

Introduction

This publication is devoted to the so-called digital economy, which is based on the rapid acquisition, processing and exchange of information through information and communication technologies (ICT). The effective use of modern ICT and related applications and services has a significant impact on increasing competitiveness and building an innovative and knowledge-based society.

One way to map developments in ICT and its impact on the economy is to compile a set of statistical indicators in this area. The CZSO has been publishing this statistical overview for more than ten years.

This brochure provide a comprehensive overview of statistical indicators about the development of the digital economy in the Czech Republic and where possible also in other, mainly EU, countries.

The brochure consists of the following **seven chapters**:

- A. **ICT specialists:** this chapter provides information about **employment** in ICT specialist occupations both for ICT professionals and ICT technicians together with data about their **wages**.
- B. **ICT students:** this chapter contains data on the number and structure of students and graduates of ICT disciplines at universities.
- C. **ICT investments:** this chapter includes detail information about total ICT investment **by asset type** and **industry**. Data on **household expenditures** on ICT equipment and services is also included here.
- D. **ICT research and development:** this chapter provides both data on the total financial resources invested in research and development (R&D) in ICT equipment and software and data about R&D expenditures and personnel in enterprises with the main economic activity that belongs to the ICT sector.
- E. **International trade in ICT goods:** this year, for the first time, the publication provides an overview of international trade in ICT goods, when the ownership of goods changes between residents and non-residents, as well as the cross-border movements of ICT goods, which tells about the physical movement of goods, regardless of whether there is direct trade with the goods in question.
- F. **International trade in ICT services:** this chapter informs the reader about the export and import of ICT services, both as a whole and broken down into different categories.
- G. **ICT sector:** this chapter consists of main economic indicators for industries that are primarily engaged in the production of ICT goods and services.

In addition to detailed data for the Czech Republic, each chapter contains a methodological introduction and, for most indicators, an available international comparison.

Data given in this brochure were acquired, in most cases, from regular statistical surveys or databases of the **Czech Statistical Office**. International comparisons were compiled by the Czech Statistical Office based on freely available Eurostat, OECD or UN data sources.

For more information on digital economy statistics, visit our website:

<https://csu.gov.cz/digital-economy>.

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