

DISSEMINATION POLICY OF THE CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE

INTRODUCTION

Dissemination policy of the Czech Statistical Office (hereinafter also referred to as the CZSO) results from provisions of the Act No 89/1995 Sb, on the State Statistical Service, as subsequently amended (hereinafter only referred to as the State Statistical Service Act), from the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities as amended, from the European Statistics Code of Practice, and from a strategic document called Strategic Plan of the CZSO for 2022–2026, in which, for example, the mission, vision, and strategic objectives of the CZSO are defined. Also other relevant legislation is fully respected when disseminating statistical information, e.g. the Act No 106/1999 Sb, on Free Access to Information, as subsequently amended, the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

Procedures for releasing and providing statistical information are further specified by internal rules of the CZSO.

1. PRINCIPLES OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AT THE CZSO

1.1 Principle of professional independence:

- a) Statistical information is processed and released, on principle, while fully respecting the principle of professional independence of the CZSO.
- b) Releasing of statistical information is governed by rules set in advance and by a calendar that is published in advance (i.e. irrespective of the current political or economic situation or, for example, situation in the society).
- c) Only professional statistical points of view are respected when preparing the content of information.

1.2 Principle of impartiality:

- a) The CZSO provides all statistical information in such way so that all users have equal access to it. For that purpose, it publishes in advance the publication dates on which information will be released and it observes those dates. It also announces in advance the publication dates of both planned and occasional revisions.
- b) Preferential access before statistics are released for external users is not allowed.
- c) Statistical data are accompanied by relevant necessary metadata. Metadata are recorded and published according to standardised metadata systems.

1.3 Principle of objectivity:

- a) To select sources, methods, and procedures for production of statistics, the CZSO uses professional criteria. Methods and instruments used are audited by independent external experts from the area of theory as well as user practice.
- b) The CZSO publishes methodological procedures used to survey data; it clarifies calculation methods. It notes about changes made in data (revisions) and it is doing so timely, i.e. in the shortest possible term.

- c) In the event that an error occurs in the outputs, it shall be corrected without undue delay and the CZSO shall inform about the correction.

1.4 Principle of reliability:

The CZSO strives to provide a picture of the reality, which is as reliable, accurate, and systematic as possible. For that purpose, professional criteria and scientifically correct methodologies are used to select sources, methods, and procedures.

1.5 Principle of statistical confidentiality:

- a) The CZSO consistently protects confidential statistical data so that they cannot be released.
- b) Strict internal rules are in place to protect data.
- c) When deciding about publishing of a piece of data that is potentially confidential, confidentiality protection is always preferred to publication.

1.6 Principle of cost effectiveness:

Costs related to production of statistics are adequate to the importance of the results and benefits that are strived for.

2. QUALITY CRITERIA FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION

Statistical information is provided so that it complies with the following quality criteria¹:

2.1 Relevance:

- a) The CZSO strives to meet requirements of users in the best possible way; it is open to suggestions and comments of the public.
- b) The CZSO has groups of stakeholders identified, including data users, whose requirements it takes into consideration when it creates statistical outputs and disseminates them.
- c) By means of user satisfaction surveys (inquiries), regular meetings with users, regular contacts as well as collection of suggestions to statistical surveys and ways of releasing their results, the CZSO obtains information on the needs of users. The needs are taken into consideration during preparation of the Programme of statistical surveys, the Catalogue of products, individual outputs, and dissemination tools.
- d) Provided that it is considered useful, it also publishes experimental statistics.

2.2 Accuracy:

The CZSO strives for the highest possible accuracy – i.e. for maximal proximity of statistical estimates to unknown real values. For that purpose, it takes care of high quality of source data, preliminary results, and final outputs, it publishes information about possible sample and non-sample errors and makes revisions in compliance with the relevant policy.

2.3 Timeliness:

- a) The CZSO releases data as soon as possible after the end of the reference period in compliance with the needs of users.
- b) An effort to reduce the time lag between the data publication and the end of the reference period is limited by the amount of expenditure and quality of data. Provided that it is considered useful, preliminary results of acceptable aggregate accuracy are released.

2.4 Punctuality:

- a) The CZSO keeps all planned dates of publication no matter whether they are dates of publication of News releases, publications, or other outputs.

¹ see Article 12 of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics

- b) When there is a delay due to objective reasons, the public is informed in time about the reasons for the delay and a new release date (or release time) is set.
- c) News releases are released on the date announced in advance, always at 9:00 a.m., other products usually at 9:00 a.m.

2.5 Accessibility:

- a) The web presentation of the CZSO is the main instrument for releasing statistical information; it ensures general accessibility of all information and offers equal conditions for all users. All planned electronic products are published on the Internet for free.
- b) Users without access to the Internet may apply for provision of information and data at the workplaces of Information Services of the CZSO in the Headquarters and in all Regions; printed outputs are also available in the Central Statistical Library.
- c) Web pages of the CZSO are also accessible for people with impaired perception.
- d) For research purposes, access to microdata is allowed. This access is governed by special rules and regulations.
- e) Instruments used for dissemination are updated on an ongoing basis in order to comply with user needs as much as possible.

2.6 Clarity:

- a) Users are informed about the methodology of statistical processing including utilisation of administrative data.
- b) The CZSO actively develops the way of presenting accompanying information – for example, methodological explanatory notes, commentaries, and analyses so that outputs of the CZSO are understandable not only to experts but also to the general public.
- c) Outputs and applications under preparation are tested as for their user friendliness, i.e. also from the point of view of their clarity to users.
- d) For the needs of users from abroad, translations of most of statistical outputs to English are provided.

2.7 Coherence and comparability:

- a) Statistics of the CZSO are internally coherent and consistent (i.e. arithmetic and accounting identities are observed in them).
- b) Statistics are comparable over a reasonable period of time; they are compiled on the basis of common standards with regards to the scope, definitions, units, and classifications in different surveys and sources. Statistics from different sources and of different periodicity are compared and harmonised.
- c) Users are informed about quality of statistical outputs in terms of quality criteria for European statistics.

3. PRESENTATION SYSTEM OF THE CZSO

- 3.1 The Presentation system of the CZSO is the main instrument for implementation of the Dissemination policy. It defines the structure of subject-matter topics, types, and forms of statistical products.
- 3.2 A basic document, which specifies the contents of the Presentation system of the CZSO, is the Catalogue of products that is processed and published every year, which contains an overview of statistical outputs and thus defines that part of working programme of the CZSO, which focuses on external users. A Calendar of events including News releases is generated from the Catalogue of products.

The Catalogue of products also comprises further information on each product, i.e. periodicity, year covered, product type, type of area, type of output, publication date, language version, price, and an annotation. The Catalogue of products for the relevant year is approved by the Advisory Board of the President of the CZSO; it is published before the end of the preceding year at the latest.

3.3 Thematic groups:

To make it easier for users to orientate, statistical outputs are broken down to thematic groups. The intention is to make the thematic groups as stable as possible; however, with regards to natural changes in user demands as well as in the development of the society, new groups may also emerge or the existing groups of statistics may be renamed.

The groups can be grouped in Topics, which may differ according to the purpose for which they are used. In individual groups, sub-groups or other levels of the breakdown may emerge as necessary.

List of thematic groups of statistics:

- Agriculture
- Business cycle surveys
- Construction, dwellings
- Crime, justice
- Cross-sectional business statistics
- Culture, media, and sport
- Digital economy
- Digital society – ICT usage
- Economic entities
- Education
- Elections
- Employees and wages
- Employment and unemployment (LFSS)
- Energy
- Environment
- Financial data
- Foreigners
- Forestry and hunting
- GDP, national accounts
- Health
- Household income, expenditure, and living conditions
- Industry
- Innovation, patents, high technology
- International data
- International trade
- Labour costs
- Population
- Population and Housing Census
- Prices, inflation
- Regional statistics
- Registered unemployment and job vacancies (MPSV = Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)
- Research and development (R&D)
- Senior citizens
- Services
- Social security
- Structure of earnings
- Summary data on Czechia
- Territory, settlement structure
- Tourism
- Trade
- Transport
- Women and men

3.4 Basic types of products are as follows:

- a) Analysis, commentary – commented development in a given domain of statistics; an analysis and a commentary differ mainly in their scope (extent);
- b) Announcement, notification – they draw attention to published or planned outputs, they can also include technical announcements;
- c) Journal – periodicals issued by the CZSO (“Statistika: Statistics and Economy Journal”, “Demografie, Review for Population Research”, and “Statistika & My” – *the last mentioned is Czech only*);
- d) Time series – a set of subject-matter and spatially comparable data arranged chronologically;
- e) Data set – a consistent (coherent) set of data defined by the same categories (dimensions), items of which can be mutually combined;
- f) Infographics – interesting and up-to-date statistical data processed in a visually attractive form;
- g) Mobile application – contains latest statistical data, information on released products as well as findings from statistical surveys;
- h) Newsletter – a selection of outputs of the Czech Statistical Office that are the most interesting for the media;
- i) Open data – data sets in an open format, which is suitable for remote access and machine processing;

- j) Publication – a set of tables supplemented by further information such as an introduction, methodological notes, charts, cartograms;
- k) Yearbook – a publication usually published with annual periodicity, which is a comprehensive source of data on development and current state of one or more domains (for example, the Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic, regional yearbooks, demographic and other thematic yearbooks);
- l) News release – a brief document containing basic statistical information, released on dates and time announced in advance as soon as possible after the end of the reference period;
- m) Press release – information about current affairs, notification of interesting things, etc.;
- n) Statistical databases – statistical outputs accessible through web applications enabling to display or to select statistical data from relevant databases;
- o) Output table from DataStat – a pre-defined selection from a data set (a user may create it above available data and modify it as necessary; they can also ensure its automatic updating);

3.5 Statistical outputs primarily have an electronic form, which includes data published as a data set (e.g. in the xls format) or they are made accessible by means of web presentation applications, via API interface, in open data registered in the National Open Data Catalogue. Key outputs, such as yearbooks, may even have a printed form.

4. PRICE POLICY

- 4.1 The CZSO is an organisational unit of the state². Its rules of financing are governed by special legal regulations³. Expenditure on the collection, processing, and publishing of statistical data are paid from the means of the budget Chapter of the CZSO. Standard products in electronic form are therefore provided for free the same as any other information published on the CZSO's website. When the CZSO has to use additional labour or cover additional costs for provision of statistical information and anonymous data (e.g. related to special sampling, printing, copies, sending, and the like), it requires users to pay for it and the payment is a revenue of the state budget.
- 4.2 Basic principles of the price policy are in accordance with the Section 18 "Provision of Statistical Information and Anonymous Data" of the State Statistical Service Act.
- 4.3 Prices of individual products are specified in the Catalogue of products and in the Price list of services and products.

5. ARTICLE 5 CONDITIONS FOR USE AND FURTHER PUBLICATION OF STATISTICAL DATA OF THE CZSO

- 5.1 It is permitted to do the following with statistical information of the Czech Statistical Office released on its website www.csu.gov.cz:
 - a) to disseminate, to copy, to distribute, and to communicate it to the public;
 - b) to use it and quote it in other publications;
 - c) to use it commercially.
- 5.2 Handling of data of the CZSO pursuant to paragraph 1 of this provision is possible under the following conditions:
 - a) the Czech Statistical Office will be acknowledged as the data source (however, it must not give the impression that the CZSO supports the data user or the way the user uses the piece of work);

² Section 3 of the Act No 219/2000 Sb, on the Property of the Czech Republic and Its Representation in Legal Relations, as subsequently amended

³ Act No 218/2000 Sb, on Budget Rules, as subsequently amended

- b) statistical data and information will only be used in such a way that does not alter or modify their meaning in any way;
- c) statistical data are published in accordance with the State Statistical Service Act;
- d) provided that data of the CZSO are disseminated there is an obligation to mention the terms of this licence, preferably by a direct link to the relevant CZSO's webpage (https://csu.gov.cz/conditions_for_use_and_further_dissemination);
- e) rules regulating the reuse of documents of the CZSO do not apply to documents to which intellectual property rights of third parties apply.

5.3 Other conditions for use of data of the CZSO:

- a) the CZSO disclaims liability for potential damage caused as a result of use of data from the CZSO's web pages;
- b) the CZSO reserves the right to temporarily restrict the access to information published on its web pages even without prior notice due to operational or professional reasons.

6. FINAL PROVISIONS

- 6.1 This strategic document cancels Dissemination policy of the Czech Statistical Office, which became applicable with effect from 30 April 2022.
- 6.2 Exceptions from this strategic document may be permitted by the President of the CZSO.
- 6.3 This strategic document shall enter into force and effect on the date of its promulgation.

Prague, March 2025