

20. EDUCATION

Data on **education** are taken from sources of the ministerial workplace of the State Statistical Service of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports.

Data on all the below mentioned types of schools except for universities include all schools included in the Register of Schools and School Facilities regardless their founder and are published for the school year and reported according to the status as at 30 September of the reference year. Data are allocated to regions (districts) according to headquarters of the relevant schools. The totals include also data on schools for children/pupils/students with special education needs. They are children/pupils/students with disabilities or with health or social handicap, who need to be taken a special care of. They can attend schools founded separately for them or, eventually, can be integrated within common classes in regular schools or included in special classes in regular schools.

Children/pupils/students in nursery schools up to higher professional schools are given as the number of studies. New entrants to the 1st grade include all pupils admitted to the 1st grade excluding pupils, who repeat the 1st grade and excluding pupils, who resume their studies after having them interrupted.

The numbers of **teachers** (including headmasters, their deputies, guidance counsellors, and vocational trainers) are converted to full-time equivalent persons.

Nursery schools provide pre-school education, which is organized for children usually from three to six years of age. Besides nursery schools, pre-school education is ensured by preparatory classes at basic schools and a preparatory stage at special basic schools, both founded at basic schools (these children/pupils, however, are not included in the number of children in nursery schools nor in the number of pupils in basic schools).

Basic schools provide primary education, which is part of the compulsory school education. Children start their compulsory school education in the age of 6 years (or 8 years as a maximum in cases of children with postponed compulsory school education). The compulsory school education usually lasts for nine years: five years at the first stage and four years at the second stage of basic schools. Primary education in a special basic school has ten grades; the first stage consists of the first to the sixth grade and the second stage of the seventh to the tenth grade. Pupils may leave the basic school earlier and complete their compulsory school education in lower grades of several-year grammar schools and in eight-year specialism of dance in conservatoires.

Secondary schools are designated for obtaining secondary education. It can be attained in schools teaching programmes of grammar schools, i.e. providing general education with an A-level examination and of technical education in secondary schools, i.e. providing (lower) secondary education, secondary vocational education with an apprenticeship certificate, including shortened studies, secondary technical education with an A-level examination, including shortened studies, and follow-up courses. Technical education within the follow-up courses is given in tables separately.

Characteristics of individual types of education in secondary schools:

- secondary education – (in full-time studies) two-year education programmes finished by a closing examination;
- secondary education with an apprenticeship certificate – (in full-time studies) two-year or three-year education programmes, by successful finishing of which a graduate acquires an apprenticeship certificate;
- secondary education with an A-level examination – education programmes with an A-level examination, graduates from which acquire an A-level certificate. This education is implemented in two basic types of programmes:
 - general education – a non-professional (non-specialised) type of education dedicated mainly to preparation for further studies. These programmes are usually provided by grammar schools, which have two types of education programmes – four-year grammar schools joined by basic school leavers after a successful completion of the ninth grade of basic schools and several-year grammar schools (eight-year or six-year grammar schools) for pupils of lower grades of basic schools (from the fifth and the seventh grade, respectively);
 - technical education – focuses on the professional side of education, lasts for four years;
- follow-up courses – in full-time studies they last for two years and are finished by an A-level examination. They are determined for graduates who earned secondary education with an apprenticeship certificate from three-year full-time studies in a field, which is related to that from which they want to pass their A-level examination;
- shortened studies to earn secondary education with an apprenticeship certificate – one to two years long as full-time studies, are for graduates who earned secondary education with an A-level examination or secondary education with an apprenticeship certificate from a different field of education;
- shortened studies to earn secondary education with an A-level examination – one to two years long as full-time studies, determined for graduates, who earned secondary education with an A-level examination in a different field of education.

Another type of schools is **conservatoires** in which pupils can earn secondary education with an A-level examination, namely no sooner than after four years in full-time studies of a six-year education programme (determined for basic school-leavers) or after eight years in full-time studies of an eight-year education programme in the specialism of dance (in the first four grades pupils admitted after the fifth grade of basic schools fulfil their compulsory school education). By passing the final (graduate) examination called “*absolutorium*” at a conservatoire a pupil receives higher professional education in a conservatoire.

Higher professional schools offer education in three-year up to three-and-half year fields (distance studies are lasting for up to four years) to graduates with an A-level examination. This type of education is completed by passing the final(graduate) examination called "absolutorium".

All types of secondary education and higher professional education may be arranged as full-time studies or in other types of education (evening, extramural, distance, and combined studies).

The system of schools providing higher education comprises public, private, and state **universities**. Information on public and private universities is drawn from the SIMS database (i.e. Union Information from Students' Registers). Numbers of schools and students are reported according to the status as at 31 December and numbers of graduates for the entire school year. The source SIMS database is continually completed and updated; the data presented in this Statistical Yearbook refer to the database status as at 20 January 2017. Two state universities founded by the Ministry of Defence (University of Defence, which is in the City of Brno) and by the Ministry of the Interior (Police Academy of the Czech Republic in Prague) do not have the duty to send information on their students to the central SIMS database and therefore they are not included in the tables.

Students and graduates from public and private universities are published as headcount, i.e. each student is counted only once, including students studying concurrently in more universities or faculties. The total number of students and graduates from universities thus may differ from the sums for individual universities, types of education, or types of study programmes.

Universities offer bachelor, master, follow-up master, and doctoral study programmes. Studies can be delivered in full-time, distance, or combined type of education. Fields of education correspond to the Classification of Fields of Education (CZ-ISCED-F 2013).