

Dear Readers:

*You have just opened the volume of the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2013. Publishing its 21st edition the Czech Statistical Office has started, in a symbolical way, already the third tens of the continuous series of volumes of this important summary publication since the establishing of the independent Czech Republic. This series is also a follow-up to the series of the Statistical Yearbook of Czechoslovakia.*

*The Statistical Yearbook shall, as a reflection of the Czech Statistical Office mission, remain a high quality source of consistent and trustworthy information describing the broad spectrum of important events in life of the Czech Republic society. It is just the high quality data background materials, which may on hands of responsible decision-makers serve well in searching for effective instruments and tools to solve economic, social, and environmental issues. I believe that independent statistics and its benefits for society will find even higher social recognition. I hope that the International Year of Statistics, which is held this year, has contributed to this to a certain extent as well.*

*In the Yearbook 2013, besides several changes to methodology in classifications, you will also find numerous novelties. Besides information on the elections to regional assemblies and to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in October 2012, the relevant chapter reveals, for the very first time, information on the direct elections of the President of the Czech Republic in 2013. Tables give total results of the ballot, that is the number of registered voters, participation in the vote, total votes turned in the ballot for the first and second rounds of the vote broken by region, and then valid votes received by respective candidates. Chapter on external trade includes data on the long-term development given newly for the EU27, euro area, and for countries outside the EU27. Besides exports, imports, and external trade balance it also shows indicators on turnover and the coverage of imports by exports. The data on turnover reflect volumes of respective commodities, which physically crossed borders, and form a suitable supplement to the triplet of basic indicators of the external trade statistics. New data on formal and informal education are available on pages of the appropriate chapter. The Yearbook also reveals basic indicators of the Satellite Account for Culture. Chapter Agriculture discloses results of the survey on the production potential of fruit orchards. This year Yearbook again includes the chapter containing final results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census, this time showing data on houses and dwellings and private households in them.*

*Concluding the foreword I would like to express my thank to employees of the Czech Statistical Office, members of the editorial board, as well as to all others who made a contribution to the publishing of the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2013.*

*I am strongly confident that this specific and in its content and scope unique piece of work from the production of the Czech Statistical Office will serve you, its users, as a useful instrument for your managerial, scientific, or pedagogic activities yet bring you enjoyment of knowledge as well.*

Iva Ritschelová

President of the Czech Statistical Office