

FOREWORD

The Statistical Yearbook of the Středočeský Region is a key publication of the Regional Office of the Czech Statistical Office for Středočeský Region. It brings a summary statistical overview about the Region and its individual territorial units. Thanks to its scope, it can depict statistical data on demographic, social, and economic development of the Region in more detail and in a summary way. Furthermore, it also includes selected data on the environment. Already the 24th volume of this edition is issued this year. One of the main advantages of all previous editions, as well as this year's one, is not only the uniformity of content in all Regions, but also the fact that the structure of the chapters of the publication is basically unchanged and always follows the relevant edition of the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic, also prepared by the Czech Statistical Office.

In this edition, we have already omitted the chapter on the 2021 Population and Housing Census; however, the data are still available in great detail in the Public database of the CZSO. In contrast, we have expanded the content of some chapters. For example, in the chapter on Population, the reader will find results of the projection of the population of the Region until the year 2080; in the chapter on Agriculture, selected data from the last year's Integrated Farm Survey are included. Furthermore, the chapter on Elections contains results of the June elections to the European Parliament as well as the September elections to regional councils and to one third of the Senate. Data on the Region are published essentially for the period from 2021 to 2023; in selected indicators, they are in a longer time series from 2000 onwards. The publication is available in electronic form on the Internet; however, a printed version can also be purchased.

As at 1 January 2021, pursuant to the Act No 51/2020 Sb, on the Administrative Territorial Structure of the State, boundaries of some Districts and administrative districts changed; another change took place as at 1 January 2023, when the municipality of Přemyslovice was re-classified from the MEP of Prostějov to the MEP of Konice. A chapter called "Basic characteristics, Districts" provides more detailed information on changes to the territories. However, it is necessary to underline that all data published therein (including cartograms) correspond to the territorial structure valid just in the relevant year.

In terms of territory, besides information on the Region, available data by District are also published here; in the chapter called "Administrative districts, municipalities" data by administrative district of municipalities with extended powers (MEPs) are published. Furthermore, selected data on administrative districts of municipalities with authorised municipal authority, on towns/cities, and several indicators on individual municipalities are provided. Well-arranged comparisons of Regions in the electronic form of the Yearbook are available on the website or directly in a separate publication called "Comparison of Regions in the Czech Republic" that will be published on 17 January 2025.

Methodological notes on individual chapters are provided together, as a summary, after the data section. References and links to data sources used for preparation of the Yearbook, explanation of abbreviations used in the Yearbook and of symbols used on the geographical map of the Region are also added to them.

State statistical surveys are the basic source for the published data. Besides data sources of the Czech Statistical Office, available data from ministries and other institutions (listed in detail in an overview of "Data sources – links to ministries and other institutions" as well as in relevant tables, charts, and cartograms) were used. A large part of published data is regularly entered into regional databases of the CZSO or it is provided in long-term time series, including data in the open text format. The Public database (in Czech abbreviated as VDB) and a new application for statistical data dissemination – DataStat – are also important sources of this information. A new feature is also the display of data in maps in the Statistical Geoportal. Links to these applications can be found on the website of the CZSO at <https://csu.gov.cz/>.

The regional statistical yearbook is not intended to encompass all pieces of information collected and processed by the State Statistical Service. More detailed data on development of the Region, Districts, administrative districts, municipalities, or micro-regions are also available in other products of the Regional Office (e.g. Statistical Bulletin, publications on demographic matters, thematically focused analyses, etc.), which are available in electronic form on the Internet. Many other pieces of useful information can be found namely on the website of the Regional Office of the Czech Statistical Office for Středočeský Region (www.csu.gov.cz/stredocesky), not only the latest data, but also interesting facts about the Region, graphical outputs, information for respondents of statistical surveys, information about activities of the Regional Office itself, and much more. In the end of October 2024, another regional analysis was published, this time with the topic of "Basic trends of demographic, social and economic development of the Středočeský Region" (Czech only; in Czech it reads: "Základní tendence demografického, sociálního a ekonomického vývoje Středočeského kraje"); it was elaborated according to a unified template in other Regions, too.

Our long-term experience and users' interest in information in regional breakdown make us believe that our regional statistical yearbook will continue to be an important and sought-after source of information for both professional and lay public. The same as in the previous years, we welcome your potential suggestions and comments as to the Yearbook's content – they can be a valuable contribution to the preparation of regional publications in 2025.

We express our thanks to all authors and colleagues for the effort and time they devoted to the preparation of the content as well as technical matters of the Yearbook.