

1. BASIC CHARACTERISTICS, DISTRICTS

In long-term time series an emphasis is put mainly on the data comparability in terms of the applied methodology. A number of changes were made over the whole period as the State Statistical Service made efforts to keep methods and results of surveys internationally comparable. The organizational structure of the national economy was gradually changing, too. Therefore it was necessary to recalculate the time series of indicators according to the methodology and organizational structure of the latest year published (i.e. 2016) in order to be able to assess the long-term development in correct manner. All the value indicators are given at current prices because sufficiently relevant data on price developments in neither the production area nor the consumption one to carry out conversions to constant prices have been available in the regional breakdown.

If a conversion to a comparable methodology was not feasible, the fact is mentioned in methodological notes under respective tables or it is explained in the methodology sections of respective chapters. Therefore in this section we draw attention only to changes, which concern the comparability of long-term time series.

Data on the **population** before the year 2001 followed the results of the Census as at 3 March 1991. From 2001 they followed the results of the Population and Housing Census as at 1 March 2001 and since 2011 they have followed the final results of the Population and Housing Census as at 26 March 2011. Demographic balances in a given decade follow the Census every year (births, deaths, immigrants, emigrants). In accordance with international conventions, the data also include numbers of foreigners staying long-term in the country.

In the **labour market** domain, comparability of data on the number of employees and average wages taken from business statistics is adversely affected by changes in the size threshold between larger enterprises (surveyed) and smaller ones (not surveyed). These changes are mostly reflected in the development of the number of employees and, to a lesser extent, of the average monthly wage. The set of reporting units developed as follows:

- 2000 to 2001 –enterprises with 20+ employees, incorporated and unincorporated, all entities classified to financial intermediation, all entities classified to the non-business sphere, excluding armed forces;
- 2002 to 2016 –all entities, including units of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Defence not published before.

On 1 January 2013, an indicator was introduced: **share of unemployed persons**, the methodology of which is explained in the Labour market chapter. A comparable time series is available from 2005. Usage of the registered unemployment rate indicator stopped in 2012.

Since 2002 entities (agricultural holdings) which exceed the so-called “threshold values” have been classified to **agriculture** (in accordance with standards of the European Union). Smaller agricultural holdings have been classified to the household sector as “hobby activities” of the population and the extent of their activities at the regional level is impossible to determine with sufficient reliability. Backward recalculation of time series to a comparable basis is also impossible.

In **industry**, only data referring to years from 1997 are comparable. Since that year, data have been processed on the regional level referring to enterprises with 100+ employees with registered offices on the territory concerned. In **construction**, construction work in the long-term time series is provided by construction site.

In **tourism**, data since 2012 have been surveyed based on results of the project of the Ministry of Regional Development called “Quality Improvement of Data on Selected Tourism Sectors”. Data before 2012 are thus incomparable.

In **education**, the secondary education cannot be clearly broken down by type of schools any more (secondary technical schools, secondary vocational schools). All types of schools now cover pupils who were before independently reported by special schools.

In **health** the time series is comparable since 2000, when data on the health establishments falling under all ministries have been given. Detached units of the health establishments are not covered (unlike in Chapter 27). Since 2007 the number of physicians includes also contractual workers.

In **social security**, data on the number of old-age pensioners and their pensions are comparable since 2010 and data on social services since 2009. The changes are explained in detail in the relevant chapter.

At the chapter end there is a sheet with an overview of changes to territories of regions and districts as at 1 January 2016 related to dismissed military ranges or reduced territories thereof. It also contains an overview of changes to territories of regions and districts, which were carried out as at 1 January 2005 and 1 January 2007.