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## Foreword of the President

The year 2008 was significant for the Czech Statistical Office due to many reasons and I would like to mention at least the most important ones. We have successfully undergone another phase of fulfilling of priorities we had set for this year. They are: Reform of Statistical Survey System, transition to the new Classification of Economic Activities NACE Rev. 2, decreasing of administrative burden of respondents, foundation of the Basic Population Register and preparation for the Czech Presidency in the Council of the European Union.

The CZSO successfully satisfied the demand for preliminary estimations of the gross domestic product. We published the first so-called flash estimate on 15 May 2008, namely for the first quarter. It was welcomed positively by the professional as well as broad public.

Czech statisticians try to contribute quite a lot to modernisation of the state administration and improvement of comfort of citizens when contacting it. The purpose is to decrease administrative burden, prevent duplicate survey of various data that people have already entrusted or will entrust to the state. In this context, in the year 2008 we started preparations of several projects, which will contribute to that. They are, for example, foundation of the Basic Population Register and a system of statistical registers. We want to create one of the basic registers, which will be a core of the e-Government and will enable to share data in the public administration.

Another project, which started last year, is to make a concept, solution, testing and realization of the system of electronic elections. In April 2008, me and Minister of the Interior signed a memorandum of cooperation of both institutions on the project, the target of which will be to enable electors to vote by Internet and it will work as an alternative to traditional voting in a voting room.

Reliability and timeliness were traditional attributes with which the Czech Statistical Office processed in autumn 2008 elections into Regional Councils and in two rounds to one third of the Senate of the CR. Having experience from previous years, we enabled the public to watch ongoing and final results of voting also on



alternative website [www.volbyhned.cz](http://www.volbyhned.cz). Moreover, also blind and visually impaired users of the website [www.volby.cz](http://www.volby.cz) could get acquainted with the results of elections into Regional Councils and the Senate, in accordance with the Decree No. 64/2008 Sb., on accessibility of websites of the bodies of state administration.

Also one extraordinary activity of the Czech Statistical Office is related to election statistics. In October, we issued in cooperation with our Slovak colleagues a historical election yearbook Elections to Legislative Bodies of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic in 1920-2006, which was our contribution to the 90th anniversary of foundation of an independent Czechoslovak state. The publication summarizes results of all elections to lawmaking bodies since 1920 up to nowadays. Besides that, readers will find in it much historical data related to political parties, election standards and other interesting information. Besides a paper form, the publication is traditionally (the same as all other outputs of the CZSO) available for free in an electronic form at our website: [www.czso.cz](http://www.czso.cz).

## Foreword of the President

It is worth to remind that in December 2008 our website had its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. Thus, it became a key communication instrument via which statisticians make their data available to the wide public. During that time, it has undergone several changes and modernisation inspired by the users, who we regularly address by a user satisfaction poll. Every year, our website increases its volume by about 27 000 new documents.

In legislative area, what I consider to be an important success is the bill passed by the Government on the 2011 Population and Housing Census, which now when I am writing these lines is due to be debated in the Parliament of the CR. Successful managing of this countrywide action that will be part of the World Population and Housing Census Programme coordinated by the United Nations Organization and in European scale is subject to EC regulation, requires a long-term and careful preparation.

Quality, credibility and punctuality are key terms for the CZSO. Last year, we completed the first cycle of methodological audits of individual statistics. Methodological audits belonged to the first priorities set by the top management when they took up their functions in 2003 and they became one of well-trying instruments for our work improvement. Valuable at these audits were not only their outputs with many of already applied practical recommendations for us, but also active cooperation of external authorities in the head of auditing groups.

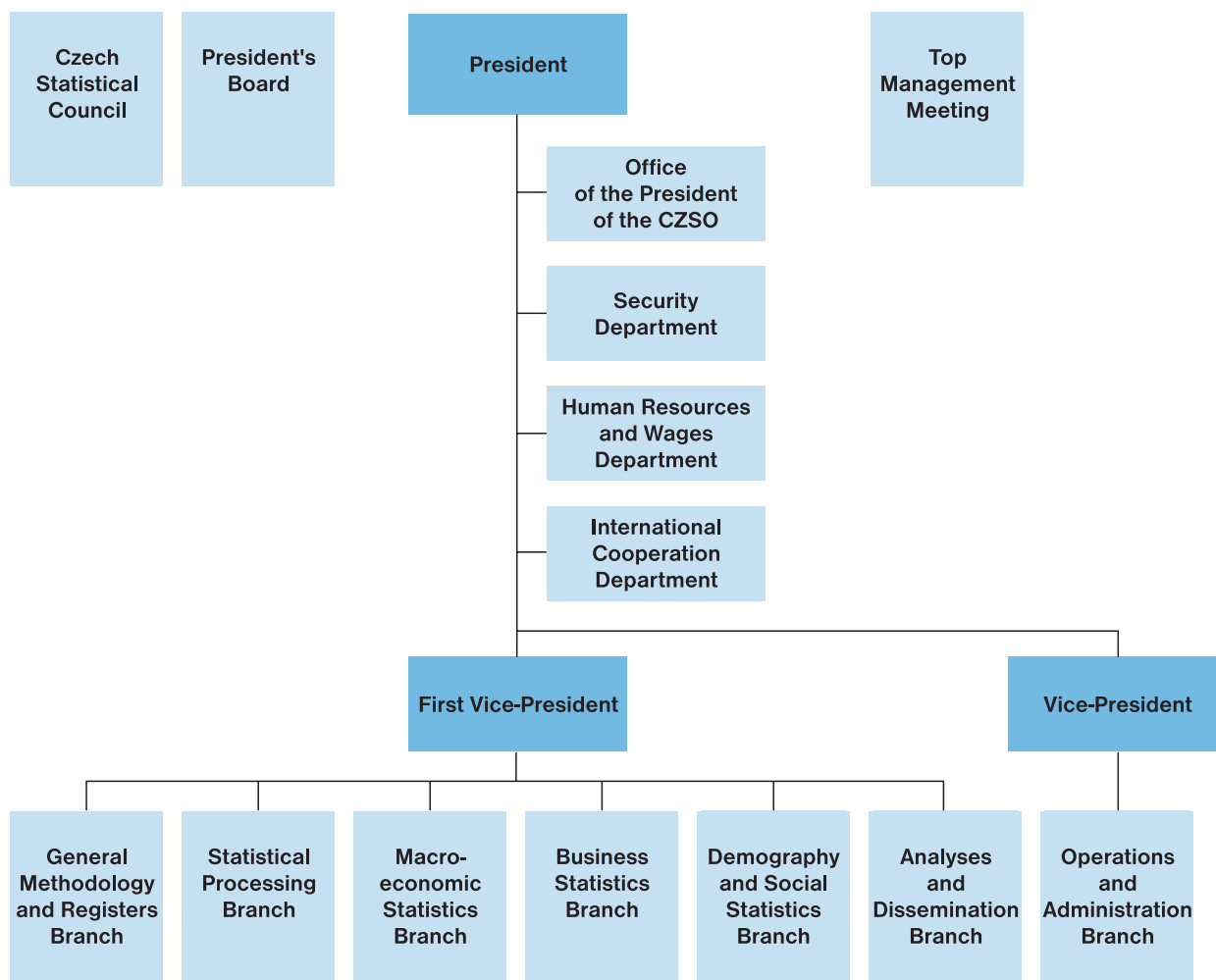
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fischer', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jan Fischer

## Top management

The Czech Statistical Office is headed by its President who is appointed by the President of the Czech Republic upon the proposal of the Government. Consultative bodies to the CZSO are: **Czech Statistical Council, Top Management Meeting and President's Board**. The **Czech Statistical Council** is headed by the President of the CZSO. The members of the Council are appointed 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. It discusses and adopts an attitude of 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. **The Top Management Meeting** deals particularly with the operational management of the CZSO, ensuring and fulfilment of current tasks. **The President's 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 Top Management Meeting, director of the General Methodology Department and secretary to the President's Board.



## Top management

## The Czech Statistical Council

Chairman:

**President of the CZSO Jan Fischer**

Vice-Chairman:

**Jan Seger**

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

Members:

**Jaroslav Dostal**

Representative of the Czech Association  
of Insurance Companies

**Václav Henych**

Director of Section, Ministry of the Interior  
of the CR

**Ivo Hering**

Director, Analyses and Statistics Department,  
Ministry of Industry and Trade of the CR

**Richard Hindls**

President of the University of Economics

**Michal Illner**

Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences  
of the CR

**Stanislava Janáčková**

Advisor to the President of the Czech Republic

**Jana Jurečková**

Department of Probability and Mathematical  
Statistics, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics,  
Charles University

**Antonín Juriga**

Director, Department of Advisors, Ministry  
for Regional Development of the CR

**Jiří Kohoutek**

Board Member of the Czech Chamber of Commerce

**Josef Kraus**

Research Institute of Agricultural Economics

**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**

**Zdeněk Pavlík**

Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies  
and Economics, Purkyně University

**Eduard Souček**

**Michal Ševera**

Czech Confederation of Commerce and Tourism

**Pavel Štěpánek**

Deputy Managing Director, Czech Banking  
Association

**Eva Zamrazilová**

Chief Executive Director and a member of the  
Bank Board, Czech National Bank

**Tomáš Zidek**

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance of the CR

Secretary of the Council:

**Jana Zdráhalová**

Director, Office of the President of the CZSO

Permanently invited:

**Jiří Křovák**

First Vice-President of the CZSO

**Stanislav Drápal**

Vice-President of the CZSO

**Roman Prorok**

Press Agent of the President of the CZSO

## Members of the Top Management Meeting

**Jan Fischer**

President of the CZSO

**Jiří Křovák**

First Vice-President of the CZSO

**Stanislav Drápal**

Vice-President of the CZSO

**František Konečný**

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

**Marcela Provazníková**

Director, Human Resources and Wages Department

**Hana Šlégrová**

Director, International Cooperation Department

**Jana Zdráhalová**

Director, Office of the President of the CZSO

**Roman Prorok**

Press Agent of the President of the CZSO

## Total Quality Management (TQM)

In 2008, systematic establishing of methods and principles of the Total Quality Management (TQM) continued. Activity of the TQM Committee focused on coordination of already well-established instruments of quality management as well as coordination and development of instruments to monitor effectiveness of processes and activities of the CZSO and its modernization. The CZSO obtained several important public awards.

### Public awards

The public sector communication conference held in Prague in March 2008, organised by the Westminster Company and Inside Journal, recognised the CZSO (in the category State Institutions) together with the Academy of Sciences of the CR and the Energy Regulatory Office as one of the **Best Communicating Institutions**. The CZSO participated for the second time in the competition The Czech Republic National Quality Award, namely in the category of public sector - public administration with its self-assessment using the EFQM model. In the end of November, the CZSO received the second “**Award of improvement of performance of the institution**”.



### The CZSO perception survey

In a representative public opinion poll called “The CZSO perception survey” that is carried out already for the third time by the Public Opinion Research

Centre of the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the CR, the CZSO (in relation to the assessment of other organizations) again found itself among institutions that are the most trusted in the CR and its results in the survey have improved compared to the previous year.

- Image of the CZSO in the eyes of the Czech public didn't change much during the last two years.
- The CZSO enjoys public trust that is prevailing among the Czech public: 62% of citizens expressed their trust and 15% their distrust (in previous year, 60% citizens trusted the CZSO).

Respondents approach the CZSO as a professional institution. The CZSO carries out every year two user satisfaction surveys: a larger survey targeted on the CZSO outputs users and a very brief survey for the CZSO website users. The user satisfaction survey had similar results as in 2007; a partial worsening of the average marks in some group of users was balanced by a slight improvement in another. Comments of respondents were relevant and constructive; many of them were used to improve products and services of the CZSO.

### European Code of Practice (CoP) implementation

The CZSO continued in fulfilment of a set of measures of the European Code of Practice full implementation in the Czech statistical service. The CZSO management negotiated in February 2008 a summary report on the progress in the European CoP implementation on the level of departmental statistical services, which was then sent to Eurostat. Cases of political influences or data collection and their utilisation for other than



statistical purposes were not identified. The mandate for data collection is fully backed by the existing legislation on statistics.

It is similar with statistical data protection. The summary report on the progress in the European CoP implementation on the national level as well as on the Eurostat level was submitted by the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council in November 2008. The Report was acknowledged and on the level of relevant statistical bodies (the Statistical Programme Committee of the European Commission and the Partnership Group) it will be decided how monitoring of the CoP implementation will continue in the near future.

### Cost controlling

Works continued on implementation of cost controlling in the conditions of the CZSO. Controlling objects were drafted and completed and a nomenclature of sub-processes was elaborated. An application was designed: "Monitoring of time demandingness" for determination and monitoring of controlling objects costs. Test operation started on 1 April 2008. From 1 September 2008 the application is in full operation, i.e. all CZSO employees have to enter time consumption for orders under the "List of orders for 2008".

### Personal audit (PA)

In relation to realization of an internal personal audit in June and July 2008, the CZSO used for the first time in a larger scale quantitative methods of performance assessment (productivity, effectiveness) of its organizational units. Some of the methods have already been prepared and used; some were elaborated mainly for the purposes of the 2008 PA. They were especially the following:

- Benchmarking with the Austrian Statistical Office (having one of the best process management in Europe) - see below.
- Capacity models (in the area of collection and processing of data having more or less industrial, production character).
- Economic and capacity calculations (especially in the area of administrative and service activities but also e.g. in the area of information services).
- Comparison with the averages and tops in the economy (where it is possible, i.e. again mainly at service and administrative activities).

Performance assessment methods used for the PA were used for assessment of labour productivity (effectiveness) of organizational units (departments, independent departments); monitoring of costs of time, or the entire concept of cost controlling is focused on activities (processes, subprocesses), further on orders and cost centres. Productivity development is to be monitored continually and it shall become a basis for repeated personal audits. Results of the audit are in the chapter Human resources management.

### Benchmarking

In June 2008, mutual comparison (Benchmarking) was agreed between the CZSO and the Austrian Statistical Office. The target of the benchmarking was to analytically evaluate comparative performances of individual organizational units or individual activities, especially differences in the number of workers of both institutes in the area of some statistics, specialization and number of interviewers, kinds of administrative data sources, competences of the human resources management unit, competences and scope of international cooperation, competences and scope of controlling; kind of ICT system used, its advantages (disadvantages), and the like.

### Redesign of the Statistical Information System

Within the project Redesign of the Statistical Information System of the CZSO development of the Quality subsystem took place. The project was presented on the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics in Rome in July 2008. It lies in defining, creating and the following utilization of views to the central database with focusing on quality of statistical processes and products. In the basis are the so-called quality attributes or metainformation on quality. A draft of their contents and structure results from the concept of quality of the European Statistical System and individual phases of a statistical process.

### System of methodological audits

From evaluation of the European CoP implementation in spring 2008 it resulted that the CR is one of few EU Member States, which has a functioning system of methodological audits. The first cycle of methodological audits was successfully completed.

## Important activities and projects

In the beginning of 2008, the CZSO management discussed a final report on retail statistics audit; in the first quarter, a methodological audit of information society statistics was carried out, in the second quarter an auditing group for energy statistics was working at the CZSO resulting from which were 9 findings of which 2 were significant; the last was methodological audit of financial, government and non-profit institutions statistics. The Top Management Meeting on 18 November 2008 approved a proposal to postpone the start of the second cycle by at least a year, namely due to implementation of a new Statistical Surveys System, changes in procedures of statistical data processing, etc.

### Annual assessment-related debates with employees

Annual assessment debates are already for the fifth year an effective platform for an assessment of labour performance, space for a dialogue on personal and professional development of employees. After a PA was made in June and July 2008 (resulting from which were savings of salary costs for the redundant employees), this year it was possible for the first time to efficiently connect assessment of employees with their remuneration. For the sake of better quality and elimination of stress annual assessment-related debates were conducted from 15 September to 30 November 2008. They will be also a background material for selection of employees who will be prepared according to conditions set in the CZSO Staff Career Development System.

### Career Preparation Circle

Background materials for elaboration of personal career projects for individual employees included in the Career Preparation Circle were collected by mid February 2008 and discussed on meetings with the relevant employees and their superiors (section heads, department directors, branch directors). The first control of how plans of development of employees are realized took place in summer 2008. Managers repeatedly requested to be included in the career development and thus a draft of extension of the Staff Career Development System also for employees in managerial positions who want to prepare for further career promotion was elaborated.

### Staff Opinion Survey

The Staff Opinion Survey was carried out from 27 November to 12 December 2007. In January 2008, basic results were presented on the Intranet. In comparison to the previous year, the return rate of questionnaires slightly increased from 47.5% to 48.1%. Realization of approved measures was reflected e.g. in prolonging of the period to carry out annual assessment-related debates with employees and introduction of a closer relation between remuneration and labour performance of employees, organization of a seminar on conditions, possibilities and experience obtained during implementation of the Staff Career Development System, making of a Survey on utilization of contributions from the Fund of Cultural and Social Needs and the following introduction of a new contribution for pension additional insurance of employees, organization of 2 rounds of effective communication courses within managers training.

## Development projects

The change of the Statistical Information System entails changes in activity of the entire office. In 2008, the CZSO solicited financial means for realization of development projects from the EU operational programmes.

The CZSO is aware of new requests of users, huge administrative burden on respondents and the need to increase statistical information availability and thus works on preparation and solution of two important projects continued in 2008: the **Reform of Statistical Survey System** and a change of the **Statistical Meta-Information System (SMS)**. These projects, which started in 2005, will bring noticeable changes to users and respondents since 2009. Gradual solving of the projects results from basic documents, mainly the Concept of the SMS, MODEL 2008, and the **Global architecture of Statistical Information System (GA-SIS)** that were gradually submitted to the Czech Statistical Council. Basic targets of these development projects result from strategic documents of the CZSO. The activity of teams is coordinated by the Steering committee for Redesign of the SIS.

New architecture of the Statistical Information System (SIS) covers the entire system of creation of statistical information, it enables to effectively obtain statistical data and add metainformation to them. The main requirements from the SIS are to decrease burden on respondents, optimize creation of statistical information in the CZSO and increase its timeliness, availability and quality. Both development projects are solved on the level of the contents, metainformation, and information technology. Within the SIS and SMS an integration of procedures and instruments takes place with orientation on optimization of financial costs. New and current requests of users for statistical data were systematically evaluated. Transparency and availability of statistical information will be ensured by its storage in the central data warehouse including necessary metainformation.

### Reform of Statistical Survey System

The Statistical Information System was designed as 6 subsystems, which correspond to main statistical

processes (CONTENTS, REQUESTS, PREPARATION, PROGRAMME, INPUT, CENTRAL, DISSEMINATION) and 3 integration subsystems (SMS, DATA WAREHOUSE and REGISTERS). In relation to the change of contents of questionnaires, which was prepared within the Items stocktaking and analysis in 2007, in accordance with the SBS and STS systems (Structural Business Statistics - annual; Short-Term Statistics) preparation of statistical surveys for 2009 took place. In this segment, burden on respondents decreased by 23%. Application of the method of negative coordination of respondents will bring a decrease of the unit burden on respondents, too. The Items stocktaking and analysis started within the entire State statistical service, which will be a basis for further decrease of administrative burden on respondents.

A methodological procedure was created for decomposition of statistical variables and input statistical variables of SBS and STS were described. For SIS selected administrative data were used. The data model of processed data was changed; it is oriented on concrete statistical variables, not on lines and columns of a questionnaire. What was integrated is generating and display of reporting duties of respondents, from which record of communication with a respondent in the EVID system results. Availability of history of corrections of captured questionnaires was ensured. Common methods of non-response imputation and new estimates for the not surveyed part of the population of respondents were introduced. In relation to changes of the contents and functionality, software was prepared for input and central data processing including the electronic data capture at respondents. A data warehouse was created; universal format for data transmission between individual systems was defined and testing of the data warehouse started. Migration of the databases and applications to the new centre in the headquarters started.

## Important activities and projects

### Statistical Meta-Information System

In the Statistical Meta-Information System (SMS) works focused on detailed contents specification of selected SMS subsystems. Software development for the subsystems being solved continued and a marked progress was achieved in methodological and technological implementation of these subsystems. The subsystems KLAS (Statistical classifications and nomenclatures) and UKAZ (Statistical indicators) were filled with real data in order to start their full routine operation in mid 2009 and finish with the current METIS system. Further, within the Transition Facility 2006 project, the ULOHY ("tasks") subsystem was being solved, namely in parts related to contents and technological specification of statistical tasks and a design and verification of the data warehouse for the central storage of statistical data. Both systems were tested on selected (pilot) tasks.

### Financing and relations between projects

The speed and coverage rate of the integration and development projects realization depend in an important way on obtaining of necessary financial means, namely the extrabudgetary. Since the EU is a significant user and contracting authority as for statistical information, preliminary studies and project aims were elaborated as a precondition for utilization of financial means from the EU structural funds. To effectively ensure these activities, a Steering and Coordination Committee of the CZSO, which consists of selected managers and project leaders and then the Project Office Department were created.

In 2008, the CZSO focused on soliciting finances from two EU funds: the Integrated Operational Programme and the Operational Programme Human Resources and Employment, for five projects. During the year, preliminary studies and project aims were elaborated

and preparation proceeded for submitting of the project applications for grant award. The projects were as follows:

- The Basic Population Register (ROS). Within this project, in December 2008 a public tender announcement was made for a proposal of the Architecture of Population Register according to the Bill on Basic Population Register and other related documents.
- Extension and improvement of the database of regional accounts and regional statistics of the CR in relation to creation of special graphic data layers above the Register of territorial identifications, addresses and real estates (RUIAN) and to other basic registers of the public administration.
- Modification of the existing system of statistical registers in relation to creation of basic registers of the public administration.
- Redesign of the Statistical Information System in relation to implementation of e-Government in the CR.
- Modernization of the CZSO, enhancement of effectiveness of its management and related to that human resources development.

By involvement of financial sources from the EU funds the CZSO tries to fasten the process of its complex change to a modern, user oriented and effective institution.

As needs and requests of users are increasing year by year and their fulfilment is limited by the amount of the CZSO approved budget as a government department, it is necessary to seek instruments not only for further optimization of internal activities but also for setting of the balance between the requests of users and available statistical capacities or financial sources. Thus, among priority tasks of the CZSO for 2008 also the "Cost controlling" was included, which is one of the TQM activities.

## General methodology and registers

Activities in the area of general methodology and registers were significantly related to solution of priority tasks of the CZSO, i.e. the Reform of Statistical Survey System in the contents and process area, the Statistical Meta-Information System (SMS) and “Operation NACE 2007” in the area of classifications, statistical indicators and registers together with priority tasks related to development of administrative data use, namely for business statistics.

### Classification, methodology

In the area of classifications and nomenclatures activities are focused besides the above-mentioned NACE classification especially on determination of rules for implementation of international classifications and creation of their national versions including description in the meta-information system. This year, national version of the Classification of Products (CZ-CPA) was completed and introduced by the Notification of the Czech Statistical Office in the Collection of Laws. Classification of Occupations (CZ-ISCO) was revised (expected to be valid from 1 January 2010). Further updates took place at Classification of Countries (CZ-GEONOM), International Refined Diagnosis Related Groups (IR-DRG), International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems and also the Classification of Basic Branches of Education, which was (as from 1 January 2009) transferred to the competence of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. On both national and international levels, as every year, changes in the Combined nomenclature were debated.

The year 2008 was also a year of relevant discussions on administrative burden of respondents, especially entrepreneurs. In May 2008, an amendment of the Decree on the Programme of Statistical Surveys for 2008 was passed, which cancelled 15 annual statistical surveys of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Based on internal experience, a basic analysis of departmental statistical surveys took place, which will be followed by a more detailed analysis in 2009 in compliance with the Government Resolution No. 1478 on specification of the Plan of decreasing of administrative burden of entrepreneurs until 2010.

New processes were implemented into the way of preparation of the Decree on the Programme of Statistical Surveys, namely the process of evaluating of an administrative burden and the so-called RIA process as a systematic evaluation of negative and positive impacts of the Decree. A new methodology was proposed for consolidation of the description of statistical variables in the “SMS-UKAZ” subsystem. This methodology was verified and used at preparation of the draft Programme of Statistical Surveys 2009. By systematic changes of the contents of statistical questionnaires and coordination of reporting duties the CZSO has reached since 2005 a decrease of administrative burden of respondents who send their questionnaires to the CZSO by 33.5%.

### Registers

Development of statistical registers in 2008 was focused mainly on utilisation of new updating data sources leading to quality improvement of their information (administrative data from tax systems, from information system of population register and data from the Cadastre of Real Estate). Works continued on creation of the system of statistical registers of the CZSO. In 2008, in selected branches a NACE-2008 survey was carried out an important output of which was obtaining of background materials to better specify prevailing economic activities of entities according to the newly implemented classification of economic activities CZ-NACE. The Business Register provides information on activities in the so-called dual regime, i.e. both according to the “OKEČ” (the national version of NACE Rev. 1.1) and “CZ-NACE” classifications. Administrative and selected statistical data from this register including formulation of activities of entities in both classifications are available also via the web

## Important activities and projects

presentation at the CZSO website. A statistical unit - enterprise group - is already a standard part of the Business Register and it will be an important precondition for providing of data to create a European enterprise group register in 2009.

In 2008, the CZSO was entrusted to prepare a basic register of legal persons, natural persons doing business and bodies of public power, the so-called Basic Population Register, which is one of the four basic registers of the information system of public administration. Works on legislative preparation resulted in a prepared and debated governmental Bill on Basic Population Register. At the same time, works started on preparation of the content, methodological and technological solution itself for the register.

### Reporting duties

Works were finished on a new universal methodology of creation of reporting duties for businesses. The system enables to modify more the contents of a statistical questionnaire according to information possibilities of a respondent (so-called questionnaire transformation) and to minimize individual burden of the respondent (so-called reporting duties coordination) thanks to data utilization from tax systems (especially data from VAT tax returns and income tax statements) and data from monthly summary reports on bases of assessment of social insurance for enterprises. The new system keeps statistical representativeness of samples. This way of creation of reporting duties will be realized for the first time for surveys carried out in 2009. The most important benefit of implementation of this sampling method is for small and medium-sized businesses. Changes made in the system of annual structural surveys and short-term surveys and higher involvement of administrative data resulted in a decrease of the scope of surveyed statistical variables and decrease of the number of respondents addressed. It is expected that in relation to that the system of short-term surveys will provide better time consistency and coherence of statistical outputs.

### Quality

In 2008, regular quality assessment was carried out for the following statistics: quarterly national accounts, external trade, Business Register, structural business statistics (industry), environment, innovation and LFSS.

The CZSO evaluates ad hoc or at historical revisions quality of statistics of structural surveys, trade and services, agriculture, tourism, wages and prices. Relevant outputs are included in the self-assessment by the EFQM model and it is expected that within innovation of processes of data processing they will become their integral part.

### Safety

Works continued to specify basic legislation for statistical confidentiality protection within the new act on European statistics and implementation of other following regulations that simplify access to confidential statistical data for the purposes of scientific research and procedure of granting admissibility to organizations performing scientific research.

Via the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality, which was newly established, ways, methods and instruments of microdata dissemination in the following surveys were solved: European Community Household Panel (ECHP), Labour Force Survey (LFS), Structure of Earnings Survey (SES), Community Innovation Survey (CIS), Community Vocational Training Survey (CVTS), European Union - Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), Adult Education Survey (AES), Farm Structure Survey (FSS) and also proposals to enable access to data from the following surveys: European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) and Community Statistics on Information Society (CSIS). In the area of tabular data dissemination, methods for confidentiality protection of aggregates for the EU were being solved in industrial products statistics according to the PRODCOM classification, in Structural Business Statistics (SBS), Balance of Payment Statistics (BPS) and Animal Production Statistics (APS).

In the area of safety technologies, works started in 2008 on the Identity Management project and remote administration of safety measures was implemented via LANDesk Security Suite, which solves not only security of desktops but enables also proactive administration of security of end stations. Besides that, also an additional instrument LANDesk Management Gateway is implemented, which enables to administer portable computers out of local network of the CZSO.

Trainings on information safety for newly coming employees continued as well as ensuring of certificates



## Important activities and projects

for qualified electronic signature and many other routine protective and safety activities. In the end of the year, an audit of compliance with the Public Administration Information Systems - ISVS standard (for the needs of attestation of life cycle) according to the Act No. 365/2000 Sb. started. Works on data protection and security at the Census in the bill on the 2011 Population and Housing Census and related internal rules of the CZSO were finished.

### Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

In August 2008, after a reorganization took place, administration of ICT was transferred to the competence of the General Methodology and Registers Branch.

In 2008, renewal of the computer centre at the CZSO headquarters started, which creates sufficient capacities for the central technological infrastructure, enables faster and better quality access to statistical data, more effective and faster statistical data processing. The

renewal concerned mainly the central computer and communication systems - servers, which ensure processing, communication, presentation, backup, security and administrative functions. Projects from the following areas were solved first on the new technological system: the Public Database, Statistical Meta-Information System, data warehouses, Register of Census Districts, Business Register and processing of election results. Especially success of the latest mentioned project - election to Regional Councils and one third of the Senate of the CR - was conditioned by the renewal of central communication technologies so that it is possible to cover increasing demands of the public for accesses from the Internet, namely not only during the time of election results processing. In relation to the renewal of the computer centre, a detailed time schedule was elaborated for migration of data and applications from the current computer technology to the new. This project has to be finished by June 2009. Part of ICT developmental projects was also to support the Presidency of the CR in the Council of the EU. Basic strategic documents in the area of ICT development strategy of the CZSO were updated.



## Statistical processing

The Czech Statistical Office continues in trying to decrease burden of respondents and make filling of questionnaires and reports easier for them. To improve their orientation in statistical reports, contacts, methodological information as well as in the system of electronic data collection the CZSO created [www.vykazy.cz](http://www.vykazy.cz).

In the CZSO, the area of statistical processing is broken down (by prevailing processes and methods of obtaining of statistical information from respondents) to field survey and statistical processing. For population surveys, price surveys and agriculture statistics, within field surveys especially a personal interview or a contact with the respondent is used. Statistical processing, then, focuses mainly on the paper or electronic form of statistical reports for mail-back surveys and it is usually used for businesses.

### Methods of statistical processing

For input statistical processing we use to various extent modern methods that are standardly used by statistical institutions in Europe and over the world, especially:

- Electronic questionnaires with interactive controls (CAPI - Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing), which are used for both personal and a phone call interviews with respondents (64% of standard household surveys and 100% of consumer prices surveys).
- Electronic data capture, which takes place locally - at a respondent. A completed questionnaire is sent via e-mail for the processing at the CZSO (27% of reports, for which electronic data capture is available).
- Optical character recognition (OCR) of paper questionnaires and reports (4% of the total number of questionnaires and reports).
- Filling in of surveys directly on web pages of the CZSO is used by respondents in less than 1% of cases.

### Household surveys

In 2008, Czech households were addressed by standard types of surveys, i.e. family accounts statistics

survey, Labour Force Sample Survey, Tourism Sample Survey, ICT Sample Survey and Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). In selected 69 thousand dwellings more than 385 thousand interviews were conducted with individual members of the households (in case of continuous surveys the repeated interviews are included). Since the surveys are voluntary for the respondents in the CR, the volume of obtained answers is considered to be an input of satisfying quality for further processing. In 2008, also the first sample survey on adult training was carried out, by which over 8 thousand respondents were addressed.

### Data collection in enterprises

Businesses doing their business in the CR were addressed by the CZSO in 2008 by reports based on the Programme of Statistical Surveys, which determined the reporting duty in the form of 123 reports of the CZSO. These reports cover the needs of inputs for individual statistical users and differ not only in their contents in general, but also respect the branch of economic activity and financial sector of a respondent. For the selected almost 95 thousand units, 330 thousand reports were processed, into which repeatedly are included also reports with monthly and quarterly periodicity.

### New web presentation for respondents

To improve orientation of respondents in statistical reports, contacts, methodological and organizational information as well as in the system of electronic data collection the CZSO has created independent web pages for respondents, where at the address: [www.vykazy.cz](http://www.vykazy.cz) (only in Czech) there is necessary information and links available from all processing sections.



### Decreasing of administrative burden

The CZSO is aware of huge burden for respondents and therefore in 2008 preparation of the Reform of Statistical Surveys continued (it started in 2005). Decrease of burden of respondents under preparation was being solved in 2008 mainly on the level of contents, namely via items stocktaking and an analysis, by which it is evaluated how important and obligatory individual items on statistical reports are (in the area

of structural business statistics). The result of this priority task to decrease the burden of respondents will be obvious (as for this segment of statistical tasks) for the reporting year 2008, which means, that in 2009 the burden of respondents will decrease. Following the change of contents of these reports, the system of surveys SBS 2008 was prepared also with regards to the principle of negative coordination of respondents, which carries a decrease of a unit burden of respondents.



CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) is a more and more used method of statistical data collection in the form of a personal interview at respondents. Today, this method is used for 64% of standard household surveys and 100% of consumer prices surveys.

## Business statistics

In the area of business statistics, work related to implementation of NACE Rev. 2 was almost finished, including recalculation of time series of selected indicators backwards to the year 2000 and transition to the year 2005 as a base year. Following the change of this classification, a revision of the list of products CZ-PRODCOM was finished. Changes were introduced resulting from the amendment of the EC Regulation on short-term statistics and related provisions.

### Industry, construction, trade, market services

Within the Reform of Statistical Survey System, forms from the area of short-term and structural surveys were modified, work continued on description of statistical variables within the Statistical Meta-Information System (SMS) and also preparation took place for changes in the system and methodology of processing of individual tasks. A definition for the change of methodology of calculation of the construction production index was finished.



### Energy

In relation to the amendment of Decree No. 201/2005 Sb. on statistics of exported and imported goods, methodological work took place on the change of the system of processing of monthly tasks in the area of energy. The Regulation on energy statistics was approved and implemented. Negotiations took place on ensuring of statistical data in order to comply with requirements of the directive on energy effectiveness and final consumption.

### Tourism

Work in tourism statistics continued, especially on updating of EC regulations, technical assistance to Turkey and finishing work on the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA).

### Agriculture and the Environment

In the area of agricultural statistics, the farm Structural Survey FSS 2007 was successfully completed and the microdata database was transmitted to Eurostat. In August, a joint press conference was organized and held, at which the results of the FSS 2007 were presented at the president of the CZSO together with top representatives of employees' associations under the Ministry of Agriculture of the CR. Preparation for the Presidency of the CR continued - in the area of agricultural statistics legislative standards were prepared in statistics on crop production and statistics on pesticides. Within environmental statistics a governmental task was being solved - i.e. to unify and simplify reporting duty for waste producers. In agricultural statistics and environmental statistics work on international pilot projects of Eurostat was accepted and started, namely in the area of environmental taxes, water management statistics and statistics of irrigation.

## Macroeconomic statistics

National accounts published for the first time a flash estimate of the gross domestic product and employment within 45 days after the end of the reference quarter. Newly published was a short-term quarterly index of offer prices of flats. In external trade statistics, an amendment of the Decree to the Intrastat statistics was prepared.

### National accounts

In the area of quarterly national accounts, a flash estimate of the development of gross domestic product and employment was presented in February for the first time within 45 days after the end of the reference quarter. In compliance with requirements of Eurostat, drawing up of quarterly non-financial sector accounts was successfully introduced. In national accounts statistics some major improvements and specifications were made in accordance with the ESA 1995 methodological standard. Among the most significant are: a complex model of estimation of labour of foreigners in the Czech Republic including their consumption and savings and transfers to their home countries, specification of the estimation of dividend flow to abroad and estimation of social benefits in kind provided by non-profit institutions. The presentation system of annual national accounts was extended by tables capturing real holding gains and their impact on net worth of individual institutional sectors.

In relation to a preparation for a control mission of Eurostat, many specifications and additions to the current description of calculation of the gross domestic product (GDP) and gross national income (GNI) were elaborated. The control mission of Eurostat evaluated quality of procedures applied at the CZSO for calculations of the GDP and GNI, its requirements focusing on making the calculation of the GDP more precise and on making the description of calculation more precise will be realized during a few years to come.

### Price statistics

Besides regular routine production of price indices, which is the main activity of the Prices Statistics Department, in 2008 transition to the new base year 2005 was completed also for the real estates price

index based on administrative data from tax statements. Thus, all price indices of the CZSO now have the same base as for price and weight.

From the beginning of 2008, newly published was a short-term quarterly index of offer prices of flats. At the same time, in relation to a pan-European pilot project, works started in 2008 on other areas related to prices of real estates and index of prices of housing of owners of their dwellings. For example, consumer prices survey in Prague was extended by a pilot survey on prices and parameters of flats in real estate agencies.

However, the most significant and most labour-consuming activity of price statistics besides its routine work was preparation and successful transition to the new NACE Rev. 2 classification from January 2009.





## Important activities and projects

Most of all, it applied to industrial producers price indices, but also to prices of business services and external trade prices. Besides implementation of a new routine calculation, the entire time series of price indices were recalculated in the new classification.

Other important work of price statistics was a price survey for regular European Comparison Programme (ECP), to the fulfilment of which the CZSO is bound already for several years by European legislation. Last but not least, in the end of 2008, under the baton of Eurostat a rather strict methodological audit of the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices - HICP Compliance Monitoring - was carried out with quite good evaluation of the CZSO as for how it complies with European statistics in that very important area.

## External trade

In external trade statistics, an amendment of the Decree to the Intrastat statistics was prepared, which in the legislative frame includes requirements of the Czech National Bank, national accounts, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Eurostat and the result of which will be reduction of the number of reporting units with the reporting duty while keeping the necessary data quality. It applies especially to the following changes: increase of thresholds for reporting, extending of codes for transaction character, simplification of codes for delivery conditions, setting of a limit for using of the questionnaire in the paper form, obligatory reporting of weight at all sub-items of goods with the exception

of radioactive substances and electricity. In relation to the amendment, the General Directorate of Customs (GDC) made modifications of all kinds of software for data collection of Intrastat (IDES, the Portal of Public Administration and web applications) and the CZSO prepared a methodological guideline. Further, necessary changes were made in the processing chain and in cooperation with the GDC much training of Intrastat respondents and authorized staff of customs offices took place. Methods and software utilisation were elaborated in details to improve data quality of Intrastat and Extrastat statistics.

Representatives of the Czech Statistical Office actively participated in meetings of task forces of Eurostat and the Council Working Party on Statistics as to new regulations on the Intrastat and Extrastat.

A change of the way of data transmission from tax statements and transition to monthly periodicity of the transmission enabled to update grossing up of units without the reporting duty and to control data for units, which have the duty to report Intrastat. Grossing up for non-response was also updated.

In the statistics of export and import of services, grossing up for non-response was improved; the number of monitored services and reporting units was enlarged. From 2008, survey on services is enlarged by monitoring of the currency stated on an invoice made or received. Data for services will be published in 2009 via the Public database.

## Demographic and social statistics

The Czech Statistical Office has completed the first cycle of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). A sample survey on lifelong education of adults was carried out for the first time.

### Household survey

In spring 2008, the CZSO completed the first four-year cycle of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) that included also a panel component and at which on part of the sample of households interviewers carried out the survey via a modern CAPI technology (Computer Assisted Personal Interview). In the second half of the year, a pilot test of modular survey called European Household Survey within preparation of a broader pan-European programme of social statistical surveys of households was carried out successfully.

In the beginning of the year, the CZSO in cooperation with the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the CR processed and published results of the first sample survey on the disabled, which was carried out with the assistance of their general practitioners. Another survey, the first of its kind, was the sample survey on lifelong education of adults, which was carried out in households in compliance with the methodology of Eurostat. Results of this survey will be published in the first half-year of 2009. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the CR and the National Information and Consultancy Centre for Culture a manual was elaborated for drawing up of cultural accounts that from an economic point of view would enable to evaluate processes running in the department of culture in a complex way. In the end of 2008, in cooperation with Eurostat, methodological and organizational preparation started for feasibility study of two new statistical surveys in households, of which one will be carried out among victims of crimes and the second among the disabled.

### Society development statistics

At research, development and innovation statistics and information society statistics focus was made, as every year, especially on presentation of huge information

sources the CZSO disposes of and on making them available to users including international comparison. The CZSO also cooperated on the publication of the Research and Development Council "Analysis of the existing state of research, development and innovation in the Czech Republic and a comparison with the situation abroad in 2008", which is an official document within the Czech Presidency of the EU, and on the publication of the Government Council for Sustainable Development "Strategy of Sustainable Development of the CR, 2008".

To ensure background materials for government financial statistics, notification of government deficit and debt and for making national accounts for the government sector according to the requirements of the EU, the CZSO in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance of the CR prepared a draft Annual questionnaire on drawing of financial means from abroad.

In collaboration with the inter-ministerial work group work continued on the satellite account for non-profit institutions of the CR in order to make it more precise and enlarge the set of output tables in compliance with the EU methodology.

### Population statistics

Regulation (EC) No. 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection is incorporated in a new concept of the Sample and processing of statistical data related to migration and integration of foreigners on the territory of the Czech Republic and work on the change of the system of foreign migration statistics is in progress. In December 2008, a booklet Women and Men in Data was issued already for the third time, which presents to the broad public basic areas of gender statistics that is part of fulfilment of the task assigned by Government Resolution No. 540/2008 on promoting equal

## Important activities and projects

opportunities for women and men. A representative of the CZSO is a member of a Eurostat task force "Discrimination/Equality statistics" recommendations of which will be finalized by August 2009. Cooperation takes place also with the Government Council for Older Persons and Population Ageing on realization

of statistical part of the National Programme of Preparation for Ageing for the period 2008 - 2012.

For information on condition of preparation of the 2011 Population and Housing Census read the chapter "2011 Population and Housing Census".

## Preparation for the Presidency of the CR in the Council of the EU in the area of statistics

In 2008, preparation culminated and the CZSO started to participate in realization of the presidency in the Council of the EU in the area of statistics.

During the entire year 2008, professional, language and technical preparation for the Presidency of the Czech Republic in the Council of the EU continued. For the CZSO it was especially preparation for chairing of the EU Council Working Party on Statistics (under "B.8" on the List of Council preparatory bodies), but also for many activities related to that. During the year, a team of 6 members has been formed in order to prepare the execution of the Presidency in the area of statistics. Based on a proposal of the CZSO President, the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, Alexandr Vondra, approved Stanislav Drápal (Vice-president of the CZSO) to be the chairman of this working group and Hana Šlégrová (Director of the International Cooperation Department) to be the co-chairwoman. Members of the Presidency team and other experts that were selected and prepared in advance were taking required exams during the year from the English and French languages and from professional knowledge on structure and functioning of the EU bodies and other knowledge necessary for successful execution of the Presidency. Also the budget for the execution of the Presidency in the area of statistics was made concrete and requests were made for technical equipment of the Presidency team.

Consultations with experts from many national statistical offices took place, which have gained experience during the recent years with execution of the Presidency. Valuable and useful was especially help of statistical offices of the following countries in that sense: Italy, Ireland, Austria, Germany, Finland and Slovenia.

Preparation as well as experience and knowledge obtained were used not only for the preparation of the

CZSO itself, but also for preparation of experts from other departments of the state statistical service. First of all, it is under the umbrella of the Departmental Coordination Group for statistics, which ensures not only informing of all departments of the state statistical service on current affairs, but especially their active participation in creation of instructions for negotiations of the Council Working Party on Statistics.

In the end of 2008, the CZSO started practical realization of the Presidency as a member of the so-called Trio Presidency consisting of France, the CR and Sweden. This model was taken over from the historically first Trio Presidency: Germany, Portugal and Slovenia. This system provided better possibility of gradual involving of the CZSO in real solving of individual tasks. During the second half-year, the Presidency team of the CZSO started to gradually participate in various meetings of the French Presidency with the EU bodies. Officially, the Presidency of the CR in the area of statistics was presented at various meetings of statistical bodies of the EU up to the Commission/Eurostat. In the end of November, the CZSO got really involved already in concrete solving of draft regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on pesticide statistics. This process culminated in Paris on 19 December by an official handover of the six-month Presidency in the area of statistics between the French INSEE and the CZSO.

A detailed report on the whole process of preparation for the presidency in the area of statistics was also negotiated by the Czech Statistical Council on its autumn meeting. This task belonged also to priority tasks of the CZSO in 2008.

## Election statistics

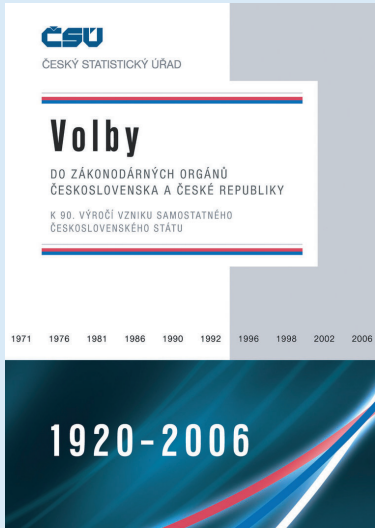
Activity in the area of election statistics in 2008 focused on two key tasks. The first was election to Regional Councils and one third of the Senate of the CR. The second was to complete a several years long project of preparation of a publication on results of elections in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic.

Besides several rounds of by-elections into Local Councils during the entire year, the CZSO ensured in October elections to Regional Councils and one third of the Senate of the CR. The first term in October was common for elections to the Regional Councils and the first round of election to the Senate. After several years, the CZSO budget enabled to invest more significantly to renewal and modernisation of information technologies, especially to renewal of the computer centre. It contributed not only to an increase of reliability of the technology used, but also to a recordly short time of processing of the results of the two demanding types of elections, which were carried out parallelly. In the second round of election to the Senate, which took place in 26 election districts, complete results were successfully processed within about four hours after the polling stations were closed.

Another important piece of work of election statistics was a publication that summarizes results of "Elections

to Legislative Bodies of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic in 1920-2006". It was the result of work within a several years long project. In searching for historical documents also experts from the National Archives and other workplaces of archive service participated. At the same time, a similar publication on results of elections on the territory of the Slovak Republic was prepared by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Both publications contain not only data but also copies of original voting ballots, voting lists and newspaper articles related to elections; they were issued in the beginning of October on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of foundation of an independent Czechoslovak state.

The Czech Statistical Office participated in 2008 also in preparation of many legislative materials for discussions of the Government of the CR, which are related to changes of election legislation.



The image shows the cover of a publication titled "Volby" (Elections). The cover features the logo of the Czech Statistical Office (CSU) at the top left. Below the logo, the text reads "ČESKÝ STATISTICKÝ ÚŘAD". The main title "Volby" is prominently displayed in a large, bold font. Underneath, it specifies "DO ZÁKONODÁRNÝCH ORGÁNŮ ČESKOSLOVENSKA A ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY" and "K 90. VÝROČÍ VZNIKU SAMOSTATNÉHO ČESKOSLOVENSKÉHO STÁTU". At the bottom of the cover, there is a timeline of years from 1971 to 2006, with "1920-2006" highlighted in a large, stylized font. The background of the cover is dark with a blue and red abstract design.

Publication Elections to Legislative Bodies of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic in 1920-2006, which was issued by the CZSO in October 2008, is the first output of the Addition of historical data project. The target of the project is to make accessible in a maximum possible extent data from results of elections that ever took place on our territory. The publication is also a contribution of election statistics to the 90th anniversary of foundation of an independent Czechoslovak state and establishment of the State Statistical Office, which we commemorate namely this year. In cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic a similar publication was made, which is devoted to elections on the territory of Slovakia. Both works thus bring a comprehensive picture of elections on the territory of the former Czechoslovakia. Authors of this project wanted to submit a most varied view of election statistics and thus the work includes not only stark tables with election results, but also a view of election legislation and political parties, which participated in elections. Added are also copies of materials, which are integral part of election results processing and of election statistics as such. Last but not least the publication contains over 20 illustrative graphs and over 10 cartograms, which depict the described data in a graphical way.



## 2011 Population and Housing Census

Preparation of the 2011 Population and Housing Census in 2008 consisted especially in a bill on the Census and elaborating of individual subprojects of this significant action.

In the third quarter of 2008, Regulation of the European Parliament and Council came into force, which for the first time in the history determines the duty for all EU Member States to carry out the Population and Housing Census to the same reference year, it includes a list of obligatory indicators, the minimum scope of territorial breakdown of the results and the deadline for providing of national results to the Commission/Eurostat.

In advance, these duties were already included in the full wording draft of the Act on the 2011 Population and Housing Census. After a discussion in the Legislative Council, the Government passed the bill

in the beginning of September. The government bill was then passed on to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR to be debated in October. Due to a complicated situation after the election to Regional Councils, the debate was postponed to February 2009.

However, the entire project of the Census continued according to long-term schedules. The project contains 10 subprojects in total, which cover a wide range from methodology over information technology to logistics. Especially in the second half-year, regional workplaces started to originate for the Census preparation. Also tenders were announced for suppliers of various partial pilot projects as well as for the first supplies of material to equip the originating workplaces.

Already from the very beginning of the Census preparation new aspects of this important action are showing. They are, most of all, wide utilisation of supplier companies for solution of almost all tasks. Thus, from the very beginning, companies from private sector selected in tenders are participating in the preparation. As for the contents, not only individual state departments, but also the public are widely involved. The public got involved especially in the pilot project realized in January and February, in which they could react on a legislative intention on the Act on the Census that was made public. Within that action, the CZSO obtained over 300 different suggestions and comments, which related especially to the issues of nationality and religion. The CZSO also cooperated with many non-governmental organizations, especially in the area of religion, national minorities, relationship of women and men, educatedness and other areas.



One of activities related to the preparation of the 2011 Population and Housing Census is testing of questionnaires that will be used for the next Census.

## Products and services

The Czech Statistical Office focused in 2008 mainly on increasing of the share of visualization of statistical data on the websites and on extending of the scope and functionality of the Public database.

### Development of the Internet

Last year, interest in the web presentation of the CZSO further increased, 1 606 500 unique visitors went through its main page (by 160 000 more than in 2007). In 2008, the main page was displayed 3 219 500 times (by 179 000 more than in 2007). The average daily number of visitors was 4 389. The following were the most visited pages: Inflation rate, Population, Regions, towns, municipalities, Electronic data collection and Business Register. The most favourite publication on the CZSO website was “Czech Republic in Figures 2008,” which acquaints readers with the CR based on the basic social and economic statistical indicators.

Number of documents in the CZSO web databases was increasing during the last three years by about 27 000 documents a year. In 2008, web databases contained more than 153 000 documents.

Share of statistical data presented in the form of animated graphs and presentations has markedly increased on the website. To dynamic graphs capturing population development in 1945-2006 and projection of population development to 2050 were added this year also interactive presentations from the area of consumer prices, regional accounts, labour, wages and industry. A novelty is also an application “How much/many could I buy?” in which a user can compare his gross income with the average or he can have a look how much of a certain kind of goods or services he could buy for his wage. And all of that he can compare for years 1985 to 2007. A guide through this application is “Mr. Average”.

A large share in presentation of statistical data on the Internet belongs to the Public database (PD). An increasing interest of users culminated by a record number of displayed pages in November 2008. In order to further improve user friendliness, the PD

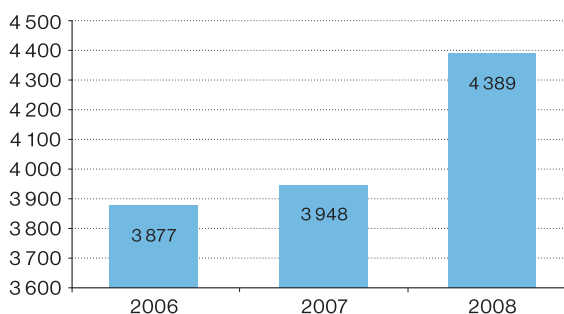
became a subject of testing, of which resulted many suggestions for the design modification, improvement of good arrangement and functionality. Also up-to-date-ness of the data in the database increased and new chapters emerged in the PD (Science and Research, Information Society). Number of pieces of statistical information contained in the database has markedly increased - in the end of the year, more than 26 million data were available, which is by 88% more than the year before.

According to the rules of accessible web - as for accessibility of its functions and contents - the CZSO website fulfilled the criteria of medium accessibility. The web presentation thus offers to the blind higher comfort of manipulation, source code of pages at the same time respects the W3C standards and it is created in compliance with the HTML 4.01 Transitional standard.

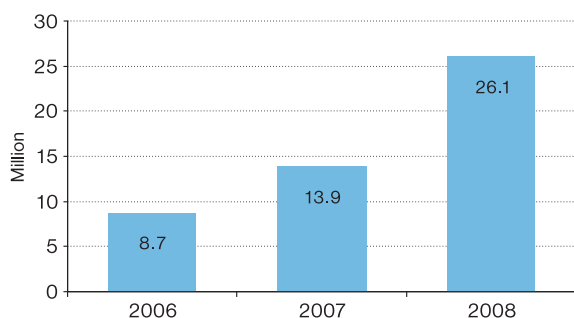
Visiting rate of the CZSO website in 2006–2008 (monthly average)

|                 | 2006      | 2007      | 2008      |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unique visitors | 117 744.7 | 119 914.7 | 133 707.2 |
| Displays        | 253 993.8 | 253 207.9 | 268 123.8 |

Average daily number of visitors of the CZSO website in 2006–2008



Number of data in the Public database in 2006–2008



### Publication activity

Number of publications issued in 2008 (according to the Catalogue of Publications) did not change much when compared to 2007. A marked change can be expected next year in relation to application of principles of a new presentation system, which reacts on an increasing demand for electronic outputs and focuses on presentation of statistical data on the CZSO website in the form of pre-prepared data sets, time series or user inquiry applications. Catalogue of Publications 2009, which was prepared in 2008, is fully reflecting these tendencies.

The best-sold printed publication in 2008 was “Small Lexicon of Municipalities of the Czech Republic 2008” and monthly issued “Consumer Price Indices (Cost of Living)”. To other important publications belonged traditionally “Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic” and yearbooks of all regions, further “Elections to Legislative Bodies of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic in 1920-2006”, “Development of housing construction in individual regions in 1998-2007” and “Variants of definition of countryside and their depiction in statistical indicators in 2000-2006”. Special attention was attracted to the second issue of the “School Statistical Yearbook,” which was introduced by a press conference and provoked a rather big response in the media. It should serve as a small factual guide especially for students of secondary schools and second stage of basic schools. It is prepared so that also teachers can use it easily for teaching. Also many propagation and popularization brochures were issued on

the occasion of the Czech Presidency in the Council of the EU - “Portrait of the Czech Republic in the EU” and “Minifacts about the Czech Republic”.

Besides 238 publications, the CZSO issued last year 205 News Releases\*), 40 analyses to quarterly News Releases and 63 press releases. It organized 10 press conferences and 2 meetings with users and journalists. The Czech Statistical Office and remarks about it and its data were much quoted in the media.

Welcomed were especially news related to development of wages, unemployment, consumer prices, population development and GDP estimation. Most of the response was of positive or neutral character. Results of analytical and publication activity were utilised also in involvement in intra-departmental working groups, e.g. on the issue of sustainable development.

Services of the Central Statistical Library were used in 2008 by over 2 000 users, who borrowed mostly for attendance study in the library premises 14 271 publications in total. Searching in the on-line public access catalogue on the Internet was used by those interested in the library collections in 31 000 times. For restoring and the following digitization the following old prints issued in 1787-1794 were sent: “Materialien zur alten und neuen Statistik von Böhmen”.

Number of publications 2006–2008\*)

|                                 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Regularly issued publications   | 171  | 169  | 160  |
| monthly                         | 19   | 18   | 18   |
| quarterly                       | 41   | 39   | 34   |
| biannually                      | 3    | 4    | 3    |
| annually                        | 108  | 108  | 105  |
| Irregularly issued publications | 99   | 73   | 78   |
| Total                           | 270  | 242  | 238  |

\*) Including publications that are not in the Catalogue of Publications.

\*) News Releases - the latest data on the development of basic economic and social indicators, e.g. inflation rate, GDP, average wage, population, etc.

## Products and services

### Inquiries of users

The amount of inquiries with which users and visitors turned to the Information services in the CZSO headquarters and regions increased by a tenth compared to the previous year (to 35 000). Among the most frequent topics of the inquiries and requests were consumer prices, organizational statistics, demography, labour and wages, producer prices and external trade. Most of the requests (over 90%) were answered the same day, the rest mostly the following day.

Part of the Information service is also a national centre for support of users, who search for European statistical data, called European Statistical Data Support (ESDS). Within this service, 847 inquiries were answered (by 19% more than in 2007).

The Czech Statistical Office makes an effort to make accessible for all users as much information as possible for free on its website. Success of this effort is proved both by an increasing visiting rate of the CZSO website as well as decreasing sales for information provided.

#### Inquiries and requests in 2006–2008

|                                   | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Orders - headquarters and regions | 33 101 | 32 882 | 35 129 |
| Orders - ESDS                     | 710    | 710    | 847    |

#### Sales of information services in 2006–2008

|                              | 2006    | 2007    | 2008    |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Headquarters total (ths CZK) | 5 814.1 | 5 913.0 | 5 086.0 |
| of which: regions            | 854.4   | 652.2   | 511.1   |

### Propagation and popularization of statistics

The Czech Statistical Office presented last year its activity at many actions, which were oriented on indi-

vidual target groups. For the professional public and the media there were regular “meetings with users and journalists,” the subject of which were novelties and changes in contents of information published. For students of secondary and tertiary education the CZSO prepared in the headquarters as well as in regions “lectures for schools” focused mainly on presentation of products and services of the office and acquaintance of students with individual statistics, most often with demography, population census and household survey. For journalists and analysts the office organized several “press conferences”. Among the most visited were conferences on the following topics: “Czech households - caught in the debt trap?”, “Population development in the CR” and “Statistics to school benches - School Statistical Yearbook”. The wide public had a possibility to get acquainted with the activity of the office also at conferences, exhibitions, fairs and presentations. Last year, the CZSO participated, for example, in the conference “Internet in State Administration and Self-government”, “Invex” fair, Farmer (“Zemědělec”) fair, “iDEME” conference on informatics in public administration.

Workers of the CZSO actively participated also in several scientific seminars and conferences organized by universities. The seminars were focused mainly on the issue of sustainable development, human resources development, inter-regional disparities and rural development.

### Regional cooperation

Workers of Information service of the CZSO in regions closely cooperated with regional institutions, mainly with regional authorities. Cooperation with them was this year confirmed by signatures of agreements of cooperation in the following regions: the Plzeňský, Zlínský, Moravskoslezský and in the Vysočina Region. An agreement of cooperation was signed also between the CZSO and the Department of Geoinformatics of Faculty of Science of Palacký University in Olomouc.

Preparation of data for territorial and analytical background materials and processing of programmes of sustainable development of regions and administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers continued, including methodological and consulting activity and peer reviews to elaborated programmes.

## International cooperation

The focus of work of the Czech Statistical Office was mainly active involvement in activities of the European Statistical System and preparation for management of work of the EU Council Working Party on Statistics (STATIS) within the Czech Presidency. The CZSO also participated in assistance to statistical offices within development of their statistical systems, took part in work of international statistical bodies, developed bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

### European Union

Within the European Statistical System (ESS) the Czech Statistical Office was involved also in 2008 in development activities (especially in the form of expert teams - Task Forces) and in working bodies of Eurostat and European Commission, which prepare draft resolutions of the EU in the area of statistics and other issues related to processing of statistics on the level of the Community. These bodies work both on expert and top levels: on regular meetings of the Statistical Programming Committee (SPC), which deals also with long-term planning and strategic goals, the President of the CZSO participates personally. Since 2008, the President of the CZSO has been also a member of the Partnership Group, a close group, which prepares SPC meetings and is an important link in the cooperation with the Council of the EU. Regular annual conference of the Directors General of Institutes of National Statistics of EU Member States (DGINS) took place in 2008 in Lithuanian Vilnius; it was dedicated to the issue of reduction of the administrative burden through official statistics. Participation in discussions on draft resolutions in the bodies of the Council of the EU, especially in the EU Council Working Party on Statistics (STATIS) and the group of lawyers-linguists, was in 2008 related primarily to preparation for execution of the function of the Presidency in the Council of the EU in the first half-year of 2009. The CZSO has been preparing for the tasks related to the Presidency besides consultations with other national statistical offices of the EU Member States and bodies of the EU also in the form of language and professional trainings including internal courses for own employees and workers of the state statistical service of other bodies of the state administration. Attention has been paid also to

information sources for the Presidency, mainly to preparation of web pages and information materials the topic of which was statistics.

In 2008, projects were also realized that were co-financed from the EU sources - the Transition Facility programme and grants administered by Eurostat or other directorates of the European Commission. In December 2008, a multilateral programme Transition Facility 2005 finished, within which (during two years) six projects were realized in the area of research and development statistics, external trade statistics, business statistics and demography. During the year, the CZSO obtained by the bodies of the EU 22 new grants, e.g. for the support of projects in the area of utilisation of information technologies, statistics of the environment, prices and national accounts.

In 2008, works continued also on the project "Strengthening the capacity of the CZSO" via realization of the Statistical Meta-Information System of the Transition Facility National Programme 2006. Cooperating on the project are the solving company NESS Czech s.r.o. and experts from the CZSO. The project solution started in March 2007; termination is planned for September 2009. Partial results have been gradually verified in the form of a pilot project.

### International organizations and conferences

The CZSO continued in involvement in activities of the UN Statistical Commission, the 39th session of which took place in New York in February. In June 2008, representatives of the CZSO participated in the meeting of the Conference of European Statisticians



## International cooperation

(CES) within the UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) and OECD Statistical Committee in Paris; during the entire year, they took part in meetings of expert working groups and common actions organized by the UNECE, OECD together with other international institutions like ILO, UNESCO or Eurostat. In September 2008, the CZSO together with the National Statistical Office of Canada chaired the CES Forum on Human Resources Management and Training in Skopje. The event was a culmination of a two-year preparation, on which the CZSO cooperated with the host country, Finland and other international organizations.

In April 2008, a delegation from the CZSO took part in the 4th conference of the European Central Bank on the topic: "A strategic vision for statistics: Challenges for the next 10 years". In July, representatives of the CZSO participated in a conference on quality of official statistics organized by the national statistical office of Italy and Eurostat, where they chaired three sections and within the programme they presented activity of the CZSO in that area. In October, the CZSO sent its representatives to the meeting of "IAOS Conference on Reshaping Official Statistics and the 26th Biennial Conference of SCORUS 2008", which took place in Chinese Shanghai. The main topic of the IAOS conference (International Association of Official Statistics) was various aspects of utilisation of administrative data sources. Also SCORUS (Standing Committee for Regional and Urban Statistics and Research) was in session within the conference, which is one of the permanent committees of IAOS.

## Technical assistance

In 2008, the Czech Statistical Office continued in providing its assistance to abroad; using experience and knowledge of its experts it aimed to help development of statistical systems of less developed and transforming countries and the overall development of statistics worldwide. In 2008, the CZSO participated in several international assistance projects financed by the EU or World Bank: projects in Bulgaria and Macedonia finished in the given year, continuing projects in Tadjikistan and Turkey. Within an international consortium led by the national statistical office of Denmark the CZSO newly took part in the project in Egypt in the area of the national accounts statistics

and grey economy. Within technical assistance 18 expert missions of Czech statisticians abroad and 12 consultations of Turkish, Tadjik and Ukrainian statisticians at the CZSO took place. Help of experts was provided especially in statistics of national accounts, general methodology and registers, price statistics, tourism statistics, social statistics and strategic planning.

## Bilateral and multilateral cooperation

Bilateral cooperation with national statistical offices especially of the EU countries, which contributes to exchange and more effective utilisation of disposable knowledge and experience, continued also in the year 2008. Long-term cooperation with the Slovak Statistical Office was focused in 2008 mainly on the issue of the national accounts statistics, statistics of industry, business cycle surveys, meta-information system, preparation of the 2011 Population and Housing Census, introduction of Euro in the Slovak Republic and preparation of an annual publication on elections. Also trilateral cooperation among the CR, Germany and Poland continued in the area of regional statistics and cross-border database. Within cooperation with the National Statistical Office of Germany, 2 seminars took place (in which managers participated) following the twinning project of Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities. Statisticians of the CZSO also provided consultations to Vietnamese statisticians to the issue of organisation of regional statistical workplaces and statistical analyses and estimations and to Mongolian statisticians to the issue of elections.

Also in 2008 multilateral cooperation of national statistical offices of the CR, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia (that started in 2005) was developing and on the occasion of meeting of presidents of the statistical offices a Memorandum of Understanding was signed that gave a frame to their planned cooperation. Statisticians exchanged their experience, information and data and discussed current problems and needs of national statistics and the European Statistical System, namely in the area of migration statistics, external trade and utilisation of administrative data sources.

In 2008, the total of 43 foreign visits took place in the CZSO, in which 159 foreign experts participated. 563 employees of the CZSO were sent to a business trip abroad, where they participated in 392 events.

## Human resources management

Human resources management has an impact mainly in the area of increasing of motivation, professionalism and care for qualified professionals, who identify with targets and values of the CZSO. Close attention is paid also to efforts to increase labour productivity; carrying out of a personal audit was a key step to reach that goal.

In 2008, in compliance with the budget, the Czech Statistical Office could employ 1 770 employees (including 3 employees for preparation of the Presidency of the CR in the EU) and other 19 employees for preparation of the 2011 Population and Housing Census (the Census). The actual annual average number of FTE (i.e. full-time equivalent) employees was 1 689 of which 9 employees were for the Census. As at 31 December 2008, the CZSO employed 1 627 natural persons in total, of which 35 were for the Census preparation.

The average salary of the CZSO employees including the Census in 2008 was CZK 26 221. The most frequent age group of employees were the 51-60 years old followed by the 41-50 years old. The average age of employees of the CZSO in 2008 was 47.2. The biggest number of employees (52.6%) of the CZSO attained the secondary education (i.e. secondary school with “*maturita*” examination and higher professional schools); the percentage of the university educated was 43.1% of the total number of the CZSO employees, which was by 1.9 percentage point more than in 2007 and by 2.6 percentage point more than in 2006. Evaluation of the qualification structure confirmed the set-out upward trend in the ratio of the university educated to other employees with lower attained education. The cause why the qualification structure is gradually changing is an increasing demandingness of activities performed.

During the year 2008, employment was terminated with 327 employees. The fluctuation rate was 19%.

### Personal audit

A key step towards increasing of labour productivity of the CZSO was carrying out of an internal personal audit (see more in the chapter Total Quality Management).

### Employees 2006 – 2008

|                         | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of employees     | 1 800 | 1 784 | 1 627 |
| Share of women (%)      | 74.2  | 75.1  | 76.5  |
| University educated (%) | 40.5  | 41.2  | 43.1  |
| Average age             | 46.8  | 47.4  | 47.2  |
| Age group               |       |       |       |
| under 30                | 200   | 185   | 162   |
| 31-40                   | 295   | 291   | 280   |
| 41-50                   | 481   | 468   | 438   |
| 51-60                   | 697   | 699   | 612   |
| 61+                     | 127   | 141   | 135   |

### Professional training of employees in 2008

| Type of course                     | Number of participants |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Short-term professional courses *) | 3 538                  |
| Long-term courses                  | 10                     |
| Language courses                   | 657                    |
| Total                              | 4 205                  |

\*) Courses shorter than 5 days

The result was a radical cut in the number of job positions during two years. Employment was terminated due to redundancy with 283 employees, the job position of which was cancelled as at 31 December 2008. Thanks to transparency and professionalism of managers and personnel managers the entire process was coped with without serious problems. For further details on personal audit see sub-chapter Total Quality Management.

## Human resources management

### Courses and training

One of priorities in the human resources management is improvement of professional skills of the staff. The training is organized both with internal and external lecturers. The share of the CZSO involvement in the international specialised professional training organized within the Training of European Statisticians programme was successfully increasing. Professional courses abroad were attained by 67 employees, which is by 24 more than in 2007. Also involvement

of professionals within technical assistances had an increasing trend.

Total costs of education in 2008 increased by 15% year-on-year and reached CZK 8 985 000 as a consequence of culminating professional preparation of the CZSO employees for the Presidency of the CR in the Council of the EU. The average costs of education per employee in 2008 were CZK 5 320 and each employee attended in average 2.5 educational actions.





## Financial data

The approved budget of expenditures for the year 2008 increased year-on-year by 14.6%. Of that, the approved budget of capital expenditures in 2008 was increased in comparison to the year 2007 by 15.2%.

### Data on the budget of income and expenditures of the CZSO

By Act No. 360/2007 Sb., on the state budget of the Czech Republic in the year 2008, for the chapter 345 - Czech Statistical Office the budget was approved, which amounted to CZK 97 490 000 of income and CZK 1 113 347 000 of expenditures. During the year, the Ministry of Finance of the CR permitted an overall increase of expenditures by CZK 122 784 000 to ensure expenditures for the purposes of elections, the Census and other statistical surveys. After this increase the modified budget of expenditures was CZK 1 236 131 000, which in comparison with the year 2007 was an increase by CZK 262 338 000. The biggest share of the modified budget was allocated to expenditures on salaries, i.e. for salaries and other remuneration for work, social and health insurance and contributions to the Fund of Cultural and Social Needs, namely 64.64%. Volume of budget funds determined for expenditures on salaries in comparison to the year 2007 increased by 7%. For capital expenditures, financial means in the amount of CZK 75 600 000 were allocated including means for renewal of the computer centre in the amount of CZK 47 000 000, which represented 6.12% of the means in the modified budget. At other material expenses, which made 29.24% of the total budget, there was an increase by 11% in comparison with

the year 2007. The share of material expenses was increased in the modified budget especially due to addition of funds for the purpose of ensuring of elections and the Census.

### Real drawing of income and expenditures of the CZSO

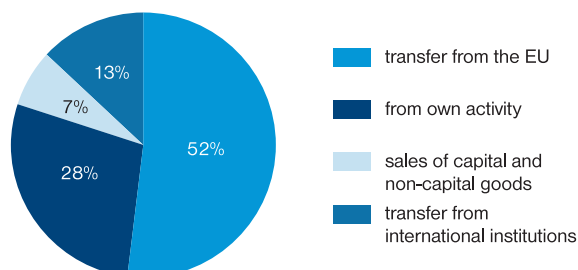
#### 1. Income

Total income in 2008 in the amount of CZK 104 681 000 reached 90.18% of the income generated in 2007; the difference was CZK 11 403 000. Important source of income of the CZSO was income from own activity, which in 2008 amounted to CZK 5 859 000, of which CZK 5 086 000 was for products and services, which are sold by the CZSO. Income from sale of non-capital goods and other non-tax income (returns) amounted to CZK 1 029 000. Extraordinary income of CZK 562 000 was from sale of 38 company cars. Received transfers were transferred in the amount of CZK 2 702 000 from international institutions, CZK 11 065 000 from the EU and CZK 83 464 000 were means from own reserve fund.

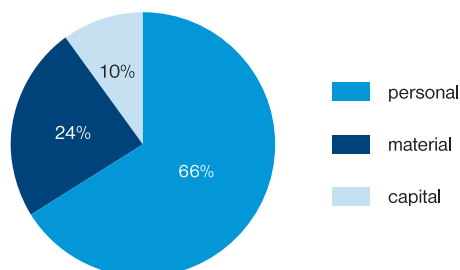
#### 2. Expenditures

Total expenditures in 2008 amounted to CZK 1 178 444 800. To finance expenditures for activity of the CZSO under Article (§) 6146 in 2008, the total of

Income by type in 2008



Expenditures by type in 2008



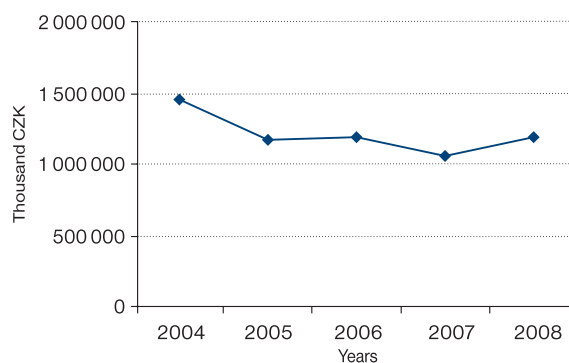
## Financial data

CZK 91 270 160 from the reserve fund were involved, of which CZK 83 463 920 were transferred to the income account, return of means from the reserve fund to the settlement account was in the amount of CZK 7 446 070 and on the basis of the debit note CZK 60 170 were paid. According to breakdown of expenditures by activity, expenditures of the CZSO in Article (§) 6146 reached CZK 21 620 690, expenditures to finance elections to the Parliament of the CR were CZK 17 546 690, regional councils CZK 104 015 210, to ensure preparation of the census CZK 21 620 690 and contributions to foreign institutions CZK 47 160.

From an analysis of drawing of expenditures by budget items it results that expenditures on salaries, mandatory insurance and contributions to the Fund of Cultural and Social Needs in the total amount of CZK 781 562 840 amounted to 66.32% of expenditures. Compared to the year 2007, these expenditures were by 4.5% higher. In 2008, following results of the personal audit that was carried out it was paid in total CZK 12 570 000 on severance pays. Material expenses of CZK 283 219 230 increased by 30% year-on-year and their share in the overall budget drawing was 24.03%. The increase of material expenses was influenced especially by elections to regional councils and preparation of the Census. The biggest volume among material expenses belonged to expenses for purchase of services for CZK 198 541 000, purchase of material for CZK 22 779 000, electricity consumption for CZK 21 861 000 and travel expenses for CZK 18 752 000. Capital expenditures in 2008 were realized within two programmes. The programme "Development and replacement of material and technical basis of CZSO" was fully financed from the reserve fund by the amount of CZK 42 231 000 and it included the action "Prague - air-conditioning of computer technology" and the action "Renewal of the computer centre - phase 1". In the second programme "Development and replacement of material and technical basis of CZSO" expenditures of CZK 70 892 000 were used, among others, for the following actions: Replacement of telephone exchange in the towns of Zlín and Karlovy Vary, Renewal of the computer centre - phase 2, Replacement of terminal connection of personal information system, Purchase of mobile technology to support the Czech Presidency in the Council of the EU, Modernization of the telephone exchange in Prague, Elections 2008, Safety technology, etc.

In 2008, the Czech Statistical Office financed from its budget means 20 projects that were co-financed from the funds from abroad and 51 projects from extra-budgetary means, of which 30 projects were financed by means provided from abroad and 21 projects from purpose means transferred during the past years from the CZSO budget to the reserve fund. In total, it was drawn for these programmes (including the allowed exceeding of the budget) CZK 36 330 370.

### Development of expenditures in 2004–2008



Unspent budget means from the year 2008 are carried forward to demands from unused expenses in the total amount of CZK 142 973 610. These means include profiling expenses in the amount of CZK 98 939 530 determined for financing of projects/grants co-financed from the budget of the EU, FM, UNICEF, programmes of ISPROFIN and means for settlement with the budgetary chapter Public cash administration. Further, demands include non-profiling expenses in the amount of CZK 44 034 080, which are determined for financing of the Census, Presidency of the CR in the Council of the EU, the rest of financing for the 2008 elections and for other expenditures.

Means ensured in the state budget for the chapter Czech Statistical Office were drawn in accordance with the tasks of the CZSO. They were used for realization of the planned tasks as well as to finance new and extraordinary tasks while keeping valid budget rules. Approved budget measures were directed to ensuring of sufficient amount of budget means in relevant items and to the more balanced drawing of them. Budget means were used with maximum purposefulness while keeping the determined binding indicators and regulatory provisions.

## Contacts

### Czech Statistical Office

Na padesátém 81, 100 82 Praha 10  
Phone: (+420) 274 051 111 (switchboard),  
[www.czso.cz](http://www.czso.cz)

### Information Services Section

Phone: (+420) 274 052 304, (+420) 274 052 648,  
(+420) 274 052 765  
E-mail: [infoservis@czso.cz](mailto:infoservis@czso.cz)

**Infoline:** (+420) 274 052 900

### Publications shop

Phone: (+420) 274 052 732  
E-mail: [prodejna@czso.cz](mailto:prodejna@czso.cz)

### European Statistical Data Support

Phone: (+420) 274 052 430, (+420) 274 052 347  
E-mail: [esds@czso.cz](mailto:esds@czso.cz)

### Central Statistical Library

Phone: (+420) 274 052 354  
E-mail: [knihovna@czso.cz](mailto:knihovna@czso.cz)

## Information Services - Regional Offices:

### Hl. m. Praha

Na padesátém 81, 100 82 Praha 10  
Phone: (+420) 274 052 673  
E-mail: [infoservispraha@czso.cz](mailto:infoservispraha@czso.cz),  
[www.praha.czso.cz](http://www.praha.czso.cz)

### Středočeský Region

Na padesátém 81, 100 82 Praha 10  
Phone: (+420) 274 054 175, (+420) 274 052 663  
E-mail: [infoservisstc@czso.cz](mailto:infoservisstc@czso.cz),  
[www.stredocesky.czso.cz](http://www.stredocesky.czso.cz)

### České Budějovice

Žižkova 1, 370 77 České Budějovice  
Phone: (+420) 386 718 440, (+420) 386 718 693  
E-mail: [infoserviscb@czso.cz](mailto:infoserviscb@czso.cz),  
[www.cbudejovice.czso.cz](http://www.cbudejovice.czso.cz)

### Plzeň

Slovanská alej 36, 326 64 Plzeň  
Phone: (+420) 377 612 111, (+420) 377 612 108  
E-mail: [infoservisplzen@czso.cz](mailto:infoservisplzen@czso.cz),  
[www.plzen.czso.cz](http://www.plzen.czso.cz)



### Karlovy Vary

Sportovní 28, 360 01 Karlovy Vary  
Phone: (+420) 353 114 529, (+420) 353 114 525  
E-mail: [infoserviskv@czso.cz](mailto:infoserviskv@czso.cz),  
[www.kvary.czso.cz](http://www.kvary.czso.cz)

### Ústí nad Labem

Špálova 2684, 400 11 Ústí nad Labem  
Phone: (+420) 472 706 176, (+420) 472 706 121  
E-mail: [infoservisul@czso.cz](mailto:infoservisul@czso.cz),  
[www.ustinadlabem.czso.cz](http://www.ustinadlabem.czso.cz)

### Liberec

Nám. Dr. Edvarda Beneše 585/26, 460 01 Liberec 1  
Phone: (+420) 485 244 130, (+420) 485 110 223  
E-mail: [infoservislbc@czso.cz](mailto:infoservislbc@czso.cz),  
[www.liberec.czso.cz](http://www.liberec.czso.cz)

### Hradec Králové

Myslivečkova 914, 500 03 Hradec Králové 3  
Phone: (+420) 495 762 322, (+420) 495 762 352  
E-mail: [infoservishk@czso.cz](mailto:infoservishk@czso.cz),  
[www.hradeckralove.czso.cz](http://www.hradeckralove.czso.cz)

## Contacts

### **Pardubice**

V Ráji 872, 531 53 Pardubice  
Phone: (+420) 466 743 480, (+420) 466 743 418  
E-mail: [infoservispa@czso.cz](mailto:infoservispa@czso.cz),  
[www.pardubice.czso.cz](http://www.pardubice.czso.cz)

### **Jihlava**

Ke Skalce 30, 586 01 Jihlava  
Phone: (+420) 567 109 071, (+420) 567 109 062  
E-mail: [infoservisvys@czso.cz](mailto:infoservisvys@czso.cz),  
[www.jihlava.czso.cz](http://www.jihlava.czso.cz)

### **Brno**

Jezuitská 2, 601 59 Brno  
Phone: (+420) 542 528 115, (+420) 542 528 200  
E-mail: [infoservisbrno@czso.cz](mailto:infoservisbrno@czso.cz),  
[www.brno.czso.cz](http://www.brno.czso.cz)

### **Olomouc**

Dr. M. Horákové 27, 779 11 Olomouc  
Phone: (+420) 585 731 516, (+420) 585 731 509  
E-mail: [infoservisolom@czso.cz](mailto:infoservisolom@czso.cz),  
[www.olomouc.czso.cz](http://www.olomouc.czso.cz)

### **Ostrava**

Repinova 17, 702 03 Ostrava  
Phone: (+420) 595 131 230  
E-mail: [infoservis\\_ov@czso.cz](mailto:infoservis_ov@czso.cz),  
[www.ostrava.czso.cz](http://www.ostrava.czso.cz)

### **Zlín**

ř. Tomáše Bati 1565, 761 76 Zlín  
Phone: (+420) 577 004 935  
E-mail: [infoservis-zl@czso.cz](mailto:infoservis-zl@czso.cz),  
[www.zlin.czso.cz](http://www.zlin.czso.cz)