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ISBN 80-7223-719-5
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Praha
2002

1. PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION



President of CZSO Marie Bohatá

The year 2001 was the year of Population and Housing Census for the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO). Among routine statistical surveys, the Census stands out by its scope and nature of data collected, as well as the number of persons information is requested from. This important statistical undertaking is very demanding in terms of organisation, technology and finance. Its preparation, incl. legislation, was begun in the Czech Republic as early as 1997, and the processing of all the results is planned for completion in 2003.

For illustration, the volume of data processed during the Census in the Czech Republic amounts to all the operations with data files performed at the CZSO in ten years.

The Census is used to measure demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population, housing conditions and the structure of housing stock. There is no other effective way of getting these characteristics. Of importance is also the fact that the Census provides information related to a single point of time, interlinked and broken down into the smallest territorial units. The information is processed not only at national, regional, district and municipal levels, but also at the level of municipality parts defined by territorial technical and town-planning conditions (the so-called basic settlement units).

Population censuses have been internationally coordinated since 1853, both in terms of time and contents. The nature of censuses in Europe is laid down chiefly by the Economic Commission for Europe and by Eurostat, which issued joint methodological recommendations and lists of basic and recommended indicators to be covered. Within the framework of statistical harmonisation that also affected the Census 2001, the Czech Republic chose the minimum variant of the indicators required. Most countries collect more extensive sets of information than the Czech Republic does, which particularly apply to the most sensitive areas, such as health, income and property.


Ten years elapsed from the Census in 1991 and a lot of changes occurred. The Czech Republic is an independent country now where private enterprise significantly influenced the life style. Opened frontiers gave rise to new jobs and opportunities for study and raised migration of the population. The family life, structure of households and economic characteristics of households changed, and informatisation of society and motoring expanded. Differences



Final provisions

The Ethical Code is a recommendation to CZSO employees. Its objective is to support desired standards of behaviour and law and order on the one hand and inform the public on the behaviour they can request from the CZSO employee on the other hand.

Adhering to the principles laid down in the Code is part of regular performance appraisals of CZSO employees.



between households and regional dissimilarities grew. Some registers, e.g. of the housing stock, became obsolete and very inaccurate, predominantly due to the failure to fully incorporate in them the expanding private ownership of real estate and the process of privatisation in general. New administrative regions were established, but they are lacking necessary information. Municipalities, whose number rose from 5 700 in 1991 to 6 200 today, do not even know precise numbers of their citizens, which is a criterion for the allocation of subsidies. As a result, demand for information grew enormously.

Precise information is an essential precondition for quality decision-making. The Census results provide a basis for decisions in the long run, which affect all of us. They are used by central and regional governments, the business sphere, scientific institutions and last but not least individual citizens themselves. Producing such information is in public interest. In compliance with the Convention of the Council of Europe No. 108 of 1981 and the Directive of European Parliament and of the Council of 1995 on individual data protection, data can be requested from citizens on condition that their rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms are not violated. Besides, the state shall ensure that the data are not misused. Act No. 158/1999 Coll., on the Population and Housing Census complies with the above-mentioned recommendations, and the CZSO, which carries out the Census, observes them fully. The Act allows the information collected to be used solely for statistical purposes, and the CZSO warrants this to the citizens.

The population census is the greatest statistical event not only in the Czech Republic, but elsewhere too. The quality of results always depends on the correctness and completeness of information provided by the citizen. Therefore, it is essential that the citizen be convinced of the usefulness of the census and know that the data collected will not be misused.

The Czech Census 2001 was held in a free democratic society, which is fully aware of the value of information and the danger of its misuse. Fear of the latter produced an unprecedented situation for the CZSO, also added to by the newly established Office for Personal Data Protection and expectations of its work. The Census thus became a big challenge and a test of reliability for the CZSO. Thanks to the high participation of citizens and good work of all the people involved, the Population and Housing Census 2001 is regarded as the most successful census ever taken in our history.

Let me extend my thanks once more to all that contributed to it.

2. MISSION

The position of the Czech Statistical Office as a central agency is defined by Competence Act No. 2/1969 passed by the Czech National Council, as amended. The mission, tasks, organisational structure, rights and duties of the CZSO are regulated by Act No. 89/1995 Coll. on the State Statistical Service as amended and the Statute of the Czech Statistical Office approved by Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 1160 of 7 November 2001.

The fundamental mission of the CZSO is to provide an objective and comprehensive picture of economic, social, demographic and environmental development in the Czech Republic and parts thereof. To this end and on the basis of scientific knowledge and own R&D, the CZSO develops methods and tools to survey existing and new phenomena and processes in society, including their interrelationships and causes and effects. The CZSO analyses statistical data produced and compares data on trends with international development. The CZSO ensures the comparability of statistical data (in terms of subject matter, methodology and time) at both national and international levels.

The CZSO makes comprehensive data available for use by the central government and public administration, the business sphere, international institutions, research and education, the media and the public at large. The CZSO is responsible for processing and publishing results of elections and referenda. The CZSO is in charge of harmonisation with the European Union of methodological tools, principles and regulations for the entire state statistical service of the Czech Republic.

Main Principles of Activities

In its activities, the CZSO

- applies the principle of equal access to information;
- adheres to the principle of freedom from political interference and impartiality of the statistical service;
- complies with law and legal regulations, international agreements binding for the Czech Republic and published in the Collection of Laws or the Collection of International Agreements, its Statute, and resolutions of the Government;

Relations to respondents

In conducting statistical surveys, CZSO employees shall observe the fundamental principles of:

- not violating respondents' privacy;
- not burdening respondents with excessive amounts of requested information;
- informing respondents that the data provided by them are also useful for them and that their confidentiality and anonymity are guaranteed.

Relations to colleagues


CZSO employees shall


- behave helpfully and fairly to each other;
- cooperate in dealing with assignments to achieve the goal as efficiently as possible;
- help young and new employees learn methods and techniques used in the Office and acquire necessary skills;
- be open to reviewing and evaluating their procedures of work in the framework of expert discussions.

Relations of CZSO executives to CZSO employees

In relations to employees, CZSO executives shall

- avoid any discrimination;
- respect rights of the employee as individuality as well as the employee's right to information;
- enable employees to take part in the decision-making process;
- create conditions for making use of creative potential and skills of employees as much as possible;
- strive for objective appraisal of the performance of individual employees and fair remuneration.

- 
- be concerned about not causing any misinterpretation of statistical surveys either deliberately or by carelessness;
 - act fairly in contacts with other public authorities' employees, respondents and the public;
 - mislead neither the public nor other CZSO employees deliberately;
 - carry out duties at a high professional level and deepen knowledge by lifetime devotion to statistics;
 - respect the principle of non-discrimination and work without any prejudice;
 - act to ensure that financial resources and equipment entrusted to them are administered as economically and efficiently as possible;
 - not allow their private interests to get in conflict with the position of the CZSO employee (the private interest being understood as any advantage used to the benefit of their own or of their families, relatives and close persons, and natural and legal persons they have been in business or other relations with);
 - not permit in exercising their duties finding themselves in a position which would bound them to repay a favour done to them and shall inform their superiors about any advantage if offered;
 - avoid any activities and actions in their private lives, which could undermine the public's trust in the CZSO;
 - avoid any activities or actions irreconcilable with or reducing due performance of their duties;
 - not put at risk guarantees of the freedom of the State Statistical Service from political interference, when pursuing political or other public activities;
 - apply all measures needed to ensure the protection of personal, sensitive and individual data;
 - adhere to the pledge of secrecy.

- 
- observes the basic principles of official statistics adopted by the EU (Eurostat) and the United Nations Statistical Commission;
 - preserves the confidentiality of all individual data acquired in the framework of own statistical surveys, from surveys conducted by other state authorities and from administrative sources; protects all data acquired and uses them solely for statistical purposes;
 - ensures objectivity of statistical data in the process of their production;
 - sees to it that all principles, methods and tools used are defined in a clear manner and are transparent and available for verification of the objectivity of information produced;
 - coordinates the state statistical service within the Czech Republic and is the guarantor of its methodology.

3. POSITION IN SOCIETY

Relations to Central and Local Governments

The CZSO

- organises and coordinates the preparation of the Programme of Statistical Surveys. The Programme is discussed by the Czech Statistical Council and published as a decree in the Collection of Laws;
- creates standardised and internationally harmonised methodological tools and rules that are binding for all authorities carrying out the state statistical service and respondents of statistical surveys;
- coordinates the provision of data from the state statistical service to international institutions and of opinions held by the Czech Republic that apply to the state statistical service at the international level.
- provides information from statistical surveys to central and local governments. The governments use registers established and maintained by the CZSO in the scope defined by Act No. 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, as amended.

Relations to the Public

The CZSO

- provides the public with information from statistical surveys and from publicly available parts of registers established and maintained by the CZSO according to Act No. 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, as amended;
- provides the public with information in compliance with Act No. 106/1999 Coll., on Free Access to Information, as amended;
- takes into consideration the usefulness and economy of statistical surveys conducted in natural and legal persons and sees to it that the burden on reporting units and costs of the surveys are within reasonable and justifiable limits;
- cooperates with universities, scientific and research institutions, expert public and representatives of reporting units.

12. ETHICAL CODE

The Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) is a central authority, whose principal mission is to produce and disseminate statistical information, which gives a true picture of the economic, social, demographic, and environmental developments of the Czech Republic and its parts. The fundamental principles of its activity, which represents a service to the public, include

- freedom from political interference
- impartiality
- transparency
- credibility.

All provisions and regulations in force for the state administration of the Czech Republic also apply to CZSO employees. The employees carry out their duties in compliance with their contracts of employment. Their mission includes the first-rate execution of the Statistical Service and state administration, also with respect to international standards. The first-rate statistical service, which shall be open, available and correctly functioning, requires that the employee be skilled, impartial, and behave honestly and politely.

Principles of behaviour

CZSO employees shall

- act in accordance with legislation and CZSO internal regulations in force;
- be concerned about their good name as well as good reputation of the Office and the State Statistical Service;
- be concerned about their professional integrity and independence in their work and, therefore, neither use nor support work methods that could produce misleading results or results requested in advance;
- observe principles of impartiality when collecting, processing, analysing, interpreting and publishing data;
- bring confidence and usability limits of released data to the user's attention.

11. BASIC INDICATORS ON THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Area	78 866 sq. km
Population (1 March 2001)	10.3 million
Population density	130 per sq. km
Life expectancy (2000)	
Males	71.6 years
Females	78.3 years
Unemployment rate (end of 2001)	8.9%
Inflation (2001)	4.7%
GDP per capita (in purchasing power parity)	USD 15 086
Deficit of current account of balance of payments (% of GDP)	4.7
Exchange rate (31 December 2001)	CZK 31.98 = EUR1

Shares in GDP (by NACE section, current prices) %

Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing (A, B)	3.9
Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas and water supply (C, D, E)	33.9
Construction (F)	7.0
Wholesale and retail trade, repair; hotels and restaurants (G, H)	15.8
Transport, storage and communication (I)	7.6
Financial intermediation (J)	3.6
Real estate, renting and business activities (K)	11.9
Other service activities (L to Q)	16.3
	100.0

4. MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION

Bodies

- The Czech Statistical Office is headed by its President, proposed by the Government and appointed by the President of the Czech Republic. The CZSO President acts on behalf of the CZSO in all affairs, appoints her deputies (Vice-presidents) and lays down the scope of their powers.
- According to provisions of Article 6, Act No. 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, as amended, the Czech Statistical Council is a consultative body to the CZSO.
- Consultative bodies to the President of the CZSO are: the Management Meeting, the Executive Board and the Regional Council. The terms of reference and the composition of the consultative bodies are regulated by the rules of procedure.

Czech Statistical Council

The Czech Statistical Office establishes the Czech Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") as its consultative body, as laid down in Article 6 (1) of Act No. 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, as amended.

The President of the Czech Statistical Office is the Chairperson of the Council. The members of the Council are chosen from among experts in statistical theory and practice and appointed and recalled by the President of the Czech Statistical Office. The Council has eleven to twenty-one members.

The Council discuss the Programme of Statistical Surveys and express their opinions on conceptual issues and important tasks facing the state statistical service.

Members of the Council in 2001

Jaroslav Dostal,
Czech Association of Insurance Companies,
Bořivoj Frýbert,
Member of the Board of Management, Association of Industry
and Transport of the Czech Republic,

Jaroslav Gacka,
Deputy Minister, Ministry for Regional Development
of the Czech Republic,
Vlastimil Gejdoš,
Director of the Economic Policy Branch, Ministry of Industry
and Trade of the Czech Republic,
Richard Hindls,
Dean of the Statistics and Informatics Faculty, University
of Economics Prague,
Michal Illner,
Sociological Institute of the Academy of Sciences
of the Czech Republic,
Jana Jurečková,
Professor of the Probability and Mathematic Statistics Department,
Mathematics and Physics Faculty, Charles University Prague
Josef Kraus,
Specialised Services Department, Research Institute of Economy
in Agriculture,
Vlasta Mazánková,
Director, Institute of Health Information and Statistics
of the Czech Republic,
Bedřich Moldan,
Director of the Centre for Environmental Issues, Charles University
Prague,
Bedřich Myšička,
Director of the Economic Department, Ministry of Labour
and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic,
Edvard Outrata,
Senator, former President of the Czech Statistical Office (1993-1999),
Zdeněk Pavlík,
Professor of the Demography and Geo-demography Department,
Faculty of Science, Charles University Prague,
Helena Pískovská,
President, Trade Association of the Czech Republic,
Petr Sak,
Director, Institute for Information on Education,

Population and Housing Census Expenditures


According to Act No. 158/1999 Coll., the bulk of work on the Population and Housing Census was done in 2001. Budgetary measures reduced the approved budget of CZK 1 590 651 000 down to CZK 1 538 614 000, of which capital and current expenditures amounted to CZK 124 587 000 and CZK 1 414 027 000, respectively.

Structure of Population and Housing Census Expenditures

Thousand CZK	Budget 2001		Actual 2001	Col. 3/2 (%)	Actual 2000	Index %
	Approved	Reduced				
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total expenditures	1 590 651	1 538 614	1 294 167	84.1	721 292	1.8
Capital expenditures	150 000	124 587	124 560	100.0	487 398	0.3
Current expenditures	1 440 651	1 414 027	1 169 607	82.7	233 894	5.0
Wages, salaries and other payments for work done	1 118 587	1 053 568	822 556	78.1	69 178	11.9
Salaries	225 087	235 950	204 772	86.8	69 112	3.0
Statutory insurance premiums paid by the employer	78 781	128 892	116 890	90.7	24 094	4.8
Non-investment transfers to own funds	4 502	4 719	24 506	519.3	1 382	17.7
Current expenses	238 781	226 848	205 655	90.7	139 240	1.5

The amount of CZK 244 447 000 - the difference between actual drawing on the budget and reduced budget - includes the transfer of CZK 20 410 000 to the CZSO reserve fund. The savings were reached primarily due to unspent current expenditures, where CZK 243 638 000 was saved on personnel expenditures. As far as capital expenditures are concerned, CZK 27 000 remained unused.

A budgetary measure was adopted to raise the limit of CZSO employees by 1 600, so that the work involved in the Population and Housing Census could be coped with. Engaged were 1 196 employees, who signed fixed time contracts of employment. Their number was nearly three times higher than in 2000 (408 persons). (All figures in terms of full-time equivalent.)



CZSO expenditures in 2001 (on routine activities, i.e. excl. expenditures on the Population and Housing Census) were CZK 29 578 000 up on 2000, of which CZK 10 000 000 accounted for a rise in costs spent on the harmonisation of statistics with EU standards (completion of Agrocensus in particular) and the rest for across-the-board increases in salaries of permanent staff according to Government Regulation No. 454/2000 Coll. The average monthly salary rose from CZK 15 862 in 2000 to CZK 16 164 in 2001.


The bulk of work on the Population and Housing Census was done in 2001. Expenditures on CZSO elections-related activities were minimal, as the year 2001 was no election year. The average salary at the CZSO slightly dropped (see the table above), because quite a lot of people were recruited for the Population and Housing Census on fixed time contracts of employment and were classified to lower salary classes than the CZSO permanent staff were.

Capital expenditures in 2001 were considerably lower than in 2000, because the largest part of the computing system for the Population and Housing Census had been built in 2000 already and only CZK 124 587 000 was allocated for 2001 to complete the system. Besides, the project of reconstruction of the CZSO headquarters launched before was suspended, as its idea called for reconsidering in the light of new needs. Only work in progress was completed (building D).

The amount of resources allocated for the Population and Housing Census was not all spent (budget: CZK 1 538 614 000; actual: CZK 1 294 167 000, incl. capital expenditures). The balance was originally budgeted to pay enumerators and supervisors (personnel expenses – work in addition to the main job), but better organisation of work saved CZK 243 638 000. Most of this amount was transferred back to the state budget, and CZK 20 410 000 was deposited to the reserve fund.

The average registered number of CZSO employees in 2001 was 3 070, of which 1 874 were permanent employees and 1 196 temporary employees engaged in the Population and Housing Census.

Compared with 2000, total employment was 35.96% higher, of which permanent staff grew 1.3%. A majority of the newcomers signed employment contracts of limited duration to deal with harmonisation of statistics with the EU.



Jan Seger,
Head of Economic Statistics Department, University of Economics
Prague,
Eduard Souček,
former President of the Czech Statistical Office (1990-1993),
Pavel Štěpánek,
Director of Branch, Member of the Banking Board,
Czech National Bank,
Jaroslav Šulc,
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic,
Milan Veverka,
President, Association of Construction Entrepreneurs
in the Czech Republic.

Structure of the CZSO

- Activity of the Czech Statistical Office is divided into Sectors run by Vice-presidents.
- The Sectors are divided into Branches run by Branch Directors.
- Each Branch consists of at least two Departments run by Directors.
- The Departments are divided into Sections run by Heads.
- There is a Regional Office in each Region of the Czech Republic. The Regional Offices are run by Directors.
- All the above-mentioned senior executives are appointed by the President of the CZSO.
- Job descriptions, relations between individual Sectors, Branches, Departments and Sections and powers of their directors and heads are regulated by the CZSO rules of organisation, working regulations and other internal standards.

Men and Women in Leading Positions

Position	Women	Men	Percentage of women
President	1	0	100.0
Vice-president	0	3	0.0
Director of Branch	1	6	14.3
Director of Department / Regional Office	20	24	45.4
Head of Department	4	2	66.7
Head of Section	63	37	63.0
Leading positions, total	89	72	55.3
Staff, total	1448	487	74.8

Current expenditures

Thousand CZK	Actual 1999	Actual 2000	Actual 2001	2001/2000 change
	1	2	3	4
Article (§) 6141 – CZSO	672 051	615 268	644 846	1.1
Article (§) 6149 – Population and Housing Census	228 928	233 894	1 169 607	5.0
Parliamentary election	281	6 317	420	0.1
Local and regional elections	455	46 236	875	0.0
Other	5 372	5 648	61	0.0
Expenditures, total	907 087	907 363	1 815 809	2.0
- Wages and salaries (incl. other personnel costs)	383 575	461 841	1 210 932	2.6
Number of employees	1 982	2 258	3 070	1.4
Average monthly salary	15 306	15 547	15 426	1.0

Capital expenditures

Thousand CZK	Actual 1999	Actual 2000	Actual 2001	2001/2000 change
	1	2	3	4
Building of the CZSO Information System (system expenditures)	160 587	504 387	160 489	0.3
Reconstruction and completion of CZSO headquarters (individual expenditures)	41 281	77 985	41 279	0.5
Renovation of buildings, replacement and refurbishing of machinery and facilities (system expenditures)	53 292	39 422	36 503	0.9
Programme 345 010, total	255 160	621 794	238 271	0.4
Fund of cultural and social needs – reconstruction of sanitary installations in the Lipno recreational facility			500	
Capital expenditures, total	255 160	621 794	238 771	0.4
CZSO expenditures, total	1 162 247	1 529 157	2 054 580	1.3

10. FINANCIAL DATA

Incomes

Thousand CZK	Actual 1999	Actual 2000	Actual 2001	2001/2000 change
	1	2	3	4
Income from self activity	13 476	11 089	9 404	0.9
Sanction payments received	2	26	0	
Sales of non-capital goods	578	558	724	1.3
Sales of capital goods	1 128	882	31	0.0
Phare and other funds received	7 374	4 269	2 485	0.6
Incomes, total	22 558	16 824	12 644	0.8

Selling extracts from the Business Register and selling statistical publications, plus the rent collected for rooms let, were the main sources of CZSO income in 2001.

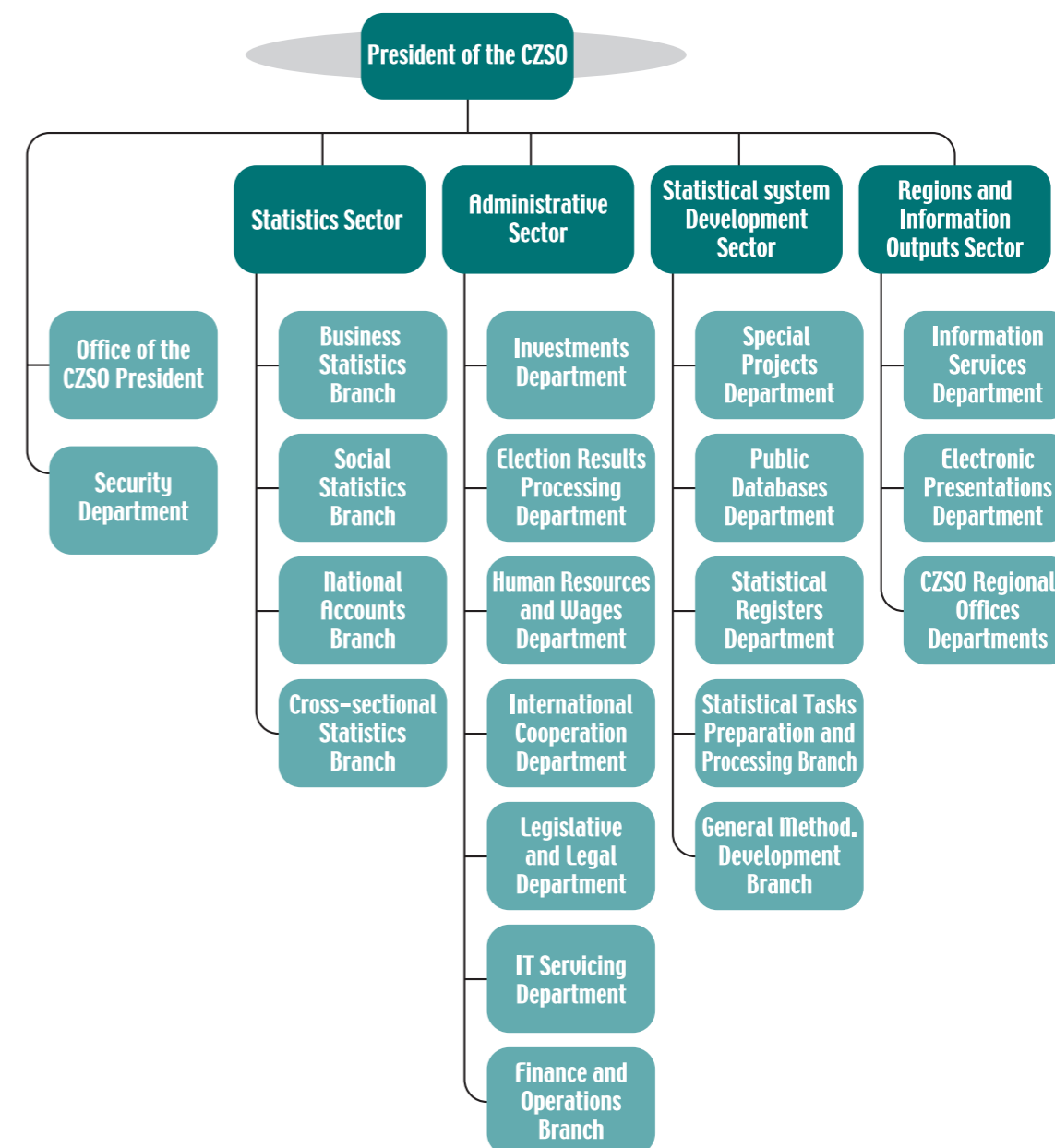
The sale of publications, classifications and nomenclatures dropped in response to the expansion of providing information on CZSO websites free of charge, which is the phenomenon to be reckoned with in future years, too.

Consequently, income generated by the CZSO in 2001 amounted to CZK 10 159 000 only. Besides, the CZSO received extra-budgetary amount of CZK 1 985 000 to finance the Phare Multi-beneficiary Programme and CZK 500 000 transferred from the CZSO fund of cultural and social needs to reconstruct a CZSO recreational facility.

Total income in 2001 was only 75.2% of income generated in 2000.

All income of the CZSO was transferred to the state budget.

Organisation Chart of the CZSO





Responsibilities for Statistical Activities

Office of the CZSO President

Responsible for laying down conceptions for the development of statistical activities in compliance with statistical development in European and world-wide context and the need to statistically observe socio-economic developments and demographic trends in the Czech Republic; responsible for external communication of the CZSO, analytic activity and the publication system of the CZSO; publishes the economic and statistical journal Statistika.

Ensures, at the top managerial level, the implementation of the conception of statistical activities in the framework of the European statistical system in compliance with statistical development in the world and recommendations made by international organisations.

Statistics Sector

Business Statistics Branch

Prepares, with special attention to quality, efficiency and timeliness, and is responsible for the implementation of statistical surveys in the sector of non-financial corporations and households and does analytic work; produces short-term and structural statistics by economic activity (mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas and water supply; construction; energy; market services; transport; tourism; agriculture; forestry; and the environment).

Social Statistics Branch

Prepares and is responsible for the methodology, organisation, processing and analysis of surveys to be taken in households or population and in the area of the labour market; in charge of ad-hoc censuses, incl. population and housing census; deals with demographic statistics, incl. alien and gender statistics.

National Accounts Branch

In accordance with international standards, it develops and "fills", in specified breakdowns and periodicity, the comprehensively balanced system of macroeconomic indicators of national accounting that provides both overall and detailed pictures of the national economy, incl. international comparison.



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Cross-sectional Statistics Branch

Prepares and is responsible for the methodology, organisation, processing and analysis of statistics on prices, external trade, research and development, new technologies, as well as statistics on education, health, social security, culture and sports; prepares the implementation of statistics of trade with the EU Member States (the Intrastat system) for the period after the accession of the CR to the EU.

Statistical System Development Sector

Public Databases Department

In charge of running regional databases; creates and maintains a standard system of aggregate statistical information designed for the public through a system of databases and tools allowing the regional databases to be updated and presented; participates in preparing regional analyses and publications.

Statistical Registers Department


Lays down conceptions for the development, methodology, maintenance and use of the Business Register, register of statistical territorial units and buildings (used for population and housing censuses), and other registers for the CZSO needs.

Statistical Tasks Preparation and Processing Branch

Designs and implements the integrated system of preparation and processing of voluminous statistical tasks, all kinds of elections, national referendum and non-scheduled surveys; responsible for the transmission of data from the tasks processed, runs central statistical registers, creates and operates central databases; is in charge of the administration, technical editing and operation of the Intranet/Extranet system.

General Methodology Development Branch

Based on international statistical practice and regulations and own creative and development activity, it produces, develops and improves general methodological tools for the needs of the CZSO and the entire state statistical service of the Czech Republic; coordinates the state statistical service of the Czech Republic with respect to the standard



designing of statistical surveys and the application of standard, internationally harmonised general methodology.

Regions and Information Outputs Sector

Information Services Department

Responsible for the CZSO publication system; analyses the user's response to the contents of statistical information or statistical surveys, processes the result, reacts to it, and makes it available to the CZSO management and the General Methodology Development Branch.

Electronic Presentations Department

Responsible for Internet presentations, electronic publications, distribution and outputs from the Business Register and distribution of publications; communicates with the media, issues advertising materials and takes part in creating the CZSO image.

CZSO Regional Offices

Cooperate with central and local governments and collect primary statistical data in the field; provide central and local governments and the public with statistical information at both national and regional levels; are responsible for organisation and processing of election results in the regions.



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Information Provided under Act No. 106/1999 Coll., on Free Access to Information

The providing of information under Act No. 106/1999 Coll., is governed by a CZSO internal directive.

A) Information provided in 2001 on request

- 1) Number of written requests for information under the Act
In response to seven written requests, information concerning the Population and Housing Census, clarification of the estimation method of grey economy, and the value of property privatised by voucher privatisation in its second wave were provided.
- 2) Number of appeals filed against decisions
Two filed and settled appeals concerning the Population and Housing Census.
- 3) Copies of substantial parts of court rulings
None. No legal proceedings took place.
- 4) Results of proceedings on sanctions for violation of the law
None.

B) Information provided by release

The following information is made available on public notice boards put up in the CZSO Headquarters and Regional Offices and on the CZSO websites:

- 1) Full official name of the CZSO;
- 2) Why and how the CZSO was established and conditions and principles of its operation;
- 3) Organisation structure;
- 4) Contact postal address;
- 5) Bank account number;
- 6) Identification number of organisation;
- 7) CZSO approved and adjusted budget, CZSO budget revenue and expenditure for preceding year;
- 8) Contact addresses of and connections to Information Services in the Headquarters and Regional Offices where requests for information under Act No. 106/1999 Coll. and/or complaints, if any, can be filed, etc.;
- 9) Prices of CZSO information services and products.

The European Union

The Czech Republic is one of the candidate countries striving for EU membership. To this end the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Eurostat - one of the Directorates General of the European Commission - is the main partner of the CZSO. Eurostat continuously monitors the harmonization of Czech statistics, using regular missions, global and sectoral assessments, pilot projects, etc.

In November 2001, the Regular Report 2001 of the European Commission on progress made by the Czech Republic in the accession process was published, saying that the Czech Republic achieved significant progress in the area of statistics. The Czech Statistical Office does well and is getting ready for EU accession. The legislation is substantially harmonised with the Acquis. However, it is necessary to ensure that the registers are updated, well coordinated and harmonised. The methodology of data collection and processing by Eurostat standards should be completed and some problems of data quality and timeliness removed. Data collection at the regional level needs improving. In the area of external trade statistics, access to tax registers will be imperative to prepare the implementation of the statistical system Intrastat designed to measure intra-community trade of the EU Member States. The Czech Statistical Office improved its coordinating role, mainly in access to data of other authorities. Taking account of the need for processing large volumes of data, the Commission found necessary that staff limitations at both the headquarters of the CZSO and its nationwide data processing departments in the regions should be removed.

The harmonisation tasks laid down by the National Programme for the Preparation of the Czech Republic for the Membership of the EU and the Accession Partnership were fulfilled in 2001, priorities being placed upon the Business Register, structural surveys, product statistics, macroeconomic statistics, regional statistics, agricultural statistics, statistics of services and social statistics.

The year 2001 saw (i) completion of the project Harmonising the Business Register and Profiling of Enterprises, supported by the National Phare Programme 1999, whose results (databases of local and kind-of-activity units) will be used in the new Business Register, (ii) preparation of the project Harmonising Agricultural and Regional Statistics with the Acquis for implementation in 2002 under support

from the National Phare Programme 2000 and (iii) initial project preparation of the Intrastat System in External Trade Statistics.

Upon the request of Eurostat, the CZSO provided assistance to countries of the former Soviet Union in implementing the projects of statistical consolidation and harmonisation within the framework of the TACIS Programme. The CZSO assistance was accepted in the areas of implementing statistical classifications (Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) and tourism statistics (Moldova).

In early 2002, an independent expert appointed by Eurostat (Mr David Wroe) made already the second Global Assessment of the Czech statistical service to establish how the CZSO was prepared for EU accession. Satisfaction was expressed that the Czech Statistical Office had adopted many recommendations resulting from the Global Assessment 1999 and put them into use. Mr Wroe concluded in general that the Czech Republic had already complied with most of the statistical Acquis of the EU and that the requirements not yet met should be implemented by the end of 2002. Following the amendment to Act No. 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, applying from 1 January 2001 and dealing with other areas of activities in compliance with EC regulations, the institutional arrangement of the national statistical system also corresponds to EU standards.

Cooperation with International Organisations

The UN Economic and Social Council re-elected the Czech Republic as a member of the UN Statistical Commission in 2000. As the main body issuing statistical standards, the Commission coordinates statistical activities of other international governmental organisations with worldwide or regional effect (ILO, FAO, UNESCO, OECD, IMF, the World Bank, UN Regional Commissions, etc.).


The CZSO takes an active part in sessions of the Conference of European Statisticians, which is a joint body of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the UN Statistical Commission. In 2001 CZSO representatives attended seven sessions of ECE bodies and ECE expert group meetings.

Since the Czech Republic became a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), CZSO participation in its statistical activities has intensified. CZSO representatives took part in eight OECD expert sessions in 2001.

Information and publishing activities are a responsibility of the CZSO Regions and Information Outputs Sector, which gathers and disseminates all information produced by the CZSO.

Choice of CZSO publications for 2002

Title	Date
Guide to the World of Statistical Information	3rd quarter
Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2002	November
External Trade Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2001 – Part 1	4th quarter
External Trade Yearbook of the Czech Republic 2001 – Part 2	4th quarter
Analysis of Macroeconomic Development in 2001	May
Regional Portraits 2001	4th quarter
Analysis of Interregional Differences in the Czech Republic 1996-2001	November
CZSO Bulletin	95th calendar day
CESTAT Statistical Bulletin	August, October 2002; January, April 2003
Population Trends in the CR after 1989: International Comparison	October
Wage Differentiation of Employees 2001	3rd quarter
Election for the Chamber of Deputies of Parliament of the CR 2002 – Part 1	July
République Tchèque en Chiffres 2001	January
Tschechische Republik in Zahlen 2001	January
Czech Republic in Figures 2002	December
Czech Construction in Figures 2001	January
Prague – First Hand Figures 2001	2nd quarter NUMERI
PRAGENSES 2002	
- Statistical Yearbook of the Capital City of Prague 2002	4th quarter
Statistical Yearbooks of the Regions	4th quarter

- 
- Streamlining the system of work involved in interviewer activities to save human and financial resources.

C. Elections

- Developing and implementing a system designed to collect and process results of elections held in 2002.
- Training the CZSO staff, employees of district and local authorities and members of election ward committees.
- Collecting election results in the regions.



Bilateral Cooperation with National Statistical Institutes

Cooperation was in progress on a large scale in 2001, especially with France, Germany and the Slovak Republic, and cooperation was also established with Spain.

The main areas of cooperation with France included consultations on the methodology of structural and short-term business statistics; industry (NACE 10 to 41) statistics, construction statistics, trade and market services statistics, tourism statistics and external trade statistics were also discussed. In the area of social statistics, consultations on household budget statistics and international comparisons of poverty levels were held. Cooperation in registers and demography of enterprises continued, and work was under way on the trilateral project of the national statistical offices of France, Poland and the Czech Republic concerning regional statistics. The international seminar on regional statistics and zoning methods held in the town of Ostrava on 4 and 5 June 2001 was an important undertaking in this cooperation. Approx. eighty experts attended the seminar and the project results were presented there inter alia.

The bilateral cooperation with Germany also included some of the German regional statistical offices, such as the Regional Statistical Office of Saxony. The cooperation embraced primarily industry (NACE 10 to 41) statistics, construction statistics, statistics of non-market services, environmental statistics, agricultural statistics, external trade and price statistics, and regional and Euroregional statistics, where significant progress was made in the joint project 'Development of the Prototype of a Regional Databank for a Chosen Euroregion' launched by the CZSO and the Regional Statistical Office of Saxony.

The cooperation with the Slovak Republic included EU accession related issues, legislation and the population census, as well as a number other bilateral consultations on various statistical topics.

In 2001, cooperation was established with the National Statistical Institute of Spain and projects were prepared for cooperation in the areas of data regionalisation, household surveys, structural statistics, industry (NACE 10 to 41) statistics and statistical data dissemination.

CZSO staff of 385 went abroad in 2001 to participate in 234 professional events.

The CZSO was pleased to host 139 foreign experts from 46 foreign delegations in 2001, most of them coming from Eurostat (16), Slovakia (7), France (6) and Germany (2).



The most important visits and events

- Mr Yves Franchet, Director General of Eurostat, came to an official visit to the Czech Republic in September 2001 to discuss issues related to the harmonisation of the state statistical service of the Czech Republic with that of the EU. During his stay, Mr Franchet was received by the Minister of Finance of the CR and the Governor of the Czech National Bank, and delivered a lecture to the participants in the Conference 'Interview 21' and to CZSO senior executives.
- Working visit by the President of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic to discuss the Agrocensus.
- INSEE mission to evaluate the cooperation for 2000 and discuss the cooperation for 2001.
- Eurostat programming mission to evaluate the progress of work on harmonising the Czech statistical service and on implementing the Multinational Phare Programme. The talks were held in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Commission in Prague, Ministry of Finance of the CR, Ministry of Agriculture of the CR, and Czech National Bank.
- Working visit by Eurostat to prepare the Seminar 'Relations with the Media'.
- INSEE training on short-term indicators and specific issues of business cycle surveys and industrial production index.
- Workshop to discuss the pilot project 'Costs of Labour Statistics', attended by experts from 15 countries.
- Eurostat workshop for candidate countries to deal with regional statistics, attended by experts from 11 countries.
- Eurostat workshop devoted to the 'Use of Household Budget Statistics to Estimate Final Household Consumption', attended by 18 foreign experts.



Public Databases Department

Public Database Development

- Formulating applications for the administration of all kinds of public database interfaces and testing the applications on the CZSO websites.
- Implementing a new application for work with the regional database, incl. the harmonisation of contents with regional databases of Eurostat. Support to the application of advanced technologies (GIS, spatial analysis).

Statistical Tasks Preparation and Processing Branch

New Technology

- Applying mobile technologies to the collection and processing of data on prices.
- Applying OCR/ICR technologies (optical reading of data) to agricultural and construction statistics.
- Registering questionnaires using bar codes.
- Introducing new versions of programmes for the preparation of technical projects and introducing tools for the production of capture tasks.
- Preparing the application of electronic signature.

Regions and Information Outputs Sector

Streamlining and Modernisation of Statistics in the Regions

- Establishing specialised information centres to provide methodological information and cooperate in statistical surveys run to obtain information necessary for projects of regional development.
- Developing the electronic dissemination of data in the regions (own websites).

have to be replaced by a new statistical survey taken directly in businesses engaged in trade. To this end, the CZSO will participate in the pilot projects of Eurostat in particular.

Statistical System Development Sector

Statistical Registers Department

Business Register

- Putting into operation the harmonized Business Register 4 with new types of statistical units (local and kind-of-activity units).
- Increasing the number of profiled enterprises and, consequently, expanding the set of kind-of-activity units in the Business Register.
- Making links to key administrative data sources (social security and tax registers).

General Methodology Development Branch

Statistical and Mathematical Methods

- Developing methods of producing basic populations and samples for structural and short-term surveys.
- Developing methods of seasonal adjustment, using Eurostat methodology.
- Developing mathematical methods of data quality measurement and mathematical methods of data confidentiality protection in compliance with the Security Doctrine.

B. Other Projects

Statistical System Development Sector

Quality Management

- Testing the application of the model EFQM for comprehensive quality management in the CZSO.

6. REVIEW OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2001

The key projects were focused on the harmonisation of CZSO activities with regulations, requirements and practice of the EU statistical service. Besides, the CZSO sought to respond to further needs of domestic users of statistical information. Some of the short-term plans were implemented fully and others in part only, as they were planned to take longer.

The Population and Housing Census, the most extensive statistical project, continued (see Part 7).

Requirements for the harmonisation of the Czech statistical service with regulations and practice of the EU statistical service were fulfilled in the following areas in particular:

Macroeconomic Statistics – National Accounts

- experimental calculation of a preliminary version of annual national accounts
- valuation of inventories and non-financial assets as required by Eurostat; the project will be completed in 2002
- valuation of agricultural land and forest wealth
- beginning of work on the calculation of GDP for individual regions
- completion and publishing of a detailed description of sources, methods and calculations of GDP and GNI for 1998

Macroeconomic Statistics – Government Financial Statistics

- implementation of new regulations and recommendations related to requirements for the calculation of government deficit and debt at deadlines set for the transmission of statistical data to Eurostat and the European Central Bank

Price Statistics

- completion of the comprehensive revision of all price indices
- fulfilment of all tasks in the framework of the European Comparison Programme



Registers for Statistical Purposes (Business Register)

- identification of local units in enterprises with 20 or more employees (approx. 21 000 units) and kind-of-activity units in about 200 largest enterprises in the Czech Republic
- continuation of the search for other appropriate administrative data sources

Individual Data Protection

- compilation of a set of security measures within the framework of the Population and Housing Census
- issue of the CZSO Security Doctrine to secure processed data confidentiality

Structural and Short-term Surveys


- expansion of the annual survey with chosen indicators broken down by region
- optimisation of the contents and scope of the indicators measured
- completion of the adjustment of short-term and structural surveys for them to fully comply with regulations concerning short-term statistics [Council Regulation (EC) No. 1165/98] and structural business statistics [Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No. 58/97 and follow-up regulations]

Industry (NACE 10 to 41) Statistics

- implementation of monthly and annual surveys according to the new Production Communautaire nomenclature (CZ-PRODCOM)
- increase in the number of measured indicators for local and kind-of-activity units of enterprises

Construction Statistics

- implementation of an ad-hoc survey in enterprises with fewer than 20 employees

- 
- Developing the system of regional accounts according to international standards by increasing the number of the indicators provided (household sector) and switching from the disaggregation of total values (top-down method) to using information on local units (bottom-up method). The application of the innovated procedure is expected to give more accurate results.
 - Finishing the methodology for and publishing flash estimates of GDP development within 50 calendar days from the end of reference quarter. The project follows up the EU requirement to compile preliminary estimates of GDP development. The task will be methodologically completed and the results tested in 2002 and published at fixed deadlines from 2003 onwards.

Cross-sectional Statistics Branch

Price Statistics

- Completing the harmonisation of producer price indices, mainly the industrial producer price index in relation to export and import price indices. Continued harmonisation of price statistics in agriculture and construction.

Statistics of Services of Benefit to the Public

- Compiling the system of health accounts in accordance with international methodology with the aim to monitor financial flows in health service in cooperation with the Institute of Health Information and Statistics.

Statistics of Research and Development and New Technology

- Running for the first time the innovation survey according to joint EU and OECD methodology. Pilot survey on the use of information and communication technologies in the business sector and households.

External Trade Statistics

- Preparing further the statistical measuring of trade with the EU Member States after the Czech Republic's accession to the EU (Intrastat). On the accession, the existing customs statistics will



Social Statistics Branch

Social Statistics

- Implementing the last whole-year pilot survey of household budget statistics, using a random sample of households. The results will provide a basis for a conceptual decision about further organisational and methodological development of the household expenditure survey.
- Processing and publishing results of the widely based survey of the social situation of households taken in 2001, whose contents were made similar to those of the EU panel survey to be implemented in 2003.
- In compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1566/2000, conducting another regular ad hoc survey in the framework of the Labour Force Sample Survey, focused on working activities of handicapped persons.


Demographic Statistics

- On the basis of principles approved in 2001, developing statistics on foreign nationals, incl. inter alia the harmonisation of external migration statistics with the EU Member States, and particularly drawing up a conception of choosing and processing data related to migration and integration of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic.

National Accounts Branch

Macroeconomic Statistics

- Preparing a preliminary version of annual national accounts to be presented within nine months from the end of reference year, as required by the EU. Compiling an experimental version for 2001 in 2002. Full implementation is supposed in 2003.
- Calculating the deficit and debt of the government sector in terms of national accounts, following the requirement to present the calculation to Eurostat regularly. It will be made in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic in annual periodicity and, as required by the EU, and in quarterly periodicity, too (from 2003 onwards).

- 
- implementation of surveys to improve the quality of data on small and medium-sized enterprises
 - issue of a separate publication on the classification of construction work by region and district

Services Statistics

- implementation of a census on catering and accommodation establishments, designed to produce additional indicators required by the EU
- completion of the harmonisation with EU regulations in the statistics of the transport of goods by road
- adjustment to the program for the imputation and grossing of the monthly survey on guests and overnight stays at collective accommodation establishments and the enlargement of the sample of respondents
- work was in progress on adjustments to the translation of the handbook on the tourism satellite account
- completion of the continuing vocational training survey (CVTS), which is fully compatible with the CVTS2 taken in the EU Member States
- work was under way, according to the schedule, on the ESSPROS Programme (social protection accounts according to EU and OECD methodology)
- beginning of work on the system of health accounts (incl. satellite ones)

Research and Development Statistics

- mounting of an innovation survey for 1999-2001, which is fully compatible with the CIS3 taken in the EU Member States
- preparatory work on the implementation of the project for statistical surveying of human resources in science and technology

Fuel and Energy Statistics

- compilation of the energy balance for 2000 according to EU standards
- continuation of work on the harmonisation of the contents of statistical surveys with EU standards

Agricultural Statistics

- processing of Agrocensus 2000 and publication of the results
- completion and publication of the economic accounts for agriculture, incl. labour force statistics
- fulfilment of all EU requirements for regional breakdowns of the results of agricultural statistics down to the NUTS 3 level
- preparation of the farm structure survey according to EU requirements and methodology
- creation of conditions and environment for the production and transmission of outputs according to requirements made on the EU Member States

Environmental Statistics

- continued work on the development of environmental accounting
- implementation of the Multinational Phare Programme concerning waste statistics, in relation to new legislation on packaging and waste materials in the Czech Republic
- quantification of investment in environmental protection

External Trade Statistics

- test transfer of the external trade statistics database (COMEXT) from the Directorate General of Customs of the Ministry of Finance to the CZSO
- transmission of data on customs tariffs for 2000 to Eurostat
- beginning of preparation for the use of the statistical system Intrastat designed to statistically measure trade between the EU Member States

8. KEY PROJECTS IN 2002

The main tasks of the CZSO in 2002 are to complete the harmonisation with EU standards, process the results of elections held in 2002, complete the processing of the Population and Housing Census data, and publish final results.

A. Tasks of Harmonisation in Individual Statistical Areas

Statistics Sector

Business Statistics Branch

Structural Surveys and Business Cycle Surveys

- Designing and testing a new survey for the reference year 2002 (questionnaires, methods of sampling, imputation and grossing, SW incl. electronic capture of statistical forms for inputs and outputs), so that the annual survey for the reference year 2002 will comply with requirements CZSO subject matter departments, including national accounts, and of Regulation No. 58/1997 in its entirety.
- As required by the European Commission's DG-ECFIN and the OECD, enlarging business cycle surveys to cover services and investments in greater detail. Emphasis is put on monitoring trends in the economy and reducing the delay of data dissemination as much as possible.

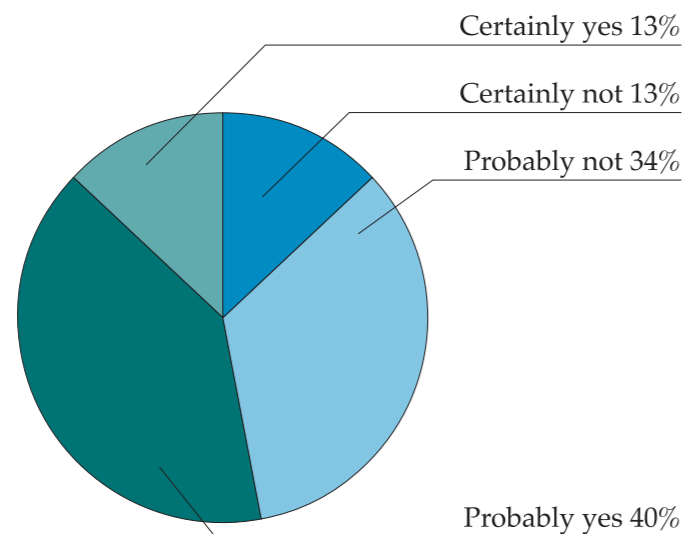
Tourism

- Making a feasibility study of the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) and preparing new contents of surveys on tourism for 2003, with the aim of improving the quality and extending source materials for the TSA.

Environment

- Developing environmental accounting: in addition to measuring investments in environmental protection, this statistics will be extended to also cover current environmental expenditure. Compiling partial aggregates and their evaluation for the needs of macroeconomic statistics is also an integral part.

2. Do you believe that the Czech Statistical Office can protect your personal data?



The results of the poll, taken in the period of fuelling the distrust of the citizens to the Census over and over, showed that more than two thirds of the citizens had not considered the questionnaire questions a major interference with their privacy.

No. 2 question examined the trust of citizens in personal data protection. According to results of the previous poll taken by the same Agency for Česká televize (Czech Television) and Český rozhlas (Czech Radio), almost two thirds of Czech citizens were afraid still in February 2001 that data collected by the Census could be misused.

A month and a half later, already more than a half of the citizens trusted that the CZSO could protect their personal data.

The poll and subsequent developments proved that:

- in spite of the negative campaign in the media, the Population and Housing Census had been perceived by most of the population as necessary and useful
- citizens completed the questionnaires truthfully and willingly.

- preparation of a CZSO decree concerning the new Customs Act effective as from 1 July 2002
- conversion of the time series of 1994-1999 external trade data into methodology fully comparable with the EU; release of the time series

Social and Demographic Statistics

- progress was made in harmonising the labour force sample survey, which will fully comply with EU standards from 2002 on; implementation of the ad hoc module on the type and duration of working time
- pilot survey was taken to test the method of random sampling in household budget statistics
- implementation of the ad-hoc survey 'Social Situation of Households'; the data obtained will permit making comparisons with similar data on the EU Member States
- continuation of work on population balances so that the balances can be made, from 2003 onwards, by nationality, in compliance with EU regulations and in relation to Population and Housing Census
- drawing up the 'Principles of the Conception of Selecting and Processing Statistical Data Relating to the Migration and Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic'

General Methodology

- preparation of the Programme of Statistical Surveys 2002, which was for the first time drawn up and issued as a decree, in compliance with the amendment to the Act on the State Statistical Service
- maintenance of a high degree of stabilisation in completing harmonisation tasks, as indicated by the number of statistical surveys run by the CZSO and ministries and included in the Programme 2002: there were only two surveys more on 2001 there



Regional Statistics

- establishment of a functional system of regional statistics became one of the CZSO main priorities
- training was started of 'regional specialists' to produce regional statistics for the implementation of EU programmes

Besides the tasks of harmonisation with EU standards, the CZSO activities also included the following:

Elections

- development of an obligatory system designed to collect and process results of new elections for local councils and elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

Mobile Technology

- launching the trial operation of mobile technologies involved in the measurement of prices in the town of Hradec Králové

Public Database

- elaboration of the public database conception, based on analysis of foreign experience

System of Basic Public Administration Registers

- wide cooperation with other authorities of public administration aimed at preparing a system of registers

Presentation of Statistical Information

- extension of the volume of information provided to international organisations according to international agreements and obligations
- increase in the number of brought-out publications by 169 titles
- growing share of publications released in electronic form and extension of Internet presentation accessible free of charge

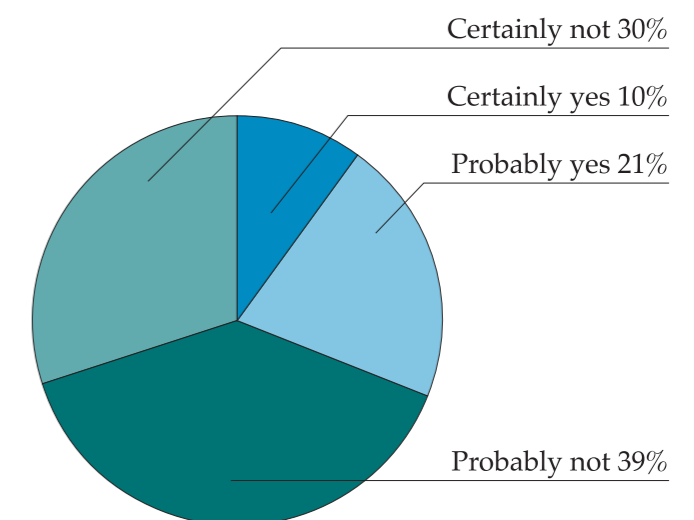


The Census made headlines in all national and regional media and the public was informed about the course of the Census virtually every day. All minority media were provided with the same information as the Czech ones. The CZSO recorded no complaint about the progress of the Census from foreign nationals living or staying in the Czech Republic at the time of the Census. When conducting the Census, the CZSO established very good cooperation with Polish, German, Romany and Vietnamese minorities living in the Czech Republic. Explanatory notes attached to the Census questionnaires were available in ten languages – Polish, English, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Romany, Russian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

A topical Internet presentation was produced at the CZSO, devoted to history, progress and results of censuses in the Czech Republic and other countries. At the same time, a free information telephone line was available from 15 February to 15 March 2001, through which citizens could receive basic information on the Census and answers to their questions from CZSO specialists.

Being well aware of its accountability and commitment to citizens, who supported this event by their high participation in spite of doubt cast on the Census by the media, the CZSO asked the STEM Agency to make a flash opinion poll to answer the following two basic questions:

1. Did the questions in the Census questionnaires substantially interfere with your privacy?





to describe and define tables, develop specific derived indicators and prepare software.

All stages of the Census were implemented under tight security measures elaborated by the CZSO. The measures had been consulted with several independent and recognised experts and the Office for Personal Data Protection, for a single reason: in spite of the fact that Act No. 158/1999 Coll., on the Population and Housing Census deals with the issue of personal data protection, the CZSO strove for bringing it into full harmony with Act No. 101/2000 Coll., on Personal Data Protection adopted later. All the security measures taken applied to personal and physical data protection and the process of electronic data processing.

The data processing was closely supervised over by the Office for Personal Data Protection. The Office found no mistakes on the part of the CZSO in processing the Census data and making them anonymous. The CZSO also offered guarantees of using the Census data solely for statistical purposes and not providing individual information to anyone, incl. any authority of the public or state administration.

For the first time in the history of the population and housing censuses in the Czech Republic shall all the Census questionnaires be gradually shredded as they are processed.

The results of basic processing will be available by the end of 2002, within 22 months of the fixed moment of the Census, which meets the recommendation (2.5 years) made by the Statistical Office of the European Communities. Some more detailed outputs and publications will be produced in 2003.

Promotion of the Population and Housing Census

Promotion activities, incl. the slogan 'We count ourselves for the third millennium', were aimed to reach the minds of people, made them familiar with the questions to be answered and stimulate their interest in other information. Together with Census questionnaires and ballpoint pens to be used to fill in the questionnaires, the households also received information booklets explaining the purpose of the Census and briefly summing up the history of censuses in the Czech Republic and other countries.

The communication strategy was fully based on the basic rule of friendliness, openness and argumentation.



Information Technology

- application of HW and SW upgrades able to respond flexibly to requirements of internal and external users

Data Processing

- preparation for the scanning of questionnaires (OCR technique) in the CZSO Regional Offices in the towns of Brno and České Budějovice.

7. POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2001

The Population and Housing Census was the most extensive and continued task of extraordinary significance dealt with by the CZSO in 2001. It was taken all over the Czech Republic on 1 March 2001 in compliance with Act No. 158/1999 Coll. The event was preceded by preparing and issuing many methodological, technical and organisational documents, instructions, descriptions of the census districts, and maps, together with updating the Register of Census Districts, appointing and training 54 thousand enumerators and supervisors in charge of data collection.

Involved in the preparation and execution of the Census were also district authorities and municipalities, the Ministry for Regional Development of the CR, Ministry of the Interior of the CR, Ministry of Justice of the CR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the CR, Ministry of Defence of the CR, and the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre.

All the above-mentioned institutions and persons successfully fulfilled their tasks laid down by the law and related regulations. Also the Commission for the Population and Housing Census, set up by Resolution No. 3/1999 of the Government of the Czech Republic as the top interministerial coordinating and advisory body, played a positive role in the Census preparation and execution.

Even before it started, the Population and Housing Census became the target of a very hostile campaign in the media, fuelled by doubt cast by the Office for Personal Data Protection in particular on the Census itself and the ability of the CZSO to protect data against misuse. Therefore, the CZSO asked the Ombudsman and the Government of the Czech Republic to pass judgement on whether or not the Census complied with the Personal Data Protection Act. Both institutions came to an agreement that the guarantees of personal data protection laid down by Act No. 158/1999 Coll., were sufficient and should eliminate any possibility of misuse.

In August 2001, the CZSO asked the Municipal Court of Prague to clarify definitely its powers and those of the Office for Personal Data Protection and the links between Acts No. 101/2000 Coll. and No. 158/1999 Col. Moreover, the CZSO filed a competence suit and a constitutional complaint with the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic.

Exerting extraordinary efforts, the CZSO managed to overcome the hostile campaign, launched by the media, in such a way that an overwhelming majority of the population participated in the Census.

Only 261 persons refused to fill in the Census questionnaires for themselves or their families, 76 refused to supply missing data, and 28 were not willing to correct data obviously wrong, even when they were requested to do so by the enumerator. These cases were handed over to district authorities for offence proceedings, in accordance with Article 15 of Act No. 158/1999 Coll.

The individual stages of the Census proceeded as planned, in spite of the fact that a large number of citizens (more than 700 thousand) handed their completed questionnaires in the place of their temporary stay and that the CZSO enabled, in response to the doubts cast on the reliability of enumerators, the citizens to hand the questionnaires to local authorities and at CZSO premises, too. The deadline for the processing and publishing of preliminary results (within four months of the fixed moment of the Census) was also met. The preliminary results of the Population and Housing Census 2001 were declared on 3 July 2001 and released, at the same time, in publications and on CD ROMs. They were also brought out on the CZSO websites.

Since September 2001, running results were made available on the websites step by step, being listed in 11 selected tables for municipalities, districts and regions of the Czech Republic, whenever the processing of data for a given district was completed.

Only 41.6 thousand persons fewer were counted, i.e. 0.4%, compared with demographic statistics, and 21.6 thousand fewer, i.e. 0.2%, compared with the register of the Ministry of the Interior. These are the smallest discrepancies ever recorded.

Undoubtedly, this success was certainly contributed to by the first-rate preparation for the Census across the Czech Republic and the creation of the Register of Census Districts and maps. Relatively accurate descriptions of the census districts actually eliminated the possibility of leaving out any building to be counted. The numbers of counted houses and dwellings prove this.

Special centres were established in most districts of the Czech Republic in the second half of 2001, where over 1 200 people were engaged in preparing the Census questionnaires for processing, coding answers and making plausibility checks in particular. This work included about 16 million questionnaires and took five months.

In August 2001, the CZSO Census Centre started scanning the questionnaires (OCR technique). A staff of 260 did this work predominantly in two-shift operation. Extensive work began in parallel