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# THE FIRST RESULTS FOR THE POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF THE 2021 CENSUS IN CZECHIA

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## **Abstract**

The first results of the 2021 Census in Czechia were released in January 2022. The nationwide census was prepared in a combined form using both a census questionnaire and suitable administrative data sources. The aim of this paper is to analyse the data on population characteristics that were published until August 2022 – sex, age, marital status, educational attainment, citizenship, ethnicity, mother tongue, religious belief, and fertility. Where useful the variables are combined with sex/age structure. A basic comparison with data from the 2011 Census was also done. The population of Czechia increased by less than 1% and has grown older between the 2011 and the 2021 Census. The share of the population with higher levels of education continued to increase and 4.7% of the population in the 2021 Census were foreign nationals.

**Keywords:** 2021 Census, Czechia, sex, age, marital status, educational attainment, citizenship, ethnicity, mother tongue, religious belief, fertility

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## INTRODUCTION

The 2021 Census was prepared as a combined one and the nationwide census form was supplemented with administrative data sources. The concept was same as in the 2011 Census, but more extensive use was made of administrative data sources and it was possible to reduce the number of questions (Šanda, 2022). The decisive moment was at midnight on 26 March 2021, when the electronic census forms were made available to fill in and submit. From 17 April, it was possible to obtain also paper census forms. Data collection continued until 11 May for both type of forms.

The 2021 Census was managed by the Czech Statistical Office on the basis of Act No. 332/2020

Coll. On the Census of the Population, Housing and Dwellings in 2021. The population results from the 2021 Census include all usually resident inhabitants of the Czech Republic. The place of usual residence is defined as the place where a person predominantly resides and spends his/her daily rest time, regardless of temporary absence due to recreation, visits, business trips, time spent in a health facility, etc., and where he/she is a member of a particular household (*European Commission*, 2008). For a person to be included in the usual resident population of the Czech Republic, the criterion is that the person must stay in the country for at least 12 months or have the intention to reside in the country long term.

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The first results of the 2021 Census became available on 13 January 2022 on the census website: <http://www.scitani.cz/>. The dissemination of the results is a continuous process that is going on. In this article all population characteristics published up to August 2022 are analysed. These include sex, age, marital status, educational attainment, citizenship, ethnicity, mother tongue, religious belief, and fertility. All characteristics are combined with sex and age group when suitable. A basic comparison is also made here with the 2011 Census, because only the last two censuses are based on the usual residence concept, so a comparison is useful.

The sources of data for this article were the results of the 2021 (and 2011) Census. However, some data are not derived from census forms but from administrative data sources. The population characteristics used in this paper could be divided into three categories. First there are the variables taken directly from administrative data sources, which were not part of the census form. Citizenship was taken from the Population Register managed by the Ministry of the Interior. Data on the marital status of Czech citizens came from the Information System of Inhabitants Records (the Ministry of the Interior) and data on the marital status of foreign nationals came from the Alien Information System (the Directorate of Alien Police).<sup>3)</sup> Second, there are characteristics that were derived only from census forms – ethnicity, mother tongue, and religious belief – which are not available from any register because of their confidentiality and subjectivity. The last category consists of characteristics that were derived from information from both census forms and administrative data sources. Information from the census form usually had priority, if it passed controls. This last category includes sex and age (the Population Register), educational attainment (Registers of

the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports), and fertility and specifically the number of children ever born alive to a woman (the Information System of Inhabitants Records and the Alien Information System – the relationship between mother and child).

## POPULATION BY SEX AND AGE

The total population of Czechia according to the 2021 census was 10,524,167 and it rose by 87,607 people or 0.8% from the Census in 2011 (Table 1). The population was rather evenly distributed between men and women as it consisted of 49.3% men and 50.7% women. Compared to the 2011 Census the size of the male population increased by 1.5% and the size of the female population increased by 0.2%.

When it comes to dividing the population by age, the broadest categories 0–14, 15–64 and 65 and over were used. In the 2021 Census 16.1% of the population were aged 0–14 years, 63.5% were aged 15–64, and 20.4% were aged 65 and over. These shares were different for men and women: 16.7% of men were aged 0–14, 65.9% were aged 15–64, and 17.4% were aged 65 and over, while for women the corresponding percentages were 15.5%, 61.2%, and 23.3%. According to this indicator, the female population inclined to higher ages and was therefore older. It is also worth mentioning that the number of people whose age was unknown was almost 36,000 in the 2011 Census, while in the 2021 Census the age of every single person was known.

According to the 2011 Census, the pr–oportion of people aged 0–14 years (14.3%) and 65 and older (15.8%) in the population was smaller. This was also true for men and women separately. Among men,

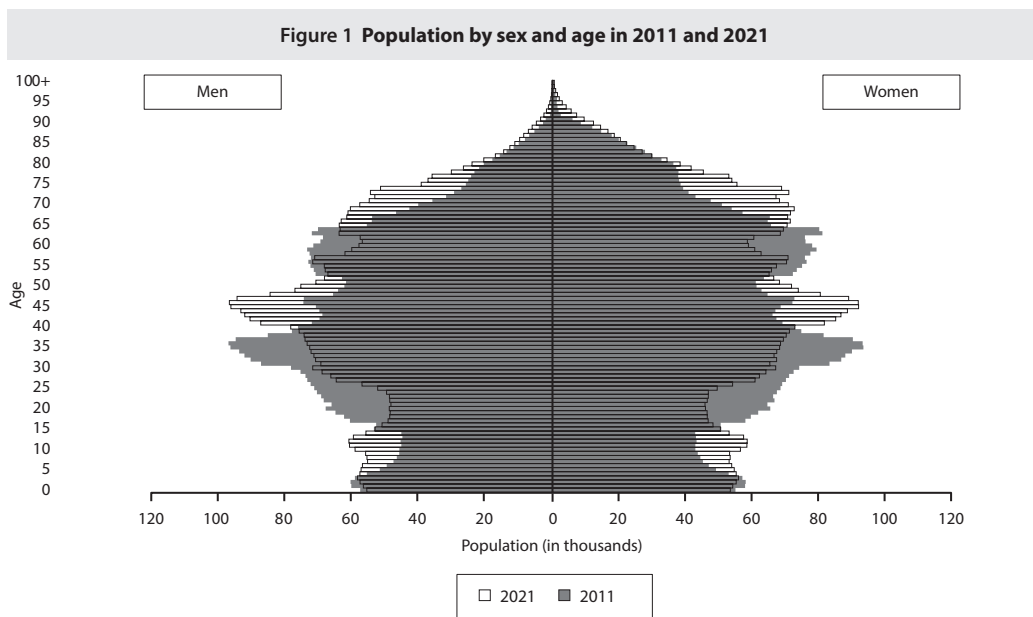
**Table 1 Population by sex and age group in 2011 and 2021**

Census	Total population	0–14 years			15–64 years			65+ years		
		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
2011	10,436,560	1,488,928	763,949	724,979	7,267,169	3,661,790	3,605,379	1,644,836	664,125	980,711
2021	10,524,167	1,691,760	866,322	825,438	6,684,359	3,416,851	3,267,508	2,148,048	903,375	1,244,673

**Note:** The number of people with unknown age amounted to 36,000 people in the 2011 Census, while in the 2021 Census the age of every single person was known.

**Source:** 2011 and 2021 Census.

3) Marital status is recorded in the Population Register for the year 2022 but it was not recorded in the 2021 Census.



Source: 2011 and 2021 Census.

15.0% were aged 0–14 years and 13.0% were aged 65 and older, while among women the figures were 13.7% and 18.5%, respectively.

The mean age of the population in 2021 was 42.7 years. As noted above, women were older than men and their mean age was 44.1, while the mean age of men was 41.2 years. Women being on average older than men is one phenomenon. A second phenomenon can be observed when comparing mean age over time and in the 2011 and 2021 censuses specifically. The mean age of the population in the 2011 census was 41.0 years and thus lower than it was ten years later. This was also the case for men and women separately. The mean age of men in the 2011 census was 39.5 years and the mean age of women was 42.4 years; both men and women were older on average by 1.7 years.

A population pyramid (Figure 1) is used to present results by sex and age. The population of Czechia according to the 2011 Census is added for comparison. It illustrates both of the facts already mentioned: first, the ageing of the total population between the two censuses as an effect of more people surviving to an older age; and second, women being older on average as more of them live to an older age than men due to their overall lower level of mortality. The age of the largest number of men was 46 and the age of the

largest number of women was 45. People of this age were born in the 1970s, a decade that saw the largest birth cohorts in a long time.

Another indicator that describes the age structure is the ageing index. It represents the number of people aged 65 and over per 100 people aged 0–14 years. The ageing index was 127.0 in 2021, which means that there were 127 people aged 65 and over per 100 children aged 0–14 years. This figure was 104.3 for men and 150.8 for women, again showing the higher tendency for women to live to an older age. This indicator has changed greatly since the 2011 Census when these figures were 110.5 for the whole population and 86.9 for men and 135.3 for women.

## POPULATION BY MARITAL STATUS

The results of the 2021 Census by marital status were processed using the administrative data sources of the Ministry of the Interior. The most common marital status among men and women whose marital status was known was never married: the share of never married men reached 48.0% and the share of never married women reached 38.2% (Table 2). The structure of the rest of the population by marital status was: married 38.9%, divorced 10.5%, and widowed 2.4%

**Table 2 Population by marital status and sex in 2011 and 2021**

Census	Men						Women					
	Total	Never married	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Not identified	Total	Never married	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Not identified
2011	5,109,766	2,287,597	2,211,579	466,461	126,475	16,086	5,326,794	1,876,830	2,197,895	606,486	634,671	10,237
2021	5,186,548	2,477,039	2,009,738	544,287	124,903	26,612	5,337,619	2,031,554	1,997,604	688,825	595,672	21,203

Source: 2011 and 2021 Census.

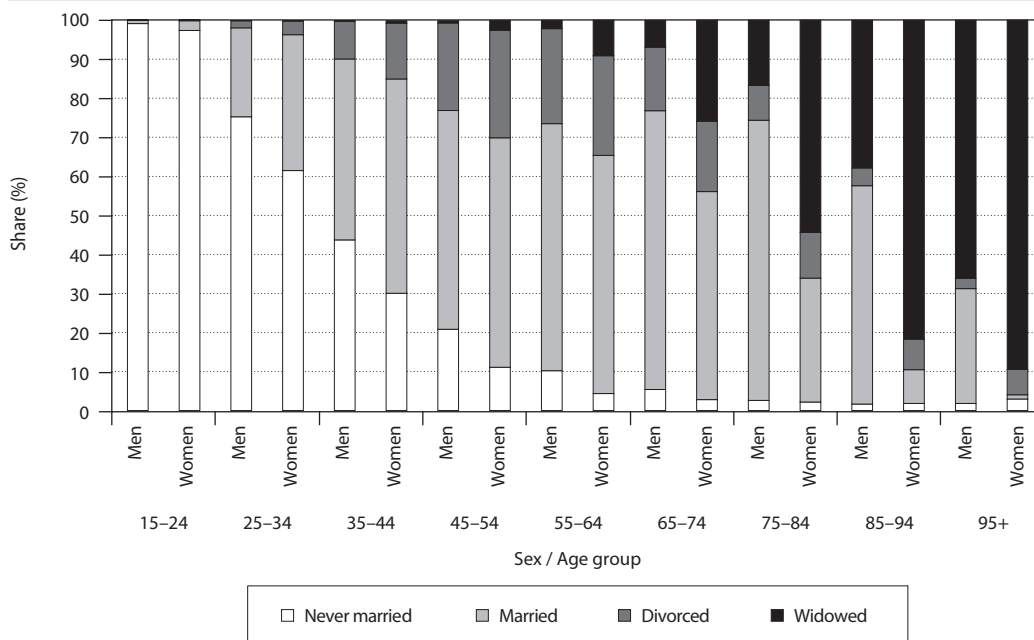
among men and married 37.6%, divorced 13.0%, and widowed 11.2% among women.

The administrative data sources of the Ministry of the Interior also contained information on registered partnerships. More than 3,000 men and more than 2,000 women were in a registered partnership according to the 2021 Census compared to 1,400 men and almost 600 women in the 2011 Census. For more than 700 men and more than 700 women in 2021 census and for more than 100 men and almost 100 women was registered partnership dissolved either

by a court decision or by the death of a partner. According to the 2021 Census, more than 700 women and more than 700 men had their registered partnership dissolved by a court, while the registered partnership of more than 100 men and more than 100 women was ended by the death of a partner. The number of people whose marital status was unknown was almost 48,000 in the 2021 Census and more than 26,000 in the 2011 Census.

In the 2011 Census these figures were quite different. The biggest difference was that most women

**Figure 2 Share of the population of the given sex and age group by marital status in 2021 (%)**



Note: Only for population with known marital status.

Source: 2021 Census.

were married: married women made up 41.3% of all women with known marital status, while never married women made up 35.3%. Married men made up 43.4% of all men and never married men made up 44.9%. Divorced men accounted for 9.2% (of the male population) and divorced women accounted for 11.4% (of the female population). The proportion of widowed men and widowed women in 2021 remained almost unchanged from the 2011 Census, when 2.5% of men and 11.9% of women were recorded as widowed.

However, these figures were highly dependant on age (Figure 2). In every ten-year group from 15–24 up to 65–74 years there was a higher share of never married men (among those with known marital status) than never married women, with the biggest difference observed in the 25–34 age group. Conversely, the proportion of married women was higher than the proportion of married men up to the 45–54 age group (included; with the biggest difference in the 25–34 age group), while from the 55–64 age group the proportion of married men began quickly rising above that of married women. While 55.9% of men aged 85–94 years were married, only 8.7% women of this age were married. As described in the paragraph below, this is a consequence of men having a shorter life expectancy than women: life expectancy at birth was 75.3 years for men and 81.4 years for women in 2020 (Český statistický úřad, 2021). The proportion of divorced men in every age group used in this article was similar to the proportion of divorced women: the biggest difference was just 5.0 percentage points at the age of 45–54 years. Widowhood was the most common marital status in the 75–84 age group and in every older group after that in the case of women and in the age group of 95 years and older in the case of men. On average 9 out of 10 women aged 95 or older were widows.

These figures are consistent with demographic knowledge (Koukalová, 2022). In Czechia women enter marriage on average earlier than men and with a higher intensity than men, and the 2021 Census data indicate a higher proportion of never married among men than women and, up to a certain age, a higher proportion of married among women than among men. Then from that age up the higher mortality rate among men causes marriages to end in women becoming widowed, and the low divorce rate

at an older age means that a high proportion of men who live to an older age are married.

## POPULATION BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The highest level of educational attainment was surveyed only among people aged 15 and over according to the highest school completed. The data provided on the census form were supplemented with information on education from administrative data sources. The proportion of people with tertiary education out of the population aged 15 and over whose highest educational level was known was 18.7% in 2021. The most common educational levels were secondary including vocational without the school-leaving exam; 32.9%) and secondary or post-secondary education (32.8%). There was a substantial share of people with primary or lower secondary education, who accounted for 13.3% of the total. Education levels tended to be higher among the female population than the male population. Women made up a larger proportion of those with upper secondary, post-secondary, and tertiary education and a much smaller proportion of those with secondary including vocational (without the school-leaving exam). Contrary to the statement about women having higher levels of education, women had a larger share of people with lower secondary or primary education than men.

The biggest difference between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses was in the share of people with primary or lower secondary and tertiary education. While in the 2021 Census 13.3% of people had primary or lower secondary education, in 2011 the figure was 18.5%, and while 18.7% of people had tertiary education in the 2021 Census, in the 2011 Census the figure was 13.2%. When it comes to men, it was very similar, as in the 2021 Census 11.0% of men had primary or lower secondary education while in 2011 the figure was 14.2%, and 18.1% in the recent census had tertiary education while ten years ago the figure was 14.2%. Secondary including vocational (without the school-leaving exam) was another category with a notable difference: men with this level of education declined from 41.7% to 38.7%. An even bigger change was observed in the case of women with primary or lower

**Table 3 Population by education attainment in 2011 and 2021**

Census	Population aged 15 and older	No education	Primary or lower secondary education	Secondary including vocational (without the school-leaving exam)	Upper secondary or post-secondary <sup>1)</sup> education	Post-secondary <sup>1)</sup> professional education, conservatory	Tertiary education
2011	8,912,005	41,632	1,568,732	2,948,280	2,670,725	116,988	1,113,887
2021	8,832,407	56,100	1,107,860	2,736,983	2,729,091	138,588	1,552,407

**Note:** 1) Post-secondary non-tertiary. Categories by ISCED 2011 level: No education – 0; primary or lower secondary education – 1, 2; Secondary including vocational (without the school-leaving exam) – 3; Upper secondary or post-secondary education – 3, 4, 5; Post-secondary professional education, conservatory – 5; Tertiary education – 6, 7, 8.

**Source:** 2011 and 2021 Census.

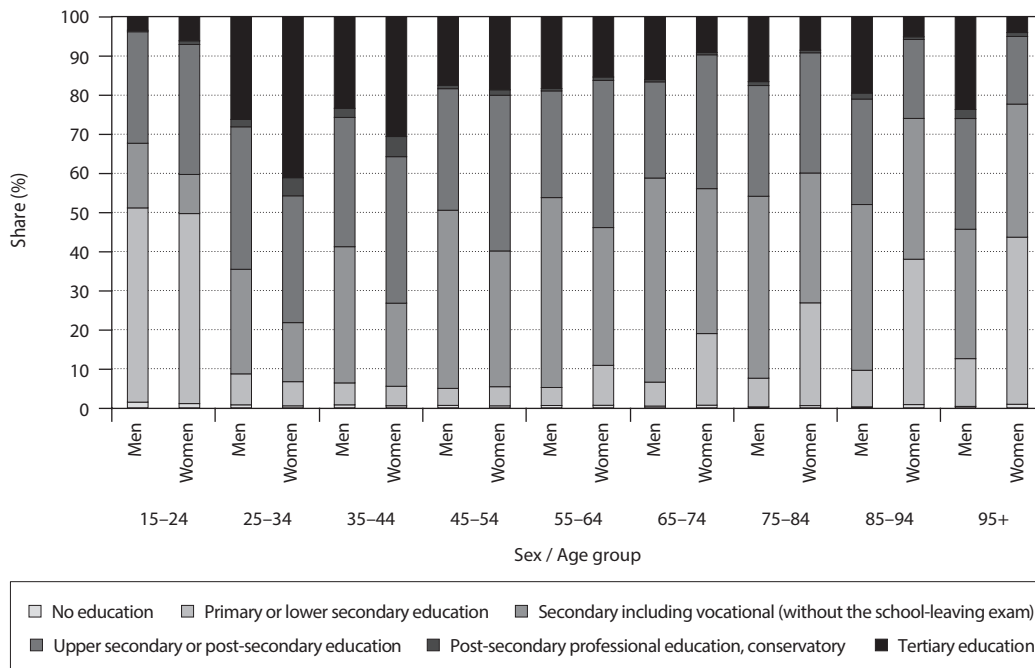
secondary education, which declined from 22.6% in the 2011 Census to 15.5% in the 2021 Census. A significant change was also observed in the case of women with tertiary education, which increased from 12.2% in 2011 to 19.1% in 2021.

From the 45–54 age group to older ages there was a trend of a rising share of men and women with primary or lower secondary education and

in these age groups this educational level was more common among women than men in 2021 (Figure 3).

The highest share of people with this educational level is in the 15–24 age group, which is due to the fact that they are still actively attending school. Men formed the larger proportion of people with secondary including vocational (without the school-leaving exam) than women in all the age groups used here except

**Figure 3 Share of the population of the given sex and age group by educational attainment in 2021 (%)**



**Note:** Only for the population with known education attainment.

**Source:** 2021 Census.

for the oldest one. People with secondary including vocational (without the school-leaving exam) reached the highest share in the 65–74 age group, as more than half of men and more than one-third of women in this age group had this education level.

Upper secondary or post-secondary education was more common among men than women in the 25–34, 85–94, and 95 and older age groups, while in all the other groups it was more common among men. The highest proportion of people with this education level was in the 25–34 age group (men) and the 45–54 age group (women). For both men and women in every age group, except for women in one age group, the smallest shares were those with post-secondary professional education or conservatory when compared to all the other categories of at least some level of education (meaning compared to each category except for no education). Women formed a higher share at this level of education than men in every age group up to 65–74, while the opposite was true in older age groups. Although women formed the larger share of people with tertiary education, this differed by age: Up to 45–54 years women more often had tertiary education than men, but from ages 55–64 and up men more often had tertiary education than women. The largest share of people with

tertiary education was observed among people aged 25–34 years (26.2% of men in this age group and 41.1% of women).

## POPULATION BY CITIZENSHIP

According to the data taken from Population Register, 4.7% of the usually resident population in 2021 were foreign nationals and 94.6% were Czech citizens, both with one citizenship. The share of population with more than one citizenship was 0.4% and the share whose citizenship was not identified was 0.3%. Only 270 inhabitants had no citizenship. In accordance with a uniform methodology applied in all EU countries, persons with multiple citizenships are in this article classed into one country of citizenship in the following order: the Czech Republic, other EU Member State, other European country, other country outside Europe (European Commission, 2017). Since almost 90% of residents with multiple citizenship have a combination with Czech citizenship, the share of Czech citizens after this adjustment rose to 95.0% (Table 4) and proportion of foreigners remained the same (4.7%).

In comparison with 2011, the population with Czech citizenship rose by almost 46,000 (+0.4%); however, the population of foreign nationals rose even

**Table 4 Population by citizenship and sex in 2011 and 2021**

Census	Population with Czech citizenship			Population with foreign citizenship		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
2011	9,952,574	4,832,461	5,120,113	422,276	242,303	179,973
2021	9,998,510	4,899,007	5,099,503	496,250	271,337	224,913

Source: 2021 Census.

**Table 4 Population by citizenship and sex in 2011 and 2021**

Citizenship	Total	Men	Women
Ukrainian	150,505	83,244	67,261
Slovak	95,821	48,550	47,271
Vietnamese	54,256	28,707	25,549
Russian	35,785	15,580	20,205
Polish	14,450	6,099	8,351
Romanian	11,890	7,523	4,367
Bulgarian	11,006	6,693	4,313

Note: The selected citizenships are those with a sub-population of more than 10,000 people in the country.

Source: 2021 Census.

more – by 74,000 (+17.5%). The share of women in the population with Czech citizenship decreased slightly between 2011 and 2021 from 51.4% to 51.0%, while the share of women among foreign nationals increased from 42.6% to 45.3% in the same period. This finding is consistent with the trend towards the feminisation of migration in the Czech Republic (Grajciarová, 2015).

The most numerous sub-population with foreign citizenship in 2021 was that of Ukrainians (almost 151,000) followed by people with Slovak (96,000) and Vietnamese (54,000) citizenship (Table 5). Men made up a large/the larger share of foreign nationals with Romanian (63.3%), Bulgarian (60.8%), and Ukrainian (55.3%) citizenship. In contrast, women formed the majority of Polish (57.8%) and Russian (56.5%) foreign nationals.

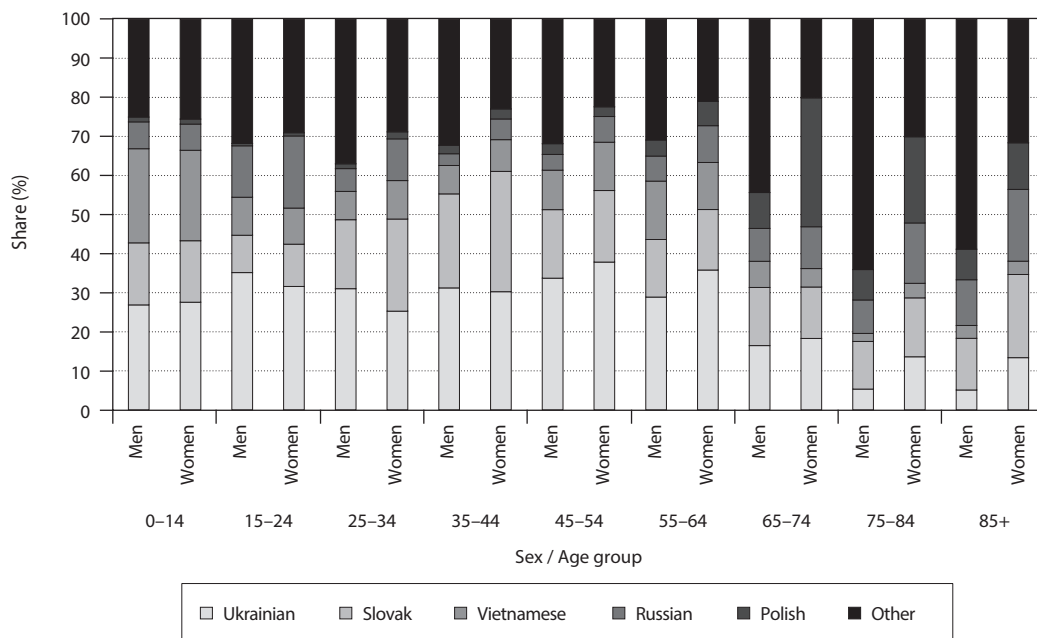
Ukrainian citizens were the most numerous foreign population among all the sub-populations by sex and age group defined in Figure 4 up to the 65–74 age group for men and the 55–64 age group for women. The share of Ukrainians was the largest in the 45–54

age group. Slovak citizens were the largest group of foreign nationals among men aged 75 and over and women aged 85 and over, but their share of foreign nationals was largest in the 35–44 age group. The proportion of Vietnamese citizens was largest in the 0–14 age group and the share of Russian citizens was largest in the 15 and 24 age groups. Polish women were dominant in the 65–74 and 75–84 age groups, the same is true for their highest shares.

### POPULATION BY ETHNICITY

Ethnicity was reported by each person according to their own choosing. It was possible to indicate up to two ethnicities or to indicate none. This concept of free self-declaration is in concordance with United Nations recommendations (United Nations, 2017). Almost one-third of the population (31.6%) did not specify their ethnicity, which is about six percentage points more than in 2011. In the recent census 64.5% of the population declared only one

Figure 4 Share of the foreign population of the given sex and age group by citizenship in 2021 (%)



Note: Only the population of foreign nationals is included.  
Source: 2021 Census.



**Table 6 Population by ethnicity in 2011 and 2021**

Census	Total population	Czech	Moravian	Slovak	Ukrainian	Vietnamese	Polish	Russian	Silesian	Not specified
2011	10,436,560	6,711,624	521,801	147,152	53,253	29,660	39,096	17,872	12,214	2,642,666
2021	10,524,167	6,033,014	359,621	96,041	78,068	31,469	26,802	25,296	12,451	3,321,058

**Note:** Includes only persons with one ethnicity. Ethnicities with more than 10,000 people were selected.  
**Source:** 2011 and 2021 Census.

ethnicity (compared to 73.1% in 2011) and 4.0% (or 420,000 inhabitants) indicated two ethnicities in 2021 compared to 1.6% (or 164,000 inhabitants) in 2011.

In the case of dual ethnicity both ethnicities are considered equal; the prioritisation of one over the other, like in the case of citizenship, was not done. Table 6 and Figure 5 include only persons with one ethnicity, since to include and count persons with dual ethnicity and in both sub-populations would lead to a distortion of shares or comparisons with the 2011 Census. Combination of ethnicities is presented separately in Table 7.

The share of Czechs in the population with specified ethnicity decreased from 86.1% in 2011 to 83.8% in 2021 (in absolute number by 679,000). The proportion of Moravians and Slovaks declined to 5.0% and 1.3%, respectively. The least numerous ethnic group with a significant decrease was the Polish

ethnicity, the share of which decreased to 0.4%. Conversely, the share of Ukrainians and Russians rose to 1.1% and 0.4%. A small increase was also identified among the Vietnamese. The most significant relative increase between 2011 and 2021 was among Ukrainians (+46.6%) and Russians (+41.5%).

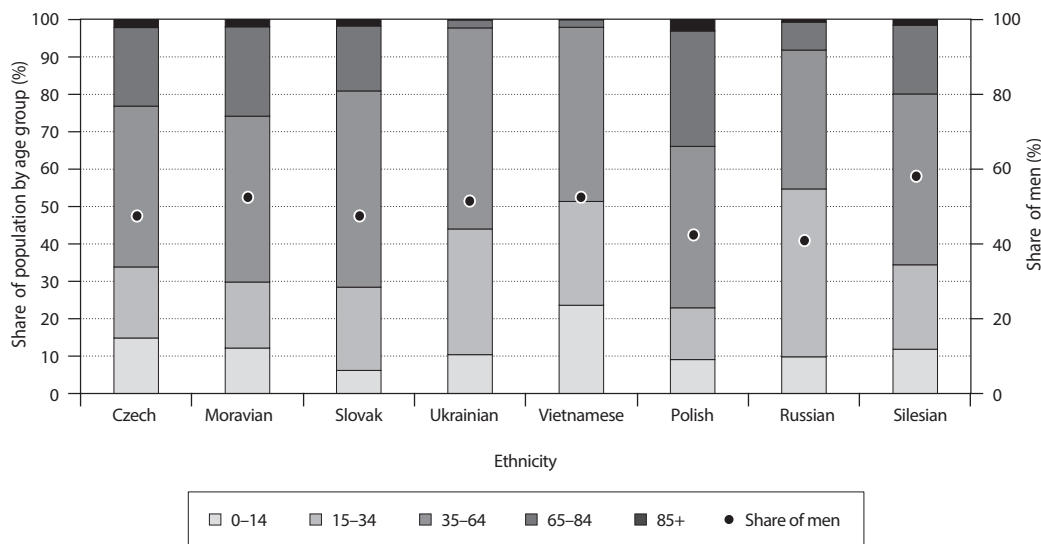
The inclusion of ethnicity combinations led to a significant increase in the number of people who declared themselves to be Europeans, which rose to 25,000 in 2021 (6.5 times more than those who declared this their exclusive ethnicity), Roma, rising to 22,000 (4.9 times more), and Germans, which rose to 25,000 (2.7 times more). If we consider only the large ethnic groups, Ukrainians relatively less often declared their ethnicity with another relatively less often (Table 6a). The same is true of Czechs, but in absolute numbers (382,000) the Czechs were the ones who declared dual ethnicity the most. The most numerous combinations of ethnicity were

**Table 7 Population by ethnicity and dual ethnicity in 2021**

Ethnicity	Exclusive	In combination with another ethnicity <sup>1)</sup>	Total <sup>1)</sup>
Czech	6,033,014	382,090	6,415,104
Moravian	359,621	197,020	556,641
Slovak	96,041	66,537	162,578
Ukrainian	78,068	14,824	92,892
Vietnamese	31,469	7,254	38,723
Polish	26,802	11,416	38,218
Russian	25,296	9,210	34,506
Silesian	12,451	18,850	31,301
German	9,128	15,504	24,632
European	3,741	20,835	24,576
Roma	4,458	17,233	21,691

**Note:** Ethnicities with more than 20,000 people in total were selected. Ranking by total. 1) Persons who stated two ethnicities are included in both ethnicities.  
**Source:** 2021 Census.

Figure 5 Share of population of a given ethnicity by age group or sex in 2021 (%)



Note: Includes only persons with one ethnicity. Ethnicities with more than 10,000 people were selected.  
 Source: 2021 Census.

Czech and Moravian (180,000) and Czech and Slovak (59,000).

The Vietnamese had the largest share of children aged 0–14 in 2021 – 23.6% (Figure 5) – while the Slovaks had the smallest proportion of children in this age group (6.2%). The Russians were dominant in the 15–34 age group – 44.9% of all Russians were identified in this age group. The majority (53.8%) of Ukrainians were aged between 35 and 64. Poles were more concentrated than any other large ethnic group in the 65–84 (30.9%) and 85 and over (3.1%) age groups. By contrast, people aged 65 and over were less common among Ukrainians and Vietnamese people (around 2.0%). Men made up a significant majority in the case of Silesians (58.3%) and only a slight majority (around 52.0%) in the case of Moravians, Vietnamese, and Ukrainians. Distinctly more women were among Russians (59.2%) and Poles (57.2%). Among Czechs and Slovaks also women formed a slight majority (around 52.5%).

### POPULATION BY MOTHER TONGUE

The mother tongue was defined as the language that the enumerated person spoke as a child with

his/her mother or those who raised him/her. It was possible to state two languages. In 2021, 90.3% of the population indicated only one language, while ten years ago the figure was 93.1%. Share of respondents with two mother tongues stayed the same at 2.5%. The proportion of inhabitants whose mother tongue was not identified slightly increased from 4.4% in 2011 to 7.2% in 2021.

Dual mother tongues are considered equal; the prioritisation of one over another, like in the case of citizenship, was not done. Table 8 and Figure 6 include only persons with one mother tongue. The reasoning is the same as in the case of ethnicity. Combinations of mother tongues are stated separately in Table 9.

The share of the population with Czech as their mother tongue among those whose mother tongue was identified slightly decreased from 92.9% to 92.1% (a decrease in absolute numbers of 267,000) between 2011 and 2021. The share of the population whose mother tongue was Slovak remained at almost the same level around 1.5%. A big decrease from 0.6% to 0.2% was observed in the share of people who declared Moravian as their mother tongue. The most intense relative increase in the population by mother tongue was among inhabitants who claimed English

**Table 6 Population by mother tongue in 2011 and 2021**

Census	Total population	Czech	Slovak	Ukrainian	Russian	Vietnamese	Polish	Moravian	English	German	Not identified
2011	10,436,560	9,263,300	154,465	48,250	31,622	30,830	33,597	62,908	7,202	14,148	464,056
2021	10,524,167	8,996,475	150,738	88,873	59,560	43,822	30,183	16,523	13,997	10,151	759,394

**Note:** Includes only persons with one mother tongue. Mother tongues with more than 10,000 people were selected.  
**Source:** 2011 and 2021 Census.

(+94.3%), Russian (+88.3%), and Ukrainian (+84.2%) as their mother tongue (Table 6b). The share of those who declared Vietnamese to be their mother tongue also increased from 2011 (+42.1%). The number of persons who declared Moravian to be their mother tongue decreased to around quarter of the level it was at ten years ago.

The inclusion of combinations of mother tongues led to a substantial increase in the number/share of the population who declared their mother tongue to be Roma (6.6 times), German (3.1 times), and English (2.2 times) (Table 9). German and English overtook Moravian as mother tongues with the introduction of these combinations. Although a relatively small increase of inhabitants was identified after including combination among population with Czech mother tongue (+2.4%), absolute increase was the most numerous (by 218,000). The most frequent combinations of mother tongues were Czech

and Slovak (69,000), Czech and Roma (22,000), and Czech and German (20,000).

Inhabitants with Vietnamese as their mother tongue had the largest share of children aged 0–14 in 2021 – 17.5% (Figure 6). Conversely, the smallest proportions of children were among people whose mother tongue was German (2.9%) and Slovak (3.8%). The largest share of people who declared Russian to be their mother tongue was in the 15–34 age group. Among people who indicate their mother tongue as Ukrainian, the majority (57.1%) were between 35 and 64 years of age. In older sub-populations German and Polish were the mother tongues declared more often; 43.6% of people who claimed German as their mother tongue were in the 65–84 age category and 10.5% were aged 85 and over. Among those who claimed Polish as their mother tongue, the figure was 37.1% and 3.5% in the same age groups. Men were significantly more represented among

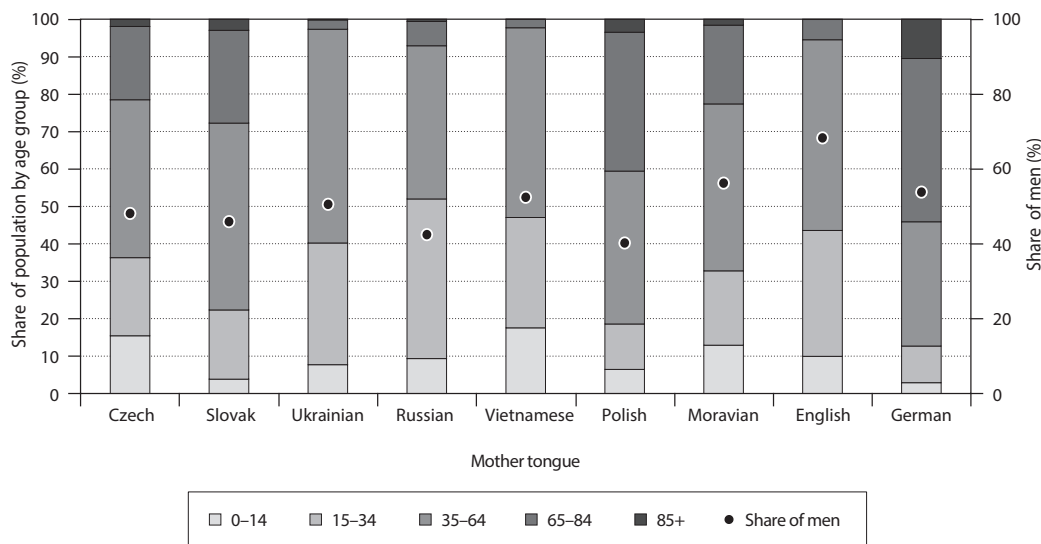
**Table 9 Population by combination of mother tongues in 2021**

Mother tongue	Exclusive	In combination with another mother tongue <sup>1)</sup>	Total <sup>1)</sup>
Czech	8,996,475	217,512	9,213,987
Slovak	150,738	74,508	225,246
Ukrainian	88,873	34,865	123,738
Russian	59,560	36,801	96,361
Vietnamese	43,822	13,586	57,408
Polish	30,183	19,486	49,669
German	10,151	21,605	31,756
English	13,997	16,481	30,478
Moravian	16,523	12,124	28,647
Roma	4,280	23,822	28,102

**Note:** Mother tongues with more than 20,000 people in total were selected. Ranking by total. 1) Persons with two mother tongues are included in both mother tongues.

**Source:** 2021 Census.

Figure 6 Share of the population with the given mother tongue by age group or sex in 2021 (%)



Note: Includes only persons with one mother tongue. Mother tongues with more than 10,000 people were selected.  
Source: 2021 Census.

the sub-populations who declared English (68.3%) and Moravian (56.2%) as their mother tongue. In contrast, women formed the majority among inhabitants with Polish (60.0%) and Russian (57.6%) as their mother tongue.

### POPULATION BY RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Providing information on one’s religious beliefs was voluntary for respondents and they were able to declare in their answer whether they were believers and indicate the religious trend, movement, church, or society to which they belonged or state that they had no religious belief. The share of people claiming they had no religious belief was almost one-half

of the population in 2021, at 47.8% (Table 10). People who specified no answer at all made up the second highest share at 30.1% (unlike other topics, no specified religious belief is a single category in this part of analysis). In the 2021 Census 13.1% of the population stated that they were believers and belonged to a church or religious society and the last 9.1% declared that they were believers but did not belong to a church or religious society.

While 30.1% of people specified no answer at all in the 2021 Census, this figure is still lower than in the 2011 Census, when the share was 44.7%. Since the 2011 Census the share of people who stated they were believers who belonged to a church or religious society decreased. If we take into account only official

Table 10 Population by religious belief in 2011 and 2021

Census	Total population	Believers who belong to a church or religious society				Believers who do not belong to any church or religious society	No religious belief	Not specified
		Total	Roman Catholic Church	Evangelical United Brethren Church	Czechoslovak Hussite Church			
2011	10,436,560	1,463,584	1,082,463	51,858	39,229	705,368	3,604,095	4,662,455
2021	10,524,167	1,374,285	741,019	32,577	23,610	960,201	5,027,141	3,162,540

Source: 2011 and 2021 Census.

registered churches, the affiliation indicated most in 2021, at 7.0% of the population, was the Roman Catholic Church. This figure was a decrease from 10.4% in 2011 (down by 341,000 in absolute numbers). Conversely, the share of people without religious belief increased significantly: from 34.5% to almost every second person at 47.8%. The proportion of believers who claimed not to belong to any church or religious society also rose slightly to 9.1% from 6.8% in 2011.

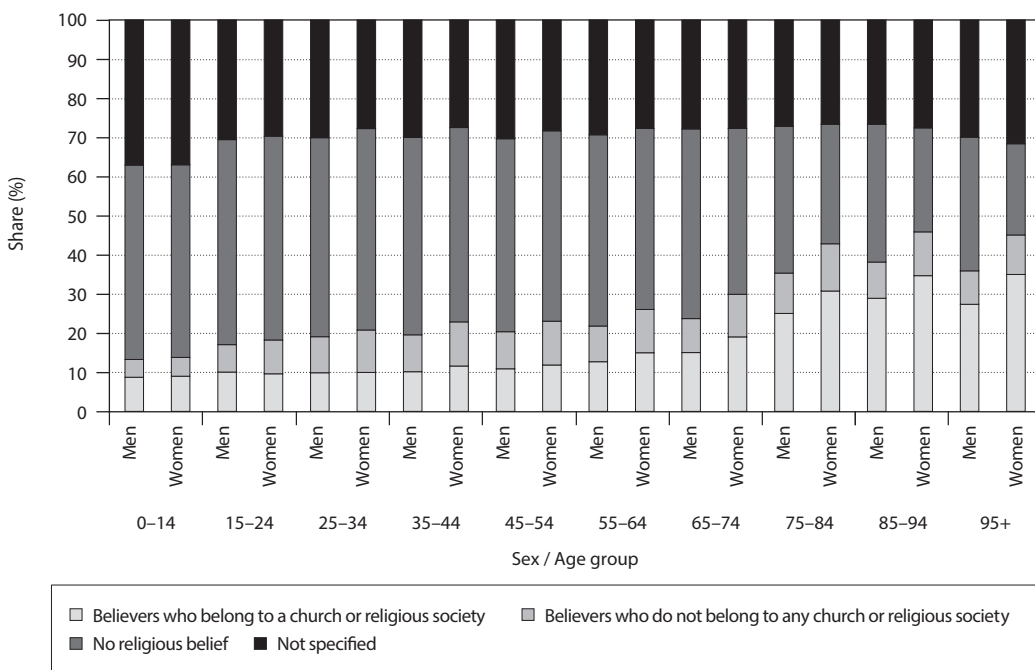
There was no big difference between men and women in terms of claiming religious belief. Women stated they were believers (both belonging or not belonging to a church or religious society) at the expense of women without religious belief slightly more often than men. More substantial differences were found between age groups (Figure 7). Among both men and women people more often claimed to be believers the older they were. The proportion of men who were believers (both belonging and not belonging to a church or religious society) in each of the three oldest groups was around 35–38%,

and the corresponding proportion of women in each of the three oldest groups was around 42–46%.

Another finding comes from examining believers who claimed to belong to a church or religious belief and specified which church or religious society. Both men and women in this group most frequently claimed affiliation with the Roman Catholic Church (54.9% of men and 58.0% of women), followed by Catholic (16.8% of men and 19.0% of women) and Christianity (5.4% of both men and women) in 2021.

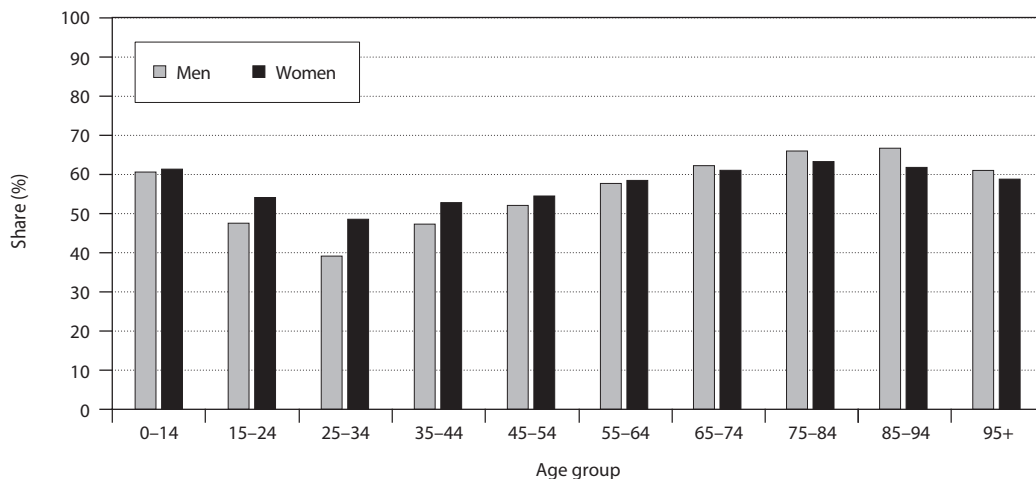
Although there were higher shares of believers among women than men and among older people than young people in general, this was not strictly true in the case of the Roman Catholic Church (Figure 8). When measured as the share of men and women who indicated affiliation with the Roman Catholic Church out of all believers who claimed to belong to a church or religious society and specified which one, there are a few characteristics differ. First, women made up the larger proportion only up to the age 55–64 years, and from the 65–74 age group the larger share were

Figure 7 Share of the population of the given sex and age group by religious belief in 2021 (%)



Source: 2021 Census.

**Figure 7 Share of the population of the given sex and age group who belong to the Roman Catholic Church out of all believers who belong to a church or religious society in 2021 (%)**



Source: 2021 Census.

men. Second, the discussed proportion was getting higher in association with higher ages for men and women only from age group 25–34 to 75–84 years. The lowest proportions were identified at the age group 25-34 years and it was lower than proportion at the two younger age groups. It should be mentioned, too, that it is arguable whether people aged 0–14 years can answer a question on religious belief.

### FERTILITY OF WOMEN

The number of children ever born alive to women was surveyed in the census only for women aged 15 and over. This figure includes all children ever born alive up to the decisive moment (both in and outside marriage). The number also includes cases in which children may have died later on. The data provided on the census questionnaire were supplemented with information on children from administrative data sources. Women

with 2 children made up the largest group of women aged 15 and over for whom the number of children ever born alive was known. These women made up 43.2% in the 2021 Census. The next sub-populations were as follows: 0 children at 22.5%, 1 child at 18.6%, 3 children at 12.3%, 4 children at 2.5%, and 5 and more children at 0.9%. The order of these groups was the same in the 2011 Census and the shares were also very similar: they were 42.5%, 22.6%, 18.8%, 12.4%, 2.6%, and 1.1%, respectively. The number of women aged 15 or over for whom the number of children ever born alive was unknown was almost 97,000 in the 2021 Census and almost 172,000 in the 2011 Census.

The share of women by the number of children ever born alive and by age out of all women for whom the number of live births was known at a given age was unsurprisingly dependent on age (Figure 9). The share of women with no children ever born alive was higher the younger they were, except for

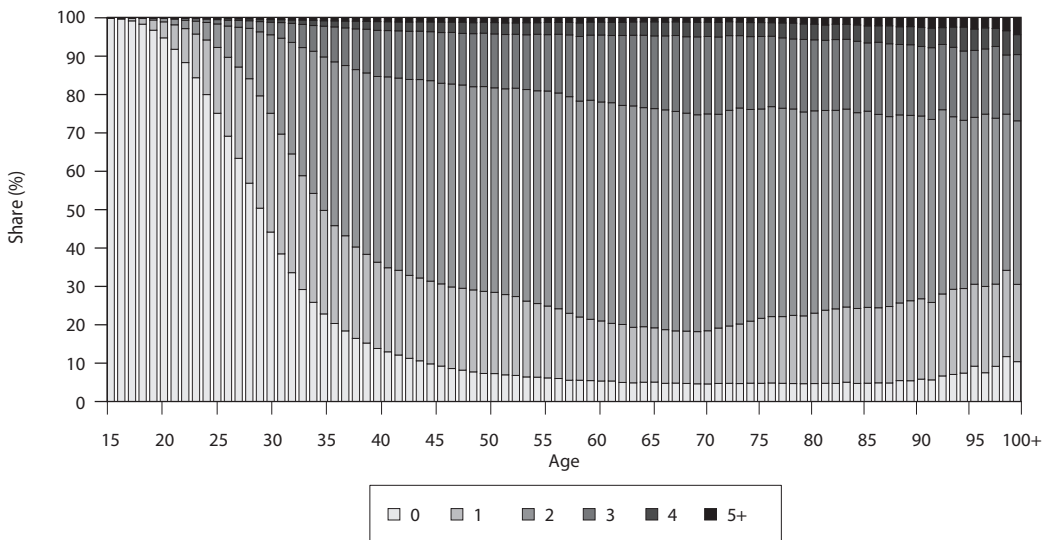
**Table 11 Women by number of children ever born alive in 2011 and 2021**

Census	Women aged 15 and over	By number of children ever born alive					
		0	1	2	3	4	5 and more
2011	4,586,090	995,900	831,827	1,876,181	547,155	114,700	48,597
2021	4,512,181	993,155	822,489	1,906,429	543,154	108,271	41,858

Source: 2011 and 2021 Census.

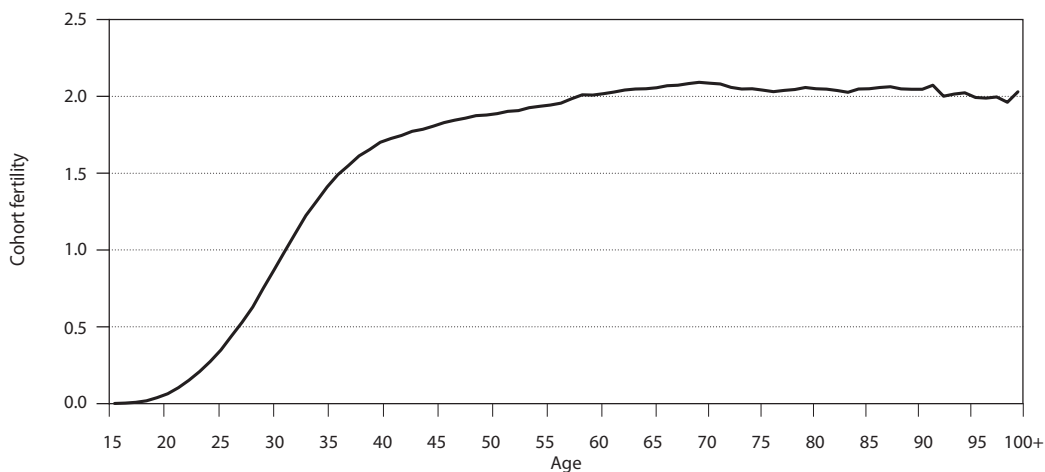
some older years. The proportion of women with 1 child was over 20% between the ages 26 and 53, with the highest share of 31.2% observed at age 31. From the age of 71 this proportion, conversely, rose

**Figure 9 Share of women by number of children ever born alive in 2021 (%)**



**Note:** Only for women with a known number of children ever born alive.  
**Source:** 2021 Census.

**Figure 10 Cohort fertility of women by age in 2021**



**Note:** Cohort fertility is calculated as the average number of children ever born alive per woman with a known number of children.  
**Source:** 2021 Census.

with age except in a few individual years. Women with 2 children ever born alive formed the highest proportion at age 64 and it reached 57.7%. At least half of women of a given age had 2 children between the ages of 42 and 87. The results of the 2021 Census confirm that the two-child family model that was typical of the socialist era continues to prevail (Rychtaříková, 2004). The highest share of women with 3 children ever born alive has reached 20.3% at age 70. In the case of women with 4 children it reached its highest value of 6.3% at age 99.

Cohort fertility at given age was calculated as the average number of children ever born alive to a woman of a given age with a known number of children (Figure 10). Beginning at age 50 women's fertility can be considered complete as they are outside reproductive age and will probably not have any more births.

The highest cohort fertility in 2021 was 2.09 at age 70. Women around this age started to fulfill their reproduction plans in the 1970s, when it was very common to have children at a young age, and who reached the age of 40 (and therefore had completed most of their fertility) before the overall level of fertility started decreasing quickly in the first half of the 1990s.

While women before the age 50 can still give birth to children, the vast majority of women from the age of 50 up cannot and thus can be compared. And it was actually these 50-year-old women who have, on average, given birth in their lifetime to the fewest children: 1.88 per woman. These are women who started their fertility in the first half of the 1990s, when the overall fertility level was just about to begin its very steep downswing and the mean age of mother at childbirth was, conversely, just about to begin its fast and unprecedented increase. The postponement of motherhood to an older age led to a decrease in transversal fertility levels (total fertility rate) in the 1990s. Although fertility levels recuperated to some extent later, the complete fertility of this generation was lower than in older generations (Šprocha, 2022). A fall in cohort fertility below two children per woman by the end of their reproductive span was also observed in the 2011 Census (Kurkin *et al.*, 2014).

## CONCLUSION

According to the 2021 Census results, the population of Czechia rose in comparison to the 2011 Census by less than 1% or by 88,000 to reach a total of 10,524,000 inhabitants. The population is getting older – the average age of the population reached 42.7 years, while it was somewhat higher among women (44.1 years) than men (41.2 years). Since the previous census in 2011, both men and women grew older on average by 1.7 years. The population aged 65+ years amounted to 20.4% of the total population in 2021, while it was 15.8% in 2011. The share of the subpopulation aged 0–14 also rose from 14.3% to 16.1% between 2011 and 2021, while the share of those aged 15–64 declined from 69.6% to 63.5% in the same period. From the population aged 15+, the most usual marital status among men and women in 2021 was never married (48.0% and 38.2%) up by 3.1 and 2.9 percentage points from 2011. The share of divorcees also rose in a ten-year comparison, while the proportion of married decreased substantially and the share of widowed persons decreased slightly.

The percentage of the population with higher levels of education continues to increase in Czechia. The population with tertiary education accounted for 18.7% of the population aged 15 and over whose highest educational attainment was known in 2021, while the same figure was 13.2% in 2011. In the young 25–34 age group about a third of the population had completed tertiary education according to the recent census. In contrast, the share of the subpopulation with lower secondary or primary education decreased from 18.5% to 13.3%. The most common educational levels in 2021 were secondary including vocational (without the school-leaving exam; 32.9%) and upper secondary or post secondary education (32.8%).

According to the 2021 Census, 4.7% of the population were foreign nationals and 95.0% were Czech citizens. The foreign population rose by 74,000 in comparison with 2011. The share of women among foreign nationals increased from 42.6% to 45.3%. The largest number of foreign nationals were Ukrainians (151,000) and Slovaks (96,000).

Optional questions on ethnicity and religious belief had similar response rates in the 2021 Census – about 70%. However ten years ago, response rate for religious belief was lower (55%) and for ethnicity



higher (75%). More people declared two ethnicities in 2021 (420,000) than in 2011 (164,000). Among inhabitants with one ethnicity, the shares of Czechs, Moravians and Slovaks declined. On the other hand, the shares of Ukrainians, Russians, and Vietnamese were greater than in 2011. Including combinations of ethnicities led to a major increase in the number of people who claimed European, Roma, and German ethnicity. Even with the higher response rate the share of believers who claimed to belong to a church or religious society declined from 14.0% to 13.0% between 2011 and 2021. An even more profound decrease, from 10.4% was observed among those who identified with the Roman Catholic Church (still the most numerous official church). In contrast, the share of people without religious belief rose from 34.5% to 47.8%. Both men and women stated they were believers more often with rising age.

The share of the population who indicated Czech was their mother tongue out of the population whose mother tongue was identified slightly decreased between 2011 and 2021 from 92.9% to 92.1%

(or by 267,000 in absolute numbers). The population who declared Slovak to be their mother tongue remained almost on the same level at around 1.5%. A substantial decrease, from 0.6% to 0.2%, was observed in the share of people who declared Moravian as their mother tongue (to a quarter of the level recorded in 2011). Even the inclusion of combinations will not prevent from decline. The biggest relative increase of the population by mother tongue was among inhabitants with English, Russian, and Ukrainian as their mother tongue.

The results of the 2021 Census confirm that the two-child family model is still the most typical one. The share of women with two children ever born alive was 43.2%. The complete fertility of women at age 50 was 1.88 children, which is lower than for women of any other older age. It seems that the fertility rate of women born in the 1970s, who very often postponed motherhood into their late 30s, has not fully recuperated to the level of older generations, for whom it was more than two children per woman.

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