

Dear readers,

You are now opening the 33rd edition of the Statistical Yearbook since the establishment of the independent Czech Republic. The modern editions follow on from the volumes previously published during the Czechoslovak era and form a comprehensive series of publications filled with statistical information reflecting the lives of people living in our territory over time.

The latest edition of the Yearbook uses tables to show events mainly in the year 2024. So what was the year like from the point of view of statistics? Let's have a look at data on population first. At the end of 2024, the population of Czechia reached almost 10.91 million; compared to the previous year, it was an increase by approximately 9 thousand people. It was thus the second lowest population growth in the last ten years. Net migration (36.8 thousand) outweighed the natural decrease (-27.9 thousand). The third highest number of immigrants in post-war history (121.8 thousand) was accompanied by an abnormally high number of emigrants (85 thousand), mainly due to the termination of residence for persons who did not apply for an extension of temporary protection. In 2024, the lowest number of live births in history (84.3 thousand) was recorded in Czechia. The total fertility rate of 1.37 children per woman was the lowest in the last 18 years. For the second year in a row, Czechia also saw a decrease in the number of marriages and nuptiality. A total of 44.5 thousand couples got married, which is 8% less, year-on-year. The good news is that the life expectancy at birth increased, exceeding 77 years (77.2 years) for males and 83 years (83.1 years) for females for the first time.

And how did the Czech economy fare? The Czech economy performance slightly increased in 2024, when the GDP increased by 1% for the year as a whole. The year-on-year GDP growth strengthened during the year and in the 4th quarter, the domestic economy increased, year-on-year, by 1.8% and, quarter-on-quarter, by 0.7%. The increment of consumer prices reached 2.4%; it was the lowest since 2018. Earnings of households grew in real terms and the growth of domestic consumption thus gradually strengthened over the course of the year. The average gross monthly wage of employees in 2024 increased by 7.1% in nominal terms and by 4.6% in real terms. Although it was one of the most significant increases in the purchasing power of wages in the last two decades, the amount of average gross real earnings still did not reach the level from the year 2019. The limits of optimism of households and businesses were reflected in a decrease in investments; export-oriented industries were affected by weakening external demand. On the other hand, services performed well.

The above-mentioned data are by no means the only ones that the Czech Statistical Office offers to the public. On the contrary, they are rather a selection of the most essential information that can be found on the pages of the Statistical Yearbook. For 2024, the CZSO has also included some new tables. For example, you can track road and rail transport performance, learn about information technologies in basic schools, find out what the salaries of physicians are, or see how many people with disabilities live in Czechia and what kind of assistance they use. A significant addition to this edition of the Yearbook is also an extension of the Chapter on Culture, among others, by data on attendance at cultural establishments, household expenditure on culture, and the radio and television broadcasting structure by type of programme.

Naturally, modern official statistics does not rely solely on yearbooks. It uses a range of innovative tools, follows modern trends, and strives to implement them in such a way that statistics is as comprehensible and accessible as possible to the widest possible range of users. The CZSO offers more and more data in open data format, we use online databases and applications as well as a geoportal. You can find us on social networks; we publish both popularising magazines and impactful journals. Nevertheless, the Statistical Yearbook remains important, as it brings together in one place, in a condensed form, all the essential and trustworthy information for those who need it for their activities and decision-making. I would therefore like to express my thanks to everyone who has contributed and continues to contribute to the creation of this piece of work. Employees of the Czech Statistical Office, partner organisations, and our respondents, without involvement of whom it would be almost impossible to compile statistics.



Marek Rojíček
President of the Czech Statistical Office