

## 2 Primary Education

Primary education in the Czech Republic, where pupils complete their compulsory school attendance, takes place in primary schools, special primary schools, in grammar schools (gymnasium) and conservatories. According to the International Standard Classification of Education ISCED, basic schools in the Czech Republic provide two levels of education ISCED 1 (primary education) and ISCED 2 (lower secondary education).

In the school year 2014/2015, a total of **4,106 primary schools** provided primary education to pupils.

According to data from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the **number of pupils in primary education** in the school year 2014/2015 increased to a total of **854,137** (in the school year 2013/2014 it was 827,654). The share of exceptionally gifted pupils remains largely unchanged (0.1%), but the proportion of pupils with special educational needs is gradually increasing. The share of foreign pupils in primary education increased slightly year on year to 1.9%.

Figure 2

### Primary education – performance indicators

Monitored parameter in the Czech Republic (statistics of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport)	School Year		
	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
<b>Total number of elementary schools</b>	4 095	4 095	<b>4 106</b>
Number of elementary schools for pupils with SEN	409	397	393
Percentage of private elementary schools	2,2	2,6	3,0
Percentage of church schools	1,0	1,0	1,0
Percentage of elementary schools associated with a nursery school	47,7	48,4	48,8
Percentage of small elementary schools (up to 150 pupils)*	53,7	52,9	<b>52,3</b>
<b>Total number of pupils of elementary schools in the Czech Republic</b>	807 950	827 654	<b>854 137</b>
<b>Number of inspected elementary schools</b>	767	748	<b>787</b>
<b>Number of observed lessons in elementary schools</b>	7 318	8 595	<b>8 478</b>

\* Ministry of Education statistics

In calendar year 2014, there was an increase in public expenditure on primary education (compared to 2013) by 6.2% to 58, 180, 000 CZK. The **share of expenditure on elementary education** of the total public expenditure on education has increased by 1% to **32.6%**.

In the school year 2014/2015, the Czech School Inspectorate carried out a total of 787 entries in 773 primary schools. Overall, in the reporting period, there were 8478 class observations performed in the inspected primary schools.

In the school year 2014/2015, inspection activities in elementary school focused on evaluation of conditions, course and results of education of pupils, based on the content and implementation of school educational programs. The inspectors checked, among other things, spatial, material, safety and financial conditions. They were interested in the school management, staffing conditions, system of school counselling, prevention of risky behaviour and last but not least ensuring equal opportunities in education. Within inspection activities, the inspection teams focused mainly on education processes in relation to evaluation of conditions in which these processes take place and learning outcomes of pupils. The Czech School Inspectorate also monitored availability of specialists, support for pupils with SEN and gifted pupils. Furthermore, interaction and communication between participants in educational processes were observed as well as the development of skills and abilities of pupils and support provided to the development of individual literacies (ICT, language, etc.). Workers of the Czech School Inspectorate were also interested in the maturity,