

## PREFACE

I would like to present the following edition of the "Statistical Yearbook of Śląskie Voivodship". The publication contains a rich set of information characterizing living conditions of society and state of the economy of the voivodship.

The thematic layout of the Yearbook remained unchanged. Introduction to the publication is review tables presenting the picture of the voivodship against the background of the country in 2017 and major data for the years 2000, 2005, 2010, 2013–2017. Detailed statistical data are presented in 23 thematic chapters preceded by general notes containing explanations of the terminology, methodology and scope of published information. The entire publication has been enriched with a set of charts and maps.

In the current edition of the Yearbook supplements were introduced regarding: the new education system, in force from the 2017/18 school year, forms of assistance for families, including the governmental programme „Family 500+” and changes in the Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), established in order to compile comparable data for regional statistics in the European Union, in force from 1 I 2018. The regional accounts section has been revised, as a consequence of revision in the annual national accounts, due to the standard excessive deficit procedure (the so-called fiscal notification).

Bilingual publication in Polish and English is available in the form of a book and in an electronic form on the website of the Statistical Office in Katowice <http://katowice.stat.gov.pl>.

I hope the publication will prove to be a useful source of information, helpful in making strategic decisions, preparing analyses and comparisons concerning the development trends of the voivodship, and contribute to the popularization of statistical knowledge about our region. To all those interested in data in spatial terms, I would like to recommend the publication „Śląskie Voivodship 2018 – Subregions, Powiats, Gminas” being a supplement to the „Statistical Yearbook of Śląskie Voivodship 2018”.

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