

INTRODUCTION

This is already the twenty first publication in the series of “Foreigners in the Czech Republic” published by the Czech Statistical Office. The first one was issued in December 2001.

The publication concentrates, in a complete manner, update data on foreigners who have chosen the Czech Republic to be the place of their permanent or long-term residence, who have found their jobs here, or have been conducting their business activities here, and those who came to the Czech Republic to escape political persecution or severe economic conditions in their native countries. The focal point of this publication lies in statistical data for the year 2020, which are often supplemented with time series of data for the previous years. Since there is not enough space in the printed version of the publication, data for all years available are not included in tables containing time series. In such case, readers can find the whole time series at the CZSO website:

https://www.czso.cz/csu/cizinci/1-ciz_pocet_cizincu

As in the previous years, this year’s issue of the publication is also backed up by legislation: this year it is the Decision of the Government of the Czech Republic No 1352 of 21 December 2020. Similarly to the publications issued before, the information presented in this book was obtained from information systems administered by the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, Ministry of Health, and the Czech Statistical Office, and coordinated by the Editorial Board composed of representatives of all the aforementioned institutions. It is the Ministry of the Interior, which initiated the publishing of this book and which has been repeatedly undertaking the role of the coordinator (since 2008) for implementation of the concept of integration of foreigners in the territory of the Czech Republic.

Because of repeated editions of the publication, its layout has become stable to a considerable extent. In accord with requirements made to the Czech Statistical Office, recent publications have more emphasised the subdivision of foreigners into groups by their citizenship, which means into foreigners coming from the EU Member States and those from the so-called third countries. In relation to that, it has to be noted that in data for the year 2020, the group of EU Member States no longer includes the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which left the European Union as at 31 January 2020. Further, it also has to be reminded that presented statistical data can be influenced, in some cases, by the COVID-19 pandemic and by following adoption of some measures (since March 2020, substantial limitations were gradually placed on the air and other public transport, a lot of countries all over the world forbade entry to their territories to other persons than their citizens and applied restrictions in the area of freedom of movement).

Since 2015, Chapter 1 – Demographic aspects of the life of foreigners has been including again a table providing information on third-country nationals with temporary residence permit by purpose of the stay (Table 1-9). Compared to previous years, substantial changes were made to Chapter 3 – Economic activity of foreigners, especially in the part related to foreigners in the position of employees. Several tables were added to that part starting in 2019. The tables apply to the total employment of foreigners and the development of the number of foreigners registered by labour offices broken down by cohesion region, Region, and District (Table 3-1 and Table 3-3), to the number of foreigners registered by labour offices according to the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE) broken down by selected citizenship (Table 3-9) and further broken down by selected citizenship and sex (Table 3-10) and also to the number of foreigners registered by labour offices according to the ISCO-08 broken down by selected citizenship and sex (Table 3-12). Some changes have also been made in Chapter 5 – Crime of foreigners. Due to a low number (in ones of persons) of persons convicted pursuant to Sections of the Act No 140/1961 Sb (the old Criminal Code), Table 5-2a was deleted from the publication in 2019. Therefore, Table 5-2 now includes only persons convicted according to Sections of the Act No 40/2009 Sb (the new Criminal Code). In relation to legislative changes (effective from 1 October 2017, the Act No 58/2017 Sb changed the Act No 40/2009 Sb, the Criminal Code, and other related acts), Table 5-6b currently only distinguishes between 2 prison categories (instead of the previous 4), namely prisons with security and prisons with increased security. Other changes were made in

2019 also in Chapter 6 – Health care for foreigners. The first place of the Chapter now belongs to a table on development of utilization of health care by foreigners (outside the public health insurance) in hospitals of the CR (Table 6-1) and, again, after a several-year-long pause, there is again included a table showing numbers of foreigners treated in hospitals in the CR (Table 6-4). Since 2017, in Chapter 7 Illegal entry and stay of foreigners in the territory of the CR, Table 7-5, relating to the development of the number of expulsions from the Czech Republic, has been modified. The information is further completed by the Table 7-6, which informs about state citizenships of expelled foreigners. Both the tables provide information in long time-series.

Respective information systems keep records on foreigners that are not always comparable. It is not intentional in order to make the orientation in the information on foreigners more complicated - it is rather caused by the fact that the respective information sources are adjusted to the needs of the relevant ministry, which they were established at, and the process of harmonisation of data sources to reach their mutual comparability is not easy in any case. In order to help readers understand which foreigners respective tables provide information on, we made a summary table – see the next page (numbers of tables relate to this year's issue of the publication).

Dear readers, if you have some comments on the contents and the form of the publication, now it is the right time to let us know about them so that we can take them into account while preparing the next issue of the publication.

The publication is provided for free to libraries, schools, universities, research institutes and workplaces, and non-government non-profit organisations and institutions. The information contained is also intended for the use of members of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Czech Republic, as well as of central and local governments of the state administration, journalists, and all citizens of the Czech Republic.

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