

# Comparison of Statistical Yearbooks of Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic 1920, 1925 and 2017

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## Abstract

The article focuses on comparison of contents of statistical handbooks published by the Czechoslovak State Statistical Office in the years 1920 and 1925 with that of statistical yearbooks of Czechoslovakia's successor states – Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2017 and Statistical Yearbook of the Slovak Republic 2017.

## Keywords

Statistical handbook, statistical yearbook, Czech Statistical Office, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

## JEL code

Y10, Z00, C10, C49

## 1 STATISTICAL HANDBOOK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1920

Not long after the birth of the Czechoslovak Republic on 28 January 1919, the State Statistical Office was established by the Act No. 49 of the Collection of Laws and Ordinances. Roughly half and a year later, the State Statistical Office issued the first yearbook in a new independent state: Statistical Handbook of the Czechoslovak Republic.

As opposed to the expectations the issue was delayed due to late establishment of the State Statistical Council and also due to final determination of the new republic's borders to which some issues of the yearbook were linked. The published data presented mainly the results of the latest census conducted in 1910, i.e. before the WW I. In this respect it is useful to mention the statement of the then president of the Statistical Office, Jan Auerhan: *“Data, presented in the Handbook are mostly outdated, coming from the pre-war period. It is understandable given that the State Statistical Office due to a disastrous lack of space could not be properly built and only some departments could be put into operation. Many offices that were charged under the previous administration with the duty to collect statistical data, had failed to fulfil the task because of the lack of time and staff. This situation had caused that from many branches the latest data were missing. After all, the pre-war data, i.e. data from the years 1910–1914, cannot be considered outdated, on the contrary, they offer even more realistic and correct picture of our republic than recent data proving that we still suffer from war consequences.”*

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This handbook has 106 numbered pages structured into 14 sections + appendices with tables:

I. Area and description of the population	VIII. Mining and metallurgy
II. Occupation of the population	IX. Small businesses, industry and trade
III. Movements of the population	X. Transportation
IV. Health care	XI. Credit granting
V. Education	XII. Insurance
VI. Administration	XIII. Justice
VII. Agriculture	XIV. Finance

The biggest space and attention is devoted to the data from section I Area and description of the population (15 p), followed by section VII Agriculture (12 p), section IX Small businesses, industry and trade and XI Credit granting (both 11 p). Movements of the population in 1914–1918 in Bohemia, Moravia and in Opava regions, review of the results of elections to the National Assembly in 1920, data on coal mining in 1919, distilleries and breweries in the Czech lands in 1918–1919, etc., are shown in appendices. Majority of data, however, as stated above, refer to the period before 1918, most often to the year 1910. The above suggests that with respect to the contents and scope (only 106 p) the first Czechoslovak statistical handbook is not suitable for comparison with present yearbooks.

## 2 STATISTICAL HANDBOOK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1925

If we wish to compare the contents of yearbooks at the beginning of the existence of Czechoslovakia with the present yearbook, it is more proper to compare the yearbooks of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic (2017) with the second *Statistical handbook of the Czechoslovak Republic* (1925). Numerical section of this publication is divided into two parts: introductory page of the first part is called “Data from 1918–1923”, followed by the second section: “Retrospective data”.

The publication by its scope (hundreds pages) comes closer to a usual scope of statistical yearbooks (e.g. Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2017 has 822 pages).

In the handbook of the year 2015 the following sections are included:

Section I: Data of the years 1918–1923	
I. Educations and enlightenment	XI. Administration. Elections.
II. Agriculture	XII. Military forces and security service
III. Mining and metallurgy	XIII. Area and description of the population
IV. Industry and trade licences	XIV. Occupations
V. External trade	XV. Movements of the population
VI. Prices, indices, standard of living	XVI. Healthcare and physical training
VII. Banking	XVII. Social statistics
VIII. Insurance	XVIII. Finance
IX. Transportation	XIX. International surveys
X. Justice	
Section II: Retrospective data	
I. Area and description of the population	II. Occupations

### 3 STATISTICAL YEARBOOK OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC 2017

The Czech statistical yearbook 2017 has the total of 819 pages, of which 753 pages include tables, charts and cartograms. The remaining part represents the introduction, subject index and a list of persons contributing to the yearbook containing the following numbered chapters:

1. Key national economy indicators	17. Construction
2. Area and climate	18. Trade, hotels and restaurants
3. Environment	19. Tourism
4. Population	20. Transportation, information and communication
5. National accounts	21. Market services
6. Finance	22. Information society
7. Currency and balance of payments	23. Science, research and innovation
8. Prices	24. Education
9. Household income and expenditure	25. Health
10. Labour market	26. Social security
11. External trade	27. Culture
12. Organizational structure of the national economy	28. Sport
13. Agriculture	29. Justice, crime, accidents
14. Forestry	30. International comparisons
15. Industry	31. Selected indicators of cohesion regions and regions
16. Energy	32. Elections

### 4 STATISTICAL YEARBOOK OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC 2017

The second successor state of Czechoslovakia is the Slovak Republic. The structure of the yearbook is similar to that of the yearbook of the Czech Republic: it has 661 numbered pages followed by graphic annex (13 charts, 5 cartograms). Its contents is structured into the below chapters:

1. Primary Economic Indicators	17. Industry
2. Territory and Climate	18. Energy
3. Population	19. Construction
4. Labour Market	20. Trade, Catering and Accommodation
5. Income, Expenditure and Consumption of Households	21. Transport, Storage and Postal Services
6. Education	22. Information and Communication, Information Services
7. Health Care	23. Selected Market Services
8. Social Protection	24. Tourism
9. Culture and Religion	25. Management of Non-Financial and Financial Corporations
10. National Accounts	26. Environment
11. External Trade	27. Science and Technology
12. Prices	28. Criminality and Justice
13. Fixed Assets	29. Accidents and Disasters
14. Organizational Statistics	30. Gender Equality
15. Agriculture	31. International Surveys
16. Forestry	

## 5 TRANSCARPATHIA

Transcarpathia was a part of Czechoslovakia in the years 1918–1938. Its territory was occupied by the end of the 1930's by Hungary and after the WW II, in 1945 it was enacted to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Ukraine). Some data about former Transcarpathia can be found under the region called Zakarpattya in publications *Statistical Yearbook of Ukraine* and *Ukraine in figures* (accessible e.g. in the library of the Czech Statistical Office).

## CONCLUSION

If we compare statistical handbook of 1925 with chapters of the Czech yearbook 2017, in the handbook the following parts are missing: Selected indicators of national economy, Environment, National accounts, Currency and balance of payments, Household income and expenditure, Energy, Tourism and Selected indicators of cohesion regions and regions.

In the Czech yearbook we do not find a counterpart to Slovak chapter no. 13 Fixed assets, 25 Economic activity of non-financial and financial corporations and 30 Gender equality.

In the Slovak yearbook we do not find an independent counterpart to the following Czech chapters: 6 Finance (about budget activity, from data provided by the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic), and 7 Currency and Balance of payment (from data of the Czech National Bank), chapters 28 Sport and also 31 Selected indicators of cohesion regions and regions.

A significant influence on formation of the structure of the statistical offices' publications had and still has the expanding application of international classification of national economy braches, introducing unified systems of national accounts of which our between-war statistics did not have a single idea, further, the statistics of environment and tourism, general development of science, research and development, and, naturally, the information society.

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