

FOREWORD

The Statistical Yearbook of the Karlovarský Region is a crucial publication of the Regional Office of the Czech Statistical Office in Karlovy Vary. It has been bringing a summary statistical overview of all economic activities of the national economy derived from available data. It is published, similarly as in other regions, in already the sixteenth edition of continuous series, both in the electronic and printed version. These traditional publications present a structure-unified content and follow the national Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic, which is compiled at the headquarters of the Czech Statistical Office. Data on the region are basically published for the period 2013–2015 and for selected indicators also in a longer time series since 2000.

This year regional statistical yearbooks underwent minimal changes as for their contents and form. The chapter on Agriculture publishes results of a structural survey on vineyards, which took place in autumn 2015. The Energy chapter newly contains figures on consumption of natural gas from the data of the Energy Regulatory Office. In the Election chapter readers will find results of elections to regional councils and to one third of the Senate of the Parliament of the CR, which took place in October 2016.

Other changes consist only in omitting of information from ad hoc surveys, indicators, which have lost their reason, and in adding new pieces of information reflecting processes of the economy transformation, harmonization of the Czech statistics with procedures, standards, and classifications used by Eurostat, and a wider use of administrative data sources. Published tables do not contain more detailed data. If readers are interested in such breakdowns, they can address directly the nearest Information Services Unit of the Czech Statistical Office. Besides information on regions, available data by district and by administrative district of municipalities with extended powers, selected data on administrative districts of municipalities with authorized municipal authority, towns, and several indicators on individual municipalities can be found there as well. The enclosed CD contains inter-regional comparisons. Methodological notes on individual chapters are summarised after the data section. References and links to data sources, which were used in the preparation of the regional statistical yearbook, are also cited in the methodological notes. In relation to modifications of territories of military districts as at 1 January 2016, borders of some regions and districts changed. All published data (including charts) correspond to the territorial structure as at 31 December 2015; however, maps in the introduction to the regional statistical yearbook reflect already the new territorial structure. State statistical surveys are basic sources for the published data. Besides data sources of the Czech Statistical Office, available data from other public authorities were also used, especially from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, Ministry of Health, Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic, and the Ministry of Transport. A vast portion of the data published is kept in the regional databases of the CZSO - KROK (data on regions and districts) and MOS (statistics of towns and municipalities), and in long-term time series. The Public Database is an important information source for users. It is accessible on the CZSO website and enables to view statistical data in pre-defined tables in the breakdown by subject matter, territory, and time in ever greater detail. It also allows users to customize their own tables. Information on the Public Database can be found at: <https://vdb.czso.cz/vdbvo2/faces/en/index.jsf>.

The regional statistical yearbook, of course, cannot contain all pieces of information collected and processed by the state statistics. More detailed data from respective sections of demographic, economic, and social development of the region, districts, municipalities, or micro-regions are published in specialized products (Statistical Bulletin, publications on demographic matters, thematically focused analytical materials, etc.), which are available mainly in the electronic form on the Internet. Many other pieces of information can be found on the website of the CZSO Regional Office (<http://www.kvary.czso.cz/>), not merely the latest updates of results of statistical surveys, but also information on the CZSO activities. You can also find there, for example, an analysis Basic tendencies of demographic, social, and economic development of the Region (Czech only) issued in the end of August and other analytical or data outputs.

Statistical data are collected and processed in order to acquire knowledge, seek for trends in the development, but, first of all, to meet the requirements of the society for statistics, i.e. to use the statistics in practice. Long-term experience with the users' interest in information in regional breakdown, which has been constantly growing recently, makes us believe that the regional statistical yearbook will continue to be a sought-after source of information both for professionals and lay readers. Like in the previous years, we invite your potential suggestions and comments on the yearbook's content. We hereby thank you for all remarks very much. They are very helpful to our work on the yearbook and will be a valuable contribution to the preparation of regional publications in 2017.

We express our thanks to all authors and colleagues for the effort and time they devoted to the preparation of the content as well as technical matters of this publication.