

Dear Readers,

*Even in the age of the Internet, the Statistical Yearbook belongs, as usual, to flagships of official Czech statistics. Since 1993, it is already the 29th volume of an edition, which brings you substantial information about life of the whole society. While last year's Statistical Yearbook comprised data from 2019, i.e. the last pre-crisis year before the covid-19 disease pandemic broke out, this year's Statistical Yearbook brings a view of the year 2020, in which our society and its economy and health were affected by a difficult epidemic situation. I assume that comparing of statistical data from the crisis period with the data from the pre-crisis period will be, even in a global view, one of noticeable tiles in a mosaic of the picture of the world of our time.*

*So, how was the year 2020? The gross domestic product slumped by 5.6% in real terms, which was the deepest decrease during the existence of an independent Czech Republic. All components of the GDP contributed to the decrease, domestic consumption and investments most of all. The gross value added dropped by 5.5% last year and the slump affected most of economic activities (industries) except for agriculture, information and communication, public administration and defence; compulsory social security, education, human health and social work activities. A deep fall was reported by a group of trade, transportation, accommodation and food service activities (–11.8%) as well as professional, scientific and technical activities (–9.3%). The decrease has also affected manufacturing oriented on export (–6.9%). The economic decline also influenced employment, which dropped by 1.5% last year. It was significantly contributed to by manufacturing. The state budget performance ended up with the deficit of CZK 367.4 billion last year and in the year-on-year comparison the deficit deepened by almost CZK 340 billion. Anti-pandemic measures contributed to the deficit in a crucial way – they considerably increased the budget expenditure on one side (18.8%), however, they also resulted in a decrease in the state budget revenue on the other side (–3.1%).*

*Every edition of the Statistical Yearbook brings several novelties and this year's edition will be no exception to that. Unfortunately, the covid-19 disease spread was reflected there, too. Therefore, in the chapter on the population, in the tables on causes of death, we can also find a piece of data on deaths due to this disease. In the part devoted to health, we provide data on the number of cases of the disease confirmed by laboratory testing, the number of deaths, and cases of hospitalisation obtained from the Information system on infectious diseases. Fortunately, the novelties in the Statistical Yearbook do not only apply to the unfavourable epidemic situation and bring, for example, selected information from the Integrated Farm Survey, Regional Tourism Satellite Account of the Czech Republic, and information on utilisation of the online environment by Czech enterprises. This year, a chapter devoted to sport is specific since it brings data on the participation of Czech athletes in the XXXII Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo (which were originally planned to take place in 2020) and their ranking down to the 6th place.*

*Such an extensive piece of work as the Statistical Yearbook undoubtedly is would never come to existence without work and effort of the employees of the Czech Statistical Office, participating partner organisations, and our respondents. However, it is mainly you, our readers, who give sense to the Statistical Yearbook. It is my firm belief that you will appreciate the trustworthy and quality data provided for a long time by the Czech Statistical Office.*

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President of the Czech Statistical Office