

Dear readers, dear users of statistical data,

You are now opening the 31st edition of the Statistical Yearbook in the modern history of the Czech Republic. The publication brings in one place the most essential information from all important areas of life of our society in the year 2022, which was strongly influenced by the geopolitical situation associated with the war in Ukraine and the related rise in energy and raw material prices and an overall increase in consumer prices.

At the beginning of the eventful year, the Czech Republic had 10.517 million inhabitants and during the year their number increased by 310.8 thousand to 10.828 million. All the increase was thanks to a positive net migration of 329.7 thousand persons, mainly caused by immigration of persons from Ukraine with temporary protection granted, whereas the balance of natural change was negative as the number of live births was by 18.9 thousand lower than the number of deaths in 2022.

The Czech Republic's gross domestic product increased by 2.4%. The gross value added increase was mainly contributed to by services, whereas as regards industry, difficulties of various kinds persisted, notably interrupted supplies of production components and rising energy and raw material prices. Expenditure on fixed capital formation and external demand were the main drivers of growth, whereas household expenditure decreased.

Similarly as in other Member States of the European Union, also the Czech economy was affected by a significant rise in consumer prices. The average annual inflation rate reached 15.1%, the second highest figure since the establishment of the independent Czech Republic in 1993. The development of consumer prices in 2022 was mainly influenced by the rise in prices of housing, food and non-alcoholic beverages, and transportation. High inflation resulted in an 8.5% decline in real wages of employees, despite a significant increase in nominal wages. The labour market situation remained favourable; the general unemployment rate reached 2.4% in 2022 and thus it was still the lowest in the EU.

The data base of the Czech Statistical Office could benefit from further census results in 2022. The Statistical Yearbook thus newly provides a comparison of population trends by economic activity status of the population, employed persons by economic activity (industry) or status in employment, and various characteristics of the housing and dwelling stock as well as household statistics. Besides that, additional information has been added, for example, in the area of adult education – 51.4% of adult respondents declared knowledge of English at least at a basic level in 2022, whereas as for German it was 31.4%. In the chapter on the Information Society, you will newly find tables based on an annual statistical survey on ICT (information and communication technologies) usage in the business enterprise sector. Of course, results of elections to local councils and city sections and both rounds of the election of the President of the Czech Republic, which were processed by the CZSO, cannot be missing either. In statistics of international trade in goods, a retrospective revision has been carried out, with data being recalculated from 2020 onwards using an updated method based on a higher level of detail. In the updated method, the overall trade balance has not changed and has not been revised backwards.

The Czech Statistical Office keeps up with the times and uses modern tools to disseminate statistical data. We are active in communicating with both the professional and lay public, you can find us on social networks, we bring new infographics, we publish a popularising magazine Statistika & My (Statistics & Us), we offer new services and applications, and we prepare new attractive forms of our websites or databases. Although in the light of the aforementioned it might seem that the Statistical Yearbook is no longer necessary, that is not true. It is a concentrated essence of official statistics, a tool that offers in a condensed form essential, good quality, and trustworthy data to all those who need them for their decision-making. I would therefore like to thank the staff of the Czech Statistical Office, the cooperating partner organisations, and our respondents, without whose efforts the Statistical Yearbook could not see the light of day and thus bring enrichment and joy to its users.

Marek Rojíček
President of the Czech Statistical Office