**PREFACE**

Dear readers,

high-quality and useful information is an essential part of the life of today’s society. They help us to better understand the context and thereafter substantially contribute to our right decisions.

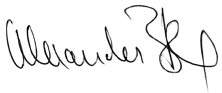
We are already presenting you the 30th jubilee edition of the Statistical Yearbook of the Slovak Republic. Through it, we want to provide you with a comprehensive overview of demographic, economic or social development in our country.

The publication is divided into 31 chapters while it contains comprehensive statistical data for the last five years and selected key economic indicators for the period of 14 years. The updated methodological notes, definitions and data sources are part of each chapter. The last one is devoted to an international comparison of selected indicators, mainly with the EU countries. A specific part is a graphical appendix, offering a visualization of the development of selected indicators.

The above-mentioned publication is characterized by an effort to maintain a stable structure, however, this year we also bring several novelties, in the form of the inclusion of new tables in some chapters. For this year, we have added data from the ad hoc module of the one-off labor force sample survey to the labor market chapter, namely regarding the organization of work and working time. In the section devoted to foreign trade, we supplemented data on imports and exports according to the main economic categories. We have included data on the gender equality index in the international surveys.

The Statistical Yearbook of the Slovak Republic is available in printed form which also includes a CD-ROM. The electronic version of the publication will be published at the Office´s website six months after its issue date.

We would appreciate all comments and suggestions on the content of the publication which the Office uses in its production. Many thanks to the staff of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, ministries and other institutions, and last but not least to the respondents who contributed with their source data to the expansion and improvement of the yearbook´s content. Special thanks go to the publishing house VEDA for ensuring the publication and distribution of our collective work.



Alexander Ballek

President of the Statistical Office

of the Slovak Republic