

Introduction

The role of **information and communication technologies (ICTs)** has received considerable attention in the last decade or so due to their exceptional role in enhancement of economic growth and social change. Even though the production and the expansion of ICT varies significantly among countries, a general agreement prevails that it is necessary to collect reliable and comprehensive ICT indicators in order to assess the impact of these technologies on growth, productivity or innovation.

The aim of **information and communication technologies statistics** is, on one hand, to provide data on the production and the supply of advanced ICTs, including data on investments, external trade or qualified human resources in this field (**information economy statistics**) and, on the other hand, to track data on the penetration and usage of these technologies in particular sectors of society such as households, enterprise sector or public administration (**information society statistics**).

This brochure, its **fourth edition**, was compiled again in order to provide a comprehensive overview of statistical indicators about the developments of the information economy in the Czech Republic and where possible also in other, mainly EU, countries.

The brochure consists of the following five chapters:

- Chapter A: '**IT Professionals**' provides population estimates of computing professionals and computer associate professionals together with their monthly gross wages. Data on the numbers of university students of Computing were included for the first time.
- Chapter B: '**ICT Expenditures**' includes information about types of expenditures in ICT services with emphasis on software investments.
- Chapter C: '**ICT R&D and ICT Patents**' provides data on R&D expenditures in ICT equipment and software together with data about ICT related patents granted in the Czech Republic.
- Chapter D: '**ICT External Trade**' includes detail data about exports and imports both in the ICT goods and ICT services.
- Chapter E: '**ICT sector**' consists of main economic indicators for industries that are primarily engaged in the production of ICT goods and services.

Data given in this brochure were acquired, in most cases, from regular statistical surveys or databases of the Czech Statistical Office. International comparisons were compiled by the Czech Statistical Office based on freely available Eurostat, OECD or UN data sources.

Whenever possible, the data used in this brochure are based on the standards included in **The OECD Guide to Measuring the Information Society** (Paris, 2011). This publication summarizes the statistical standards and definitions developed by the OECD Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society in the field of ICTs.

For further information, please visit our website titled **Information Society**: http://www.czso.cz/eng/redakce.nsf/i/information_society

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to contact us directly. Your suggestions will be incentives for future releases.

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