

## **Preface**

*The Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) brings out already the tenth publication in a row focusing on comparison of differences between women and men in various areas of life in modern society. Statistical examination of data classified by sex serves to achieve many goals. Differences between men and women rest not only on physical differences, but they also pose a cultural and social issue – women and men play different roles in life and have different preferences. These differences vary in time and space and many of them may complicate the life of women and men or even discriminate them.*

*One of basic principles of a democratic state is to secure equal opportunities to all citizens so that they could pursue their aspiration in life, irrespective of whether born as a male or female. Statistical data serve a basis for decision-making of the general government and legislators, and, they can also be used for description and checking of preconditions to eliminate unjustified differences between genders in everyday practice.*

*This publication ensued from the paragraph 7.3 of the Government resolution No.: 456/2001 dated May 9, 2001 on “Updating trends in pursuing the policy of equal opportunities for men and women”. According to its paragraph No. 7.3 the Government of the Czech Republic requested the Czech Statistical Office to publish statistical data on men and woman periodically.*

*This year’s publication “Focus on Women, on Men” provides updated statistical data obtained from statistical surveys usually until the end of the year 2008. The same as in the last year, you can find there the tables presenting international data comparisons in all of the chapters of the publication. Some of them are changed, some of them are completely new according to data availability.*

*In addition to the time series updates some other changes were made as well.*

*Table 6-14. (Convicted persons) from the Chapter Justice, Crime, was excluded because of irrelevant information. This table contained not only data for imprisonment but also fines, ban activity, etc.*

*The final part of the publication includes selected information on the results of some sociological researches and surveys on gender issues. Already for the fifth year, selected information from the research of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR called **Trends in Social and Political Mechanisms Influencing Gender Relations** is available; surveyed was the standpoint of women and men regarding the possibility to obtain work corresponding to their qualification and skills depending on age, education and family status of respondents. Further, questions presented applied to the occurrence of domestic violence and attitude of the respondents to that issue.*