

FOREWORD

The Statistical Yearbook of the Karlovarský Region is a key publication of the Regional Office of the Czech Statistical Office in Karlovy Vary. It brings a summary statistical overview about the Region and its individual territorial units. It depicts in detail its demographic, social, and economic development and provides also selected data on the environment. Since the establishment of Regions in their current territorial structure in 2000, it is already the 19th edition of this regular regional publication, which is issued in all Regions both in an electronic version on the Internet and in the printed form. These traditional publications present a structure-unified content and follow the national Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic, which is compiled by the Czech Statistical Office. Data on the Region are basically published for the period of 2016–2018 and for selected indicators also in a longer time series since 2000.

This year, there are several novelties. The Population chapter shows results of the forecast of the population development in the Region to 2070 including expected development of the age structure. To the Social Security chapter, newly approved allowances were added – a paternity leave for fathers and a long-term carer's allowance. In the Elections chapter, readers will find results of the elections to the European Parliament that were held in May.

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 interested in more detailed data 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 will find comparisons of Regions in the 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 2020).

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 ministries and other institutions (listed in detail in an overview "Data sources taken over from ministries and other institutions" as well as in relevant tables, graphs, and cartograms) was used. 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 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, administrative districts, municipalities, or micro-regions are published in other products of the Regional Office (Statistical Bulletin, publications on demographic matters, thematically focused analyses, 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.cbudejovice.czso.cz), not merely the latest data, but also interesting things about the Region, graphical outputs, information for respondents of statistical surveys, data on own activities of the Regional Office, and much more. In the end of October 2019, another analysis was published, this time with the topic of "Women and Men in the Karlovarský Region" (Czech only); as every year, it was elaborated according to a unified template in all Regions.

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 2020.

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.