

FOREWORD

The Statistical Yearbook of the Plzeňský Region is a key publication of the Regional Office of the Czech Statistical Office in Plzeň. It brings 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 eighteenth edition of a continuous series, both in an electronic and a printed version. These traditional publications present a structure-unified content and follow the national Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic, which is compiled in the headquarters of the Czech Statistical Office. Data on the Region are basically published for the period of 2015–2017 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 Fruit Orchards (Structure Survey), which was carried out in May 2017. This time, the chapter on Transport is enriched by data on length of local roads; the chapter on Culture, sport contains data on the number and structure of cinemas. In the chapter on Elections readers can find results of the election of the President of the Czech Republic, which was carried out in January, results of elections to one third of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, and elections to local councils, which were held in October 2018.

In relation to changes to territories of military districts as at 1 January 2016, borders of some regions and districts changed. More detailed information on changes to the territories is provided in the chapter on Basic characteristics, districts. It has to be underlined that all published data (including cartograms) correspond to the territorial structure valid in the relevant year.

With regards to the extent of the regional statistical yearbook, it is impossible for tables to contain a more detailed breakdown of data. Readers, who are interested in such breakdowns, can address directly the nearest Information Services Unit of the Czech Statistical Office. As far as territory is concerned, besides information on the Region, also available data by District and by administrative district of municipalities with extended powers are published in the Yearbook together with selected data on administrative districts of municipalities with authorised municipal authority, on towns, and several indicators on individual municipalities. Readers can find comparisons of Regions in an electronic form of the Yearbook on the website or directly in a separate publication Comparison of Regions in the Czech Republic (to be published on 16 January 2019).

Methodological notes on individual chapters are summarised after the data section. References and links to data sources used for preparation of the Yearbook, explanation of abbreviations used therein, as well as explanations of symbols used on the geographical map of the Region are also added.

State statistical surveys are basic sources for the published data. Besides data sources of the Czech Statistical Office, available information from other public authorities were also used, especially from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, the Ministry of Health, the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the CR, and the Ministry of Transport. A vast portion of published data is regularly fed to the regional databases of the CZSO such as are KROK (data on regions and districts) and MOS (statistics of towns and municipalities) and, as the case may be, provided in a long-term time series. The Public Database is also an important information source. It is accessible on the CZSO website at: <https://vdb.czso.cz/vdbvo2/faces/en/index.jsf>.

The regional statistical yearbook cannot encompass all pieces of information collected and processed by the State Statistical Service. More detailed data on 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 an electronic form on the Internet. Many other pieces of information can be found on the website of the CZSO Regional Office (www.plzen.czso.cz), not merely the latest results of statistical surveys, but also information on activities of the CZSO. You can find there, for example, an analysis of Basic tendencies of demographic, social, and economic development of the Region (Czech only) issued in the end of August 2018 and other outputs prepared by the Regional Office of the CZSO.

Our long-term experience with the users' interest in information in regional breakdown makes us believe that the regional statistical yearbook will continue to be a sought-after source of information for professionals as well as lay readers. The same as in previous years, we invite your potential suggestions and comments on the Yearbook's content, which may be of valuable contribution to the preparation of regional publications in 2019, which is a year, in which we will commemorate, on 28 January, the 100th anniversary of the adoption of an act on the State Statistical Service. It was one of the first acts that were adopted in the newly founded Czechoslovak Republic.

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 the Yearbook.