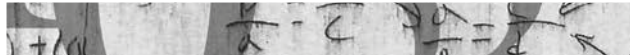




ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020





ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020



CONTENTS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

FOREWORD 06

MANAGEMENT OF THE CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE 08

GENERAL METHODOLOGY AND REGISTERS 14

PRODUCTION STATISTICS 18

MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS 22

DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS 26

REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE CZSO 32

ELECTION STATISTICS 40

POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 44

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES 48

COMMUNICATION 54

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION 58

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 62

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 66

CONTACTS 74

FOREWORD



A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'M. Rojíček', is positioned over the bottom right of the portrait.

Marek Rojíček
President of the CZSO



Dear readers,

you are holding the annual report of the Czech Statistical Office, which summarises the activities of our institution in 2020. As was the case almost everywhere, the whole of last year was affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In the given situation, the CZSO had to react quickly to substantial restrictions on social contacts, implement routine processes of remote communication, provide the technical environment and equipment for this communication, and also look for alternative ways of acquiring and processing statistical data without compromising their quality. Looking back, I can state that our institution proved to handle the situation very well in spite of all the problems in specific areas. There were relatively few compromises that affected our statistical production and we continued to deliver high quality in fulfilling our role as a provider of a wide range of statistical data necessary for the functioning of the whole society.

At the same time, the above-mentioned situation very quickly accelerated the execution of original plans of the CZSO in the area of digitisation of work processes, working from home utilisation, and the search for alternative sources and ways of acquiring statistical data. This can be considered a positive side effect of these strange times that we will surely benefit from even in the "post-COVID" era. Higher interest in statistical data on the whole and perception of their importance for decision-making can be considered another positive consequence of the pandemic from the point of view of our field.

Last year saw significant advances in the preparation of the statistical project of a decade – the 2021 Population and Housing Census. The decision to integrate this project more fully into the Office (that is to a much greater extent than in the past) places high demands on many of us, but it brings us a lot of experience and synergistic effects at the same time. As far as other priority tasks are concerned, projects aimed at modernisation of business statistics and scanner data use successfully continued. The project of rebranding international trade statistics was brought to a successful end as was, last but not least, the implementation of the process of publishing the GDP indicator within a shorter time span (T+30).

Over the past year, we successfully managed to modernise the data centre, which will form the backbone of our IT infrastructure

for the years to come. This will be followed by more projects, be it modernisation of application servers, replacement of end-user devices in favour of laptops, strengthening of data lines between regions and the headquarters, wireless connectivity inside buildings, procurement of videoconferencing equipment, etc. In 2021, we are planning to switch to an integrated system of tools enabling remote collaboration. What also lies ahead of the Office is a gradual introduction of digitisation of document circulation, which is a project for the next few years that should result in a simplification of necessary administration and, thus, bring about more time for the production of statistics themselves. In this way, the management of the Czech Statistical Office is gradually fulfilling one of the objectives it set itself, namely to increase the flexibility and equipment of employees so as to make our workplace competitive with comparable institutions in the world.

In today's dynamic times of rapid change in society and the economy, statistics, which is in principle a conservative discipline, must also be able to react flexibly. In this context, the CZSO strengthened the tools for improving the innovation performance both in terms of products and organisational processes. For example, the institute of internal grants for innovation projects proposed by employees was set up for this purpose. Many of these activities were integrated into the "Implementation of a quality management system" project, which is co-funded by European funds and will help improve the adaptation process for new employees, make the system of internal regulations clearer, provide the necessary training of managerial skills, or strengthen the internal communication within the Office. We are also preparing to strengthen strategic planning, which should maintain a clear link between the mission and vision of our Office, medium-term plans, and annual priority tasks.

At this point, I would like to thank all the partners, respondents, and users of the Office's outputs for their collaboration and feedback, which contributes to the continuous improvement of the State Statistical Service in our country. Special thanks are due to our employees for their active approach and hard work in these challenging times, both of which have a positive impact on the quality of products of the Czech Statistical Office as well as on increasing the social importance of our institution's activities. ■



MANAGEMENT OF THE CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE

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The Czech Statistical Office is a highly professional institution with a long tradition. Its scope of authority is laid down by the State Statistical Service Act and the regulation on European statistics. In its activities, the Office follows the fundamental principles of official statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission, which, in the context of the EU, are further elaborated in the European Statistics Code of Practice.



Mission of the Czech Statistical Office

- To provide a trustworthy and consistent image of the state and development of society on the basis of data obtained.
- To take into account the evolving needs of users of the State Statistical Service in the context of a changing socio-economic environment.
- To provide and coordinate the State Statistical Service in the Czech Republic.

Vision of the Czech Statistical Office

ČSÚ The CZSO is a constantly evolving, modern, and user-oriented institution, which:

- adheres to and respects fundamental ethical values, such as professionalism, independence, impartiality, and openness;
- always provides high quality services to a wide spectrum of users based on the principle of equal access to information and thus strives for permanent respect, trust, and recognition on the part of both the domestic and international public;
- serves as the central pillar of the development of the national system of the State Statistical Service and forms an integral part of the international network of statistical institutions and the European Statistical System;
- permanently reduces the administrative burden placed on statistical survey respondents by means of implementing

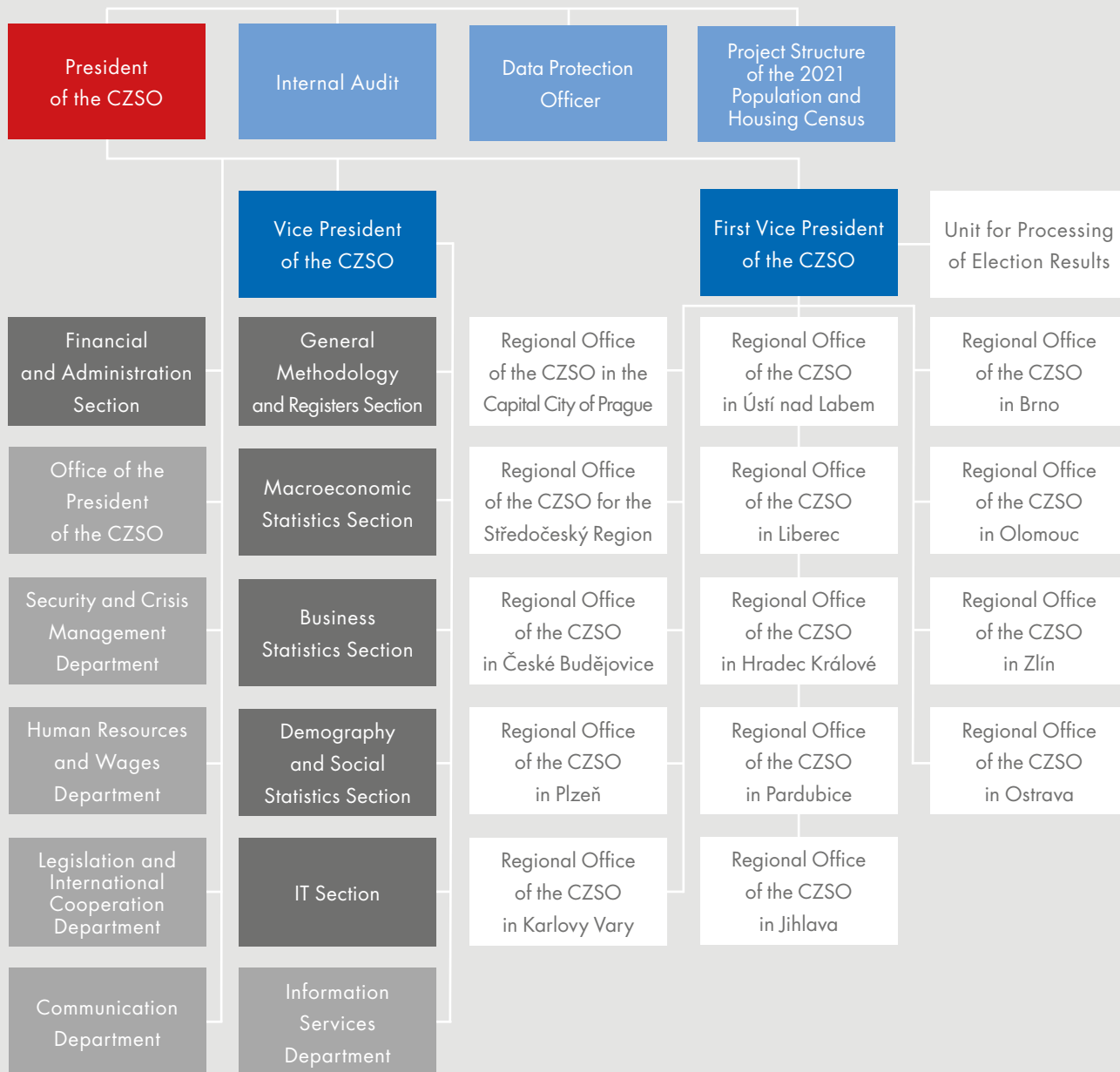
innovative procedures of mathematical statistics, making use of up-to-date electronic data collection, as well as by taking measures in the course of coordinating the State Statistical Service;

- employs highly qualified experts, for whom it creates appropriate working conditions;
- contributes to the development of statistics as a scientific discipline by means of professional journals published by the Office and also by lectures and consultancy provided by its employees at universities, scientific institutions, and statistical workplaces both in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Strategic Objectives of the Czech Statistical Office

- To increase the relevance and availability of statistics to users; to maximise their usefulness and user comfort while adhering to the following basic principles: accessibility of statistical information, its relevance, accuracy, timeliness, clarity, comparability, and completeness.
- To modernise the operation of the Office: to increase effectiveness of processes and labour productivity, to innovate the statistical information system by applying instruments of knowledge management, process optimisation, and continuous improvements to processes and procedures.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE (as at 31 December 2020)





- To reduce respondent burden: to optimise the burden placed on respondents of statistical surveys while maintaining the quality of outputs by means of using principles and capabilities of eGovernment, sharing available administrative data, improving modern statistical methods, and promoting an active dialogue with parties engaged.
- To become an employer of choice: to continuously motivate and develop key employees in terms of their professional skills by means of training, quality internal communication, and facilitating employees' self-fulfilment.
- To increase the prestige of and respect for the CZSO: to increase its prestige on the national as well as the international level by promoting statistical literacy and by targeted and proactive communication.

President of the Czech Statistical Office

The position of the President of the Czech Statistical Office is held by Ing. Marek Rojíček, PhD, who was appointed by the president of the Czech Republic upon the government's nomination in 2018. Essential prerequisites for being appointed to lead the Office are professionalism, impartiality, and political neutrality. These guarantee objectivity and trustworthiness of official statistics as required by the Czech legal order. While performing the State Statistical Service, the President of the CZSO complies with acts and other legal regulations,

adopts a professional perspective, takes into account requirements for practical usage and professional ethics, and ensures that only scientific methods are used for statistical work.

Advisory Bodies of the President of the Czech Statistical Office

Stálým Permanent advisory bodies of the President of the CZSO are the Czech Statistical Council, the Collegium of the President, the Meeting of the CZSO Management, the Election Steering Team, and the Crisis Team.

- The Czech Statistical Council discusses, first of all, the programme of statistical surveys, strategic plans of the Office, results of audits of professional statistics, etc. Its further tasks and ways of working are regulated by the Statutes issued by the President of the CZSO. Members of the Council are appointed from among experts on statistical theory and practice.
- The Collegium of the President is an organisational instrument of the strategic management of the CZSO. It mainly discusses conceptual materials on the State Statistical Service and also drafts of decisions which are to have a substantial effect on the activities of the CZSO.
- The Meeting of the CZSO Management is an organisational instrument for the operational management of the Czech Statistical Office. It deals with drafts of decisions, concrete tasks,





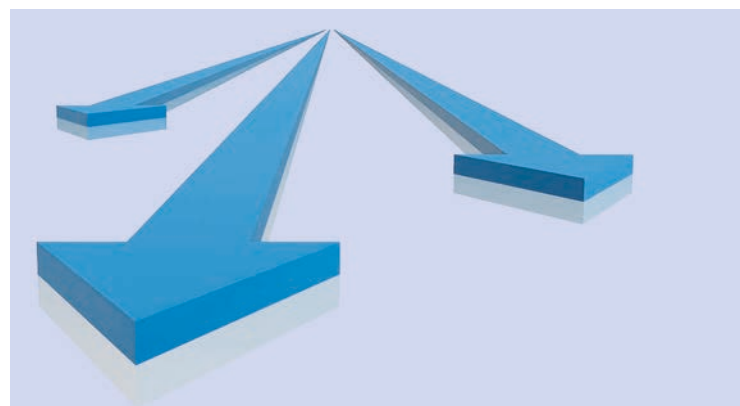
procedures, and co-ordination of all activities of the CZSO, in particular those that have an impact on the management of financial resources and human resource management.

- The Election Steering Team is an organisational instrument of the CZSO management dealing with the preparation and processing of election results as well as their presentation to the public. It discusses the relevant legal, methodological, organisational, technical, personnel, and budgetary matters.
- The Crisis Team is an organisational instrument of the CZSO crisis management. It discusses solutions to situations connected with the declaration of a state of emergency, a state of menace where there is a threat of a crisis situation developing, and solutions to other grave situations related to security interests of the CZSO.

Organisational Structure

At the end of 2020, the organisational structure of the CZSO had four tiers of line management. The Office Headquarters in Prague concentrates primarily departments and units in charge of administrative work in the spheres of methodology, statistics, technology, and economy. The respective departments are responsible for crucial statistical processes: from the development of methodology, to functional and methodological management of data collection, to processing and dissemination of statistical information. The Headquarters also houses units that are

in charge of a range of supporting processes, including international cooperation, human resources, financial management, ICT, public contracts, security, and external communication. There is a Regional Office of the CZSO in each of the fourteen regions of the Czech Republic. These can be subdivided into two types: large and small ones. Both types have an identical internal structure which consists of field survey units, information services units, and, since 2018, population and housing census units. On top of that, large Regional Offices have specialised units for statistical processing which provide services nationwide. ■





GENERAL METHODOLOGY AND REGISTERS

The Czech Statistical Office published a Decree on the Programme of Statistical Surveys for 2021. Based on the Decree, the Czech Statistical Office and six other producers of statistics will be carrying out statistical surveys, which are one of the basic sources of data for the creation of summary statistical information. Standardisation of processing and consolidation of data in data markets continued. Data from other administrative sources were implemented into the processing. For the eighth year in a row, the Administrative Business Register (ROS), which



is administered by the Czech Statistical Office, was operated without interruption and further developed. The CZSO actively cooperated with the National Registers Authority in implementing the target concept of “Basic Registers 2.0”.

General Methodology

In accordance with Act No 89/1995 Sb on the State Statistical Service, as amended, the Decree on the Programme of Statistical Surveys for 2021 (hereafter referred to as the “Programme”) was published. The Programme includes 92 statistical surveys carried out by the CZSO and 65 surveys carried out by 6 ministries that perform the State Statistical Service. The surveys are mainly based on the requirements of 46 legal regulations of the EU and on the requirements of important users of statistical information, which are assessed and evaluated in a standard legislative process. What followed from analyses was a partial reduction of statistical surveys with the aim of reducing the administrative burden. The most important changes include the modernisation of surveys related to the supply and consumption of fuel and energy and the cancellation of 4 surveys. Considerable effort was devoted to a significant reduction of the sample for the Odp 5-01 statistical survey, which was made possible by the processing of data from an administrative source of the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. When sharing administrative data, the CZSO relies on Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics, which declares the right of national

statistical authorities to a fast and free access to administrative data sources. In 2020, the CZSO used over 100 administrative sources and their number thus exceeded the number of statistical surveys.

Statistical classifications and nomenclatures are used for statistical purposes. The following classifications were updated in 2020: National Refined Diagnosis Related Groups (CZ-DRG), Classification of Territorial Statistical Units (CZ-NUTS), Classification of Occupations (CZ-ISCO), and International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision (ICD-10). International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) was introduced.

Statistical Registers

Statistical registers, especially the Statistical Business Register (RES) and the Register of Census Districts and Buildings, are an important tool for processing statistical information. In 2020, all the outputs required by standard and new users were provided. Work continued on improving the quality of the so-called groups of businesses in accordance with



the implementation of the ESS Vision 2020. The Vision anticipates a more effective use of the European register of enterprise groups (EGR – EuroGroups Register) for statistics that record the process of globalisation. Based on the requirements set out in the Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics (FRIBS), data on bankruptcies from the insolvency register of the Ministry of Justice were implemented in the RES and newly defined activity units for selected economic operators were also included there.

In the context of the Register of Census Districts and Buildings (RSO), intensive work was under way on territorial preparations for the 2021 Population and Housing Census. Special GIS application software was put into operation to support the collection of descriptive and localisation data, census districts were territorially defined, and a batch application for processing (housing) units from the Information System of the Cadastre of Real Estate (ISKN) to the RSO for the needs of online and field data collection was completed. Furthermore, sample and comprehensive batches of territorial preparation reference data (RDÚP) were prepared for the purpose of subsequent processing. To facilitate the implementation of the European directive INSPIRE, tools were created for data harmonisation and metadata management of mandatory topics of the CZSO.



The harmonised data and metadata were published on the national and European geoportal by the mandatory deadlines set in the directive.

Data Warehouse and Data Markets, Standardisation of Processes

The data warehouse, data markets, and their presentation layers enter the processing primarily as integration tools enabling data interoperability among the respective statistical domains, statistical registers, and administrative data. In 2020, the data warehouse, as a repository and source of consolidated statistical data, was filled with data from all statistical domains. Data were consolidated also in individual data markets, which provide a structured basis mainly for the analysis and creation of statistical information. In 2020, data markets which provide internal users with controlled access to up-to-date statistical data (including microdata) continued to be developed. Not only for the above reasons, modifications were being made to the data warehouse and data markets as well as other applications of central processing. In addition to the development of methodology, it was necessary to make adjustments to applications and environments due to a substantial replacement of infrastructure (new data centre) and the migration to an updated software environment; all with regard to compliance

with cyber security standards and the start of the transition to a new metadata format (SDMX) in which data are transmitted to Eurostat.

Administrative Business Register

V In 2020, the requirement to ensure uninterrupted operation of the Administrative Business Register (ROS) was fulfilled. This requirement follows from the Basic Registers 2.0 framework strategy that is implemented on the basis of a government resolution. Furthermore, new versions of selected ROS services were published to ensure compliance with requirements arising from Act No 33/2020 Sb, amending Act No 90/2012 Sb on Trading Companies and Cooperatives; requirements arising from Act No 192/2016 Sb, amending Act No 111/2009 Sb on Basic Registers; and the requirement of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic to improve the quality of ROS notification services. In parallel, modifications were made to the Integrated Agenda System of the Administrative Business Register (ROS-IAIS) in order to improve the quality of recording selected reference data in the ROS and to enhance user comfort. In the course of the year, methodological support was given to new editors, requests to correct errors in the reference data were regularly dealt with, and user queries and complaints were assessed. ■



PRODUCTION STATISTICS

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Technical sheet with various data points and a large number '16' at the bottom.

From the point of view of production statistics, 2020 was the last year of preparations for the implementation of the new regulation on European business statistics, which, at the stage of preparation, is known as FRIBS. This led to adjustments of outputs and surveys themselves, mainly in the field of statistics on industry, trade, and services. Work continued on optimising the respondent burden, mainly as part of a CZSO priority task "Revision of business statistics (questionnaires) aimed at administrative burden reduction". Another significant step was the revision



of methodology in waste statistics. Measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic posed a major challenge. However, regardless of their direct or indirect impact, all the required outputs were duly provided.

Industry, Construction, Energy, Agriculture, and Forestry

Industry statistics responded to the new legislative requirements of the EU mainly by modifying the statistical survey on the production of industrial products and services and further by preparing models for the seasonal adjustment of other indicators of short-term industry statistics. Within construction statistics, recommendations of the audit of construction statistics were implemented.

In the case of energy statistics, work continued on its modernisation with the aim of reducing the administrative burden and increasing the proportion of available administrative data used. This consisted mainly of an analysis of available administrative data from the Ministry of Transport and methodological preparation of a statistical survey on electricity and gas consumption from energy distributors, which should ultimately lead to a reduction in the administrative burden for the EP 5-01 task (monitoring fuel and energy consumption directly at enterprises). At the same time, preparation of a sample survey on fuel and energy consumption in households (Energó) continued.

In agricultural statistics, the Zem IŠ 1-01 census was launched and a vinicultural census took place using data from the Vineyard Register maintained by the Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (ÚKZÚZ). In collaboration with ÚKZÚZ, work continued on the statistics of plant protection products. Work began on updating the description of the methodology of compilation, calculations, and source data of Economic Accounts for Agriculture and the Agricultural Labour Input (the so-called "Inventories 2020"). In the second half of the year, a methodological audit of agricultural statistics was launched, which can be expected to produce recommendations for further development of the relevant field.

Trade, Transport, Services, Tourism, and the Environment

In the area of statistics on trade, transport, and services, following the expected implementation of FRIBS, work was completed on the preparation of monthly information for the wholesale sector using administrative data sources. In the course of preparing the SP 1-12 task for 2021 in accordance with the requirements set out in FRIBS, activity units were defined and included in the survey.



Within tourism statistics, the possibilities of improving the quality of results of the Tourism Sample Survey in households were analysed, the methodology of compiling regional satellite accounts for tourism was completed, and the resulting data were published too. In order to improve and supplement the information on collective accommodation establishments in the Register of Accommodation Establishments (RUZ), webscraping methods were employed as well.

In connection with the implementation of the “Covid – Accommodation” programme of the Ministry of Regional Development, the CZSO successfully managed to handle unexpected volumes of requests for inclusion in the RUZ.

In 2020, environmental statistics, together with the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Regional Development, and the Czech Environmental Information Agency, was involved in a project called “Mechanisms for Promoting Sustainable Development Principles in Public Administration”. Within its framework, data collection of the participating institutions was coordinated and a data basis was built for the creation of two key documents, namely the Report on Quality of Life and its Sustainability, reflecting the ČR 2030 strategic framework, and the Report on the Fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. Important steps were taken



in municipal waste statistics, where a methodological audit run by external independent experts took place. Based on its results, a new methodology of data compilation was prepared so that it complies with the latest requirements of European statistics. Wider use of administrative data from the Integrated Environmental Reporting System results in improved coverage of the monitored population and also in further reduction of the administrative burden placed on respondents.

Cross-sectional Business Statistics

In the field of cross-sectional business statistics, work continued on the long-term task of reducing the administrative burden placed on respondents by the P 5-01 questionnaire. As part of this task, Addendum No 5 to the Partial Agreement on the Transfer of Data between the General Financial Directorate and the CZSO was signed in early 2020, making it possible for the CZSO to access an extended set of administrative data from the General Financial Directorate. Once the addendum was signed and especially after receiving the first batch of the extended data set, analytical work was carried out in the course of the year with the aim of reducing the scope of the questionnaire and adjusting the definition of reporting duty. The outcome of this work is a proposal of measures that could, from the processing year 2022, lead to a significant reduction of the administrative burden imposed

by the P 5-01 questionnaire, mainly in the case of respondents from the group of micro and small accounting entities.

What further began in the field of cross-sectional business statistics were preparations for a new survey on the relocation of business functions (international/domestic sourcing) and organisation of value creation chains (Global Value Chains). These are the new requirements arising from the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Business Statistics. Work continued on the issue of a new interpretation of the definitions of statistical units. A new standard output in the field of inward foreign affiliate trade statistics (IFATS) was also published for the first time.

In the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the field of business cycle surveys proved its importance as a source of the earliest information about the development of the economic cycle. The survey in question was modified once in the course of the year in order to acquire relevant results reflecting the current situation. The base period was adjusted in accordance with the original plans and questionnaires were modified in line with the requirements of the European Commission. The “Survey on Survey” project also continued to be carried out in co-operation with Prague University of Economics and Business. The aim of this project is to increase the predictive power of business cycle surveys. ■



MACROECONOMIC STATISTICS

Within macroeconomic statistics, intensive work was carried out in 2020 both in the area of obtaining and processing new data sources and in the area of revising time series. Preparations were completed for publishing the GDP indicator within a T+30 time span, which has been the standard output of the CZSO since the second quarter of 2020. The revised time series of national accounts were published in June. In order to reduce the administrative burden and improve the quality of published data, intensive work continued on the implementation of the so-called scanner data into the calculation of the consumer price index and discussions continued to be held on reporting



data to Intrastat. In addition to these activities, the CZSO continued to be actively involved in international activities, such as technical assistance or Eurostat projects, whose aim is to further improve the quality of individual statistics. On the national level, the CZSO continued its intensive cooperation with the Czech National Bank (CNB) and the Ministry of Finance in the field of macroeconomic statistics.

National Accounts Statistics

In the area of national accounts statistics, routine work related to the compilation of annual and quarterly accounts was carried out as was work on the revision of national accounts, whose results were published in June 2020. The main reason for this extraordinary revision of accounts was Eurostat's audit aimed at verifying the procedures for compiling gross national income. Work on updating the methodology for gross national income calculation was under way throughout the year. The document will be sent to Eurostat in early 2021. In the last quarter, work was also started on a new set of annual national accounts, which should factor in up-to-date data from the October notifications of general government deficit and debt. Within developmental activities, work continued on accelerating the publication of quarterly GDP and employment estimates. The CZSO was active on the international stage – it participated in Eurostat working groups, particularly in the following areas: productivity estimates, calculation of reinvested earnings on foreign direct investment, or work on household sector accounts.

Government and Financial Accounts

In addition to routine activities that were under way in the field of government and financial accounts statistics, the revision

of national accounts was brought to completion, including the capturing in the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) statistics. On the international stage, the CZSO participated in a discussion on the statistical effects of new EU tools that were created to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national economies. Preparations were also under way for a new reporting in the EDP statistics of government assistance provided to entities affected by government measures. In cooperation with the CNB, intensive negotiations were held in order to harmonise the financial statistics of the two institutions, while work on the harmonisation of transactions is in progress. It continued to be the case in 2020 that Eurostat had no objections to data compiled by the CZSO on the general government sector balance and on the debt of the general government sector.

Price Statistics

The most important task of price statistics in 2020 was to prepare for the gradual introduction of electronic data from the cash desks of selected retail chains into the process of calculating the consumer price index. At the same time, these data successfully continued to be transferred from other retail chains on the basis of the decree on statistical surveys and their



CONNECTION
ANALYSIS
DATA
SEARCHING
VERIFICATION
CODING
SENDING

20%

7%

53%

31%

Sep

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detailed analysis was carried out. Furthermore, a complete update of the weighting scheme for the consumer price index was prepared, down to the lowest level of the hierarchical structure for 2021, when, for selected segments, price collection in the field will be fully replaced. This also improved the basis for the calculation of the harmonised index. Cooperation with the CNB and the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre continued on the exchange of data from the real estate cadastre and on real estate price statistics. Preparatory work was also carried out for the production of commercial real estate price statistics. In the area of international statistical cooperation, the key task was to fulfil the requirements of the purchasing power parities project, which was under way within the framework of the Eurostat Purchasing Power Parities grant for 2019.

International Trade Statistics

Within statistics on international trade in goods, preparations were in progress for the implementation of the regulation on business statistics (FRIBS). Discussions were held in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the General Directorate of Customs on the possibility of reducing the administrative burden by introducing two thresholds for reporting to Intrastat.

A draft of the relevant government decree will be prepared by the Ministry of Finance in the first quarter of 2021. In the field of statistics on international trade in goods, the “rebranding” of international trade statistics was completed. The changes concern terminology and the way data are presented: only the data that used to be labelled as falling within the “national concept of external trade” are to be presented as information on international trade. Statistics on the cross-border movement of goods will be newly referred to as the “cross-border concept”. Work has begun on a new international trade database, which will provide users with detailed data about trade in goods and will replace the current database of cross-border movement of goods. Preparatory work also continued on the planned exchange of microdata with other EU Member States. As part of the approval process for the European Parliament’s Framework regulation integrating business statistics, a process of commenting on the proposal of the general implementing act took place, during which, in particular, new requirements in the field of statistics on international trade in services were clarified. The CZSO participated in meetings of working groups on the international stage and also held bilateral consultations with colleagues from Slovakia about FRIBS. ■



DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

The CZSO processed and published all the planned outputs of demographic statistics in 2020 on schedule. Special attention was given to the extended publication of data on the number of deaths on a monthly and weekly basis. As part of household surveys, the following regular annual surveys were conducted: the Labour Force Sample Survey, the Living Conditions Survey, the Household Budget Survey, and the Sample Survey on ICT Use in Households. Health accounts and the Satellite Account on Culture were compiled according to the common international methodology of Eurostat and the OECD. Processing



of the European Health Interview Survey, which takes place once in five years, was successfully brought to an end. In the field of statistics on research, development, innovations, and advanced technologies, regular surveys were carried out on research and development as well as on the use of information and communication technologies in businesses. Data from the European survey on innovations in enterprises were newly published.

Demographic Statistics

In 2020, all the standard data and analytical outputs scheduled within the field of yearly demographic statistics were published (18 altogether, 3 of which were published on a quarterly basis). Since the end of April 2020, a new time series of preliminary death counts by calendar week, updated on a weekly basis, has been included in the standard production of data outputs in response to monitoring the impact of the spread of COVID-19 on overall mortality. At the same time, the interval between the reference period (week of death) and the publication period was gradually shortened. The CZSO also contributed these data to the European statistics on deaths per week published by Eurostat. As in previous years, 2020 also saw the compilation of one additional monothematic analytical publication, this time dedicated to the development of the marriage rate of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic in the 21st century (Development of the Marriage Rate in 2001-2019). Its release was accompanied by an online press conference. A press conference was also held on the occasion of the publication of demographic data for the first half of 2020. Key findings from the demographic statistics data were further presented in the form of press releases, four in total in 2020.

In addition to data sources for the processing of cross-sectional statistical outputs, a number of non-standard demographic outputs were processed on the basis of individual requests from users, including microdata for scientific and research purposes. All Eurostat requirements for the provision of data imposed by Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European demographic statistics were complied with by the set deadlines. The provision of data from statistics on deaths by cause of death is governed by Commission Regulation (EU) No 328/2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work, as regards statistics on causes of death. In the course of 2020, the CZSO continued to actively participate in Eurostat's meetings, namely in the working group on population statistics and the working group on future population and housing censuses, or, more precisely, on the future concept of European population statistics, whose main goal is to prepare new unified European legislation for the entire field of population statistics, including both population censuses and demographic and migration statistics. An expert from the Demographic Statistics Unit was selected for the National



Experts in Professional Training Programme (NEPT), as part of which he completed a three-month traineeship at Eurostat in the unit dealing with population and migration statistics.

In the area of methodology, a partial revision of the content of statistical reporting on divorce Obyv 4-12, which also forms the basis for the Statistical Report for the Divorce Agenda (compared to the original proposal, its implementation has been postponed to 2022), took place in 2020 at the initiative of the Ministry of Justice. The CZSO's involvement in the newly established inter-ministerial commission for the preparation and coordination of the implementation of the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases in the Czech Republic, which started operating in 2020, is important for the creation of national statistics on deaths by cause of death, which the CZSO produces.

Labour Market and Equal Opportunities

Processing of results in the field of labour market and equal opportunity statistics was conducted anew in 2020 after a major change in quarterly business statistics (questionnaires) on labour and wages. The relevant technical projects were fine-tuned and outputs, including those for Eurostat, were adjusted for this purpose. Cross-sectional questionnaires that were used to collect data until 2019 were replaced by a single questionnaire



Práce 2-04 in 2020, which led to a significant reduction in administrative burden. As part of the Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS), the special ad hoc module on work organisation and working arrangements was completed in 2020. The resulting data, including a quality report, were forwarded to Eurostat. Data were collected in the field for an ad hoc module on occupational injuries and work-related health problems and preparation was under way for additional questions for the 2021 LFSS on the topic of the labour market situation of migrants and their immediate relatives. From April 1, selected data on the impact of emergency measures adopted in connection with the coronavirus pandemic started to be collected as part of the LFSS. Several analytical articles and press releases were published, mainly on the impact of the emergency on various population groups. In cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Directorate of Alien Police Service, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, outputs on foreigners in the Czech Republic were updated for the CZSO website. On top of standard numerical outputs published quarterly, the data yearbooks “Focus on Women and Men” and “Foreigners in the Czech Republic” were also published, as is the case every year. Two press conferences were held on the topic of foreigners working in the Czech Republic and on the topic of labour market developments and comparison of wages across Europe.

Social Statistics

In the area of social surveys of households, the regular annual Living Conditions Survey – the national version of the EU SILC pan-European survey – was conducted. In 2020, this survey included an international module with questions focusing on the topic of over-indebtedness, consumption, and wealth of households. In 2020, for the fourth year in a row, the Household Budget Survey was carried out following a new model based on probability sampling of reporting households, integrated into the thematically related Living Conditions Survey. In cooperation with the Czech National Bank, the Household Finance and Consumption Survey was conducted for the first time.

Regular annual activities related to the collection, processing, and presentation of data in the fields of education, health, culture, sport, social security, and crime were carried out. An extensive cross-sectional publication was prepared with data on teachers, children, pupils, and students at individual school levels for the last ten years. This publication was presented at a press conference held at the beginning of the school year. In addition to the regular annual publications, a new publication called Teachers’ Wages in Regional Education came out. It contains detailed data on the average gross monthly earnings of teachers in nursery schools, basic schools, and secondary schools by gender, age, educational attainment, and length of employment.



Activities worth noting include the compilation of the Satellite Account on Culture in cooperation with the National Information and Consulting Centre for Culture (NIPOS), the compilation of the System of Health Accounts according to the common methodology of Eurostat and the OECD, and their presentation at a press conference held by the CZSO. In collaboration with the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic, the processing of the European Health Interview Sample Survey (EHIS 2019) was successfully brought to completion, including the processing and transmission of the final data to Eurostat. Furthermore, detailed mid-year and yearly data on temporary incapacity for work due to disease or injury from the Czech Social Security Administration's information system were processed and subsequently published in a whole range of new classifications.

Science, Research and Innovation, ICT

As in previous years, detailed data on the state and development of science, research, innovation, and information technology in the Czech Republic were collected and processed by means of surveys conducted by the Office itself (both sample and comprehensive ones), or by means of using administrative resources. In addition to regular summary publications with detailed results of individual surveys, regular and extraordinary outputs (such as tables, reports, etc.) were continuously prepared



to meet the needs of users – individuals as well as national and international organisations. These were mainly data outputs for national and regional research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation and for the Czech Republic’s Innovation Strategy for 2019-2030 called The Czech Republic: The Country for the Future. As the foremost among the regular statistical surveys, the Annual Research and Development Survey (VTR 5-01) was conducted and its results were presented at a press conference. The results of a European business survey called Technical Innovation 2018, which takes into account the methodological recommendations of the revised international Oslo Manual for this field of statistics, were also presented at a press conference.

On the basis of available administrative data, the CZSO also processed detailed statistical information on direct and indirect (by means of tax incentives) public support for research and development. This information was then provided and presented to the experts in the Czech Republic and abroad (OECD, Eurostat). Furthermore, statistics in the fields of qualified human resources, patents, and licences were updated.

In the area of information and communication technology (ICT) statistics, it is necessary to mention another repetition of two annual sample surveys focused on the use of ICT

by the population and enterprises in the Czech Republic. The surveys were conducted in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on the information society. As in previous years, the thematic composition of questionnaires was aligned with the needs and requirements of the European Commission embodied in the Eurostat model questionnaires. The main findings from both surveys were presented at separate press conferences held by the CZSO. Data from both surveys were used to monitor the fulfilment of the individual objectives of the Digital Agenda for Europe and of the state policy on electronic communications entitled “Digital Czech Republic”.

In addition to the aforementioned surveys, a wide range of statistics was prepared to comprehensively monitor the use and importance of ICT with regard to the further development of information society and digital economy in the Czech Republic. The results of individual statistical surveys and available administrative data were used to compile cross-sectional and overview publications – Information Society in Figures and Digital Economy in Figures – mapping the development of ICT production and its use in the Czech Republic and other EU countries by means of official statistical data. ■



REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE CZSO

In 2020, fourteen Regional Offices of the CZSO performed tasks in the area of field surveys, statistical processing, information services, and register administration. Regional offices played an indispensable role in the processing of election results and in the preparation of the 2021 Population and Housing Census project. The number of systemised posts in the Regional Offices in 2020 amounted to 893.5 out of the total



number of 1,576 systemised posts in the CZSO, including the posts approved for the 2021 Population and Housing Census project.

Field Surveys

In the individual regions, CZSO interviewers participate in collecting data in the field for sample surveys in households, consumer price statistics, and agricultural statistics (at reporting units – natural persons). In 2020, fieldwork was carried out by a core network of interviewers comprising 311 systemised posts and by other external interviewers. The COVID-19 epidemic had a significant impact on the interviewers' work.

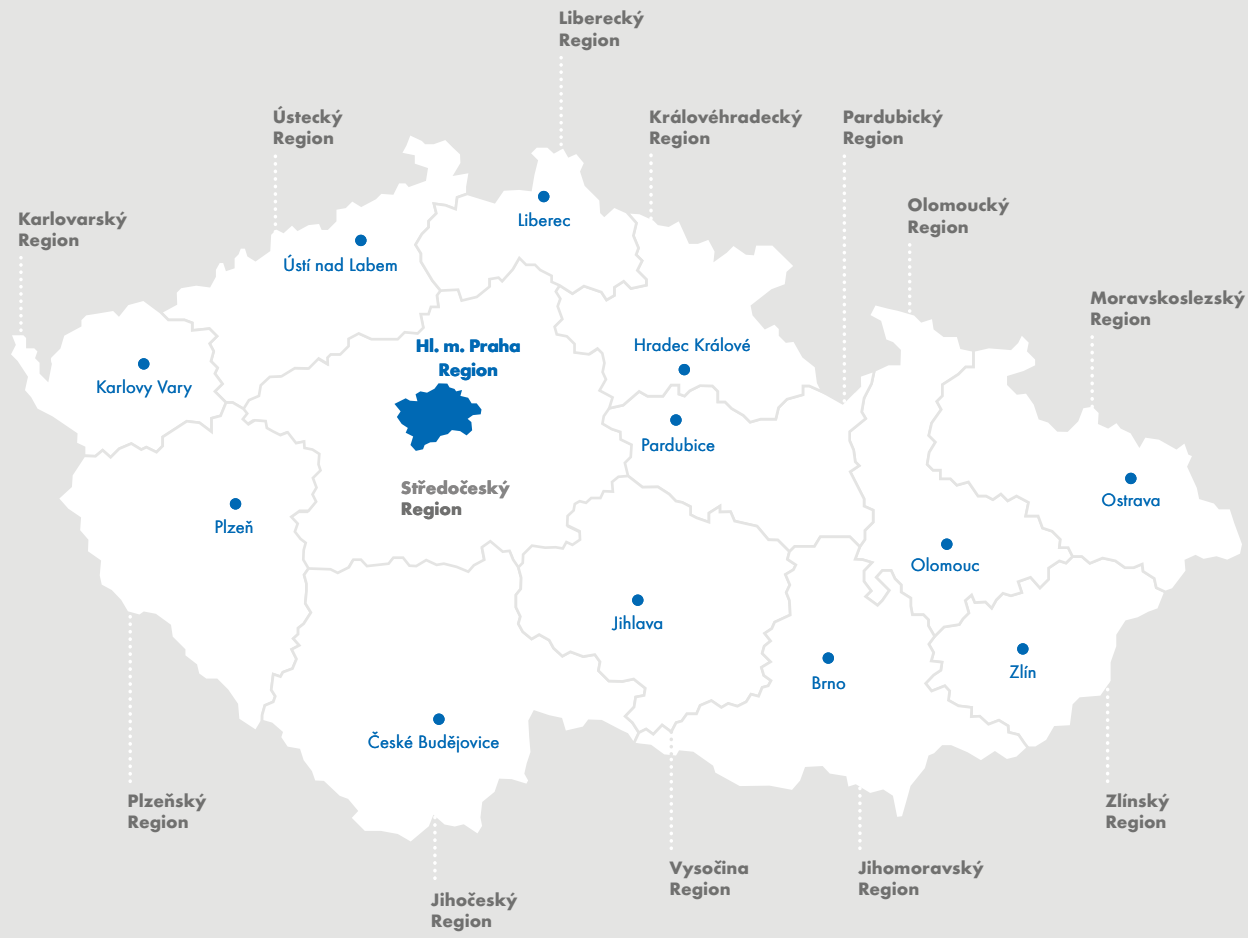
Surveys in households are based on a random sample of dwellings from the Register of Census Districts and Buildings. Up till now, interviewers would contact and interview respondents mostly in person; only in selected cases also by telephone. In the course of 2020, however, interviewers were forced to limit face-to-face meetings with respondents to a bare minimum in line with the current state of the epidemic. In the most problematic of periods, fieldwork within household surveys focused only on obtaining telephone contact with respondents, while the survey itself was conducted mostly by telephone.

Household surveys are conducted within two sets. The first is based on the Labour Force Sample Survey, which provides information on the nature of employment and unemployment of the population. The sample for the whole year comprises

almost 34,000 dwellings. This is followed by the Tourism Sample Survey, which tracks household members' trips away from home throughout the year, and by the Sample Survey on ICT Use, which collects data on how households and their individual members are equipped with information and communication technology, on the access to such technology, and on the way in which it is used. A sample of 6,780 households was selected for both of these follow-up surveys.

The second set of household surveys is based on the Living Conditions Survey (SILC), which collects information on the social and economic situation of households as well as data for the calculation of indicators showing monetary poverty and material deprivation. Almost 11,000 households were contacted. The follow-up Household Budget Survey is carried out throughout the year, monitoring the budget management of selected households. More than 3,000 of these were asked to participate. The Household Finance and Consumption Survey, which maps the property owned by selected households and their financial situation, was newly added in 2020. In this case, interviewers contacted over 2,000 households.

Interviewers from Field Survey Units of Regional Offices of the CZSO also carry out year-round surveys of price





statistics. In consumer prices statistics, collecting data directly from retail chains (the so-called scanner data) is further becoming ever more prominent. Data collection done by interviewers right in the field, however, remains irreplaceable. During 2020, it was impacted by the closure of a number of stores and services. In the case of closed establishments, the required data were gathered on the Internet or by telephone.

Furthermore, CZSO interviewers were routinely involved in the collection and acquisition of data for agricultural statistics. This means gathering data from reporting units (natural persons) for eleven types of agricultural questionnaires and for the updates and administration of the Farm Register. During the second half of 2020, interviewers participated

in the large-scale Integrated Agricultural Survey. This was a census-type survey, in which interviewers across the Czech Republic were assigned a sample of approximately 26,000 reporting units (natural persons) with small-scale agricultural production. The aim of the survey was to determine the number and structure of workers, the extent and use of cultivated land, livestock numbers, and other indicators.

The situation connected with the COVID-19 epidemic placed increased demands on the network of CZSO interviewers. The interviewers, however, demonstrated considerable flexibility, commitment to work and organisation in a difficult situation. In spite of all the complications, data collection was successfully accomplished for all tasks.



Statistical Processing

As at 31 December 2020, 150,557 Announcements about the reporting duty and 31,965 Supplements to Announcements were sent out. Out of these Announcements and Supplements, 121,845 were sent to data boxes and 60,677 were sent by post (these were mainly agricultural statistics questionnaires). There were no complications during the generation and distribution of the Announcements about the reporting duty to the CZSO.

During 2020, the processing of statistical tasks in Regional Offices took place under the circumstances of increased workload and reduced workforce, relying also on paid overtime work. On top of that, the emergency measures adopted in connection with the epidemic of COVID-19 posed a challenge. Even under these unfavourable conditions, however, all data export deadlines were met in accordance with valid schedules. As at 31 December 2020, 559,734 questionnaires were processed for 2020, out of which 63.6% were delivered electronically, via ePDF or DANTE WEB.

The circumstances did not have a significant impact on the overall return rate, especially in the case of yearly questionnaires; there occurred, however, considerable extensions of deadlines for their submission. A large number of respondents requested deadline extension both in view of the situation which had arisen and because of the

extraordinary postponement of the deadline for submitting annual accounts to 31 August 2020. The situation was very complicated in the field of tourism statistics.

Compared to 2019, the number of forms filled in electronically increased on average by another 1-2% in favour of using the DANTE WEB application. Information leaflets for respondents highlighting the possibility of electronic reporting continue to be used. Preliminary steps were taken towards a redesign of the statistical information system RSIS 5.0, in which Regional Offices are involved within working groups.

Information Services

Despite the problems caused by the epidemic situation, Information Services Units of the CZSO Regional Offices performed the originally planned tasks in the area of information activities throughout the year – in addition to providing data and information from up-to-date outputs, they processed answers to users' queries and requests, and, last but not least, provided methodological consultations on the utilisation of data for various programme documents and theses. On account of the autumn elections and also more intensive preparations for the 2021 Population and Housing Census, Regional Offices cooperated with a number of regional institutions. Data presentations (mainly online) and consultations for regional projects of the Ministry of Labour



and Social Affairs (Regional Family Policy, Implementation of Ageing Policy, Territorial Employment Pact – KOMPAS) also continued.

Each Regional Office manages its own website, which has its own universal address. In addition to regular updates and publication of new data, the websites were supplemented with regional time series. During the year, experts from Information Services Units also published a number of short analytical texts on their websites in the form of news, which, according to media monitoring, were then reflected in the regional press.

As for publication activities, 3 titles were centrally coordinated and published according to the planned publication dates: a statistical bulletin, regional statistical yearbooks, and an analytical output. For 2020, it was the Basic Tendencies of Demographic, Social, and Economic Development in individual regions. Other (optional) outputs of the individual offices included, e.g. "First Hand Figures Prague" (incl. an English version), "Population Change in Municipalities of the Jihočeský Region", "Municipalities of the Královéhradecký Region", "Municipalities of the Plzeňský Region", "Statistical Guide to Municipalities of the Jihočeský Region", "Elections to the Liberecký Region Council", "The City of České Budějovice in Numbers 2020". The Jihočeský, Jihomoravský, and Zlínský regions produced publications on age distribution and population change in 2019.

The Regional Office in Pardubice published regular "Information sheets" for its users on a monthly basis and the Regional Office in České Budějovice regularly prepared summaries entitled "Current information". The Regional Office in Zlín prepared regular quarterly reports for the Regional Authority. Several data and information puzzles were created during the year for distribution to the general public.

Cross-border Cooperation of Regional Offices of the CZSO

Despite social contact restrictions, representatives of the Regional Offices managed to continue with annual cross-border projects in the form of cooperation on data outputs or the creation of outputs for cross-border regions by means of online communication.

The cooperation of Regional Offices in Olomouc and Ostrava with the Statistical Office in Opole has a long-standing tradition. Towards the end of the year, they completed their work by publishing a Polish-English analytical publication entitled "The Level of Social and Economic Development of Territorial Units in the Opolskie, Olomoucký and Moravskoslezský Regions in the Years 2010-2019".

Continuity of cooperation was also maintained within the EUREX Statistika working group. In August, a meeting of the EUREX Cestovní ruch working group took place at the

headquarters of the Nisa Euroregion, where representatives of the Regional Office in Liberec presented data on tourism in the Nisa Euroregion from the perspective of all three regions. Moreover, within the framework of the Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion project, representatives of the Information Services Unit of the Regional Office of the CZSO in Liberec in cooperation with their Polish and German colleagues published a publication entitled "Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion in Numbers and Pictures", which uses graphs and cartograms to raise awareness of this grouping. The Regional Office in Liberec then published "Basic Statistical Indicators of the Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion" on its regional website.

Representatives of the Regional Office in České Budějovice continued to cooperate on the cross-border project CentropoMAP/CentropoSTATISTICS. Since it was not possible to hold a face-to-face meeting in the middle of the year, the traditional workshop of Czech, Austrian, Slovak, and Hungarian regional statisticians on the updates and further development of the cross-border database CentropoSTATISTICS was held online. The meeting focused on updates to the common database and preparation for the use of data from the 2021 Population and Housing Census.

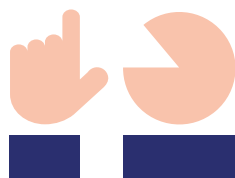
A representative of the Regional Office of the CZSO in Ústí nad Labem continued with activities in the TriRegio project working group, where updated data for 2020 were prepared again in the form of a brochure entitled "EURES-TriRegio – Labour and

Professional Education Market in a Nutshell", covering labour market issues (demography, employment, unemployment, and education) in the Ústecký, Karlovarský, Královéhradecký, and Liberecký Regions.

A representative of the Regional Office in Plzeň participated in a workshop on tourism (Plzeň-TOURISM – Meeting of Tourism Stakeholders in the Destination of Pilsen). At its workplace, the Regional Office welcomed a foreign intern from Turkstat in Ankara.

Financial Performance of Regional Offices of the CZSO

Financial performance of Regional Offices in 2020 reflected both the fulfilment of the CZSO's tasks themselves and the need of the economic and operational area to react to the new situation connected with the outbreak of COVID-19 and the related emergency anti-epidemic measures. Changes in the way of working and work organisation became evident also in the different use of budget appropriations – some budget items saw a reduction in expenditure compared to the previous period, while others, such as telecommunications services or purchases of hygiene and protective equipment, saw an increase. A significant decrease in expenditure was evident, for example, in the budget item Domestic travel expenses. The reduction of business trips, be it due to the restrictions on personal visits to households or the transfer of meetings, trainings, and other sessions to a virtual environment, resulted



in a year-on-year decrease in travel expenses of around CZK 748,000. Similarly, there was an underspending in the budget item Other personnel expenses, which is normally intended to cover expenditure on agreements on work done outside employment. The lower volume of agreements concluded (e.g., on cleaning work, but also on interviewing and processing activities) was reflected in a decrease of about CZK 167,000 in the use of these resources compared with the previous year.

Supply, maintenance, and repairs of all kinds continued in spite of the complexities brought about by the pandemic, albeit according to set rules and partly at a slower pace. Some smaller construction projects planned for 2020 were postponed until the next period.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in line with anti-epidemic measures, the use of online communication (the organisation of videoconferences, webinars, and other events for the representatives of the Regional Offices) accelerated and there was an increase in telephone and e-mail communication.

Despite the unfavourable development of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the activities of the CZSO, Regional Offices fulfilled their tasks efficiently – in accordance with the 3E principle, within the set deadlines, and to the required quality.

Preparation of the 2021 Population and Housing Census (SLDB) at the Regional Offices of the CZSO

The year 2020 was marked by intensive preparations for the real census, which will take place in the spring of 2021. All preparations for the 2021 Population and Housing Census were influenced by the development of the epidemic situation brought about by the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. However, all the activities related to the implementation of the 2021 Population and Housing Census project were successfully completed within the required deadlines. Representatives of the regional SLDB departments carried out activities mainly in the area of territorial preparations. The work related to the territorial preparations was completed at the end of 2020.

A pilot census was conducted in the autumn of 2020. All the processes that will take place during the real census were tested during the pilot census. During the pilot census, regional SLDB representatives were involved in carrying out checks not only at the contact and collection points of the Czech Post, but also in the field (checking the distribution and collection of paper census forms). Selected employees then also tried out the work of census enumerators in separate census districts.

The pilot census played an indispensable role in the preparation for the real census and helped identify weak spots well in advance. A separate chapter called "POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS" is dedicated to the preparation of the 2021 Census project. ■

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ELECTION STATISTICS

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In 2020, the CZSO ensured mainly the processing of the results of regular autumn elections to regional councils and to one third of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. It also processed five extraordinary elections. These were new municipal elections, which took place in March, June, and September. A two-round by-election to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic was held in June. Attention was also paid to electoral legislation, including statements made as part of inter-ministerial comment procedures and cooperation on the preparation of special voting methods due to the COVID-19 epidemic.



In terms of organisation and methodology, the most difficult task of the CZSO in 2020 was to process the results of regular elections to regional councils and, concurrently, to one third of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, which were scheduled for Friday the 2nd of October and Saturday the 3rd of October, 2020. The second round of senate elections followed a week later, on the 9th and 10th of October 2020. All 13 regional councils and 27 senators were duly elected. The Office's task was to establish a system for ascertaining and processing election results, prepare methodological materials, train representatives of district electoral committees designated by law, and collect voting results from nearly 14,000 electoral districts. The election results were known within a few hours after the closing of polling stations.

Another important task was to conduct a two-round by-election to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in electoral district no. 32 located in Teplice, which was scheduled for the 27th and 28th of March 2020 following senator Kubera's death and then postponed to the 5th and 6th of June 2020 due to the epidemic of COVID-19. The new senator was elected in the second round, which took place a week later.

In the course of the year, the CZSO processed the results of all the new municipal elections scheduled successively for four extraordinary dates. A total of 26 new local councils were thus elected in March, June, September, and December. These were new elections in municipalities where the number of representatives had dropped below the legal limit.

The organisation of the 2020 elections was significantly affected by anti-epidemic measures reacting to the outbreak of COVID-19. It was decided to purchase protective equipment and to introduce anti-epidemic measures. The CZSO successfully implemented in its methodological materials first the postponement of voting in the senate by-election from March to June through Act No 187/2020 Sb. and then, for the autumn regular national elections, also the new Act No 350/2020 Sb., which, as a consequence of the epidemic, modified the conditions for exercising the right to vote and introduced voting by means of special voting methods for voters in quarantine or isolation. The CZSO introduced special districts for the results of special voting methods, prepared methodological materials, and made every effort to accommodate the Regional Authorities and census committees established within them so that they





could hand over all the results at one place designated by the CZSO in the region instead of doing so at several places.

Attention was paid to further improvement of the quality of training for district electoral committees; in some cases, for the first time in history, the trainings were held remotely in connection with the unfavourable epidemic situation in the given region. Methodological materials were converted into a new form and supplemented by a clear presentation with examples of the evaluation of preference votes. All standard outputs of election statistics were processed, including publications and time series of basic indicators. In the online presentation of election results, the analytical outputs for territorial units with graphical and tabular comparisons of the selected territories were extended with time comparisons.

In the field of legislation, the CZSO had an opportunity to provide suggestions and comments on draft amendments to election laws in inter-ministerial comment procedures and participated in the preparation of an act that introduced voting by special voting methods for voters in quarantine or isolation as a consequence of the epidemic situation.

The results of all elections held during the year were processed by the CZSO without any defects and submitted to the State Election Commission for approval and publication in the Collection of Laws. ■





POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

The year 2020 was the year of decisive and final preparations for the 2021 Population and Housing Census. In the field of legislation, this mainly involved completing the legislative process of the Census Act and issuing the corresponding implementing regulation. In most areas, preparatory work culminated in the performance of a pilot census in the autumn months. All activities from March onwards took place within the limits and measures resulting from the current epidemic situation, while most of the administrative work was transferred to the online environment.



One of the significant milestones in the preparation of the 2021 Census was the completion of the approval process for the 2021 Population and Housing Census Act, which was approved by both chambers of the Parliament in the version prepared by the CZSO with one minor change only (the addition of a question on religious belief). The Act came into effect on 21 August 2020 as Act No 332/2020 Sb. Following the approval of the Act, a draft of the implementing regulation was finalised after an inter-ministerial comment procedure. The Regulation implementing certain provisions of the Act came into effect on 1 January 2021 as Regulation No 490/2020 Sb.

As part of territorial preparations for the census, cooperation with the municipalities and municipal districts of Prague and Brno continued to verify inconsistent and missing territorial identifications of buildings and addresses. Municipalities with extended powers prepared documents for the revision of the definition and description of basic settlement units. In cooperation with municipal building authorities, the missing technical and economic attributes of buildings were investigated. Specific grants were provided for these activities in collaboration of the CZSO and the Ministry of Finance. In the second half of the year, more than

7,000 apartment building owners from among municipalities, housing cooperatives, and other legal persons were contacted en masse with a request to provide data on apartments via a dedicated web application.

Within the framework of horizontal cooperation with the Czech Post, state-owned enterprise, the outputs from the territorial preparations for the pilot census were processed, the selection of collection and contact points and the definition of standard and separate census districts for the pilot and real census were carried out. An important step was the preparation of methodological instructions for the identification of dwellings and different types of objects in the field, and their verification in the pilot census. In cooperation with the Ministries of Defence, Justice, Interior and Foreign Affairs, objects were identified for the delineation of departmental census districts for the real census.

A significant factor influencing and complicating the preparations for the census since the beginning of the second quarter was the pandemic situation and the resulting government measures restricting the activities of people as well as businesses and other institutions. After most of the administrative work tied to the census project was



forced to move to online platforms, the original work schedule, including the field work for the pilot census, was continuously implemented and kept to. An assessment of the risks arising from the pandemic situation was carried out and preparations for their future elimination were initiated.

The initial stage of cooperation with the Czech Post was followed by the preparation of a pilot census. During these stages, the implementation project for the pilot census and methodology for census enumerators were prepared. Eighty collection points and the same number of contact points of the Czech Post were selected for the pilot census. For the purposes of the pilot census, 14 census districts with parameters corresponding to the districts of the real census and 72 so-called reduced census districts representing different types of localities (rural areas, housing estates, etc.) were defined. In addition, one collective accommodation establishment forming a separate census district was selected in each region.

In cooperation with partners and suppliers, all types of paper census forms for the pilot and real census and the electronic census form (for web and mobile applications

in all specified languages) were finalised. Dictionaries were created for digitisation and for subsequent automatic and manual encoding.

Fieldwork within the framework of the pilot census started in the first half of September with information visits. During these, census enumerators of the Czech Post went through the assigned census districts, informed the population about the pilot census using leaflets, checked and updated the descriptions of census districts. The decisive moment of the pilot census was midnight straddling the 13th and 14th of September.

Perhaps the most significant “public” output of the pilot census was the implementation phase of online data collection via IS ONLINE, which started immediately after the decisive moment and ran until 20 September. Additional field surveys followed, and the collection of paper forms was completed on 22 October. During the fieldwork, the methodological procedures of checks were also put to a practical test. Their results became the basis for the final fine-tuning of parameters of individual activities and their checks during the real census. Conducting checks also became an important tool for verifying the functionality of the regional and local structure of the



project. Prior to the pilot census, the website scitani.cz was made available and support was provided to the participants in the pilot census at contact points by CZSO representatives.

Administrative data from the managers of administrative data sources (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; VZP; Czech Social Security Administration) were handed over and used to process the results of the pilot census. Following talks with the Ministry of the Interior, the initial release of data from the basic Population Register was completed and these were uploaded to the CENSUS IS environment.

The pilot census was also an important check of the readiness and functionality of three key information systems (CENSUS, CMS, and ONLINE) and their integration with each other and with the Czech Post's information systems. An important element of the SLDB IT architecture was the creation of the conditions and environment for the setting up, operation, and management of the CENSUS and ONLINE information systems, which are provided by the State Treasury – Shared Services Centre under a horizontal cooperation agreement. The procedures for the initial processing of data from census forms continued to be refined. In particular, processes for

automatic and manual encoding were specified in cooperation with suppliers. Records from the electronic forms collected during the pilot online census were transferred into the system and analysed to assess their formal correctness from a “technical” point of view.

A great deal of attention was also paid to other components of the large-scale census project during the pilot census and subsequent preparations, in particular to security and cybersecurity issues, the preparation of security audits, and the protection of personal data. In cooperation with an external agency, a communication, marketing, and PR campaign strategy for the census was approved and its gradual implementation started. Work also progressed on the strategy for disseminating the census results. ■





PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

The year 2020 was characterised by preparations for the 2021 Population and Housing Census. Publishing of data in an open format continued to expand.



CZSO Website

The website of the Czech Statistical Office (www.czso.cz) remains a key source of statistical information for all its users. Like the previous year, 2020 was a year of continuous adjustments and improvements to the functionality of the editorial system so that it could meet the demanding tasks expected of it by the relevant departments and its users. The aim of continuous improvements and enhancements of the editorial system is to provide the widest amount of information possible in the most understandable and user-friendly form. Several modifications were made to enable better integration of RSS feeds over CZSO products. Several functionalities were added to provide better supervision over the published pages and outputs.

During 2020, the CZSO Children's Group website was launched and received a very favourable response. Unfortunately, due to the situation caused by the coronavirus epidemic, this website could not be used, for the time being, to the extent originally intended.

A key task for 2020 with respect to the Internet was the preparation of the website www.scitani.cz. The actual launch of the 2021 Population and Housing Census will not happen until March 2021, but the project website had to be rolled out in 2020. The design proposal was developed by the agency

Ogilvy (the contractor for the 2021 SLDB communication campaign). However, the Internet department collaborated in both the inception of the wireframes and the preparation of the prototype. The finalization of the scitani.cz website and its administration were then fully within its control. The website www.scitani.cz will support the 2021 Population and Housing Census and will serve as the main communication point between the CZSO and users. It was made available to the public in September 2020 and, up until the end of 2020, it was continuously updated with new information while other functionalities were fine-tuned and added.

Another important activity was the preparation and testing of an electronic census form that is to serve as the main means of obtaining data from respondents. The aim of the 2021 SLDB website as well as the web and mobile forms is to accommodate users' requirements as much as possible, to enable them to fill in the forms quickly, conveniently, and, above all, securely at home, and thus provide the necessary information that the 2021 Population and Housing Census will bring.

Compared to the previous year, the number of visitors to the website of the Czech Statistical Office increased significantly in 2020, which was noticeable from the first months of the year.

More than 1.9 million visitors (users) proceeded to other pages through the homepage of the website, which was viewed a total of 10.2 million times and recorded 3.6 million visits. The average user viewed 2.8 pages during their visit and spent two and a half minutes on the site.

The most frequently visited pages in 2020 included Population; Deaths – time series; Data Collection; Inflation, Consumer Prices; Questionnaire online filling (DANTE WEB); Statistics; 2020 Elections; Classification of Economic Activities (CZ NACE); Inflation – types, definitions, tables. Most users use a personal computer to access the www.czso.cz website (68.4% of users), followed by a mobile phone (29.8% of users) while 1.8% of users viewed the website on a tablet. It is also worth noting that in addition to visitors from the Czech Republic, visitors from the United States of America (96,000 per year), Germany (31,000), Slovakia (29,000), and the United Kingdom (10,000) also visit the Czech Statistical Office website relatively frequently.

Public Database

The Public Database (VDB) is the primary source of data for dissemination. It also proved to be an effective tool for the preparation of publications and open data (i.e. data sets that contain data in an open format, usually XML or CSV). APIs are also actively used for direct user access to open data.

During 2020, 20 million new entries were stored in the VDB. At the end of the year, there were more than 557 million up-to-date statistical entries in the database.

A total of 211 new distributions of data sets with statistical data in an open format were generated from the VDB. During 2020, users downloaded 54,000 of these data sets, most commonly for the number of deaths by week and age group, the number of deaths by cause of death, the number of foreigners by citizenship, age, and gender, and the number of guests and overnight stays in collective accommodation establishments by country. Data in the VDB became more up-to-date; simultaneously with the publication of news releases on the CZSO website, the data are published also in the VDB and open data are generated.

Compared to 2019, interest in the Public Database increased in almost all visitor metrics last year (especially in Q4). In comparison with 2019, the number of visits in 2020 increased by 23.4% to 395,900. A total of 3.2 million pages were viewed (an increase of 15%) and 197,600 users visited the VDB (an increase of 26%). The number of pages visited per session decreased slightly to 8.1 (i.e. by 6.7%). The greatest interest was traditionally in tables on population: Population Change (46,000 views), Deaths by Week



(46,000 views). Following in second place were the tables Number of Employees (35,000 views) and Consumer Price Indices (35,000 views).

The most frequently searched terms were deaths, deaths by week, nationality, unemployment, death rate, death. It is clear that the present times also affect the use of statistical data.

Publication Activities

The basic document governing the publication activities of the CZSO is the Catalogue of Products, which contains an overview of all the planned outputs (e.g. publications, news releases, analyses, data sets, and others). The Catalogue of Products is available on the website of the Office and it allows users to search according to various criteria – for example, by area type, product type, group of statistics, publication date, etc. All the products presented are available free of charge on the website.

By the end of 2020, the Catalogue of Products contained a total of 442 items, including 65 printed titles, 21 types of news releases, many data sets, analyses, and time series. A total of 1,188 outputs were published in 2020, mostly in the area of price statistics (281), followed by population statistics (149) – mainly due to the newly included products on the number of deaths – and, as usual, regional statistics (91).

The most sought-after printed outputs last year were unquestionably the journals *Statistika: Statistics and Economy Journal and Demografie, Review for Population Research*, whose distribution was newly taken over by the CZSO. Also





Code	Product	Price	2017	2018	2019	Total
T0001	RICE	120	1200	1320	1440	
T0002	PORK	100	850	750	650	
T0003	CORN	85	850	750	650	
T0004	PEANUT	150	800	900	800	
T0005	CHICKEN	100	2000	600	700	
T0006	COCONUT	150	600	2500	900	
T0007	MANGO	70	700	250	800	





popular were, as had become the custom, the *Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic* and the *Demographic Yearbook of the Czech Republic*.

The year 2020 brought extensive restrictions to the Central Statistical Library for part of the year due to renovation of existing premises and for most of the year due to restrictions related to the coronavirus epidemic. Only 4 new readers registered with the library. By the end of 2020, there were 2,143 registered users. During the year, the library was visited by 172 users who borrowed a total of 361 publications, mostly for reference.

Services Provided

In 2020, more than 11,700 queries were processed at the information services workplaces at the Headquarters and in the Regional Offices, which represents an increase of 20.5% compared to the previous year. This marked a turnaround in the long-term decline in the total number of customer requests. The year-on-year increase in the number of requests for information was related, among other things, to the trial census, to the preparation and results of elections to regional councils and to one third of the Senate, and also to queries raised by operators of collective accommodation establishments about the supporting documents for grant applications. Requests that users address to information

services workplaces continue to become more demanding, complex, and interconnected. This is because they can easily find the answers to simple queries on the Internet thanks to the ease of access to the information published, its breadth, and clarity. Despite a significant reduction in the prices of a number of products and services at the beginning of 2019, revenue from products and services provided exceeded CZK 1.1 million. The largest part of the income was traditionally accounted for by the sale of data from the Statistical Business Register (RES), followed by the processing of demanding orders, and the provision of microdata.

The CZSO has been part of the European Statistical Data Support (ESDS) network of national contact centres for 17 years now. In 2020, CZSO employees answered a total of 135 requests for data on the entire European Union or its individual states and regions.

Even though almost the whole of 2020 was marked by measures against the coronavirus pandemic, these had little impact on products and services. All products were published, with exceptions, on the originally planned dates. Services to the public were not significantly restricted either, which was mainly due to the fact that communication between these workplaces and customers has long been mainly electronic. ■



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COMMUNICATION

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In 2020, the CZSO actively continued providing statistical information to the public and promoting statistical awareness. To this end, it used a wide range of communication tools. It published information on the website and social networks, held press conferences, issued press releases and magazines, and continued to present the outputs of statistical surveys through data visualisation, mobile applications, exhibitions, and by other means.



Media Relations

In the field of external communication, the CZSO organised a total of 17 press conferences in 2020, the last six of which were held online. 81 press releases were issued, often supplemented with audio recordings of the individual respondents' statements. The Office then used press communications to draw the media's attention to the currently issued news releases.

In 2020, 5,006 citations of 119 CZSO employees were recorded in the monitored media. The most frequently cited person was the President of the CZSO, Ing. Marek Rojíček, PhD, with a total of 819 citations. Every day, all CZSO employees receive a daily overview of media releases by e-mail.

Journals of the Czech Statistical Office

In 2020, 10 issues of the *Statistika&My* journal and four issues of each of the professional peer-reviewed CZSO quarterlies *Demografie* and *Statistika* were published.

In the 18th edition of the Golden Semicolon corporate media competition, which is organised annually by the PR Klub industry association, *Statistika&My* won the TOP rated award in the Public Sector category in September 2020. The CZSO journal succeeded in this competition, which evaluates corporate periodicals and non-periodicals intended for representation, for the ninth year in a row. The *Statistika&My* journal transcends

the boundaries of an ordinary professional business periodical and is one of the important tools of the CZSO's marketing and communication strategy.

The journal *Demografie*, Review for Population Research, which the CZSO has been publishing since 1959, maintained its content structure in 2020: it published a number of interesting articles (main and overview articles – in Czech, English), reviews of demographic literature, population data; it commemorated important anniversaries of personalities in the field, and informed its readers about conferences and other current events.

In 2020, another quarterly, *Statistika: Statistics and Economy Journal*, which the CZSO has been publishing since 1964 (since 2011 only in English), was also published regularly: it featured a number of mainly analytical articles (mostly by foreign authors), but also articles in the consultation section or reports from current statistical and economic conferences.

Both of these professional, peer-reviewed, and open access journals (*Statistika* and *Demografie*) have improved their citation indexes in Scopus, the international database of peer-reviewed scientific literature, compared to the previous period; both are also indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index of the Web of Science database.

YouTube kanál ČSÚ

Bavte a učte se s námi

Webová prezentace ČSÚ

Statistické údaje, tabulky,
a dalšího

ČSÚ na Twitteru

Česká i světová statistika
na Twitteru

Jsme na LinkedIn

NOVĚ

Chcete mít přehled o činnosti ČSÚ?
Hledáte novou pracovní
příležitost? Přidejte se k nám!

[linkedin.com/com](https://www.linkedin.com/company/czso)

ČSÚ na Instagramu

Fotky, videa a zajímavosti
světa statistiky

Social Networks

The CZSO continued to be active on social networks in 2020. Its official *Twitter* account @statistickyurad was followed by 19,438 users, an increase of 3,240 over the previous year. Last year, 701 posts were published on Twitter. At the end of the year, the CZSO's *Instagram* was followed by 2,170 subscribers, which is 890 more than in 2019. There were 153 subscribers to the *YouTube* channel, which means that their number more than doubled. On the *LinkedIn* platform, 1,251 users from the ranks of employees and the public connected to the CZSO's profile, thus increasing the total number by 556. The Office's outputs as well as popular thematic infographics prepared on the occasion of important days or anniversaries were published on social networks. On the Czech version of Wikipedia, the Office regularly updated information about the institution, basic statistical concepts, statistical indicators, etc.

Promoting Statistical Literacy

In October 2020, the fifth edition of the MiniCensus entertainment and education project was launched, introducing children aged 9-15 to the importance of statistics and the upcoming census. The project was designed for pupils in years 4 to 9 of basic schools and for students in the lower years of multi-year grammar schools. Pupils had the opportunity to experience the collection, processing, and interpretation of statistical data. A total of 1,593 classes from 298 schools



participated in the 2020 MiniCensus with 18,833 respondents completing the 21-question online questionnaire. One class from each region was then drawn in the presence of a notary to win interesting prizes from the competition partners such as Microsoft, DinoPark, Lego, Crew, and Albi. The media partner of the project was Czech Radio – Rádio Junior.

For the sixth time, the Czech Statistical Office cooperated with Prague University of Economics and Business in organising the national round of the *international competition for the best statistical poster*. The competition was designed for teams of 2–5 members made up of pupils from lower secondary stage of primary schools, secondary school students, and university students of bachelor's programmes in three categories. The theme of the last year's edition was the environment, biology and sustainable development. A total of 482 pupils in 171 teams from 20 schools took part in the national round of the competition. They submitted 23 posters to the competition; 10 in the primary school category, 12 in the secondary school category, and 1 in the university category. The winning posters advanced to the international round of the competition, whose results will be announced in July 2021 in The Hague, the Netherlands, as part of the 63rd World Statistical Congress of the International Statistical Institute.

On Tuesday the 20th of October, the statistical community around the world celebrated the third World Statistics Day.

As had become a tradition, the Czech Statistical Office also joined in the celebrations. It published a special infographic with an attractive theme – beer in statistics – on its Twitter and LinkedIn accounts and in the *Statistika&My* journal. It also posted further interesting facts about our traditional drink on Instagram throughout the week. Visitors to the CZSO's headquarters in Skalka, Prague, were also able to see an exhibition of popular infographics used by the Office to communicate with the public on its website, social networks, and in the *Statistika&My* journal.

Direct Presentation of Outputs

In 2020, 4 exhibitions were held in the CZSO's exhibition space in Prague, where the Office presented original photographs of its employees and illustrations from the book *Simply about Complexities*. There was also an exhibition of original infographics, which were used by the Office to symbolically celebrate World Statistics Day.

Easter and Christmas Markets

The traditional Easter and Christmas markets were not held this time due to the pandemic and quarantine measures. However, the children's homes which the CZSO has long been supporting received Christmas gifts also in 2020. This time, the charity project called the Tree of Fulfilled Wishes took place mainly online with many employees taking part. ■



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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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Despite the restrictions caused by the spread of COVID-19, the CZSO continued to fulfil the tasks associated with EU membership, to engage in other international activities, and, despite the difficult conditions, also to cooperate with statistical offices of other countries.



European Union

Within the Council of the EU, the preparation of a regulation establishing the programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, and European statistics for 2021-2027 was the main focus. The CZSO was also regularly involved in the activities of the Sub-Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Financial Committee of the Council of the EU. In November, the ECOFIN Council adopted its annual “autumn” conclusions on statistics.

In the context of EU legislation, a number of implementing regulations were adopted, mainly following on from the previously issued framework regulations on social and business statistics. Representatives of the CZSO and colleagues from the Ministry of the Interior collaborated in the preparation of an amendment to the regulation on statistics on migration and international protection, which was published in June. In view of the situation arising from the spread of COVID-19, providing the required statistical outputs, responding to new requirements and new challenges for European statistics (e.g. communication with respondents, finding new methods, etc.) became topical issues in the meetings organised by Eurostat (working groups,

task forces, committees, etc.) in 2020. Communication and management of statistics in times of crisis was also the subject of a video conference of heads of statistical offices organised in November as part of the German EU Presidency. However, some of the planned regular events, such as conferences, had to be cancelled and most of the other work meetings, including those of the European Statistical System Committee, were gradually moved to a virtual environment.

In the course of the year, the CZSO was involved in projects financially supported by EU grants. For the first time, it had representatives in the Erasmus for Public Administration programme and in the National Experts in Professional Training Programme (NEPT) within the framework of implementing the Strategy for Supporting Czechs in EU Institutions. Preparations for the Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2022 also continued.

Other International Organisations

In February-March 2020, the President of the CZSO attended the annual session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York for the first time during the four-year (2020–2023)



membership of the Czech Republic in this body. The key topic of the session was once again the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while other important points concerned the future of economic statistics, national accounts, demographic statistics, refugee statistics, etc. The session of the UNECE Conference of European Statisticians, which took place mostly online in June and was also attended by the President of the CZSO, focused on two topics in particular: one being globalisation and the future of economic statistics and the other the measurement of digital transformation. Part of the programme was shared with the follow-up annual meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy whose main focus was the impact of COVID-19 on official statistics.

Technical Assistance

As part of its long-term activities, the CZSO continued to provide technical assistance abroad with the aim of contributing to further harmonisation of statistics in countries undergoing economic and social transformation, including strengthening their statistical infrastructure. Since 2019, the CZSO has been involved in a multi-year twinning project for Georgia, led by Statistics Denmark and funded by the EU, in several areas: household



surveys, national accounts, non-observed economy, and tourism statistics. Within the framework of the project, Czech statisticians carried out one foreign mission to Tbilisi in 2020 followed by six (mostly multi-day) work meetings conducted online due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Three related foreign visits to the CZSO were postponed until 2021. Once again, the CZSO also cooperated with the Statistical Office of Northern Macedonia and carried out one expert mission to Skopje on the subject of government and financial accounts within the framework of the European IPA 2017 programme. A follow-up mission and a foreign visit were postponed until 2021. At the beginning of the year, it was possible to receive one study visit of Albanians on the issue of census methodology and conduct one expert TAIEX mission to Kosovo on the non-observed economy (financed by the EU). Technical assistance in Turkey and Serbia was postponed.

Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation

As part of the bilateral cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, one business trip of the CZSO leaders to Bratislava took place, focusing on the IT field, and one working-level meeting was held in Prague on the subject of the European

Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics. Following the 2018 Memorandum of Understanding, an online meeting was also held with representatives of Statistics Korea. The topics of this year's consultation included the medium-term priorities of the CZSO for 2022 and, on the Korean side, e.g. the presentation of work with microdata or the NaraStat production system. A virtual meeting was likewise held with representatives of Statistics Denmark, facilitated by the Embassy of Denmark in Prague, which focused on the exchange of experience in the area of administrative data sources, on "Large Cases Units" from the perspective of foreign trade, and on reducing the administrative burden placed on respondents.

Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the total number of business trips abroad was reduced to just 24 in 2020. Employees of the CZSO attended 16 events on these trips. For the same reason, there were only 4 foreign visits to the CZSO in 2020, including an international Eurostat seminar on "Consistency of ESA 2010 Based National Accounts" in January. Most of the other meetings were moved to an online environment, while others were cancelled or postponed until 2021. ■



HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



In 2020, personnel management focused on the ongoing implementation of Act No 234/2014 Sb, on the Civil Service, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the CSA), on preparing the implementation of changes resulting from the amendment to Act No 262/2006 Sb, the Labour Code, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the LC), and on ensuring the performance of personnel activities in connection with the measures taken against the spread of COVID-19. Another important task was to fill the positions established for the 2021 Population and Housing Census project.



For 2020, the limit on the number of employees was set at 1,572 persons, including the SLDB project personnel, and this was increased to 1,574 systemised posts as from 1 May 2020 and to 1,576 systemised posts as at 1 June 2020. The limit on the number of employees was increased as a result of changes in the systematisation of jobs and civil service positions in the CZSO in connection with the SLDB project and the establishment of the children's group. The annual average headcount for 2020 amounted to 1,527.01 employees. As at 31 December 2020, a total of 1,546 natural persons were employed at the CZSO, of whom 1,173 were women.

During 2020, altogether 228 new employees/civil servants joined the CZSO, including SLDB employees. The employment or service was terminated for 121 employees, including SLDB employees; in 15 cases by mutual agreement, in 6 cases by resignation, in 9 cases by expiry of a limited-term contract, in 26 cases at the request of a civil servant under Section 73 of the CSA, in 12 cases during the probationary period by the employee, in 9 cases during the probationary period by the employer, and in 8 cases by dismissal due to redundancy

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of employees	1,321	1,303	1,329	1,450	1,546
Number of civil servants	1,102	1,113	1,129	1,216	1,180
Females (%)	76.5	76.4	76.2	75.2	75.9
University graduates (%)	56	57.2	58.5	59	57.2
Average age	47.5	48	48.4	48.4	48.4
Up to 30 years	101	97	91	98	110
31–40 years	257	229	224	235	246
41–50 years	355	375	392	434	466
51–60 years	485	460	457	492	531
61+ years	123	142	165	191	193

under Section 52c of the IC. Pursuant to Section 72 par. 1(d) of the CSA, 33 employees had their service terminated for organisational reasons. One civil servant was redeployed to another service office. Two employees had their service terminated pursuant to Section 74 par. 1(g) of the CSA for failure to pass the civil service examination. Termination of employment or service due to retirement occurred in the case of 51 employees. The achieved turnover rate of 7.9% represented an increase of 0.6 percentage points compared to the previous year.

Some vacancies were re-advertised, mainly because of the highly specialised nature of the work (no applications were received) or because the interviews did not yield suitable applicants with the skills required to do the job. Furthermore, the selection process was also being repeated because of the withdrawal of selected candidates (just before they were due to start). At the same time, however, it was possible to observe changes in the labour market, where the effects of the limited operation of some employers and the overall socio-economic situation were already becoming apparent by the end of the first half of the year. There was thus an increase in the number and quality of applicants who responded to the advertised vacancies.

Of the total number of CZSO employees, 57.2% held a university degree, while the share of employees with a secondary education (i.e. secondary school with a school-leaving examination and higher vocational school) was 42.6%.

The ageing of the population was also reflected in the age structure of CZSO employees. The average age of CZSO employees is 48.4 years. The age structure has remained virtually unchanged in recent years, with the highest share of employees aged 51-60 and 41-50. The number of employees under the age of 30 has been gradually increasing over the last three years.

Courses and Education

The training of CZSO employees was based on individual personal development goals, employee evaluations, and the identification and analysis of their training needs. All the training events held were aimed at deepening the knowledge of employees in areas that are important for the performance of their work/service tasks. Due to the unfavourable epidemic situation in the Czech Republic, training activities in 2020 were severely limited or replaced by online instruction or e-learning. In 2020, the CZSO organised a number of professional statistical



courses, specialised statistical studies, computer training, courses for field workers, activities related to the implementation of the CSA, short-term professional courses, language courses, manager development training, courses within the framework of the project Implementation of a Quality Management System in the CZSO, etc.

In the course of 2020, 209 courses/trainings (including activities related to the implementation of the CSA, conferences, and preparation for the 2022 Presidency) were organised, with a total of 1,617 persons attending. Almost a third of the trained employees completed the courses online, via e-learning, or another form of distance learning. About a quarter of the courses (including activities related to the implementation of the CSA) were delivered by CZSO employees. For specialised professional training, employees were sent to training companies outside the CZSO or attended the sessions remotely. A total of 13 employees participated in courses and stints abroad.

As part of the implementation of the CSA, support was provided to employees to prepare for the civil service examination. Last year, an online seminar on the special part of the civil service examination was held and, at the same time, a simulator of the questions and of the general part of the test was made available

to employees. For service field No. 54 "State Statistical Service", the civil service examination was held on 12 dates and was passed by 61 CZSO employees and 3 participants from other departments.

In 2020, the Unit for Personnel Training and the FKSP (Fund for Cultural and Social Needs) managed funds of approximately CZK 1,631,000. Each employee attended about 1 course on average. Training expenses per employee amounted to approximately CZK 1,000. ■

Course type	Number of participants ¹⁾
Short-term professional courses ²⁾	1,376
Long-term courses	13
Language courses	228
Total	1,617

¹⁾ Includes external participants

²⁾ Courses shorter than 5 days, including conferences and activities related to the implementation of the CSA and preparation for the 2022 Presidency



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In 2020, the Office's budget was affected by covering expenditure for the preparatory work for the 2021 Population and Housing Census project, expenditure related to the elections to local self-government territorial units and one third of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, ensuring the non-stop operation of the Administrative Business Register (ROS), and ensuring the performance of other tasks of state statistics. The preparation and implementation of three projects co-financed by the Operational Programme



Employment was also under way. In 2020, there was a substantial development within IT services, which were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, making it necessary to fund the purchase of IT equipment for remote collaboration.

Income and Expenditure Budget Data

Act No 355/2019 Sb, on the State Budget of the Czech Republic for 2020, approved an income budget of CZK 15,656,000 and an expenditure budget of CZK 1,493,383,000 for Chapter 345 – Czech Statistical Office.

In the course of 2020, the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic authorised a general adjustment of the budget chapter as follows:

a) The allocation of expenditure was increased by CZK 523,107,000 because it did not cover the expenditure for securing the 2021 Population and Housing Census project (hereinafter the 2021 SLDB), expenditures for securing the new municipal elections, regular elections to regional councils, regular elections and by-elections to one third of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, reimbursement of expenditure for implementing the updated Concept of Integration of Foreigners – In Mutual Respect in 2020, funds for the costs associated with the processing of administrative data of the Czech Social Security Administration for 2019 (questionnaire Nem-Úr 1-02), for the coverage of costs associated with the provision and processing of data in the event of emergency data collection in times of

an imminent oil emergency, during oil emergencies, and during oil emergency drills, and the expenditure associated with the sending of a CZSO civil servant as a trainee in the National Expert in Professional Training (NEPT) programme.

- b) The expenditure budget was reduced by CZK 3,239,000 due to the transfer of funds to the Ministry of the Interior to cover the operation of the Administrative Business Register (ROS) information system, the transfer of funds for disinfectants procured in the context of measures to combat COVID-19, provided centrally by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, and the transfer of funds to the Ministry of Health within the Provision of basic information on Purchasing Power Parities project.
- c) In the period under review, a budget measure was implemented which had an impact on the corresponding increase in the income and expenditure of the approved budget chapter 345 – CZSO by CZK 5,539,000 for the financial support of the project co-financed by the Operational Programme Employment "Implementation of a Quality Management System in State Administration".

After these adjustments, **the income budget amounted to CZK 21,195,000** and the amended expenditure budget to CZK 2,018,790,000. The expenditure budget was further increased by extra-budgetary resources totalling CZK 572 423 000, i.e. claims from unused expenditure (hereinafter referred to as claims), the reserve fund, a transfer from the Fund for Cultural and Social Needs (FKSP), funds credited to the income account during the year, and insurance payments received.

The final expenditure budget amounted to CZK 2,591,213,000, of which CZK 125,527,000 was allocated to elections, CZK 1,010,726,000 to the 2021 SLDB, and CZK 1,454,960,000 to other expenditure to ensure the fulfilment of the tasks of the CZSO.

The breakdown of the final expenditure budget by type shows that salaries, other personnel expenditure, insurance, and allocations to the FKSP totalled CZK 1,213,013,000 (46.81%), material expenditure amounted to CZK 995,902,000 (38.43%), transfers to the reserve fund amounted to CZK 3,733,000 (0.14%), and capital expenditure totalled CZK 378,565,000 (14.61%).

Actual Income and Expenditure

Income

Of the budgeted income of CZK 21,195,000, CZK 15,641,000 was achieved, i.e. 73.79%.

The total income in 2020 reached 88.18% of the income generated in 2019, while the absolute decrease of CZK 2,096,000 in 2020, when compared to 2019, was mainly due to lower non-investment transfers from the European Union (by CZK 2,606,000) and lower transfers from the FKSP (by CZK 1,514,000). Income from CZSO's own activities totalled CZK 1,120,000, which is CZK 120,000 less than in 2019 and CZK 120,000 more than foreseen in the amended budget for 2020. Non-standard orders, such as extractions from databases, creation of special customized outputs, and sale of data for scientific and research purposes account for more than half of the non-tax income. The decline in income from CZSO's own activities and the failure to deliver on the mandatory indicator is due to the ever-increasing supply of publicly available data on the CZSO and Eurostat websites. Another category of income, i.e. income from the lease of property, income from the sale of unnecessary property, received penalty payments (contractual fines and default interest), and other non-tax income, amounted to CZK 567,000. Compared to 2019, the reported amount is lower by CZK 329,000, in part due to the reimbursement of international business trips from the previous year as a consequence of more expeditious reimbursement by Eurostat. No capital income was reported. Another part of the total income consisted of transfers received, which amounted to CZK 13,954,000. Compared to 2019, when the reported received transfers amounted to CZK 15,601,000, the performance was lower by CZK 1,647,000. By contrast, transfers from CZSO's



own funds were higher by CZK 2,473,000 compared to 2019.

The mandatory indicator “other non-tax income, capital income, and transfers received in total”, which was set at CZK 1,700,000 for 2020, was achieved by non-tax income excluding transfers received in the amount of CZK 1,687,000. For this reason, pursuant to Section 25 par. 1(c) of Act No 218/2000 Sb, on Budget Rules, as amended, expenditure in the amount of CZK 13,000 was bound in the CZSO’s budget system.

Expenditure

Actual **expenditure** in 2020 amounted to **CZK 1,796,013,000**, i.e. 88.96% of the amended budget.

Of the total amount of actual expenditure, current expenditure accounted for CZK 1,630,788,000 (90.80%) and capital expenditure for CZK 165,225,000 (9.20%). Compared to 2019, the total amount of actual expenditure was higher by CZK 426,048,000. In 2020, current expenditure was higher by CZK 347,544,000 compared to 2019, out of which current expenditure on the operation and activities of the CZSO was higher by CZK 33,875,000, election expenditure was higher by CZK 6,082,000 and the spending on the 2021 SLDB was higher by CZK 307,587,000. The actual capital expenditure in 2020 was higher than in 2019 by CZK 78,504,000.

Elections

In 2020, there were new elections, additional elections, repeated elections, and by-elections on six dates. These were new elections to municipal councils, regular elections to regional councils as well as regular elections and by-elections to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. A total of **CZK 102,908,000 was spent**.

Of the amount of CZK 113,400,000 allocated for the provision of current expenditure on the elections, CZK 95,134,000 (83.89%) was spent, while CZK 127,000 was expended from claims from unspent expenditure to cover the December 2019 elections. The resources were mainly used for personnel expenses, electronic communications services, programming and analytical work, as well as for energy, travel, and the purchase of services for the processing of election results.

In 2020, CZK 5,000,000 was budgeted to cover election-related capital expenditure, and, following the release of claims from unspent expenditure, the final budget for election-related capital expenditure was CZK 12,000,000. A total of CZK 7,647,000 was spent, out of which CZK 230,000 was used on instructional video programmes for professional training for the elections, CZK 398,000 on the development of application software for elections (phase IX), CZK 5,067,000 on the modernisation of the data centre for elections, CZK 1,152,000 on the reconstruction of the electoral hall, and CZK 800,000 on the establishment of a hostel for the elections.



2021 Population and Housing Census (2021 SLDB)

As at 31 December 2020, utilisation of the budget for financing the expenditure incurred as part of the preparatory work on the 2021 SLDB project was at **CZK 512,690,000**, i.e. 50.72% of the final budget, of which CZK 438,041,000 was spent on current expenditure and CZK 74,649,000 on capital expenditure.

As regards current expenditure, a total of CZK 146,111,000 was spent on wage expenditure, including benefits and supplements. Of the material expenditure, the largest amount, totalling CZK 281,674,000, was spent on the purchase of services. The biggest share of this was made up of payment for the services of the Czech Post, state-owned enterprise, amounting to CZK 211,260,000, and payment for the expenses of the State Treasury – Shared Services Centre, state-owned enterprise, amounting to CZK 21,822,000. Further spending on services included mainly CZK 5,907,000 for publicity, CZK 5,903,000 for server and application services, CZK 1,342,000 for electronic communications services, and CZK 1,325,000 for ICT maintenance and security services. A total of CZK 5,142,000 was spent on the purchase of material, in particular communication and IT equipment, office supplies, promotional goods, and furniture for the newly established premises. Energy purchases totalled CZK 1,553,000. The actual expenditure on software rentals was CZK 335,000. A total of CZK 2,700,000 was used for other purchases,



of which the highest amount, CZK 2,066,000, was spent on the purchase of non-investment ICT software while CZK 424,000 was spent on domestic travel expenses. CZK 526,000 was paid in wage compensation in times of sickness.

Capital funds were used mainly for the purchase of Oracle licences for CZK 33,544,000, the first parts of the tendered prices of three information systems worth a total of CZK 13,453,000, an application to support territorial preparations for CZK 3,310,000, and the creation of the scitani.cz website together with the provision of mass correspondence for SLDB within the RSIS project for CZK 1,019,000.

Operation and Activities of the CZSO

Appropriations for expenditure in Section 614600 – the Czech Statistical Office represent resources that are used to cover expenditure related to the operation and activities of the CZSO's own workplaces. The amended budget was set at CZK 1,141,717,000. The final budget – after the inclusion of extra-budgetary funds of CZK 313,223,000, of which CZK 306,458,000 came from claims, CZK 1,370,000 from the reserve fund, CZK 4,317,000 was credited to the Office's income account, CZK 1,078,000 came from the FKSP, and CZK 13,000 that was bound in the expenditure budget – amounted to CZK 1,454,927,000. The actual budget amounted to **CZK 1,180,383,000**, i.e. 81.13% of the final budget, of which current expenditure accounted

for CZK 1,097,454,000 and capital expenditure for CZK 82,929,000. **The actual personnel expenditure of CZK 907,875,000** was higher than in 2019 by CZK 37,697,000, in part due to severance payments, which were higher than in 2019 by CZK 12,488,000.

The actual material expenditure amounted to CZK 189,579,000; a decrease of CZK 3,823,000 compared to 2019. This difference is mainly due to a decrease of CZK 5,134,000 in the payment for the use of computer programmes, which was the result of a one-off payment for the lease of MS Windows licences in 2019. The actual expenditure on facilities management for data processing services was lower than in 2019 by CZK 13,882,000 due to a single quarterly payment. As a result of the unfavourable epidemic situation and the measures taken to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the actual expenditure for training and education services was lower by CZK 11,439,000, mainly because a number of scheduled training events had to be either suspended, postponed until 2021, or cancelled altogether due to restrictions on domestic and foreign business trips; there were also fewer requests for repairs and maintenance at the CZSO premises.

Compared to 2019, the actual expenditure for the purchase of material was higher by CZK 2,821,000, mainly due to

the purchase of IT equipment for CZK 2,520,000 and the purchase of protective equipment and disinfectants for CZK 523,000.

The actual expenditure for data processing services was up by CZK 13,168,000 compared to 2019, mainly as a result of higher expenditure on maintenance and services of servers and applications. Furthermore, the actual expenditure on analytical, programming, and consultancy services for statistical tasks showed an increase of CZK 10,806,000 compared to 2019.

At the end of financial year 2020, a transfer of CZK 3,733,000 was made to the CZSO's reserve fund, which represents an increase of CZK 294,000 in the amount transferred when compared to 2019.

Of the final budget of CZK 188,961,000, the **actual capital expenditure amounted to CZK 82,929,000**. Compared to 2019, this represents an increase of CZK 6,802,000. The increase in capital expenditure in 2020 was most notably driven by the modernisation of the data centre for the CZSO, which accounted for an increase of CZK 54,252,000 in comparison with 2019. The actual capital expenditure for some events recorded in the EDS/SMVS Information System was affected by the non-completion of some tenders in 2020 or the postponement of events to 2021.

Programmes Co-Financed from Abroad

With the participation of the EU, the CZSO financed 3 projects of the Operational Programme Employment in the amount of CZK 3,351,000. Further, the CZSO financed 12 projects of the Community Statistical Programme (KP 2014+) in the total amount of CZK 18,753,000, of which CZK 12,625,000 was financed from budget appropriations, CZK 3,265,000 from claims from unspent expenditure, and CZK 2,863,000 from the resources credited to the income account from abroad and from the reserve fund. Missions, Twinning out study visits, the International ESTP course and TALEX were financed from EU funds in the amount of CZK 2,549,000. A total of CZK 24,653,000 was spent on EU co-financed projects in 2020, of which CZK 19,358,000 came from EU funds.

There were no missions or study visits with funding from outside the EU in 2020.

An analysis of the actual expenditure in all sections by type shows that personnel expenditure (salaries, other personnel expenses, severance pay, statutory insurance, allocations to the FKSP), totalling CZK 1,099,088,000, accounted for 61.20% of the overall expenditure. Material expenditure of CZK 527,967,000 accounted for 29.40% of the total spending (purchase of material, energy, and services). Transfers to the reserve fund amounted to CZK 3,733,000, i.e. 0.21% of the total spending. The CZSO's capital expenditure in 2020 was



made within the framework of the programme for the financing of reproduction of CZSO assets, which is recorded in the EDS/SMVS Programme Financing Information System within programme 045 01 – Development and Modernisation of Material and Technical base of the CZSO from 2018; the actual spending amounted to CZK 165,225,000, i.e. 9.20% of the total expenditure. A total of CZK 1,426,301,000 of budget appropriations and CZK 369,712,000 of extra-budgetary resources were used to finance the total expenditure.

The balance of claims from unspent expenditure as at 1 January 2021 totalled CZK 884,709,000, of which CZK 669,223,000 was made up of profiling expenditure, which includes CZK 98,552,000 for salaries of civil servants, salaries of employees on contract, and other payments for work performed, CZK 6,504,000 for the financing of KP 2014+ projects and CZK 5,079,000 for the Operational Programme Employment, excluding salaries and other personnel expenses, CZK 243,926,000 for events recorded in the EDS/SMVS Information System, and CZK 315,162,000 for earmarked current expenditure, excluding salaries and other personnel expenses (elections, SLDB). Non-profiling expenditure as at 1 January 2021 amounted to CZK 215,486,000, including benefits and supplements to salaries (excluding those benefits and supplements to salaries and other personnel expenses that are tied to EU projects and elections) and part of the SLDB expenditure.

The balance of the reserve fund amounting to CZK 7,326,000 as at 31 December 2020 represents funds earmarked for financing projects/grants of the Community Programme, Twinning out projects, and other activities abroad.

The financial resources allocated to the CZSO in 2020 by the approved state budget as well as the extra-budgetary resources were spent in accordance with the fulfilment of the Office's tasks, in compliance with budgetary regulations, and with an emphasis on their economical, efficient, and effective use. ■





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