey

Like in the preceding years, the user satisfaction survey was taken in the first quarter of 2006. Yet this was not a representative survey the results obtained provide important information on user satisfaction with the CZSO activity. The main findings are the following:

- Improvement of total assessment of statistical outputs - from 2.29 in 2005 to 2.04 in 2006.
- The number of responses increased from 302 in 2005 to 359 in 2006. Over 85% of respondents regarded themselves regular users of statistical outputs; over a half of users (57%) are clients of the CZSO for more than 3 years; and two thirds of users are clients of the CZSO for over 2 years; the central government and self-government represent the most numerous group among the clients.
- To regular users the following applies: the more frequently they use statistical data, the better they appreciate their availability.
- The users are satisfied with the performance of the CZSO staff when it comes to a mutual contact - all users appreciate professional skills of the CZSO employees as well as their readiness to help.
- Electronic mail is considered to be the best way how to get the information needed.
- The users most appreciate news and press-releases, on the other hand, they are missing the data broken down by regions, time series and comprehensive information on certain statistical areas.

Besides annual user satisfaction survey the CZSO collected in 2006 the user opinions on web presentation. The key results are the following:

- Over a half of users were students, one fifth came from central government. Most users visit the web pages a few times monthly (32.3%) and a large group of users several times per year (24.1%). The pages are daily visited by 7.66% of users. Among daily visitors (7.7%) belong especially the central government staff and journalists, the students are qualified as exceptional users.
- Almost a quarter of users can use the web pages effectively, 14.9% users have difficulties.
- An overwhelming majority of users (85%) described the graphic layout of pages as "good" or "rather good" ("good" rating came from 20% of users).
- For almost nine tenths of respondents the information available on web pages of the CZSO is clear and comprehensible.

- Of the offered selection of databases/applications available on the CZSO web pages the prevailing majority of users benefit from Public Database (73.9%), Classifications and Nomenclatures and Business Register are used by one third each. One fourth of respondents use electronic report capture and a special page designed for Elections, one fifth visit an external trade database.

2. Regular meetings of the CZSO management with representatives of the main groups of users

In 2006, regular meetings of the statistical information users from among analysts and economic journalists with the CZSO management and other experts continued to take place. The aim of these meetings is to implement the declared openness and transparency of this public institution towards the users while the CZSO authorities provide additional information which cannot get into the News Releases or published press releases. The emphasis is placed on personal contact with the people who shape and significantly affect public opinion.

The first meeting took place on 23 January 2006 with the aim to explain the reasons for the revision of the Industrial Production Index formation and identify the possibilities of further progress in this area. Great attention was raised by the information that the CZSO plans to publish beginning from 2008 the GDP flesh estimates. This intention has become a public commitment. The test operation of Public Database which was made available at the beginning of 2006 on the CZSO web pages was discussed as well as the information on traditional user satisfaction survey and on novelties such as News Releases in 2006.

Changes of product representatives in the consumer basket and their influence on calculation of inflation were in the following year on the agenda of the second meeting with users held on 28 November 2006. Great attention was raised by the information on the plan to publish beginning from 2006 the GDP flesh estimate. This intention has become public commitment of the CZSO. News Releases introduced in 2007 proceed from the needs of users and enable easier reference. The meaningfulness of these informal meetings was attributed to the users' concern and their active involvement in the discussion.

3. The CZSO perception survey

In 2006, at request of the Czech Statistical Office, the Public Opinion Research Centre at the Academy of Science took public opinion research "The CZSO perception survey".

Review of key results:

- The CZSO enjoys prevailing trust from among the Czech population where 68% of respondents expressed their trust and only 16% their distrust. Higher level of public trust enjoys only the President of the CR.
- The public is aware that the CZSO work is related to the population and housing census and the population size survey. Prevailing majority of respondents associate the CZSO with the election results processing and the economic development monitoring.
- In general, the public does not have an adequate idea of the actual position of the CZSO in the system of administration of the Czech Republic. 33% of respondents considered that the CZSO was a state body without direct control by the government, 14% considered that the CZSO was controlled by the government and 24% of the respondents answered that the CZSO was an entirely independent institution.
- A great majority of respondents consider the CZSO and its activity useful (77%). Only 11% of respondents find its activity useless.
- The Czech public most often find the information rendered by the CZSO in the media. Only less than a third of respondents search for this information actively.
- Majority of respondents consider the information provided by the CZSO interesting (69%), reliable (72%) and politically unbiased (59%). The answers to the question whether or not the information of the CZSO is under the government control showed a significant difference in opinions (34% respondents consider that the information is subject to the government control).
- 80% of respondents approach the CZSO as a professional institution.

4. TQM - staff opinion survey

In the first quarter of 2006 the results of Staff Opinion Survey 2005 (held from 28 November to 14 December 2005) were presented. The survey in terms of contents was similar to those taken in the previous years. The response rate increased to 53.8% which can be qualified as success. The results of the survey gave birth - similarly as in the previous years - to a set of measures the implementation of which was supervised by the board of the CZSO management. The measures initiated the approval of the document on staff career development, introduction of flexible working time in the period of summer heat, reduction of the number of trainings held in the holiday period and other similar things.

In the discussion on the contents of the Staff Opinion Survey 2005 it was agreed to change more questions and then to keep the questionnaire for a few years basically unchanged to achieve good comparability. A new question on general satisfaction of employees with their employment in the CZSO was formulated. The rating achieved in this question shall be one of basic indicators for the CZSO. Among other new questions belong the questions on comprehensibility and approval of strategic goals and sub-goals, questions specifying the assessment of superiors, etc. The staff opinion survey took place on 27 November until 15 December 2006 and its results were presented in the first decade of January 2007, the analysis of results including draft measures was available in February 2007.

5. TGM - respondent satisfaction survey

The CZSO for the first time took the respondent satisfaction survey in the second and third quarters of 2004. The total of 10 965 respondents were addressed and almost 48% filled in the questionnaire. The survey was repeated after 2 years in the first and second quarters 2006.

The results of both surveys cannot be compared easily although it may seem feasible if the questions are identical. The difficulty is caused by heterogeneity of the respondents addressed. In 2004, the choice of respondents was made at a random basis and the questionnaire was attached to business cycle surveys (2 870 respondents). The forms were also sent by post in the letter (4 000) and by electronic mail (4 095).

In 2006, 22 050 of respondents were addressed which is almost twice as much compared to 2004 but the respondent rate was substantially lower, below 30%. The choice of respondents was made through the distribution of annual reports to the reporting units with a questionnaire form attached.

Total survey results

Number of respondents addressed	22 050
Number of all returned (filled in) forms	6 510
incl. - hard copy	5 383
- electronic mail	1 127
Respondents (in %)	20.52

Despite the above mentioned diversity of both groups of respondents the responses of those who responded to the question "What rating would you assign to the relationship between the CZSO and the respondents - use the classification marks". The rating obtained was 2.17 which is slightly worse than the rating for 2004 - which was 2.8.

mark/ percentage	1 / %		2 / %		3 / %		4 / %		5 / %		Average
2004	1 089	21.56	2 597	51.43	1 109	21.96	180	3.56	74	1.46	2.08
2005	1 422	23.11	2 946	47.87	1 307	21.24	269	4.37	510	3.41	2.17

6. TQM - the CZSO partner opinion survey

In 2006, the CZSO undertook two new surveys - the CZSO contracting partner satisfaction survey within the state statistical service. Both surveys were taken in April and May 2006.

In terms of contracting partner satisfaction survey, low response rate (22.76%) was surprising if we consider a high number of partners addressed. However, the possibility that addressed were also those partners with who the CZSO discontinued the co-operation cannot be ruled out.

Total results of contracting partner survey

Number of distributed forms	127
Number of received (fill in) forms in hard copy	22
Number of received (electronically filled in) forms	6
Number of returned blank forms (not included into response rate)	1
Number of returned blank forms due to non-existence of addressee (not included into response rate)	3
Response rate (in %)	22.76

In the appraisal of the CZSO by contracting partners, the CZSO rating is the most interesting moment.

Total rating of contractual relations of partners with the CZSO is very favourable. The Office has not received any "fail mark" and prevailing majority of partners classified the relations as "excellent" or "very good".


Total results of partner survey in the state statistical service

Number of distributed forms	26
Number of received (filled in) forms in hard copy	7
Number of received (electronically filled in) forms	9
Number of returned blank forms	0
Number of returned non-filled in forms due to non-existence of addressee	0
Response rate (in%)	61.54

In the partner survey in the state statistical service the questionnaire was filled in by 16 respondents of the total of 26 addressed partners (61.5%). Considering that the population of respondents consisted of the representatives of sectors, employer unions and associations, 100% response rate was expected. What is surprising is that the average rating (1.75) of cooperation is relatively favourable but two responses gave "satisfactory" mark and one even a "fail mark". The CZSO is in frequent contact with all centres of statistical service (not only at the occasion of "methodical days" and regular work meetings) and has never received such a negative appraisal of its work (cooperation). This can rather be considered an anonymous distortion because to classify the cooperation with the CZSO during the preparation of the statistical survey program by a "failure mark" (i.e. no cooperation at all?) is meaningless.

7. Self-assessment using the EFQM model, opportunity to improve the CZSO performance

The self-assessment report was a result of work of a large team of authors, 9 assessment teams (altogether 36 employees) and the editorial group. In the final stage of preparation many other employees of the CZSO were involved. The aim of the CZSO self-assessment project using the EQFM method in 2006 was to make a comparison with the model of perfectly functioning institution, to identify the spots for improvement of products and services rendered by the CZSO and reflect the findings in strategic and operational goals and sub-goals of the CZSO.



The self-assessment report was prepared in two rounds, the first version was prepared by mid-July, the second one was amended in compliance with the comments of an external consultant by mid-August and then reviewed by the external expert. In September and October the editorial group tuned the text and made formal and language corrections. In November the self-assessment report was discussed by the CZSO top management and in December it was distributed in printed form among the management of the CZSO. In February 2007, the management of the CZSO discussed the proposal of spots for improvement of the CZSO activity. The CZSO, at the same time, entered the self-assessment report to the competition for the Quality Prize Award of the CR in 2007.

In 2007, the above mentioned developments will continue; the self-assessment report shall be structured in compliance with current situation and its quality improved (this applies mainly to more effective link between the EFQM method and indicators of the CZSO strategic goals and sub-goals implementation) and in 2008 the report shall enter prestigious competition for Quality Prize Award of the CR.

8. Interconnection of the self-assessment results by EFQM method to strategic goals and sub-goals implementation

The self-assessment report of the CZSO by EFQM method in 2006 was linked up with the first Report in 2005. Both self-assessments were aimed to describe the existing situation in the CZSO in respect of the EFQM model approach and result criteria ; find opportunities to improve products and services rendered by the CZSO and reveal its weak points. The review of reserves, i.e. areas for improvement of the CZSO activities, as identified in the Report 2005 was, however, incomplete and the presented proposals for improvement did not correspond with actual potential of the CZSO.


The strategic goals and sub-goals implementation was surveyed from the beginning of strategic planning in the CZSO, i.e. from 1 January 2005 until mid 2006, mainly in terms of quality which was reflected in a different approach of responsible workers to the assessment thereof. Hence, it was necessary, to apply the TQM for quantitative list of strategic goals and sub-goals implementation, i.e. to find the tools how to measure the progress of the CZSO in the implementation of the outlined strategic goals and sub-goals. The specification of draft process was based on strategies and means as listed in indents for each strategic sub-goal.

The evidence proving the implementation or progress in implementation of strategic goals and sub-goals is of a high importance not only for positive external perception of the CZSO self-assessment report by the EFQM method in 2007, for granting the Quality Award of the CR but also for further improvement of the CZSO activities. It was essential to find links between approaches to the implementation of (approaching to) the strategic goals and sub-goals by means of the EFQM model approach criteria and document the results of their implementation in the EFQM result criteria.

First, the links between the result criteria specifying the relationship between the CZSO, users and society were looked for in relation to strategic goals and sub-goals. However, the subsequent discussion showed that wide and general concept of contents of these criteria would cause difficulties in the search, selection and structure of suitable mutual links.

The second variant which turned to be simpler and clearer was selected; i.e. to search for links between strategic goals and sub-goals and the EFQM criteria. Using the strategies, means and suggestions of measurability of strategic goals and sub-goals, a set of indicators of their measurement was designed. This set of indicators enabled to better find relations and links between the contents of strategic goals and sub-goals and the contents of relevant approach and result criteria of the EFQM method. In this stage the expertise and recommendations of the external consultant were applied.

A clear table was designed for each strategic goal and its sub-goals separately. For each strategy and means the table showed links to the respective approach and result criteria of the EFQM and the draft measurability of implementation (implementation criteria) of the strategic goal and its sub-goals. Sets of tables were presented to the guarantors of strategic goals for



comments and their contents were also reviewed by the members of the TQM committee. Upon amending in compliance with all comments the tables were approved.

The set of table has become a source material for further activity within TQM - e.g. for the selection of performance indicators of the CZSO; it will also serve the evaluators in drafting self-assessment Report 2007 and the co-ordinators in their considerations in respect of strategic goals implementation.

9. Assessment of the CZSO from the aspect of the European Code of Practice implementation

In May 2005, the European Commission sent to the European Parliament and the Council the "Memorandum on independence, integrity and responsibility of national statistical offices and the statistical office of the Community", including the recently adopted Code of Practice which is a part thereof. This Code is a common set of European norms designed for statistical institutions and the entire European statistical system.

Based on the decision of the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) the assessment is carried out to find out how the individual principles of the Code are implemented and applied in practice of statistical bodies of member states and on the Eurostat level, as well. A self-assessment questionnaire was designed for this purpose; the questionnaire was filled in by national statistical institutions and passed on to Eurostat by the end of 2005. On the basis of this questionnaire and further documentation the assessment of current conditions in terms of implementation of CoP took or will take place in all member countries through commissions consisting of independent experts from the EU member states (peer review).

The assessing commission composed of the following members: Mr. S. Wahlstrom (Statistics Sweden) - chairman, Mr. R. Laux (ONS UK) and Mr. M. Hahn (Eurostat) visited the CZSO on 29-31 March 2006.¹⁾ The Commission had meetings with the CZSO management and other managerial and professional workers of the CZSO, representatives of statistical divisions of the Czech National Bank, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Transport and Communications and Ministry of Health. The Commission also had discussions with the representatives of users (Ministry of Finance, CERGE, Czech Chamber of Commerce, University of Economics, Reuters news agency). The Commission, at its own wish, had a meeting with young statisticians and representatives of two regional centres of the CZSO (in Brno and Pardubice). Within the meaning of the decision of the SPC the assessment in this stage focused mainly on principles 1-5 and 13-15 of the Code.


Main results of the assessment:

The Czech law regulating the state statistical service guarantees professional and political independence of Czech statistical institutions. The President of the CZSO (and the CZSO itself) is entirely independent in the domain of data production and dissemination. The President is authorised to regularly participate and so he does in the government talks.

The assessing commission states that the co-ordinating role of the CZSO in the state statistical service which is independent of political influence, as required by law, is fully applied in the Czech Republic. This co-ordinating role can be further developed.

The CZSO is a well operating statistical office. To a large extent, it introduced and respects the principles of the CoP of European statistics (i.e. those subject to assessment). Some projects implemented at present or those under preparation represent further positive qualitative progress. We can mention the Reforms of statistical survey system which is a strategic development project aimed to improve the quality of the Czech statistics in all dimensions. Members of work groups and project co-ordinators rank among the "young

¹⁾ It was historically the first, pilot peer review within the whole European Statistical System. It is an honour for the CZSO to have been selected together with the statistical office in the Netherlands for the pilot peer review.



statisticians" group. This project allows them to shape the future character of their statistical work.

Conclusions from the assessment mission were discussed with the CZSO management. Upon detailing and completion thereof the President of the CZSO approved the list of measures to be implemented by the CZSO with the aim to further improve the CoP implementation in statistical practice.

10. The CZSO performance indicators

Well operating organizations not only plan their strategic and operational goals but also measure their implementation by suitably equipped indicators. Hence, in the end of 2006, in the CZSO an open-end set of indicators was created to measure the overall performance of the Office. The set contains indicators to measure the volume and quality of the provided products and services, user, respondent, employee and partner satisfaction, public trust in the CZSO and other similar things. Upon adding the cost controlling indicators the set will include 25 indicators which shall be not only measured but also planned from the beginning of 2007.

Every indicator shall be accompanied by a standard table containing, apart from its name, the definition, manner of calculation, explanation of what it is for and how it is interpreted, its target value, names of persons bearing responsibility for target value and monitoring and measuring of an indicator, frequency of assessment and reporting, and relevant links to the strategic sub-goal and sub-criterion of the EFQM model.

The value of indicators and the trend of their development shall be used in the self-assessment by EFQM method and in the assessment of the CZSO strategic goals and sub-goals implementation.


11. The CZSO general policy of quality

By the end of 2006, the "CZSO general policy of quality" was formulated at the meeting of the CZSO management and prepared for publishing by the end of January 2007. The present concept of quality in statistics does not stand only for quality of numerical statistical outputs (e.g. their accuracy) but they should be comprehended in much wider context. This applies to the overall quality of statistical service rendered. This should include, apart from product quality, also the relevance and effectiveness of this service, burden on respondents, professional skills, transparency, etc. At present, the fundamental document describing basic characteristics of the national statistical offices in the EU, is the "Code of Practice of European statistics" - for more details see 9).

Within "**The CZSO general policy on quality**" the definition of the quality in statistics is given. In present perception of the statistical office of the European Community - Eurostat which was taken over by the Czech Statistic Office, as well, statistical quality is specified by the following basic features: relevance and completeness, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, availability and comprehensibility, coherence and comparability. All these characteristics of the statistical quality are important and each user (client) may find at a certain moment any of them most important.

For the quality management the CZSO uses consultative bodies of the President of the CZSO which include the TQM Committee and Committee for improvement of coherence and comparability of statistical indicators. An important role is attributed to the project management committees the solutions of which shall bring fundamental qualitative changes in the statistical system in middle-sighted view. This applies namely to the following projects: Statistical Survey System Reform, Statistical Metainformation System (SMS) and Public Database (PD). Among other elements of quality management belong the strategic planning (see point 16), system of continuous education of employees (see point 18) and cost controlling (see point 13) related to process management.

For quality improvement the CZSO applies and extends necessary tools and activities including reports on quality, self-assessment (see point 7) by the European Foundation for



Quality Management (EFQM) method, self-assessment in compliance with the questionnaire of CoP, indicators for measurement of the estimated goals implementation (see point 10), user satisfaction survey (see point 1), employee satisfaction survey (see point 4), respondent satisfaction survey (see point 5), the CZSO partner satisfaction survey (see point 6), meetings with representatives of the main groups of users (see point 2), methodological audits (see point 14), development of the analytic activities system (see point 15), comparison with the best ones (Benchmarking), Best Current Methods, annual assessment-related debates with employees (see point 17) and publishing of key documents on internet.

12. Revision policy of the CZSO

In December 2006 the management of the CZSO approved the document summarizing the Revision Policy. Respective document proceeds from the task outlined by the Committee and aimed to increase coherence and comparability of statistical indicators. The Committee made comments on the above document and recommended it for approval to the meeting of the CZSO management.

The document proceeds from comparative study²⁾ prepared by the CZSO which is largely based on international documentation and practice in the area of classification of revisions, time-schedules of revisions and providing of metainformation related to planning and publishing of revisions. The final wording of the document ensued from many discussions and debates with competent professionals in charge of individual branches of statistics. During these discussions the maximum level of unification of revision publishing strategies was reached.

One of the main targets is to contribute to transparency and consistency of published data revisions - see also principle 8 of the CoP: "Revisions maintain standard, well-tested and transparent procedures". The policy of revisions identifies and especially unifies general rules of the revision implementation, the manner of their assessment and publishing including basic contents of other related metainformation. Ordinary and extraordinary revisions are distinguished.

Specific time-schedules and related information are published in the calendar of revisions. In the preparation thereof the discussion with individual subject-matter departments took place with the aim to reach maximum improvement of consistency of statistics from the aspect of periodicity and timing of revisions.

Nomenclatures which form part of metainformation system of the CZSO are introduced to describe the revisions. These nomenclatures were subject to comments of the work group SMS - QUALITY and are designed for providing of metadata information on revisions, e.g. in the questionnaire on quality which is under preparation. This questionnaire shall serve the base for reports on quality (program equipment is now under preparation).


Any and all information shall be available on the CZSO web pages.

13. Process management and cost controlling projects

One of the most important strategic goals of the CZSO is the creation of conditions for effective process-oriented management of the CZSO activities. The mission of the CZSO is to create and provide, on the basis of data obtained, a credible and consistent picture of the existing situation and progress in the society responding to the expanding needs of all users of the state statistical service in the conditions of changing environment. The user needs and requirements are increasing, year by year, however, they can be met only within the budget of the CZSO, an organizational unit of the Czech Republic. Besides internal economic effectiveness it is necessary to find balance between the user requirements and available statistical potential, i.e. financial sources, also by cost controlling method.

To this end, in 2006 the "Cost Controlling" was included into the CZSO priorities. Within this task a public order "Implementation Study and Pilot Project in Process Management and

²⁾ J. Pekárková: Revisions and revision policy. Statistics 3 (2004), CZSO, Prague, 2004



Financial Costs" was formulated and handled. A team of the CZSO employees co-operated on this task with an external advisory company, Deloitte, singled out in tender procedure. The results of the study were presented at the session of the President's Board on 12 October 2006 where they were widely discussed. The principles of further implementation were recommended and approved.

Project results:

Basic outputs of the project include:

- process management methods
- cost controlling methods
- description of process model
- description of cost model
- description of the output process tasks
- validation tables describing links between processes, roles and centres
- study of information system applicability
- recommendation of further progress including the implementation plan

Controlling superstructure, enabling calculation of costs of statistical tasks as a precondition of their planning, is based on monitoring of the time-spent on individual tasks, re-calculation of direct, estimated and overhead costs within the integrated system of accounting with one database and integrated wage system. In the process of project implementation nomenclatures, mainly the nomenclatures of processes, orders and centres, were prepared.

In the pilot project the proposed methods were tested by 45 employees of the CZSO. The pilot project confirmed the fitness of proposed draft, adequate level of detailed monitoring (granularity 0.5 hours of working time) and feasibility of the proposed draft given that a few conditions are met.

Summary of recommendations and implementation conditions:

- The recommendation that the CZSO should not apply the method of adjustments of isolated application programs but try to switch to an integrated company management solution should be regarded as fundamental.
- First, it is necessary to set up the cost controlling department and train skilled staff (2-3 persons with extensive knowledge of processes in the CZSO and sufficient knowledge of book-keeping, financial issues, wages and HR).
- The designed nomenclatures of orders and centres shall be repeatedly updated and adjusted to comply with internal remarks before their introduction. At the same time, the regime of their update (proposals, approvals, administration) shall be put in practice.
- It is necessary to appoint not only the managers in individual centres (basically the director of branch and section head) but also task managers with powers and responsibilities as mentioned in the project.
- To introduce the attendance application extended by monitoring of time-spent on individual orders.
- To propose the methods of capacity planning for different tasks for an interim period of non-existence of annual aggregates on analogical task facts.
- To prepare the draft specification of public job order for the purchase of SW and introduction of an integrated system of company management including besides the cost controlling also financial accounting, HR, wages, property records and other similar things.
- To prepare purchase of SW for process modelling.

For the performance of all above conditions the test operation of complete cost controlling can be started including financial planning as soon as in the second half of 2007.

14. TQM - methodological audits

The system of methodological audits has its tradition in the CZSO. The groups of auditors in 2006 were dealing with four segments of the Czech statistics³⁾, two final reports on methodological audits were discussed at the beginning of 2006. Final report on methodological audit of family accounts was presented in December 2005 and discussed in mid January 2006. The group of auditors was headed by Jiřina Moravová from the University of Economics. Upon discussing the report at the management meeting it was stated that the proposals and recommendations of the group of auditors on the development of family account statistics should be applied. The main recommendation is to pay an increased attention to the results of SILC survey which may not be an adequate substitute for Microcensus. Final report on methodological audit on environmental statistics was presented at the beginning of January 2006 and discussed at the end of January 2006. The group of top auditors was headed by Iva Ritschelová, the then vice-chancellor of the UJEP (University of J. E. Purkyně) in Ústí nad Labem. In the detailed report the auditors found 15 findings which they commented on and supplied with recommendations. One of the recommendations was, upon the completion of statistical survey for 2004, to analyse the structure of negative response and non-response, to contact respondents with the aim to identify causes and then decide on how to proceed further.

The methodological audit of price statistics in industry, import and export prices was finished. The audit was led by Jaroslav Jílek from the University of Economics (in respect of practice applied in abroad and assessment of the existing domestic procedures it was recommended e.g. to arrange for the reduction of the number of price quotations for the price index of industrial producers) and to carry out an audit of external trade statistics also led by Jaroslav Jílek (it was recommended to include into the already completed database of cross-border co-operation the data on exports from individual regions in compliance with the origin of goods). The audit of tourism statistics led by Jarmila Indrová from the University of Economics recommended, among other things, to add the data on mass accommodation establishments attendance broken down by countries and audit of agricultural statistics led by Josef Kraus, scientific secretary of the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics, which was discussed in January 2007.


Before the end of 2008 a methodological audit of public database was prepared for its realization in Q1 2007. In Q4 2006 the time-schedule of methodological audits was extended by additional 7 segments of statistics. These segments shall be subject to methodological audits before the end of 2008.

15. System of the CZSO analytical activities

The President's Board discussed at the 12th session held on 28 November 2006 the document "System of analyses after 2006" and identified the main goals: to intensify co-operation in the preparation of analyses both within the CZSO and between the CZSO and professional public; to purposefully shape analytical activities of the CZSO employees by determination of basic areas in analytical part of the Catalogue of Publications; to reflect the CZSO priorities in macroanalyses and to use macroanalyses as starting point for related analytic work; to introduce the institute of peer reviews for analytical work and to get the external experts involved; to base the analyses on the CZSO data and link the data purposefully with other data sources; focus the internal analyses on increased comparability and identification of relations, causes and possible consequences. Brief report on implementation of the proposed system goals shall be presented in July 2007.

The third 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

³⁾ Four groups of auditors acting in the CZSO in 2006 consisted of the total of 21 auditors of which 12 were external. For 15 auditors it was the first time to work in such groups.



area. The assessment is performed by a group of experts regularly participating in discussions on quarterly analyses. As the best was chosen the quarterly analysis "External Trade Price Indices", the second best the analysis "External Trade" and the third place was taken by the analysis "Employment and Unemployment - Sample Survey of Labour Force.

16. Planning cycle - 2nd year of routine stage of application

In October and November 2005 at the annual assessment talks with the immediate superiors the strategic goals of the CZSO were specified in details for individual employees. Assessment talks were more or less informal and both parties succeeded to overcome initial worries and difficulties. The year 2006 was the second year in which the CZSO actively applied the strategic planning system and for the first time carefully assessed the results and compared them with the results of individuals from the previous year. Eight employees in leading positions who then became co-ordinators were entrusted with the assessment of the strategic goals implementation on the CZSO level.

Based on recommendation of the TQM Committee of May 2005 a set of adopted strategic goals was specified in details in the half of the year. In addition, the document Mission, Vision and Strategic Goals of the CZSO was updated twice as proposed by some employees in leading positions. The update was also attributed to a three-stage restructuring which the CZSO experienced in 2006, also in relation to the Reform of the Statistical Survey System. Updated wording of the document Mission, Vision and Strategic Goals was prepared for print before the end of 2006 and shall be printed out in January 2007.

In the update of strategic goals of departments and sections for 2007 the planning cycle after two years of its existence turned to be too complicated and terminology was not unified. Original effort to get all employees involved in the implementation of strategic goals and to cover all strategic sub-goals caused that some departments and sections had a high number of strategic goals and, in addition, some of the goals were described extensively. As a consequence, the overall review of all strategic goals is very wide and contains the goals which differ significantly in terms of their meaning from complex units down to individual activities. This was reflected also in the assessment of implementation of goals by departments and sections. Co-ordinators who performed the assessment of implementation of a great number of goals of different levels found it very troublesome. Due to this, the preparation of a new planning cycle method which would better fit the needs of the CZSO was started before the end of 2006..

17. Annual staff appraisal

Annual staff performance appraisals within the system of HR management took place in the CZSO for the third time. In 2006 it was proved that the success of performance appraisals owed mostly to a regular and consistent preparation and responsible approach of managerial staff. Within the managerial staff training the HR and wage department paid a regular attention to staff performance appraisal although the interest in this type of training was lower than a year earlier.

Performance appraisal 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 the appraisal are becoming an important source of information for setting training needs of the staff and are integrated into the Catalogue of trainings for the CZSO staff for 2007. This year they also served as a starting point for making changes in staff remuneration and especially in personal benefits.

Due to organizational changes announced as of 1 January 2007 which evoked number of changes in managerial staff, it was proposed that all work places where the change of managerial staff is expected, should separate the assessment of the past period from

the setting of goals and training needs for the future period. The first part of the assessment dialogue which is the assessment of the past period was performed by an employee in leading position who remained in his/her positions until 31 December 2006. It was within his/her competence to discuss with the employees the performance or non-performance of goals and make their performance appraisal for 2006. Good work performance could then be appraised in form of extra remunerations paid out by the year end. The second part of the performance appraisal, i.e. outlining of work goals incl. the setting of training needs for 2007, shall be performed by new managerial staff in February 2007.

Also for the performance appraisals 2006 the Handbook on Conducting Annual Performance Appraisal Dialogues in the CZSO was published as necessary methodological aid. Compared to the previous years the Handbook was slightly amended in compliance with the results of the previous performance appraisals. The Handbook on Conducting Annual Performance Appraisal Dialogues 2006 did not include detailed principles as set out in the Principles of Career Planning for the CZSO Staff. It was due to the fact that the principles adopted in August 2006 shall be detailed in co-operation with KPMG advisors.

18. Training and seminars for (managerial) staff

Training of managerial staff is one of the HR management priorities in the CZSO. In 2006, in compliance with strategic goals and priorities of the CZSO, an emphasis was placed on courses of process management and its description, statistical metainformation system and other similar things. Attention was paid to the development of communications and other managerial skills. The courses were organized both in and outside the CZSO. From among the external courses let us mention the courses held in the Institute of State Administration or in other prestigious educational institutions both local (e.g. Studio W. Pragoeduca) and foreign (European Institute of Public Administration). For training in the CZSO the bids of reputable educational institutions, or recognized lecturers (Free-Com., IDS Scheer ČR, and similar other things) were selected.

In the Czech Statistical Office in 2006 the following courses related to managerial skills were held:

Course name	Number of attendants	Duration (days)
Process management for top management	12	1
Process management for employees in leading positions	16	2
Cost and process management	44	1
Process description	75	1
Balanced Scorecard	12	1
SMS - conception, global architecture, processes	46	1
SMS - UKAZ	170	1
Leading of teams for middle management	12	3
Art of communication with the media and crisis communication	21	2
Communication skills	47	2
Psycho-social skills	61	2
Seminar on performance appraisal dialogues	16	1
Workshop on Grant Management (foreign lecturers)	50	1
Stress management	92	2

Many of employees in leading positions took part in the courses organised by other institutions especially by the State Administration Institute.

Course	Number of attendants	Duration (days)
Project management	1	2
Process management	1	2
Theory and practice of ICT management	1	2
Information security management	1	1
Output measurement and management, controlling in state administration	3	1
Leading of teams for middle management	2	2
Optimisation of manager's activity	1	3
Career plans formation	2	1
Training for the staff, legal and financial aspects	2	1
New Employment Law	1	1
New law on protection of confidential information	2	1

The CZSO participated in foreign courses focused on management issues, i.e. Presidency Challenge (3 participants), EC Project Management (2), EU Law for Non-Layers (1) Key Issues in Comitology (1), Statistical Data Quality (3).

Employees in leading positions participated in professional training in statistics, ICT and others which are not listed in the above reviews.

19. Additional activities of TQM Committee

The TQM Committee actively supported the first volume of magazine published in CZSO in electronic form which became an effective tool of the improvement of communication within the CZSO. Pursuing this aim the CZSO seeks for further active contributors from the regions. In the Employment Survey 2006 the magazine enjoyed a relatively positive response and shall be published on in 2007.

The TQM Committee also proposed that an electronic notice board be introduced on the intranet with the aim to publish the information on profile tasks. This electronic notice board shall be included into a new version of the intranet, into the section of Statistics where the reference to the following projects: Statistical Survey System Reform, Statistical Meta-system, Public Database and Process Description can be found.



Stanislav Drápal
Vice-President of the CZSO

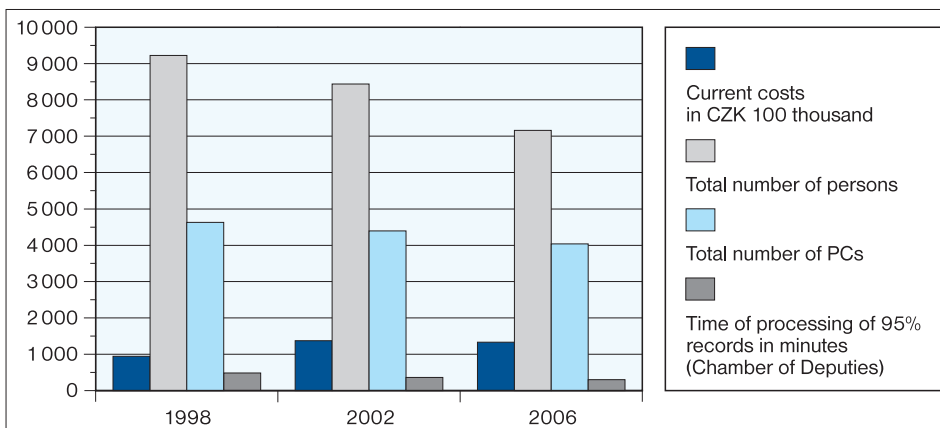
3.2 Election year 2006

The Czech Statistical Office, for the third time from 1990, acts by law as an institution ensuring the system of surveys and processing of the results of elections in the Czech Republic. In 2006, the most difficult combination of elections held over one calendar year took place.

Ordinary elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament to one third of the Senate and municipal councils took place. New elections to municipal councils were held in March 2006.


The CZSO coped successfully with the task to process election results at maximum quality, ensure corresponding security and reliability of processing and widely inform the public on the progress of processing election results. Especially an on-line presentation of continuous results of elections to the Chamber of Deputies in June showed an exceptional interest in the CZSO web pages www.volby.cz. It is a pleasure to state that in many claims on the course and results of elections which were filed at the Regional Administrative Court and Constitutional Court not a single shortcoming was recorded for the election activities of the CZSO.

The following chart shows an overall review of development trends of some indicators documenting how demanding the processing of results of regular elections in 2006 was in total in comparison with the election years 1998 and 2002. Continuing fall is recorded for the number of persons involved in processing of results and the number of PCs. The time-spent on processing of entries from prevailing majority of district committees was reduced. Neither total financial means expanded by the CZSO on elections show any significant growth intensity of the election results processing. In absolute terms in 2006 the costs were lower than in 2002.



The scale on the axis "y" gives relevant units of measurement (CZK 100 thousand, persons, pieces, minutes) of individual indicators.

In 2006, the elections took place for the first time without district offices from which all competences in the elections passes on municipal council bodies, i.e. regional offices and authorised municipal offices (the same procedure was applied in the elections to the Senate already in 2004). The cooperation with these election bodies at the stage of preparations for the election result processing is very important for the CZSO since it affects not only on the conditions of its scope of activities in the elections on regional level but finally the quality of the entire election process. Permanent attention was paid by the CZSO to the improvement of organization and method of preparation of the ward (and special ward) election committees for the vote counting and improvement of conditions for the application of the program prepared by the CZSO for ward election committees including the promotion thereof.



Preparation and equipment of the election centres of the CZSO at the offices for processing of election results in terms of technical fitness and organization has been improving systematically since 2000. Now, it is on a very good level. Among the most significant success in this area belongs the fact that there exist no big differences between individual regions in the number of ward election committees which transmit the results of the vote also electronically. In the last elections to municipal councils over 72% of election ward committees used this procedure and over 63 % of election ward committees in the elections to the Chamber of Deputies. The results of vote were successfully transmitted in electronic form from all 108 diplomatic authorities of the CR in abroad where the voting took place.

An independent chapter on co-operation between the CZSO and regional offices, authorised municipal offices and other municipal offices is the area of filing and checking the list of candidates and applications of candidates for the senator's position; especially the process of saving and regular update of data on candidates and parties running for elections for making the election record. This is a very difficult activity with tight and binding deadlines. For filing and checking of data on approximately 6 thousand candidates to the Chamber of Deputies the election law provides the same time period as for the processing of data on more than 200 thousand candidates to municipal councils.

Experience from elections in 2006 was assessed in details and together with notions for changes in legal regulation on elections were published by the CZSO in reports on the course and results of the elections which are submitted for discussion by the State Election Committee.



3.3. Macroeconomic statistics

In the areas of the national accounting the harmonization with methodical standards and requirements of the EU continued. The CZSO finished and published revisions of time series of methodically fully comparable annual and related quarterly indicators from 1995. The revised data reflected methodological changes required by Eurostat, especially the allocation of the item Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM) to individual uses. In 2007, the time series of annual accounts shall be supplemented by data from 1990 to 1994.

Significant innovations were implemented in the problem area related to conversion of sets of indicators of annual national accounts into constant prices. We have taken over and adopted the model currently used by Norwegian statistical office. In the presentation of the CZSO on the internet an inquiry system of outputs from annual national accounts was created. In compliance with the Eurostat requirements we have prepared and sent to Eurostat for comments an extensive document on the process of mapping out the annual national accounts formation from primary data up to final outputs (GNI Inventory). It is presumed that upon amending the document in compliance with the remarks, if any, it shall be translated into Czech and then published.


The Czech Statistical Office within its set out terms (as of 1 April and 1 October) sent to the European Union and Eurostat the source material for notification of deficit and debt of general government. The Eurostat receives quarterly the sets of indicators giving a picture of the development of incomes and expenditure of the general government whilst the breakdown by all required classifications is maintained. These data were published on the CZSO web pages on the same date and were made available to the users. A significant progress was achieved in the preparation and publishing of quarterly sector accounts based on the recently adopted EU directive. The Czech Republic was granted an exception to present the required data as late as in 2008, however, in the time series from Q1 1999.

In the area of quarterly estimates of the gross domestic product development and related indications, the potential data sources for quarterly fresh estimates of GDP and its components were analysed. This work shall continue also in 2007 so that the required indicators could be published not later than in February 2008. At the same time, the existing outputs will be completed with the required, more detailed breakdown of some indicators. Within the estimated terms and scope the gross domestic product broken down by regions and other selected items were compiled. In this area full harmonization with the EU requirements has been achieved.

Within the European comparative project of gross domestic product expenditures (ECP) the CZSO provided within the required terms and structure the sources on the basis of which Eurostat calculated final indicators in purchase power parity for individual member countries. These indicators serve source material for the decision to draw structural EU funds. For calculation of the VAT average rate which serves basis for determination of returns to the EU own sources the in-depth structured records were compiled and provided to the Ministry of Finance.

Besides a regular and routine production of price indices which constitutes a backbone of the price statistic department, in 2006, the main focus was placed on the preparation and implementation of general revision of price indices. The aim of the revision is a fundamental update of price monitoring system. The last revision was made in 1999-2000 while the entire completion and assessment were performed not earlier than in 2001. Current revision refers to the consumer price index, industrial producer prices, prices of construction works and buildings, prices of business services, agricultural prices and external trade prices. In relation to harmonization with related national and international statistics a new index base=2005 was chosen.

For the purpose of successful revisions it was necessary to organize and process some extra surveys such as detailed survey of household expenditures or mapping out the sales in shops.



As a rule, the revision includes the introduction of a new methodological process into the price index calculation in compliance with the European harmonization of statistic as well as gradual extension of price-monitoring. The result of this yearlong work on the price index revisions is that the first reference period for which new time series of monthly indices are published will be January 2007.

Another important product of price-statistics was the price survey for an international comparative project (ECP) in which the CZSO took part on the basis of international treaties and most recent legislation. Last, but not least, the efforts to improve the real-estate prices monitoring were made with the aim to increase the existing quality of price indices provided and further extend the observed price circle.

In the **external trade statistics** the CZSO realized a number of measures on the increase of data quality in the area of methodology and especially by an in-depth data control. A new common decree of the Czech Statistical Office and the Ministry of Finance was published on statistics of imports and exports which is a by-law to the Custom Law on collection and processing of data on the movements of goods. The reason for the amendment of the decree was to provide for corresponding observation of trade with energy products within the EU. Simultaneously, a new methodology of special movements of goods was introduced.

The representative of the CZSO are involved into the work of the EU institutions for the preparation of the future significant simplification of the Intrastat statistics. The tools for better use of administrative data ensuing from tax statements were created. Statisticians together with the General Directorate of Customs have implemented technical and organizational measures to intensify data control by customs office staff ensuring data collection.

Absolutely prevailing electronic form of external trade statistical data collection was strengthened by introduction of data collection through the Portal of Public Administration and the newly prepared web application. In the statistics of export and import of services the scope of surveys was extended by the general government and entities from all branches of transport. The grossing up methods are prepared and under the agreement with the CNB the results of these statistics will be published from 1 January 2008 and used as basis for the balance of payment.



3.4 Business statistics

Business statistics department of the Czech Statistical Office in 2006 performed strategic goals set out for this period. Selected employees of the department were involved in the implementation of the CZSO priorities and especially in the Reform of statistical survey system, statistical system of metainformation or the task "Operation NACE 2007" which is focused on problems related to the implementation of the economic activities classification (NACE rev. 2) into national conditions. At the year end we initiated co-operation on economic and financial indices analysis in business sphere. All tasks in the field of business cycle surveys in business sphere in 2006 we succeeded to perform.

The priorities of **industrial statistics** included especially the work on new methods of industrial production index formation. We have reviewed the method of calculations which finally resulted, among other things, into easing of respondent burden. Iron and steel survey which followed two voluntary pilot surveys was, for the first time, fully covered by CZSO. In the department of **construction and housing statistics** methodological works on calculation of construction production index as well as on the amendment of Act no. 183/2006 Sb., on Site Planning and Construction Rules (Construction Law) went on, modification of the reporting system so that it corresponded with the above legal regulation took place.


Energy statistics underwent a transformation process, the reporting system was modified to respond to the latest international requirements in this domain. At the same time, the work on new energy nomenclature ENEPAL 1204 was concluded. Pilot test of extraordinary survey marked as KRIZE with the aim to map out necessary characteristics at the event of crude oil crisis was successfully completed.

Within the Eurostat grant on the improvement of business cycle statistics the scope of data fed into the Eurostat databases was extended by monthly time series of **transport, communications and services** sales index. In 2006, the time series of data published quarterly on the CZSO web pages www.czso.cz were extended by basic trade, transport and communication financial indicators.

In the **trade a services statistics** the co-operation with the Czech Confederation of Commerce and Tourism (CCCT) went on. In December, the assessment of performance of the co-operation agreement took place attended by the President of the Confederation and the President of the CZSO. The co-operation with the work group Service within the Business Environment development Council (BEDC) set up by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, continued.

Tourism statistics underwent a methodological audit with positive results. On the basis of certain recommendations the time-schedule of activities designed to further improve the quality of statistics was prepared. In November 2006, an extensive response was recorded for the first publishing of the substantial part of tourism satellite account 2003-2005. Over the year, the CZSO participated in the Task Force for the update of the EU Directive 95/58 regulating the tourism statistics.

In 2006, the final processing and publishing of results of the farm structural survey (FSS) 2005 took place. In the **agricultural statistics** three international pilot projects were implemented within the TAPAS program (Technical Action Plan for Agricultural Statistics). The first was aimed at the survey of availability and existence of rural development indicators. The second pilot project dealt with the verification of the observed data for fruit growing. Both these pilot projects were successfully completed during in the second half of 2006. The last pilot project aimed at the development and performance of the Farm Register was started in 2006 and shall be finished as late as in 2007. Pilot projects aimed at rural development and fruit growing were massively funded from the Eurostat contribution. Final reports on these projects were received and approved by Eurostat.



In the **forestry statistics** the concept of unified environmental and economic accounting for forests went on and especially in the part of securing and meeting the technical values (quantities) from the area of environment.

In the **environment statistics** an external audit was finished. Within the interministerial programs aimed at easing the respondent burden, the work on testing the possibility of receiving administrative data for waste and waste management statistics was started. The activities related to the development of satellite accounts of environment for the atmosphere and material flows went on. In 2006, we started to supply into the common questionnaire of Eurostat and OECD indicators from the domain of water management and waste. The CZSO together with the Ministry of Environment of the CR prepared an interministerial statistical yearbook. In 2006, branch and cross-sectional statistics performed all current tasks the set out in the Statistical Survey Program and Catalogue of Publications of the CZSO. By the year end, we published long-term historical time-series (since 1920) of agricultural indicators.



3.5 Demographic and social statistics

In 2006, the demography and social statistics branch was preparing the **population and housing census** the realization of which was scheduled on 2011. We have prepared and assessed preliminary feasibility study on the basis of which we proposed the subject matter of the law on population and housing census in 2011. In August, the law was presented for interministerial discussion. Due to controversial principal remarks on the choice of variant of census the CZSO President asked the prime minister to postpone the date when the draft subject matter of the law is to be submitted to the government for the first half of 2007. An outstanding act was the publication of the Historical Lexicon of Municipalities 1869 - 2005. The two volume publication maps out the long-term development of the settlement on this territory. It is based on the results of population and housing census taken on the territory of the Czech Republic in 1869 - 2001. The Historical Lexicon follows the unique Retrospective Lexicon of municipalities of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in the years 1850 - 1970 published by the Federal Statistical Office in 1978. The authors of the Historical Lexicon tried not only to complete the information until 2005 but also revise any and all historical data on population and houses and also the information broken down by territorial and administrative units, territorial belonging of municipalities and parts of municipalities from the middle of 19th century to date.

In the area of household surveys the annual **survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)** was started up. The sample was extended to a standard size in compliance with the European legislation and included also a panel component in form of repeatedly visited households. Field work was widened by the stage of tracing of migrating persons on the whole territory of the CR. From the first survey conducted in 2005 the micro-data samples were processed for Eurostat and the results in form of large publication of tables was prepared for publishing.

Family accounts statistics underwent a significant restructuring since this survey took place for the first time in the modified form. The surveyed sample covers all types of households represented in the population, and, among other things, so far unobserved households of the unemployed and quota features were completed by the size of municipality, or the house type. The structure of the sample then came closer to reality and its adequacy increased. The burden of reporting households has been reduced markedly due to shortening of survey period on food and non-alcoholic beverages expenditure down to 2 months per year. This step has led at the same time to the increased cost-effectiveness.


In compliance with international methodology we prepared and published the **health accounts of the CR** for the period 2000 - 2004. Results of analysis of data included in these accounts were published at the press-conference.

Another important event coordinated by Eurostat was an employee statistical survey focused on securing and funding of **further training its employees**. The data obtained will enable to assess the level of education both in time and in international comparison of the level of the employer care and funds expended on the improvement of skills and knowledge of their staff.

By the end of 2006 the work was started on the preparation of a pilot sample population survey on **lifelong education of adults** in compliance with the Eurostat methodology. In cooperation with the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the CR the work on the preparation of sample statistical survey on the disabled went on. The survey will be taken with the assistance of their general practitioners in 2007.

In the statistics of non-business sphere the work was started on the task resulting from the decision of the Czech government no. 19/2005 on compilation of **satellite account for non-profit institutions of the CR**. A work group consisting of representatives of the CZSO, Centre for non-profit sector research and the Ministry of Finance of the CR was set up.

In the department of research, development and information society statistics relatively new areas of statistics were developed in relation to respective directives of the European parliament and Council of the EC: innovation statistics, information society statistics (use of



ICT in business companies, households and by individual users), general budgetary outlay and allocations to Research and Development (GBOARD), licence statistics, HR in science and technologies.

In the effort to supply the users with a clear basic source of information and a view on key spheres of science and technologies including their international comparison the CZSO publishes a yearly recap "Statistical Yearbook of Science and Technologies."

At the end of 2006 we prepared the **professional growth survey** on the most qualified tier of population - Careers of Doctorate Holders. In the conditions of the Czech Republic it is a brand-new survey which is a common project of the EU, OECD and UNESCO.

In the department **labour and wage statistics** a recapitulating Analysis of the labour market 1993-2005 was prepared. It is based on company statistics, Sample survey of labour force in households (Academy of Legal Studies) and uses also administrative data source. Besides a complex view on this problem area the Analysis describes also main methodological differences between various statistical sources and consequent inconsistency of the results.

At the Academy of **Psycho-Social Studies** we have prepared changes in methodology and analytical activity and, at the same time, an ad hoc model of the Academy of Psycho-social Studies for 2007.

We have also completed the system of **job vacancy statistics** based on data provided by labour offices. Thy system complies with the Eurostat requirements.

We have managed to prepare a database of results and the "Report on Quality" within the European survey on complete labour costs (Labour cost survey 2004). We have successfully finished the project on quality improvement of wage and labour costs systematic surveys co-funded by the Eurostat grant.



3.6 Methodology and registers


In 2006, the activity of the general methodology and register branch was focused on priorities of the Office, primarily on the reform of statistical survey system, statistical metainformation system, NACE 2007 operation, modification of contents and improvement of quality of registers and cost controlling, but also on the co-operation during the preparation of Population and housing census in 2011, public database development and concept of informatization.

In the routine regime we have co-ordinated the process of creation and approval of the Ordinance on **Statistical survey programme**. For gradual improvement of quality of the preparation process the second respondent satisfaction survey was taken. The survey provided a space for formulation of specific remarks and proposals on surveys and wider co-operation. General conclusions and specific ideas constitute a part of the proposed methodological rules which comply with the prepared Reform. The work places of the state statistical service at the ministries are regularly informed on the rules with the aim to strengthen the co-ordinating role of the CZSO in the state statistical service of the CR.

In the areas of **statistical classifications and nomenclatures** methodical work was focused especially on the implementation of the Statistical classification of economic activities (NACE, rev. 2) in the following areas: co-operation on creation of international classification, draft national version (5th place), settlement of external comment procedure and the preparation for a change in classification in Business Register. Classification of basic fields of education, nomenclature of countries, Classification of services of non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) by purpose, Harmonized system of goods description (HS) and Unified international goods classifier (SITC) were updated. At national and international level the changes in Combined nomenclature were discussed and the work on changes of international standard production classification went on. The terms for the introduction of the International classification of education (ISCED-97), which would replace the Czech national classification of basic fields of education, were discussed.

In 2006, in the area of **statistical registers** the work was primarily focused on widening of the contents of registers in compliance with the legislation (amendment to the EU regulations on registers of enterprises and amendment to the Act on State Statistical Service). In Business Register the work on incorporation of other type of statistical unit, i.e. groups of enterprises, continued. This unit shall serve a background for mapping out the relations between enterprises and for the statistical data interpretation from the aspect of international interlink of capital. Constant attention is paid to the improvement of quality of the register contents. In 2006, we focused on non-profit institutions with the aim to improve the quality of national accounts for non-profit sector. Another statistical register, register of census districts and buildings was extended by technical and statistical characteristics of houses and dwellings obtained from statistical surveys and censuses. The users then will have an access to other valuable data on the CZSO web pages. We have started to work on the exploitation of data provided by the Ministry of Interior of the CR from the information system of the population records to update both registers.

In 2006, in **statistical metainformation system** the partial project solution continued. In the project Classification and nomenclatures (KLAS) a technical project was completed and approved and the work on the development and testing of the program apparatus of the sub-system was started. In the project Ukazatele (UKAZ) we have finished the specification and started to work on the technical project preparation and adopted a sub-system data model. In the project Statistical tasks and surveys (ULOHY) the project team formulated the task. In relation to partial project ULOHY and Global architecture of SIS the task was formulated for tender procedures for the project Transition Facility 2006 - SMS. The work on solution of partial project Statistical Data Quality (KVALITA) continues. The solution was focused on the draft data quality assessment model which was tested on actual statistical task.



In December 2006, the CZSO management approved the **Policy of Revisions** which specifies general rules of revisions, the manner of their assessment and publishing including basic contents of other related metainformation. Specific information is published in the calendars of revisions. In the area of production of the information on statistical data quality we specified the contents and established related new nomenclatures enabling quality assessment by means of the determined indicators.

In the area of **statistical confidence protection** we obtained detailed practical experience with software used abroad which we successfully applied on the protection of extensive and interlinked tables of structural yearly surveys. These methods we applied as pilot ones on other selected statistics.

Other innovations were introduced in the area of coherence assessment in construction and industrial statistics, preparatory works on sampling and estimation methods and back-calculations of time series related to the introduction of new classification NACE rev.2.

The preparation of unified statistical data storage including relevant metainformation and information on quality through the introduction of data store technology began. Further, the terms of electronic data collection from the respondents based on an extensive survey including adjustment of functions of the offered software were constantly improving.

The application for monitoring and review of individual statistical surveys of respondents was developed to enable the respondents to obtain knowledge of all statistical surveys in which they are supposed to take part this year and to offer the background sources in electronic form.



3.7 Statistical processing

The area of statistical processing is broken down by two main methods of data survey: field survey which is used mainly for population surveys and mailback surveys which is applied, as a rule, to businesses.

In 2006, the CZSO addressed the Czech households with standard types of surveys, i.e. family account statistics survey, labour force sample survey, tourism sample survey and IT sample survey which were completed by a new social survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC). In the sample of 51 000 dwellings over 362 000 interviews were conducted with individual members of a household (in case of continuous surveys the repeated interviews are set off). Considering that the household surveys are taken on voluntary basis the volume of obtained responses is considered a success of the CZSP network of interviewers.

In 2006, we addressed **businesses** acting in the CR by reports based on the Statistical Surveys Program which sets out reporting duty in form of 123 reports of the CZSO. These cover the needs for entries of individual statistics users and they differ not only by their contents in general but are broken down by branches of economic activity and financial sector of the respondent. For 90 000 reporting units 282 000 records were processed including reports compiled with multiplied frequency.

The CZSO is aware of significant burden on respondents and therefore in 2006 the preparation of the **Reform of statistical surveys** started in 2005, continued. Methodological documents MODEL 2008 containing basic principles of the statistical survey systems were approved by the President's Board of the CZSO. The document was presented also to the Czech Statistical Council. The implementation of MODEL 2008 is scheduled for 2009.

To secure the opinions of statistical reports respondents, relevant ideas for the development of the **electronic data collection** and improving affectivity of the manner of communication with the respondents we organized two opinion surveys. We addressed almost a thousand respondents selected at random. The output of these surveys was also the identification of communication barriers (incl. electronic) and we obtained knowledge about the respondent profile as a background for the adjustment of electronic data collection program designs.

Having in mind that the needs and requirements of the users increase year by year and their fulfilment is limited by the approved budget of the CZSO as central authority it is inevitable to look for tools not only for further optimisation of internal activity but also for setting balance between requirements of users and available statistical potential, to be precise, financial sources. Among priorities of the CZSO for 2006 the task **"Cost controlling"** was ranked. Within this task the public order for "Implementation study and pilot project in the area of procedural management and financial costs" was awarded and solved. A team of the CZSO specialists participated in the solution of this task with an external advisory firm, Deiloitte, which was awarded this order on the basis of tender. The results of the study were presented at the meeting of the President's Board of the CZSO which approved the study and recommended further steps of implementation.

Petra Kuncová



3.8 Information provided to the public

Informing the public on social and economic situation in the CR belong to basic activities of the Czech Statistical Office. The information is available mainly on web pages of the CZSO and in publications. The CZSO also offers it's own information service. The most noticeable event of 2006 was the opening of Public Database for the public - it is a unique database of statistical data designed for all users. Although it does not offer all data which it could, the database is being largely used.

Statistical information and services were provided at workplaces of the headquarters in Prague and at 14 regional centres.

Total sales of services provided including sale of publications, classifications, nomenclatures and electronic outputs from databases and services reached in the headquarters of the CZSO almost CZK 5 million which is 12.7% less than in 2005. At regional centres of the information services rendered by the CZSO the sales accounted for CZK 0.9 million (a 16.9% increase compared to 2005).


In 2006, in the CZSO headquarters the sales of products of Business Register made up three fifths of total sales. The interest in non-standard outputs which made 20% of the total CZSO sales remained unchanged. The sales of publications decreased in the period 2006 - 2005 by 13%. The drop of sales was expected because the CZSO is continuously reducing the number of publications - e.g. the Catalogue of Publications 2006 contain almost one fifth less publications compared to the previous year.

In the area of rendering of the information services the total of 33,101 orders and inquires were recorded in 2006 in the headquarters: 50% of inquires was made by phone, 40% arrived by electronic mail. The staff in the headquarters and in the regions try to answer the inquiries as soon as possible. In the headquarters the answer is provided on the same day or by the following day in 93% of cases, in the regions even in 96%.

The prevailing majority of clients are the representatives of business companies; in the regions they make up a quarter of all clients and in the headquarters even two fifths of all clients. Another important group are physical persons (in regions: 26%, in headquarters: 24%). The headquarters have many clients from among the students and schools, from the authorities of central government and from abroad, regional centres closely cooperate with self-government authorities (23%) and with non-profit organizations. Many of inquires answered in the regions were designed for regional media.

In 2006, 180 contracts were signed on a regular update of Business Register, approximately 150 clients extended the contract with the CZSO signed in 2005 and, in addition, 30 more contracts were concluded. Apart from contracts on Business Register in 2006, 20 contracts on issues related to the Population and Housing Census and Census District Register and 20 more agreements on SCP boxes were concluded. In 2006, the total of 51 permanent orders were registered of which 29 were monthly orders and 17 quarterly and the remaining were semi-annual or annual. In 2006, 5, 226 pre-paid printed publications and 942 publications in electronic form were sent off via the SCP boxes, about two thousand publications were dispatched (it should be considered that the unabridged electronic publications are available on web pages free of charge).

The CZSO web pages have recently become a gateway to statistical information for the users. Over the year 2006, when three elections took place, the main page of web presentation hosted over 1,400 visitors (by 340 thousand more than in 2005), the main page was visited 3,063 times (by 516 times more than in 2005). The growing trend of visiting rate of the CZSO web pages continues at rather dynamic pace. This year, the average daily number of visitors seeing the main page amounted to 3,883 (in the previous year the number was a thousand less - 2,957 users). The visitors were mostly interested in the statistics of regions, population, macroeconomic data for the Czech Republic, inflation rate and Intrastat.



A noticeable area in rendering the information services is the cooperation with international organizations. Number of questionnaires sent to international institutions increased from 246 in 2005 to 256 in 2006. Most questionnaires were passed on to the International Monetary Fund - 57 altogether, European Commission - 54, OCED - 39. 34 questionnaires were passed on to Eurostat and 25 regular questionnaires to the UNO.

The European Statistical Data Support service should be mentioned. This service is partly funded from the Eurostat grant. In 2006, 710 inquiries were answered which is 15% more compared to 2005; most inquiries concerned labour and social statistics, prices and national accounts. About 117 inquiries were combined comprising various statistics.

Official statistical library is part of nation-wide network of libraries with a specialized library fund. In 2006, 252 new readers were registered, the library was visited by 2, 207 readers, the on-line catalogue showed 29,555 searches. For the users 3,649 photocopies were made from the publications, every month a display of new books was organized. 3,872 new books including DC were registered and catalogued in the on-line catalogue and registered were 328 journal titles. The library stock reached 24, 882 volumes as on 31 December 2006.

In 2006, a number of important statistical publications were released. Besides annually published Statistical Yearbook of the CR and yearbook of all regions a brand new publication "The Czech Republic in International Comparison" was published (publishing of the title was funded from the Eurostat grant) and publications "Foreigners in the Regions" or "Demography of Businesses in the CR". Long awaited title the Historical Lexicon of Municipalities in the Czech Republic (1st and 2nd volume) was published, too. To several elections the CZSO responded by releasing the publication "Before Elections" and a number of regional publications showing the election results. From among other publications we can mention analytical publications "Regional Differences in Demographic, Social and Economic Development of the Region" or "Human Resources Development" which were prepared in some regions.

Besides standard publications we embarked on extensive promotion targeted at the lay public. Promotional leaflets and brochures were published: e.g. "Statistics: From History to Present" in Czech and English versions, or Information Society in Figures.

Cooperation with partners - universities, other state institutions and special interest unions, etc. grew substantially. In the regions the cooperation with regional offices and other central and self-government authorities has developed. The CZSO staff in regions were settling their inquiries concerning statistical data and took an active part in analyses of selected problems and searched for relevant statistical sources necessary for the settlement of the identified issues. This applied to source materials for analyses of the coherence regions NUTS II, analysis of economically weak areas in some regions, sources for the conception of the micro regions development and other similar things.

In 2006, in a printing centre 2.5 million of black and white sheets, 139 thousand of colour sheets and 34 thousand of covers for publications were printed. Compared to 2005 the black and white printing is approximately on the same level and the demand for colour printing was a quarter lower.

Jana Zdráhalová



3.9 Legislative activities

In 2006, the CZSO legislative activity was mainly focused on legislation supporting priorities of the Office. Among these priorities belong, among other things, easement of administrative burden of respondents whilst the reporting value of statistics and its comparability shall be maintained as required by international commitments.

In the first half year the bill amending the Act No. 89/1995 Sb., on State Statistical Service, as amended, and other related acts, underwent dynamic legislative procedure. In February, the draft amendment was approved by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR, and then submitted to the Senate which returned it to the Chamber with the propositions to amend. The Chamber of Deputies stuck to the original draft amendment and, subsequently, the act was published in the *Sbírka zákonů*, chapter 75 under No. 230/2006 Sb., on 29 May 2006.

When the act became effective the intention of the amendment pursuing mainly the changes in statistical registers maintained by the Czech Statistical Office was fulfilled. With the aim to increase the effectiveness of the state statistical service, accuracy and applicability of statistical information and to ease administrative burden of respondents, certain statistical surveys will be substituted by statistical data taken over from administrative data sources of other central government authorities. The amendment responded to the development of legislation in European Communities and European Statistical System.

In 2006, the preparation of a significant legal provision requiring high professional approach and legislative erudition - draft subject-matter of the act on population and housing census in 2011 - was under way. The document was, as an integral part of the world program of population and housing census, coordinated by the UNO submitted in August for the external comment procedure in compliance with the Plan of Legislative Activity of the Government for 2006. 66 amendment spots were addressed. By the year-end, the settlement of comments in relation to this draft subject matter of the act was under way.


The subject of this material was to prepare conception of the population and housing census which will take place in the CR in 2011 with the aim to obtain data on the population growth, its structure and living conditions especially housing; all in mutual relations and in the nationwide context also in the smallest territorial detail for statistical purposes.

The Czech Statistical Office also prepared and discusses two draft legislative provisions.

As a rule, the Czech Statistical Office paid a great attention of the Decree No. 476/2006 Sb., on the Program of Statistical Survey for 2007. This draft legislative provision of the Act on State Statistical Service regulates the regime of statistical surveys performed by authorities of the state statistical service under the conditions and within the scope as set out by the law and is designed for obtaining statistical data. Their aim is to create aggregate statistical information on the basis of needs of individual sectors (departments) and local government and self-government authorities. The program of statistical surveys also respects the decision of the Czech governments, requirements of the EU and other international authorities.

The Decree no. 563/2006 Sb., amending Decree No. 201/2005 Sb., on statistics of exported and imported goods and the way 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. The main reason for amending the Decree was the need of the Ministry of Industry and Trade to update the list the observed types of goods to respond the current demands of this ministry for the information on despatch and receipt of selected petroleum products in the trade between the Czech Republic and the Member States of the European Communities. The amendments also responded to the legislation changes within the European Communities and European Statistical System.

Besides the above legislative activities the Czech Statistical Office will submit to the Czech government the document on the area of problems concerning the state property and



state budget means to secure the Czech Statistical Office Activity. It responded to the conclusion of the Supreme Audit Office from the audit No. 06/01 (Decision of the Czech Government of 1 November 2006 No. 1252). The audit was focused on state property management and budget financial means expended on the Czech Statistical Office activity in 2004 and 2005 and in case of factual relations the audit shall concern the preceding and following periods as well. The Czech Statistical Office respects the conclusions of the audit performed by the Supreme Audit Office. In the state property management and the use of financial budget means the CZSO always pursued the economic criteria of the given situation.

In 2006, four notifications of the Czech Statistical Office were published in the Sběrka zákonů on Classification of Basic Branches of Education, statistical nomenclatures of countries and classification of services rendered by non-profit to households broken down by purpose.

In the area of external legislation, i.e. assessment and submitting of remarks and comments on draft legal provisions of the ministries and other general government authorities, the Czech Statistical Office submitted altogether 353 statements.

Marcela Provazníková



3.10 Human resources management

In 2006, in compliance with the budget, the Czech Statistical Office could employ 1,821 employees. The actual annual converted figure accounted for 1,800 employees.

Employees by sex

	Number of employees	in %
Total	1 800	100
Women	1 336	74.2
Men	464	25.8

The average age of the CZSO staff was 46.8 years.

Employees by age

Age group					Total
below 30	31-40	41-50	51-60	over 61	
220	295	481	697	127	1 800

The assessment in compliance with the qualification structure has confirmed the set out upward trend in the number of employees with university education. The reason for the gradual change of qualification structure is the increasing challenge of the activities performed.

Employees by education

Education reached			Total
Basic, vocational training, secondary	Secondary with final exam	University	
124	947	729	1 800

In the course of 2006, 190 employees terminated the employment. The migration rate was 10.4%. The average wage of the CZSO employees accounted for CZK 23,428.

Number of hours of professional training

Type of course	Number of hours
Short-term professional courses *)	15 694
Long-term courses	342
Language courses	2 631
Total	18 667

*) Courses shorter than 5 days

One of priorities in the HR management is the improvement of professional skills of the staff. Both external and internal lecturers are involved in the system of further education. The share of the CZSO involvement in the international specialised professional education held within the European program of statistician education was attended in 2006 by 35 employees.



3.11 International cooperation

European Union

Position of the Czech Statistical Office as well as the state statistics service of the CR within the European Statistical System (ESS) received positive assessment from the general director of Eurostat, Mr. Hervé Carré, at his official visit to the Czech Republic at the end of 2006. It was the first visit of the EU statistical authority top representative upon the CR accession to the EU. He appreciated the CZSO results as well as its involvement into the activities contributing to the development of statistics with the aim to meet the needs of wide scope of users of the European statistical data. According to him the Czech statistical system can be ranked among the best statistical institutions in the EU.


Within the complex involvement of the Czech statistics into the ESS in 2006 the main stress was placed on the performance of tasks ensuing from the European statistical legislation and active involvement into the wide spectrum of activities with the aim to develop the ESS including the preparation of the EU new legislative norms in the area of statistics.

The CZSO representatives in working bodies of Eurostat and in the committees of the European Commission took an active part in the solution of issues focused on statistics from the aspect of current needs, quality of data and fulfilment of other tasks as outlined in fundamental program documents. This representation is roofed by the President of the CZSO which is a regular member of the Statistical Programme Committee of the European Commission. The main aim is to discuss the five-year and yearly programs of statistics for the Community, legislative proposals in the area of the EU statistics and other strategic goals within the ESS. In its three discussions in 2006 the SPC dealt with procedures aimed at the reduction of administrative burdens and balance of statistical programs, implementation of the European Code of Statistics in the conditions of national statistical offices and statistical office of the Community with the aim to increase their independence, accountability and quality of their work. A great interest was raised by involvement of the CZSO experts into the Task Forces aimed to solve demanding problems related to the development of statistics in selected areas (e.g. basic legislative framework of the Community statistics, Code of Practice, migration statistics, statistics of information companies, simplification of Intrastat, national accounts, statistics of tourism, education).

An important part of the above negotiations is the preparation of legislative proposals in the area of statistics which are discussed within the co-deciding procedures by the European Parliament and the EU Council. With the aim to push forward the interests of the Czech Republic the Czech Statistical Office intensified its active preparation and participation in the discussion of the work group for statistics of the EU Council and in compiling of source materials for negotiations at the top level of the Council. This activity has become part of complex preparation of the state statistical service for presidency in the EU Council in the first half of 2009. The intensive process of training and preparation of the staff, gathering specific knowledge and expertise from other countries for the preparation for the presidency and establishing contacts with the national statistical offices of France and Sweden which will perform the presidency just before and after the Czech Republic respectively, was started.

The CZSO used available financial resources of the EU based on financial co-participation of the European Commission mainly in funding of new-introduced statistics, in the development and application of new procedures and statistical methods contributing to the increase of statistical data quality. Among the most significant activities in this area of co-funding from the European Commission sources implemented in 2006 belonged e.g. projects on structures of agricultural enterprises surveys, survey on incomes and living conditions (EU-SILC), projects in the area of price statistics or the use of information and communication technologies.

The project designed to help the European data users went on. This financial co-participation of the European Commission in form of grants designed for individual areas of statistics of Member States was completed by a specific contribution granted to new Member States within a multilateral programme Transition Facility. Its first part, Transition Facility 2004,



containing 9 more partial projects from various statistical domains (national accounts, foreign affiliations, health, demographic statistics, etc.) was started in January 2006 and will last two years. The preparation of a new contract on Transition Facility 2005 which was implemented also in 2006 covered six more projects the implementation of which will take place in 2007–2008. The national programs Phare and Transition Facility contributed to optimisation of procedures in certain areas, e.g. in statistical surveys on households. For the project Transition Facility 2006 - Statistical Meta-information System the specification documentation was prepared and by the end of 2006 the tender procedure was launched. The project solution will be implemented in 2007-2009.

International institutions

In 2006, the involvement of the CZSO in activities held by the Statistical Commission of UNO and external groups continued. The CZSO is also a member of the Conference of European Statisticians within the European Economic Council where apart from involvement in the preparation and the course of the Conference it participates in negotiations of experts work groups and in common events organized by the EEC and many other international institutions (e.g. Eurostat, OECD, FAO) in different areas, i.e. migration statistics, statistical dissemination, confidentiality of data, agriculture, national accounts, business registers, etc. For 2006 the CZSO was entrusted by holding one of two key seminars within the Conference of European Statisticians held in June 2006 on "Human Resources and Education in Statistics". Based on the successful course of the seminar the CZSO took part in work performed in compliance with conclusions of the Conference in cooperation with the representatives of Canadian statistical authorities.

In June 2006, the President of the CZSO will participate in the 3rd session of the OECD Statistical Committee. In the spirit of the OECD principal orientation of statistical activities the following seminars, work groups and subject committees were focused primarily on national accounts, short-term statistics, labour productivity, dissemination, financial statistics, etc. The CZSO is involved into statistical activities of other international institutions (WTO, FAO, ISI, IMF and WB) and may thus apply its knowledge and expertise in the development of statistical standards and methods and contribute to strengthening of the CZSO position in the international context.

Technical assistance


In the area of assistance related activities within the development of statistical systems of less advanced countries and countries in the process of restructuring the CZSO is involved into the activities organized by the international statistical community aiming to reach the development of statistics worldwide. The reason is that the CZSO is ready and prepared to share the already obtained knowledge as well as generally accepted need for internationally comparable statistical data of the widest scope.

In 2006, the CZSO took part in assistance program aimed at the development of statistics in selected regions of 5 countries (Bulgaria, Turkey, Macedonia, Ukraine, Latvia) within the projects funded from the EU funds and coordinated by foreign partners. The total of 10 expert missions of the Czech statisticians to abroad was organized and 6 consultations with Turkish, Bulgarian and Ukrainian statisticians in the CZSO took place. Assistance in form of expert missions was applied mainly for the following domains: energy, services, national accounts and register statistics, use of administrative data sources, satellite account for tourism, building of statistical facilities and assessment of organizational structure of individual offices.

Bilateral cooperation

Bilateral cooperation with statistical offices mainly of the EU countries which contributes to the exchange and more effective use of disposable knowledge and expertise continues to develop also in 2006.

Long-term work contacts with the Slovak Statistical Office cover, as a rule, many areas of statistics. In 2006, the key areas were external trade issues, Intrastat, national accounts



EU-SILC and social statistics, agricultural statistics (Farm Register), grants from the European Commission and technical assistance, information system issues. Regular meetings of presidents of statistical offices were in 2006 aimed at the coordination of the state statistical service, statistical return by electronic mail and communication with respondents, metainformation system and preparation/implementation of the revised European classification NACE.

The cooperation with the Central Statistics Office Ireland (visit paid by the president of the CZSO in Ireland focused mainly on management-related issues) and Germany (especially in the area of regional cross-border databases). With the aim to extend contacts with statistical office of Italy mutual visits of presidents of statistical offices are aimed mainly at presentation of statistical system of both countries (data processing, quality). The exchange of experience in the area of management and administration of projects funded from the European Commission grants with the representatives of the Statistics Sweden was an excellent opportunity to get valuable information not only for this area but also for other projects implemented by the Office (e.g. cost controlling).

A new subject of discussion with the representatives of statistical offices of "ancient" member countries in 2006 became the presidency of the CZSO in the EU Council in the sector of statistics. In bilateral contacts the CZSO employees collected information on this area at the partner statistical offices in Ireland, France Italy and Austria.

Austria initiated further extension of multilateral cooperation of presidents of statistical offices in Austria, CR, Hungary, Slovenia as well as the implementation of the agreed seminars (external trade, migration, use of administrative data sources) which provided valuable ideas of their further use.

Aggregates

In 2006, the total of 467 business trips of the CZSO employees took place. These employees participated in 341 events. Like in 2006, 177 participants from among foreign experts took part in 55 work debates.

4. Providing the information in compliance with Act No. 106/1999 Sb., on Free Access to Information

Providing of the information under Act No. 106/1999 Sb. is regulated by an internal directive.

A) Information provided in 2006 on request

In 2006, no information was required or provided under Act No. 106/1999 Sb.

	CZSO headquarters	regional centres of the CZSO
Number of filed applications for the information	0	0
Number of appeals filed against the decisions	0	0
Copy of substantial parts of each court ruling	x	x
Results of proceedings on penalties for breaching of Act No. 106/1999 Sb., excluding personal data	x	x
Other information on the application of Act No. 106/1999 Sb.	x	x

B) Information provided by publishing

The following information was made available on public notice board in the 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 including terms and principles of its operation
3. Description of organizational structure
4. Contact postal and e-mail addresses
5. Bank details
6. Company registration number (IČO)
7. Tax identification number (DIČ) - not VAT payer
8. Data on approved and modified budget, budgetary income and expenditures in the past year
9. Inquiries for information - contact addresses and contact to the information service centre in the headquarters and regional offices
10. Where requests or complaints can be filed
11. Remedial measures
12. Forms
13. Procedure descriptions - instructions for solutions of real-life situations
 - assignment of company registration number
 - inquiry for statistical information
 - filling in and return of statistical information by the CZSO respondents
14. List of most important regulations
15. Price list of providing information
16. Annual report under Act No.: 106/1999 Sb.
17. List of established organizations

5. Contacts

Czech Statistical Office

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

Office of President of the CZSO

Phone: (+420) 274 052 378, (+420) 274 052 017
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Press Section

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Fax: (+420) 274 052 133
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Information Services Section

Phone: (+420) 274 052 304, (+420) 274 052 648, (+420) 274 052 451
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Infoline (+420) 274 052 900

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

Publications Shop, Cash Desk

Phone: (+420) 274 052 732, (+420) 274 052 400
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Central Statistical Library

Phone: (+420) 274 052 354
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Information Services - Regional Offices

Hl. m. Praha

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Key indicators of the Czech Republic 2006

Area	78 866 km ²
Population (31 December 2006)	10 287 189 persons
Females	5 261 005 persons
Population density per km ² (31 December 2006)	130 persons
Mean age (1 January 2006)	40.0 years
Life expectancy	
Males	73.4 years
Females	79.7 years
Natural increase/decrease per 1 000 population	0.1 ‰
Number of employed persons in the national economy (LFSS)	4 828.1 thous. persons
Average monthly gross wage of employees in the national economy	20 211 CZK
Index of real wages in the economy	103.9 %
Inflation rate	2.5 %
General unemployment rate (LFSS)	7.1 %
Gross domestic product	3 204 086 CZK million, current prices
Annual growth rate of real gross domestic product	6.1 %
Share of the private sector in GVA	80.5 %
Gross national income	3 027 434 CZK million, current prices
Exchange rate EUR/CZK	28.343 CZK
GDP by exchange rate CZK/EUR	113 047 EUR million
Exchange rate USD/CZK	22.609 CZK
GDP by exchange rate CZK/USD	141 717 USD million
GDP per inhabitant	
Current prices	312 087 CZK
By exchange rate CZK/EUR	11 011 EUR
By exchange rate CZK/USD	13 804 USD