

Dear Readers,

You have just opened a new edition of the Statistical Yearbook, which has been steadily presenting results of work of official statistics in the Czech Republic for decades. Since the foundation of an independent Czech Republic, it is already the 28th volume of a continuous edition, which brings you information from many areas of our lives in the previous year.

The Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic is brought out in hard times when our country is dealing with an onset of a crisis caused by an unfavourable epidemic situation. It will be exactly thanks to statistics that in the future we will be able to compare how successful our society and our economy were in facing the crisis. Statistical data are also an essential source of information based on which a necessary help can be targeted and a recovery of the affected economy can be adequately planned. Contribution of trustworthy and independent official statistics to the whole society is thus confirmed all the more not only in the Czech Republic, but also globally.

The pre-crisis year of 2019, similarly as several previous years, can be called a successful year despite the year-on-year economic growth rate slowing down during the whole year. In total, the gross domestic product increased by 2.5% in 2019. Information and communication continued to grow significantly; the gross value added increased there by 7.6%. Development of transport infrastructure strengthened construction. On the contrary, the increment in industry slowed down to 0.7%. Strong household consumption helped retail trade, in which sales increased by 4.8%. Continuing increasing of wages was reflected in price development, especially in services. Inflation thus increased by 2.8% last year, which is the most for the last seven years. Previous tension on the labour market, known from the previous years, slightly eased in 2019 and the total employment increased only by 0.7% last year and, in the end of the year, its growth even stopped. In some branches, however, the lack of labour force was still an important barrier to growth. You can find more detailed data not only on economic topics inside this publication.

As every year, the Statistical Yearbook contains several novelties. Because of the dynamics of information technologies usage in the society, eight new tables were added to the Information Society chapter. They bring, for example, data on using of Internet of Things by enterprises or information about using of 3D printing and robotics. There is also information about internet banking and all the more used services of e-health. It is namely the chapter on Health, which brings you further novelties thanks to an inclusion of results of the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS 2019). In the Czech Republic, the Institute of Health Information and Statistics was the main coordinator of the survey; it carried out the survey in cooperation with the Czech Statistical Office. We can find out, for example, characteristics of self-perceived health status by sex and age group in 2019, information about prevalence of obesity, consumption of fruits and vegetables, or about physical activity by sex and age group. Further novelties in the Yearbook are: data on the average gross monthly wages of teachers or breakdown of university graduates by citizenship, type of studies, and study programme.

As you can see, the Statistical Yearbook is truly an extensive and complex piece of work. However, it would not be made without careful work of employees of the Czech Statistical Office, participating organisations, and, last but not least, co-operative respondents. Therefore, I would like to express my thanks to them on behalf of the CZSO. They thus contributed to providing of quality and trustworthy statistical data to the whole public.

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President of the Czech Statistical Office