

1. Summary

Results of the Population and Housing Census on March 26 2011 have documented the state of demographic, social and economic structures in the region, both as a whole and in its individual territorial parts.

- *Moravskoslezský region has the least number of municipalities in all regions of the nation. The region's area of 5 427 sq. km covers 6.9 % of the Czech Republic and is the sixth largest among regions. The region is divided to 6 districts and 22 administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers. The actual number of 300 municipalities was stabilized during the last decade. Average municipality has five basic settlement units (localities). Three quarters of the population live in 42 towns. The region still shows very high concentration of population (density of 222.2 inhabitants per sq. km). There are five towns with population over 50 000, i.e. Ostrava, Havířov, Karviná, Frýdek-Místek a Opava.*
- *Complying with international recommendations results of 2011 census were processed using the usual place of residence. In total 1 205 834 persons declared Moravskoslezský region to be their usual place of residency, the third highest population in the country. This count is by almost 28 thousands lower than number of permanent residents. Foreign citizens constitute 1.7 % of the region's population, one of the lowest shares in a region-to-region comparison. Number of homeless people is the highest among all regions in the country.*
- *Population of the region has been steadily declining since 1991 and in 2011 for 45 thousand permanent residents.*
- *Average age is 41.0 years, the same as nationwide. Age structure of the population confirms the trend of continual population aging. In the last decade the share of people aged 0-14 years declined to 14.4 %, while the share of people aged 65 years or older rised to 15.7 %. With regard to municipality size groups, we can observe, that in all size groups inhabitants in post-productive age always outnumber inhabitants in pre-productive age with the exception of municipalities with population between 200 and 999 inhabitants.*
- *Just as in the Czech Republic nation-wide, the share of never married persons has grown at the expense of married ones in Moravskoslezský region as well. It was caused by postponing marriages to a later age or even not getting married at all. In general, women get married earlier (there are more married than single women in the age category of 30-34 years) than men (there are more married than single men in the later age category of 35-39 years).*
- *The trend of lifestyle change developed by the young generation after 1989 has been confirmed – postponing of maternity to a later age. Most children are born to mothers in the 35-39 years age group. There were 1 649 children born alive per 1 000 women aged 15 or older. Mothers with lower education or mothers with a religious belief tend to have more children.*
- *With regard to ethnic structure the 2011 Census results are affected by the fact that 23.7 % of the region's population took advantage of their right not to response this question. Of those who responded, 83.3 % declared their Czech nationality. Both in Moravskoslezský and the other Moravian regions respondents also declared Moravian and Silesian ethnicities. Number of people claiming Silesian ethnicity was the highest in the country. Slovak and Polish are the other populous ethnic groups in the region.*
- *The region's population has fairly strong ties to their place of birth, since most of the population (51.5 %) reside in the municipality where they were born. Ties of men are stronger than those of women, mostly due to persisting tradition of women following their life partners.*
- *Only 56.2 % of the region's population responded the question on religious belief. Of those over a half declared no religious belief.*
- *The share of people with higher education has been continuously growing. This development may be attributed to growing interest of young people to study in relation to better labour market opportunities for educated people and also to a natural exchange of population due to decreasing share of generations born in the first half of the last century with higher proportion of lower-educated population. People with higher education tend to concentrate in towns (just as in the other regions) where commensurate employment opportunities are more frequent.*
- *Compared with the 2001 Census results, the share of economically active persons in the region has decreased. Besides demographical development it is related to a greater share of population attending secondary and tertiary education institutions and also to more opportunities for entering internships abroad before getting engaged in full time employment. The region ranks 12th in the Czech Republic with regard to the economic activity rate (59.0 %), among the lowest in the country.*

- *Employment rate of 51.7 % is the lowest rate in the Czech Republic. The highest share of economically not active persons is made up by non-working pensioners (49.3 % is the fourth highest share nationwide).*
- *Employers constitute only 3.3 % and own-account workers 10.0 % of the total employed population. These are figures below the national average.*
- *With regard to employment structure by the branch of economic activity the most important share belongs to industry (30.1 % of persons with identified branch of economic activity), trade and automotive vehicle repair (10.0 %) and social and health care (7.1 %). Just as in the rest of the Czech Republic, the share of people employed in production sectors decreased in Moravskoslezský region, whereas the share of people employed in the tertiary sector increased.*
- *As far as commuting to work is concerned, the region shows, just as all regions with the exception of the Capital of Prague and Jihomoravský region, negative balance of commuting since 14.4 thousand more commuters travel outside than into the region. Over two fifths of employed people commute outside of their place of residence to work, of those more males than females. The share of commuters clearly decreases with the size of their place of residence, as it is related mostly to a number and structure of employment opportunities in their municipality.*
- *The total count of housekeeping households decreased by 1.2 % in 10 years, similarly the number of one-family households decreased by 9.9 %. To the contrary, the number of one-person households grew by 6.8 % and makes up for over one-third of all households in the region. A significant increase is also observed in a number of lone-parent families without dependent children. Changes in household structure are mainly affected by the trend of establishing a family in a later age. This trend is related to better education and travel opportunities, attitude to build a sound financial base for family and obtain separate housing.*
- *On average, households formed by a single one-couple family take care for 0.67 dependent children. However most of these families are childless households. Families with one and with two children equally constitute 19 % share, while families with 3 and a higher number of children only 3.1 %. Over one fifth of family households form lone-parent families usually with a woman as reference person.*
- *With regard to dwelling household technical facilities the only data were collected on personal computer equipment and Internet connectivity. In the region 56.6 % of dwelling households are equipped with a personal computer and 53.1 % are connected to the Internet. In recent years these facilities have been rapidly improving.*
- *Within the period 2001-2011 the number of buildings increased by 8.2 %, while number of occupied buildings increased by 8.6 % and number of vacant buildings increased by 4.6 %. Vacant buildings comprise 10.3 % of the housing stock. The most frequent reason of vacancy is seasonal use (31.6 % of vacant buildings). Family houses comprise 84.0 % of the region's housing stock.*
- *The number of occupied dwellings increased by 2.4 % in the last 10 years. Average age of occupied buildings in the Moravskoslezský region is 46.2 years. The smallest municipalities have the oldest dwelling stock. With regard to dwelling ownership forms, the most rapid increase can be seen in private ownership (up from 7.1 % to 13.3 %) at the expense of co-operative and rental forms of ownership. The biggest share (30.0 %), however, belongs to dwellings in privately owned houses. The number of vacant dwellings increased in 10 years by 37 %. Reasons of vacancy were not found for one fifth of these dwellings.*
- *Renovation and new construction of the region's dwelling stock led to improvement of qualitative housing characteristics. There are now 2.5 inhabitants per one occupied dwelling and 0.76 inhabitants per one room. Technical facilities of dwellings have been improved as well. Piped water is available in 93.5 % of dwellings, public sewage disposal in 73.3 %. Only 5.0 % of the occupied dwellings are of lower quality.*