

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF THE AUDIT OF THE CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE STATISTICS METHODOLOGY

Audited subject: Monthly survey in retail trade

Audited department: Services Statistics Department

Audit took place: December 2015 – March 2016

AUDIT TEAM MEMBERS:

Radek Šnobl (Czech National Bank) – team leader

Petra Cimlerová (Czech Confederation of Commerce and Tourism)

Lucie Mrašíková (Ministry of Industry and Trade)

Lukáš Kučera (CZSO, Compendious Analyses Unit)

Jiří Kamenický (CZSO, Compendious Analyses Unit)

Jiří Zeman (University of Economics, Prague)

Main audit conclusions:

Based on the audit of the methodology, the audit team stated the following:

- 1) Background materials and data delivered by the audited department in the beginning of the audit are evaluated positively as well as further additional data supplied both based on a discussion of the audit team with experts of the CZSO and based on inquiries in writing by the audit team members. What is also welcomed is helpfulness of the CZSO experts regarding requests of individual audit team members.
- 2) The audit team within the audit found out that the statistical survey of the CZSO is in compliance with the relevant valid Eurostat methodology and it is also updated on an ongoing basis in compliance with new valid regulations of Eurostat. During the audit, a minor discrepancy has been found as for the used terminology, which is, however, caused by a word-for-word translation from the technical terminology in English. The CZSO thus fully respects the binding definition of Eurostat, namely with regards to possibilities of Czech accounting standards.
- 3) The data collection, imputations made, and data controls are deemed to be fully suitable. The audit team evaluates the administrative burden of respondents to be adequate, which can be proved by an increasing response rate for the entire 2010–2015 reference period.

Main audit recommendations:

Based on the audit of the methodology, the audit team proposed:

- 1) To consider an adjustment of the News Release on the CZSO website while focusing on an evaluation of the year-on-year seasonally adjusted time series as well as working days adjustment and at the same time to extend also the pieces of information published in time series.
- 2) To consider the current practice how deflators are constructed at some of the monitored groups, namely in the automotive segment and try to look for a more suitable solution.
- 3) To periodically evaluate suitability of criteria for an inclusion of a unit among those, to which statistical forms (questionnaires) are sent.
- 4) To monitor possibilities of new or alternative data sources that could entail further enhancement of the existing statistics.

Response of the audited department:

Audited department:

- 1) agrees with the conclusions of the methodological audit;
- 2) acknowledges recommendations of the audit team;
- 3) undertook to gradually implement recommendations of the audit team.