

*Dear Readers of the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2012,*

*No matter if you have the yearbook published by the Czech Statistical Office for 2012 on your hands as a hardback or you watch it on a screen of your electronic device, I believe the publication will be a good help at your work.*

*I would like to draw your attention to certain things of interest related to this year statistical yearbook. It is either the fact the statistical yearbook 2012 is already the twentieth volume of the national statistical yearbook for the time the independent Czech Republic has existed since 1993. Although in the course of this period even so tragic event as the devastating deluge in August 2002 happened, owing to enormous efforts of employees of the Czech Statistical Office yet also of numerous partner organisations of the Office, we managed to save and preserve a prevailing portion of our data for the future.*

*Time series presented in the yearbook are up to ten year long as usual. If we would like to look back even further, into the history of Czechoslovakia, we would find out, that the statistical yearbook has been continuously published on our country territory for already remarkable fifty-five years. The Czech Statistical Office has at its disposal relatively vast and very user-interesting series of indicators from various areas of our society life. In order to add value to our data funds even more and to enable our users to have a look into the history even deeper, we have decided to publish historical yearbooks, which often trace back to 19th century, and sometimes even to 18th one. I am certain that those volumes will also be beneficial to your work and you will find them interesting.*

*The statistical yearbook 2012 brings, besides the pieces of information that have been a stable part thereof for a long time, also new data, for instance on external trade in the euro area or data from Agrocensus 2010. Furthermore, you will find new data from the fields of information and communication technologies and research and development. Sports fans will surely be pleased by an overview of the participation of the Czech team members at the London 2012 Olympic Games. First available final results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census were also included in the yearbook.*

*A rather significant change to methodology in the yearbook relates to the introduction of a new version of the classification of occupations of CZ-ISCO, which corresponds to the international standard of ISCO-08 (ILO standard) and which replaced the formerly used KZAM. In this context certain data, mostly in chapter 10 Labour Market, yet also in other numerous chapters, were recalculated.*

*Closing the foreword, please, allow me to express my thanks to those who contributed to the preparation and publication of the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2012 – to members of the editorial board, employees of the Czech Statistical Office, and also to other collaborators from partner institutions.*

*I wish you, dear users, the statistical yearbook will become your inspiration and a good foundation for your decisions not solely in 2013.*

Iva Ritschelová,

*President of the Czech Statistical Office*