

Introduction

The publication freely follows its earlier edition, and at the same time further expands it. It is mostly concerned with comparing Czechia with European Union countries, but also with other world countries, in the form of selected indicators with tables and graphs. The major used country groups are exactly defined below. The selection of data was primarily governed by the interests of users and also by the existence and availability of data in international sources.

Also this year, there are 13 thematic areas in the publication, covering economic, social as well as environmental areas of life. Apart from the standard information regarding population, labour market, environment, individual economic sectors and macroeconomic data, especially the GDP, were also included indicators on information society, selected regional indicators and many others. A wide range of data and tables of international comparison, can also be found on www.csu.gov.cz, or in other publications produced by the Czech Statistical Office.

Differences in data

This publication primarily uses data published by Eurostat. It may differ from the data published by the CZSO. Among the causes of these differences are: methodological differences, use of other models for seasonal adjustment, different indicators, variant definitions of general indicators, different coverage (e.g. different size groups), rounding, harmonization (comparability between states) and so on. For more information see the website of the Czech Statistical Office:

<https://csu.gov.cz/differences-between-data-published-by-czech-statistical-office-and-eurostat>

Differences in data released in individual years of this publication may be caused by changes in methodology which the statistical offices of all member countries make in different years. For example, the new classifications (NACE, CPA ...) get into use. In some cases, the data is recalculated backwards, the aggregates or basic years change. As a result of changes in the economy, the data in some countries become confidential and cannot be published. Differences arise also through the use of new data sources. If the source used failed to update data in a given year and it is already certain that no update will be performed, we tried to replace it with another source and we put a new definition of the indicator. Some tables disappeared completely, some new, hopefully interesting for users, were added.

For all tables, the data source and the date of which the data are valid are indicated.

The Czech Statistical Office is not responsible for data from other sources.

Explanatory notes:

The **European Union (EU27)** is an economic and political grouping of 27 countries of Europe. The table below briefly summarises development of the EU from 1993, when the Maastricht Treaty came into force.

EU Member States	Date of joining the EU	Abbreviations of the groupings				
Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Germany, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Portugal, Greece, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ¹⁾	1 November 1993 (the Treaty on European Union)	EU	EU15	EU25	EU27	EU28
Finland, Austria, Sweden	1 January 1995					
Czechia, Estonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia	1 May 2004					
Bulgaria, Romania	1 January 2007					
Croatia	1 July 2013					

¹⁾ The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland left the European Union on 31 January 2020.

The tables present data for the EU27, i.e. the European Union – 27 countries (from 2020).

The **euro area (EA20, eurozone)** is the territory of those Member States of the European Union, which introduced the euro as their common currency pursuant to the Treaty establishing the European Community. The euro area had 20 members as at 1 January 2023. The table below gives an overview of dates when the countries introduced the euro.

<i>Countries of the euro area</i>	<i>Date of euro introduction</i>	<i>Abbreviations of the groupings</i>							
<i>Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Germany, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Portugal, Austria, Greece, Spain</i>	<i>1 January 2002</i>	<i>EA12</i>	<i>EA13</i>	<i>EA15</i>	<i>EA16</i>	<i>EA17</i>	<i>EA18</i>	<i>EA19</i>	<i>EA20</i>
<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>1 January 2007</i>								
<i>Cyprus, Malta</i>	<i>1 January 2008</i>								
<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>1 January 2009</i>								
<i>Estonia</i>	<i>1 January 2011</i>								
<i>Latvia</i>	<i>1 January 2014</i>								
<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>1 January 2015</i>								
<i>Croatia</i>	<i>1 January 2023</i>								

Under “**Other**,” tables are extended by selected European countries and countries with a mature economy from other continents, for which comparable data are available.

Purchasing Power Standard (PPS) is an artificial currency that reflects differences in national price levels, that are not taken into account by exchange rates. This unit allows meaningful volume comparisons of economic indicators over countries. Aggregates expressed in PPS are derived by dividing aggregates in current prices and national currency with the respective Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).

Purchasing Power Parities (PPP) are the currency exchange rates that equalise the purchasing power of different currencies. This means that a given sum of money, when converted into different currencies at the PPP rates, will buy the same basket of goods and services in all countries. In other words, PPPs are the rates of currency conversion, which eliminate the differences in price levels among countries.

In the chapter 8 **Macroeconomics**, indicators relating to the national accounts were compiled in accordance with the new European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010), wherever it was already possible. Tables according to the ESA 1995 are marked.

In the chapter 9 **External trade**, there are internationally comparable data on international trade in terms of change of ownership from the Eurostat database, specifically imports and exports of goods and services in the section of national accounts, under GDP and main aggregates. This data is also published under the same terms by the CZSO, specifically in the National Accounts.

Chapters 12 **Regions** and 13 **Geographical breakdown** are devoted to the regions of the European Union. The publication contains maps and charts, serving for a quick comparison of economic levels and social characteristics of individual regions. Regions are classified according to the classification NUTS (La nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques), which is an administrative classification dividing the European Union (EU) into regions at three levels (NUTS 1, 2 and 3). The current NUTS 2024 classification is valid from 1st of January 2024 and lists 92 regions at NUTS 1, 244 regions at NUTS 2 and 1165 regions at NUTS 3 level. In this publication, we give either NUTS 3 regions data, either only NUTS 2 regions for different countries. Due to the limited extent of this book, it was not possible to give data for all 1165 (NUTS 3) regions. Given that some of the regions within the EU have the same name, the distinction is made by adding the appropriate shortcut of the state. Some NUTS regions occur at multiple levels (e.g. Luxembourg is the state, and at the same time the region at NUTS 1, 2 and 3 level). In these cases, the code ends at zero for the region with the identical territory at the next lower level. Coding must not be identical for different NUTS levels, even if the territorial extent of these regions is identical.

The countries are listed alphabetically by abbreviated Czech names. Abbreviated Czech and English names of countries are taken from the nomenclature Číselník zemí (CZEM) amended on 1 December 2024. The nomenclature Číselník zemí (CZEM) can be found on the CZSO website under the following link:

https://csu.gov.cz/ciselnik_zemi_-czem-

The aim of this publication is to serve a wide range of users, interested in information, relating to the position of Czechia in comparison with other countries. The CZSO employees welcome any further ideas and comments from the readers, and will use them to improve their work.