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Years
Jahre



SVAZ ČESKÝCH A MORAVSKÝCH VÝROBNÍCH DRUŽSTEV



PROFILE

UNION OF CZECH PRODUCTION CO-OPERATIVES

SČMVD

Ladies and Gentlemen:



For your information, you are receiving a publication, the goal of which is to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Union of Czech Production Co-operatives.

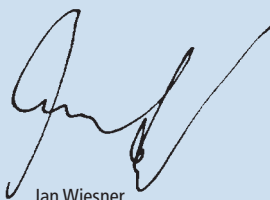
The more than half a century of our union's existence is indicative of the meaningfulness and benefit of associating in the Union of Czech Production Co-operatives. Hope for success has always belonged to those who have done business and promoted their interests jointly in a coordinated manner. Recently, thanks to globalization of the world market, the need for associating is ever more urgent.

The union primarily promotes and defends the interests of its members, and together with other business coalitions it strives for the creation of the optimum environment for enterprise, especially for small and mid-sized businesses, and for the application of business ethics in a market environment. Over the course of its existence, it has earned an important standing, and it is a respected partner for dealings with state authorities and institutions. We try to influence factors impacting the future of enterprise for small and mid-sized businesses that are a very important component of our market economy.

The chief strategy of our union is the development of quality of services for its members and business partners. Above all, the key thing for the union is obtaining and selecting information, and this represents a considerable advantage for its members. Today more than ever, one must get an orientation in the quantity of conditions governing business, and the volume of those conditions exceeds the capacity of individual subjects.

We are also aware that it is not possible simply to stay with our original membership base, so one of the union's priorities is to support and assist interested parties when founding new production co-operatives.

Our members are fully aware of the advantages of belonging to the co-operative and of taking a common approach, and they appreciate the activity of our union.



Jan Wiesner

President



A Quick Look Back

The constitutive meeting of the Central Union of Production Co-operatives (as our union was originally named) was held on 10 – 11 October 1953. This was a milestone in the development of production co-operatives. In 2008 we commemorate 55 years of the work of the union of production co-operatives, striving for the benefit of its members under the given political and social conditions of the times. The Central Union of Production Co-operatives (ÚSVD) was founded in the form of a co-operative, and it was a member of the Central Council of Co-operatives, which also affiliated regional unions and the Slovak Union of Production Co-operatives. Adopted at the same time were the by-laws for regional unions and standard by-laws for production co-operatives and co-operatives for disabled persons.

From 1967, the new economic system of the directed national economy was put into operation. It better matched the spirit of the by-laws, principles of co-operative democracy and organizational structure of the co-operatives and their unions. For those reasons, the Union of Production Co-operatives was founded on 1 January 1967, replacing the ÚSVD. In December 1968 the VIth Congress of Manufacturing Co-operatives dissolved the Union of Production Co-operatives, and the congress became a constitutive meeting of the Czech Union of Production Co-operatives (ČSVD), which operated under that name until 1990.

The name change to the Union of Czech Production Co-operatives (SČMVD) was ratified at a special meeting on 16 March 1990. The SČMVD is legally registered with the City of Prague as a special interest association of legal entities.

Our members – production co-operatives – have been engaging in their activities for three centuries. The roots of production co-operative organizations reach as far back as the 19th century. The first production co-operative of our union was founded in 1892 as the “First nail production co-operative in Věšín and environs, a registered limited liability corporation,” the present-day co-operative Kovo Věšín.

The member co-operatives are characterized by highly qualified workmanship and by the providing of the most varied services. History has convincingly shown that co-operatives are able to compete in every economic and political environment. Mutual support is a help not only on the domestic market, but also in the development of international activities.

The Present

The membership base of the Union of Czech Production Co-operatives currently consists of a total of 253 co-operatives, 45 of which are production co-operatives of disabled persons.

The Union of Czech Production Co-operatives primarily:

- promotes and defends the interests of its members,
- provides information, advice and consulting services to its members in the areas of law, social affairs, economics, education, business and marketing,
- sets up and administers special purpose funds,
- organizes joint expositions at trade fairs, exhibitions and contact meetings in the Czech Republic and abroad and helps with finding business partners,
- helps with preparing and translating projects facilitating the drawing of money from European and domestic funds,
- secures joint marketing and PR activities,
- issues the periodical Informační přehled (Information Overview), which is a source of information for members,
- issues the magazine Výrobní družstevnictví (Production Co-operatives), which is intended for the general public.

Production co-operatives are an integral part of the business world. As mainly small and mid-sized companies, they have a stable position on the domestic market. They successfully supply products to the European Union, other European countries and other continents.

The main advantages of co-operatives are their flexibility, high-quality production and attractive product assortments, satisfying the majority of the basic needs of customers. People are gradually going back to traditional, proven quality. Co-operatives put great emphasis on ecology, the environment and health.

Production co-operatives are known for efficiency, dynamism, ability to react flexibly and human resources potential.

Competitiveness motivates them to improve constantly. Greatly contributing to this is modern technical equipment, CNC machines and mechanization. Without innovations in all areas of production, it is not possible to compete in today's world. Under the auspices of the Union of Czech Production Co-operatives, its members regularly present themselves at Czech and foreign trade fairs. They thus have the opportunity to confront the competition, to compare parameters of production, quality and design trends and to draw further inspiration.

The Union of Czech Production Co-operatives engages in active cooperation

membership in organizations



Hospodářská komora ČR
Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic



Družstevní asociace ČR
Cooperative Association of Czech Republic



ČESKÁ MANAŽERSKÁ ASOCIACE
CZECH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
Česká manažerská asociace
Czech Management Association



Asociace českých nábytkářů
Association of Czech Furniture Manufacturers



Česká podnikatelská reprezentace při EU v Bruselu
Czech Business Representation



International Organisation of Industrial, Artisan
and Service Producers' Cooperatives



CECOP-EST



International Cooperative Alliance



Svaz průmyslu a dopravy
Confederation of Industry of Czech Republic



Konfederace zaměstnavatelských a podnikatelských svazů ČR
Confederation of Employers' and Entrepreneurs' Associations
of the Czech Republic



ASOCIACE ZAMĚSTNAVATELŮ
ZDRAVOTNĚ POSTIŽENÝCH ČR
Asociace zaměstnavatelů zdravotně postižených
Association of Employers of Handicaped



SYBA



Goodwill Industries International



European Confederation of Workers' Co-operatives,
Social Co-operatives and Participative Enterprises



VEREIN ARGE OST-WEST

Co-operatives with a social function (production co-operatives of disabled persons)

Co-operatives of this type and focus have a rich tradition since the 1950s, and developments until the 1970s tended more towards their unification, merger and the formation of large subjects. In the 1980s, several of them achieved a high level not only of technology and qualification, but also of integration – the quality of the involvement of persons with physical disabilities in full-fledge working life (e.g. labor rehabilitation departments).

After 1990, at first the opposite trend appeared as a natural reaction to the earlier centralism and lack of freedom. In several cases, large subjects were split up into sovereign business entities that quickly sought a place on the market and had to arrange their internal relations and priorities accordingly. After they made cutbacks and internal transformations, most of the co-operatives continued to develop successfully, increasing their level of expert specialization and technical modernity. They shaped their personnel, business strategies and technical abilities, so that some co-operatives focus more on the function of social integration, while others headed more towards full competitiveness.

There are now several new co-operatives with a social function – employers with more than 50% of their workers who are physically disabled, which have become members of the union – and this process is still continuing. The union is engaged as a natural representative of those co-operatives (as well as of other responsible business persons employing physically disabled persons), especially legislatively, in special interest groups and in organizations at home and abroad. The union is also involved as a partner in international and domestic projects focusing on supporting the integration of physically disabled persons and support for social enterprise. In recent years, it has been realizing its own projects, leading to the creation of new co-operatives that become union members.

The union's goal in the area of social enterprise, besides the joint representation of the interests of socially oriented co-operatives, is primarily the providing of specific consulting and support for co-operatives' own independent development and the strengthening of their position at the national and international levels.

The union wants to keep on being an effective and recognized representative and exponent of employers of Czechs with physical disabilities and to take part in achieving of recognition and promotion of a comprehensive system of rehabilitation and support for the employment of the physically disabled or other disadvantaged persons. Likewise it wants to take an active part in obtaining recognition and support for the development of social enterprise (especially through co-operatives) under the conditions in the Czech Republic.

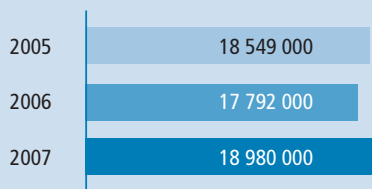
For more information, see www.vdi.cz.



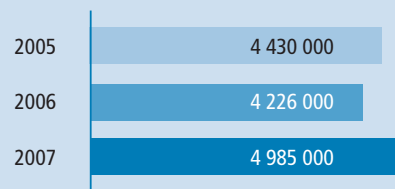
Income from Operations

Amounts are stated in thousands CZK

Total sales of production co-operatives



Total exports of production co-operatives

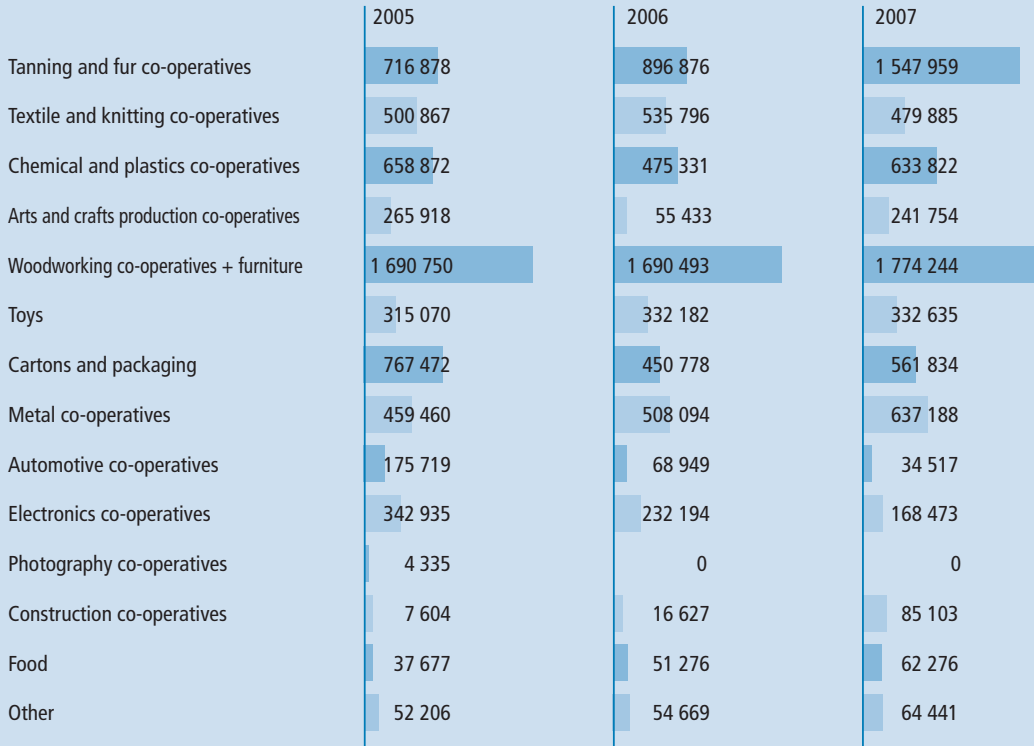


Sales of production co-operatives by manufacturing branch:

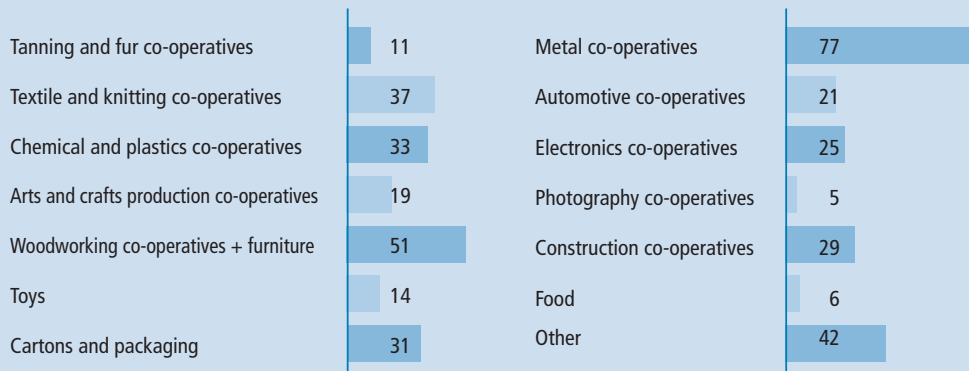
	2005	2006	2007
Tanning and fur co-operatives	1 182 898	1 372 153	1 670 985
Textile and knitting co-operatives	1 784 557	1 955 138	1 894 945
Chemical and plastics co-operatives	2 276 939	1 956 519	2 469 903
Arts and crafts production co-operatives	1 215 214	912 592	1 262 752
Woodworking co-operatives + furniture	4 801 332	4 927 152	5 752 859
Toys	977 735	1 035 614	985 058
Cartons and packaging	2 207 053	1 998 772	2 612 956
Metal co-operatives	3 060 240	3 295 888	3 541 400
Automotive co-operatives	1 915 843	2 120 754	1 328 220
Electronics co-operatives	1 486 809	1 293 371	1 555 237
Photography co-operatives	59 472	59 320	57 380
Construction co-operatives	1 721 715	1 917 410	1 858 929
Food	493 303	608 503	725 823
Other	888 660	1 136 600	1 423 227



Exports of production co-operatives by manufacturing branch:



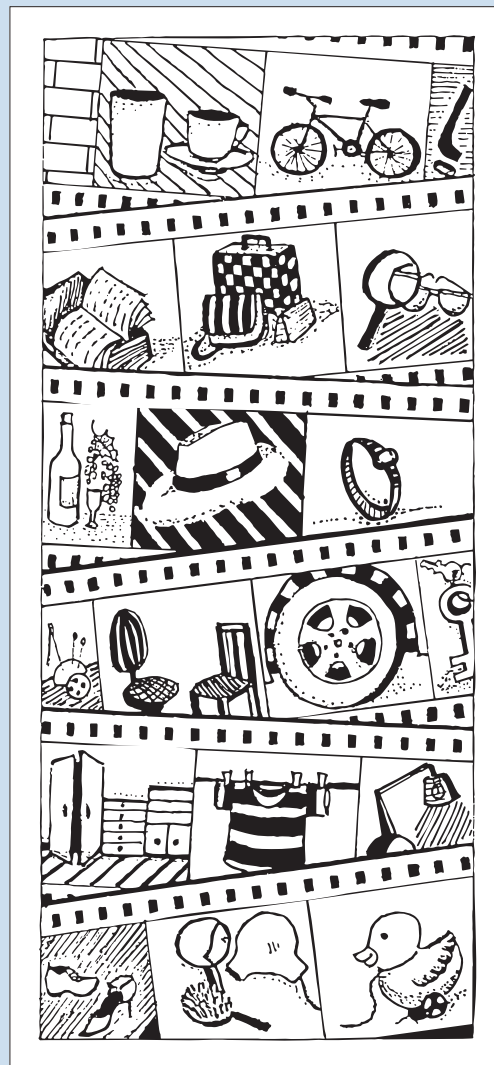
Production co-operatives by focus of production – by branch:



(The total of the figures above is greater than the total number of production co-operatives because some co-operatives have assortments that cover multiple branches)

Calendar:

- 1892 - founding of the 1st manufacturing co-operative, "First nail production co-operative in Věšín and environs, a registered limited liability corporation," the present-day co-operative Kovo Věšín
- 1914 - there are already 170 co-operatives on Czech territory
- 1953 - founding of the Central Union of Production Co-operatives
- 1968 - Czech Union of Production Co-operatives
- 1990 - name change to the Union of Czech Production Co-operatives
- 1992 - transformation of co-operatives on the basis of Act No. 42/1991 Coll. (the so-called "Transformation Act")
- 1993 - completion of transformation
- 1993 - founding of the Association of Employers of the Physically Disabled, with the union as a co-founder
- 1999 - founding of the Prague office of CECOP-EST, which is a branch of the European Confederation of Worker Cooperatives with headquarters in Brussels
- 2002 - the international conference Social Economy Prague 2002 (the event being held for the first time outside of the EU, with the union as a co-organizer)
- 2004 - certification of the Union of Czech Production Co-operatives (as the first special interest group in the Czech Republic)
- 2007 - recertification
- 2008 - 55th anniversary of the founding of the Union of Czech Production Co-operatives



Production co-operatives and their assortments

Furniture - residential interiors

- Kitchen
- Living room
- Bedroom
- Children's room
- Entrance hall
- Sofas and chairs
- Bathroom furniture



Furniture – other interiors and exteriors

- Office
- Commercial premises
- Restaurants and dining facilities
- School facilities
- Healthcare facilities
- Hotels and accommodations
- Recreation and sports facilities
- Public areas
- Garden and leisure furniture



Interior fittings

Household textiles
 Fur products
 Kitchen goods
 Household and kitchen needs
 Bathroom fittings
 Lighting
 Electrical appliances
 Hardware
 Radiators and fireplaces
 Tools
 Artwork accessories



Gifts items and objets d'art

Jewelry, workmanship with Czech garnets
 Manufacture of medals, badges and flags
 Utility and decorative ceramics
 Toys
 Glass Christmas ornaments
 Stained glass and glass objects
 Basketry and brushware

Household accessories
 Original paintings
 Designer silk textile creations
 Leather accessories

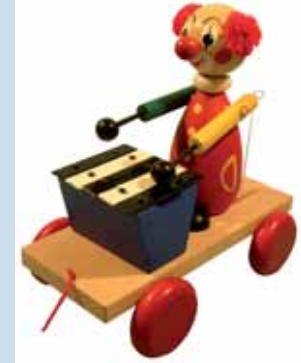


Toys

Wooden
Textile a plush toys
Plastic
Metal
Toys for infants
Model ships and airplanes



Amateur fireworks and sparklers
Sporting goods



Garments and woven products

Women's clothing	Leisurewear
Men's clothing	Linens
Clothing for infants and children	Fashion accessories
Woven garments	Textile accessories
Fur and leather garments	Uniforms for the armed services, post office, rail companies etc.
Work clothes	



Personal protective equipment for the workplace

Garments
Footwear
Gloves
Respirators
Cosmetics



Footwear and leather products

Women's footwear
Men's footwear
Children's footwear
Home footwear
Work shoes
Special footwear for the armed services and security agencies
Leather accessories



Cosmetics

Decorative cosmetics

Medicinal cosmetics



Chemical products and household chemicals

Cleaners and polishes

Laundry detergent

WC hygiene

Automotive cosmetics

Lawn chemicals

Pet cosmetics

Paint, varnish, technical liquids

Amateur fireworks



Agricultural supplies

Agricultural machines and tools
Gardening tools
Technical equipment for raising livestock



Ventilators and air conditioning
Dryers
Trapping equipment for rodents and pests



Machines, tools and equipment

Woodworking machines
Metalworking machines
Compressors
Tooling, molding and surface treatment
Hobby and sporting goods
Office machines



Construction

Construction and reconstruction of buildings
 Urban planning, architectural, design and engineering services
 Renovation
 Stone cutting
 Stone sculpture
 Construction trades and technologies
 Construction units and materials
 Container systems



Packaging, paper processing, printing

Packing materials – plastic foils
 Consumer packaging
 Transport packaging
 Closing, fixing and auxiliary packaging materials
 Tools for manufacturing packaging means
 Office supplies
 Printing
 Bookbinding
 Printing of publications



Foods

Growing, adaptation, cultivation and sale of grapes
 Beer from the company's own brewery
 Candy
 Pasta and baked goods from white flour
 Nutritional supplements



Services

Photographic services
 Barbers and hairdressing services
 Fur processing
 Guard services
 Automotive repair and maintenance services

Sales of new and used vehicles
 Accommodations services
 Accounting and financial services
 Computer technology services
 Printing
 Transport





Cooperation and semi-finished products

Manufacturing, assembly and completion of products
Technical moldings
Manufacturing of construction slabs



Successes of Our Members



Successes at domestic and foreign trade fairs







Awards in the managerial and professional competitions Manažer roku (Manager of the Year), 100 nej (Czech Top 100), Lady pro, Obal roku (Packaging of the Year) and Cena Olgy Havlové (Olga Havel Award)



Czech Co-operatives



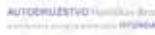
Tradition and Quality



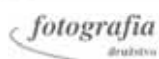
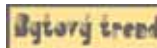
Co-operatives' Product



Tradition and Quality



AUTOSPOL, d.v.
KONKONČNÁ PEUGEOT



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