

POPULATION
CENSUS
THROUGH
HISTORY



04





↑ *The best-known reform of Empress Maria Theresa was the introduction of compulsory school attendance ...*

1754 THE BEGINNING OF REGULAR REGISTERS

Regular population censuses began to be carried out in the middle of the 18th century. Sometimes, they were taken every three years, while other times it was annually. They were taken by the nobility and the clergy (in 1754–1769) or the nobility and the military (in 1770–1851) for fiscal or military purposes. The initial ones recorded all present inhabitants, whereas later ones recorded only native inhabitants, who would eventually be defined by their right of settlement in a municipality.

An important milestone in the history of population censuses was 13 October 1753, when Maria Theresa's decree on annual population censuses came into force. The first

population census taken on grounds of this decree was carried out in 1754, and marked the beginning of a new chapter in population registers. It was the first time that a census was held simultaneously and uniformly throughout the monarchy. Originally, it was to be taken by the clergy in each parish. However, it was eventually decided that another census taken by the nobility would run concurrently and that its contents would be expanded to include a listing of houses and the economic characteristics of the owners of the houses. The nobility listings and listings performed by the clergy did not match, though, as the listings made by the clergy showed higher numbers.



The results of the 1754 census were long considered a state secret, and the data were kept confidential for more than 100 years.



It was stipulated that a serf who intentionally did not meet his duty to report, hid himself or even escaped, would, upon his capture, be arrested and punished by being sentenced to two years of labour in a fortification. If he hid his cattle from the listings, any found cattle would be confiscated.

→ *“Census takers” were both members of the clergy and nobility clerks.*





↑ Listings captured native inhabitants who were divided into those who were present and those who were absent.



For the needs of listing accuracy in 1770, all houses were ordered to be numbered, and it was forbidden to change surnames after registration.



Beginning in 1828, results of the population censuses were regularly published in the official "Tafeln zur Statistik der Österreichischen Monarchie" (1828–1865).

1777 A NEW CONSCRIPTION DECREE

In 1777, a new listing decree was issued that – with slight modifications and variations – became the basis of listings until 1851. Up to 1828, the annual listings were performed simultaneously by military and political offices. Then the census interval changed to a three-year period, and censuses were taken in 1830, 1834, 1837, 1840, 1843 and 1846. Data obtained in the three-year periods were, however, revisions of already discovered facts, not entirely new findings. The subject of records were native inhabitants (i.e. persons appropriate to the respective municipality) who were divided into those who were present and those who were absent. Data on the male population were more detailed due to military reasons. Only the decree of 25 October 1805 stipulated that women had to be registered with as many details as men, and that the registers also include children from birth. Beginning in 1807, the results of the military and political surveys were identical.

Starting in the 1780s, population books were maintained at estates and later also in cities (and subsequently even in municipalities) that separately recorded each family with all the members of the household. The head of the household was obligated to immediately report all changes within the family (deaths, births, etc.).



↑ The title page of Maria Theresa's decree of 10 March 1770.



↑ A labour listing dated 1777.

1857 FROM LISTINGS TO CENSUSES



The first statistical congress was held in Brussels in 1853. One of its conclusions included a recommendation of having the census taken by a single body in the state and on a single day. Another recommendation dealt with having a regular census taken at 10-year intervals.

The population census of 1857 is marked as a transition between population listings and modern population censuses. For the first time, it was counted as of a single date, 31 October 1857. The clerks had only seven months to prepare because the imperial order was issued on 23 March 1857. Contrary to the population listings that provided only basic data on the number of inhabitants and their structure, population censuses carried out from the middle of the 19th century were a fundamental source of statistical data not only of the inhabitants, their number and composition, but also of the country's entire economy. Also, military offices ceased to take part in population censuses in 1857.

1869 THE FIRST MODERN CENSUS IN OUR COUNTRY



Teplice. According to the data of the population census in 1869, there were 15 469 inhabitants; in 2011, it was 49 640 persons.

Municipality	Population	Males	Females	Total	Sex Ratio		Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
					per 1000	per 1000							
Opilít Kral	1 190	580	610	1190	48.7	51.3	1190	580	610	1190	580	610	1190
Opilít Kral	1 127	520	607	1127	46.2	53.8	1127	520	607	1127	520	607	1127
Opilít Kral	1 164	530	634	1164	45.6	54.4	1164	530	634	1164	530	634	1164
Opilít Kral	1 165	530	635	1165	45.5	54.5	1165	530	635	1165	530	635	1165
Opilít Kral	1 189	540	649	1189	45.4	54.6	1189	540	649	1189	540	649	1189
Opilít Kral	1 189	540	649	1189	45.4	54.6	1189	540	649	1189	540	649	1189

↑ Recorded values of the census in 1869.

The next significant milestone in the modern history of population censuses in our territory was because of the act that was passed in 1869. Pursuant to this new act, a population census was carried out at the beginning of 1870 that captured the condition of the population as of 31 December 1869. The act further stipulated that subsequent statistical surveys were to capture the population condition at ten-year intervals on the last day of December of any year ending in zero. The actual surveys were taken by municipalities and a household became a census unit. Questionnaires were either completed by owners of houses or by “census takers” based on reports of registered persons. It was basically the first population census in modern terms that created conditions for comparing basic demographic data from this point forward.

1880–1910 POPULATION CENSUSES EVERY 10 YEARS

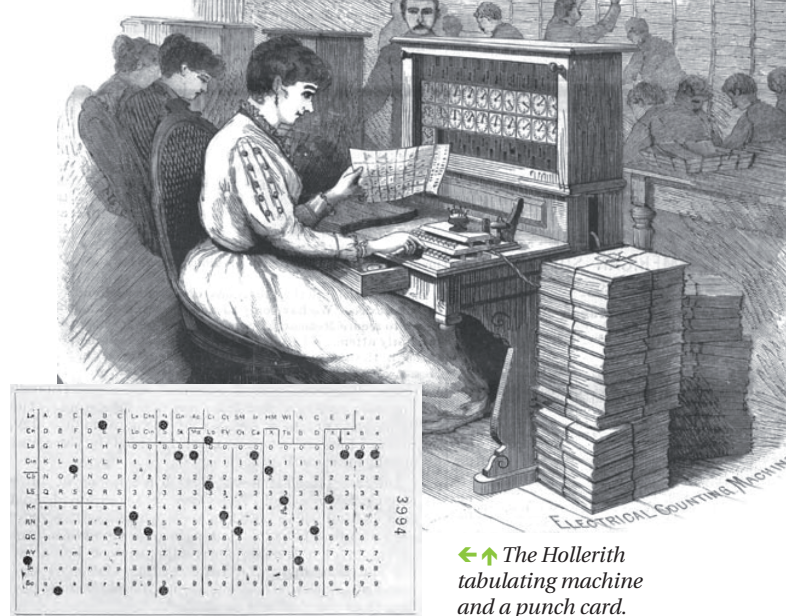
Prior to the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, population censuses in Cisleithania were taken in 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910. Results of these censuses were published in “*Österreichische Statistik*”. Among the major reasons for taking censuses in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the 2nd half of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century, was finding the number of present inhabitants and capturing the rapid and significant structural changes that society was experiencing. Gradually, the scope of requested data expanded.

The population census in 1880 for the first time contained a question regarding spoken language with which the statisticians indirectly investigated the nationality structure of individual regions. This information proved to be every important because various legal regulations applied to the ratio of nationalities. The results of the census also helped to determine directions of population migration.

The 1890 census is considered a milestone. During this time, occupation statistics had been consolidated and gained its modern basis. Classification of branches was already quite detailed, and classification of social groups survived with only minor changes until 1950.



A competent body was authorized to impose a sentence of imprisonment not exceeding four days or a financial penalty in the amount of 1–20 guildens for purposefully evading the census or providing false data. The sums of the penalties were then used for a poor people’s fund in each given municipality.



↔ The Hollerith tabulating machine and a punch card.



The data of population censuses in 1869 and 1880 were sorted out and summarized manually. 1890 was the first time that part of the census results could be processed by machines.



In the 1869 census, deafness and blindness were investigated, as were mental disorders in the following years.

↓ Recorded values from the 1890 population census.

№. dom.	Ime i prezime (Zemlja)	Ime i prezime (Zemlja)	Pol	Starost	Religija	Profesija	Školsko obrazovanje	Drugo	Drugo
1	Lačenik	Lačenik	muški	18 26 44	katolički	učitelj	1. razred	Lačenik	Lačenik
2	Lačenikova	Lačenikova	ženska	18 29 49	katolički	domaćica	1. razred	Lačenikova	Lačenikova
3	Lačenik	Lačenik	muški	18 7 76	katolički	učitelj	1. razred	Lačenik	Lačenik
4	Lačenikova	Lačenikova	ženska	18 27 74	katolički	domaćica	1. razred	Lačenikova	Lačenikova
5	Lačenikova	Lačenikova	ženska	18 7 76	katolički	domaćica	1. razred	Lačenikova	Lačenikova

1921 THE FIRST CZECHOSLOVAK CENSUS

The first Czechoslovak population and housing census was held on 15 February 1921 pursuant to Act No. 256/1920 Sb. of 8 April 1920 on population censuses. The contents of this census substantially differed from pre-war censuses, however, present inhabitants were recorded and not those who were residing there but were absent.

The most politically important information was investigating the nationality structure of the inhabitants. It was to confirm the rightful establishment of an independent Czechoslovak Republic. Contrary to the pre-war nationality surveys on grounds of spoken language, a new definition of nationality was adopted according to which “nationality means an affiliation whose external characteristic is usually the mother tongue“. The purpose of it was to remove the definition of a nationality according to spoken language, which was disadvantageous for the Czechs and Slovaks and helped the Germans. Moreover, the reference to a declaration of one’s nationality pursuant to affiliation enabled Jews and the Romany to claim allegiance to their nationality even if they did not use or did not know the language common to such nationalities. Long discussions were held over the question and definition of a nationality. Even though a “Czechoslovak nationality” was officially introduced and surveyed, it was possible to separately determine the number of inhabitants with either a Czech or Slovak nationality.

Another important characteristic was the data of occupation. The statisticians compared current occupations with occupations as of 16 July 1914. It enabled them to find out social and occupational changes that occurred during the war.

↑ A domicile collection sheet used in the 1921 population and housing census.

1930 THE SECOND CZECHOSLOVAK CENSUS

Another census was held on 1 December 1930. This time, the contents of the census expanded in many directions. Of the newly introduced characteristics of the census, one of the most important was the investigation of past domiciles of registered persons if such persons were not registered in his or her place of birth. Subjects of the survey included places from which the persons moved to places where they were registered. The most significant, however, was the survey of women’s fertility. Nevertheless, only the marital fertility rate was registered, i.e. the fertility of women in their current or previous marriage.



The census was processed on Powers’ punch-card machines. Hollerith machines were used in previous censuses from 1890.

↑ A census sheet from 1921.

1950 THE NATIONAL CENSUS

The first population census after 1945 occurred on 1 March 1950. As there was also a housing census and listings of agricultural, industrial and trade plants, the entire event was called “The national census of 1950”.

For a long time, this census was the last one that would process present inhabitants. In addition, for a long time this was also the last listing where allegiance to a specific denomination was surveyed (the question of religious denomination reappeared only in the 1991 population census).

One of the fundamental goals with the 1950 census was to capture the changes within the Czechoslovak society that occurred as a consequence of the Second World War: the post-war resettlement of the Germans, re-emigration, resettlement to frontier areas of the Czech lands, changes in the social composition of the population. The census also offered data on the housing fund and its structure and a lot of other data with which the statisticians could describe several other war and post-war changes in the national economy.



A census that was planned for 1940 did not occur. Data investigated in the first post-war population listings from 1946 (in Slovakia) and 1947 (in the Czech lands) offered only rudimentary information. In Slovakia, only the present civil inhabitants were registered, whereas in the Czech lands, all present inhabitants were subject to the census.



Results of the 1950 national census were published as non-public and with a limited circulation. The data were made available to the public only after their declassification in 1962.

A substantial change compared to the 1930 census was a new definition of nationality according to which a nationality was “a person’s allegiance to a nation with whose cultural and work environment he or she was internally connected and to which he or she professed to belong.”

The 1950 national census strictly distinguished the professional and branch-based point of view in surveying occupations. Thus, two new classifications emerged: branch-based classification and occupational classification.



↑ A promotional ad for the population census in 1950 starring actor Jan Werich.





↑ All obtained data had to be coded. © ČTK (photo), 2013.



A census household is the smallest group of people connected through a joint domicile, joint housekeeping and mostly through family relationships. It is divided into complete family households, incomplete family households, multimember non-family households and households of private individuals. The concept of census households was introduced by the State Office of Statistics and was the first of its kind in the world. Registered households were processed for the last time during the 2001 census.



The data of the 1961 PHC facilitated the establishment and subsequent maintenance of annual reviews of the population based on permanent domiciles and other criteria.



During the 1961 PHC, there were 2 869 370 apartments and 3 214 263 census households recorded. It means that 327 106 apartments consisted of more than one census household.

1961 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

Another census in our country was taken on 1 March 1961, and for the first time it was known as the “population and housing census” (PHC). This census dealt with permanently domiciled inhabitants in accordance with the concept of “census households”. The census data on residing inhabitants enabled researchers to subsequently open and maintain annual reviews of the population according to various criteria, for instance, marital status. This detailed processing of data of census households substantially broadened information on the structure and sizes of families and households. It also enabled the quantification of the scale of multigenerational cohabitation, the number and composition of incomplete families with dependent children, and helped to describe housing conditions.

As opposed to the previous census, the current list also processed the first data on people who commuted to work between districts or to larger cities. Similarly, it offered the first look at cooperative farmers, who were a new social group. The 1961 PHC also provided data on the level of education by age group and sex.

Contrary to the previous censuses, much of the current published data and the analytical application of the census results were more extensive. The main results of the 1961 census were published in four volumes in 1965–1967 under a common title “Sčítání lidu, domů a bytů v ČSSR k 1. březnu 1961” (Population and Housing Census in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic as of 1 March 1961). In 1963–1965, separate regional publications came out that contained large amounts of detailed information and they were supplemented by an analysis of the results for the entire region and its districts. Also, in 1965, a nationwide publication called “Vývoj společnosti ČSSR v číslech” (Societal Trends of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in Numbers) was published and a year later it was followed by “Statistický lexikon obcí ČSSR 1965” (A Statistical Lexicon of Municipalities in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in 1965).



1970 PHC

New survey characteristics of the population and housing census that were included in the 1 December 1970 edition included birth certificate number, mother tongue, citizenship, and the length of commute to work, schools and education (frequency, distance, duration and method of transport). Other important factors were monitoring the willing or unwilling cohabitation of registered households in a single apartment and the existence of certain durable consumer goods in households.

Computer-assisted processing of results with the help of a high-capacity mainframe enabled the wide publication of data. For the first time, the results of the census were processed for basic settlement units (i.e. localities in rural settlements and urban districts in selected towns and cities).

1980 PHC

The fourth post-war census was held on 1 November 1980. With regards to its contents, it was to a large degree similar to the 1970 census. The few new features included the concretization of data about women's fertility, a classification of basic settlement units according to their type and size as well as direction-based data processing of commutes (it was previously only a balancing evaluation). Another important feature of the census was the unified method of processing information regarding the lack of apartments down to the level of individual towns.

The census results were processed on a new Cyber 180 mainframe and with the application of experience gained during the last census. Data in the form of numerical codes were transferred to a magnetic tape through the Videoplex 3 system in the facilities of Podnik výpočetní techniky (Computing Enterprise). Subsequently, all logical checks and corrections were made. The mainframe processed nearly all data in a very short period (roughly in a year and a half).

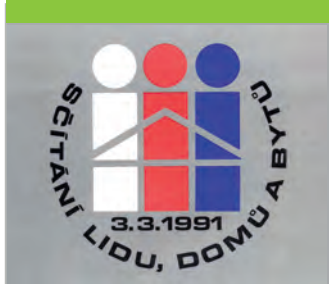
↓ *The length of commute to work and schools was also a survey subject of the 1970 census.*



The 1970 population and housing census included a Microcensus – a 2% selective survey of households whose basic objective was to discover the differences in income levels of various groups of households, and to capture some other features pertaining to the standard of living.



As a part of promoting the population and housing census, the Ministry of Transportation issued a CSK 1.00 postage stamp on 24 September 1980 with a total circulation of 23 605 000 stamps.

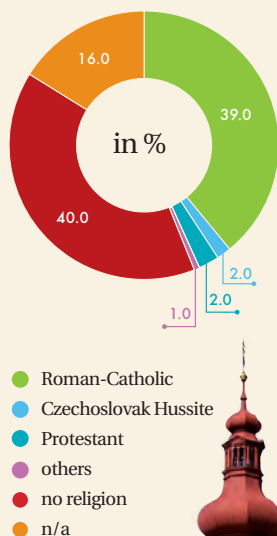


1991 PHC

The last Czechoslovak population and housing census was held on 3 March 1991. Based on international recommendations adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, questions pertaining to a registered person's mother tongue and permanent residency at the time of birth were reintroduced into the censuses. The census again processed data on all inhabitants with permanent residency. The rapidly changing social-political situation after 1989 was reflected in the final stage of the census preparations, specifically in its content and methodical changes. As opposed to the 1980 census, there were some modifications to the method of surveying and processing data of economic activities and social groups. After more than 40 years, the census forms again included questions on the religious affiliation of registered persons.

Particularly significant changes occurred with respect to the classification of nationalities, namely in connection to the constitutional law introducing the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms. In accordance with this constitutional law, the question of nationality in the census form was accompanied by the following explanation: *"Nationality means affiliation to a nation. It is left to everyone's own discretion to freely express their national affiliation."* The nationality of children under 15 matched the nationality of their parents. If the parents claimed allegiance to different nationalities, then the child's nationality was stipulated as one of its parent's. From the beginning, the census sheet facilitated records of nationality without any restrictions. It unprecedentedly diversified the range of nationalities and results that had to be processed. For the first time, statisticians came across Moravian and Silesian nationalities. The data of nationalities, however, did not have to correspond with the records that were contained on people's identity cards or other personal documents.

The 2011 Census, for the first time since 1950, included the question on the religious affiliation of respondents.



The results of the 1991 census were gradually published in 1 172 titles (of which 848 were published in the Czech Republic). In addition to basic publications, a lot of data and analytical works came out that were based on the 1991 census.



According to the results of the 1991 PHC, 49.9% of the persons had their permanent domicile in the same municipality where they were born. Men slightly prevailed among such natives (52.1%). The highest proportion of natives was recorded in South-Moravian districts (up to 60%), whereas the lowest share of them was recorded in the West- and North-Bohemian frontier area (the Tachov district 31.6%).



↑ A period advertisement of Fatra TV sets.

5. MÍSTO MÍSTO	zeměpisná obec na jmenu sídlišť a měst sídlišť územní	1
6. VLASTNÍ AUTOMOBIL PRÁCE	ano	1
7. TELEFON ZNA	domovní (domovní) pracovní (pracovní)	2
8. TELEFON	ano	1
9. MÍSTO PŘEVÁŽNĚ CHÁTEL, DOMEK vlastní (vlastní) v nájmu (nájmu)	ano	1
10. MÍSTO OSOBNÍ AUTOMOBIL	ano	1
11. VOZIDLO VOZIDLO	osobní - do 3500 - pouze do domu - mimo dům, nezahrnut	2
12. TĚŽKÝ TĚŽKÝ VOZIDLO	3 osobní vozidla s celkovou hmotností nad 3500 kg 3 osobní vozidla s celkovou hmotností nad 3500 kg	1
13. JINÝ JINÝ (JINÝ)	do 3500 - nezahrnut	1
14. PŘÍJAZD PŘÍJAZD SPUŠTĚN	osobní, včetně vozidel osobní - do 3500	1



↑ Not even bad weather could stop census takers. © ČTK (photo), 2013



Sčítání lidu, domů a bytů



Census forms completed by inhabitants were printed in 10 different languages: English, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Polish, Romany, Russian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.



During the 2001 PHC, optical scanning of census sheets was first used to obtain input data, and special software was developed to create printed publications. Results of the census were published both in print and electronically.

2001 PHC

The 2001 census was again an integrated population and housing census. The record date was 12:00 AM on 1 March.

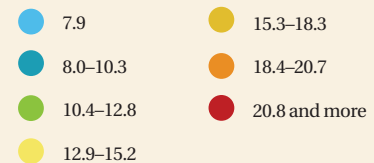
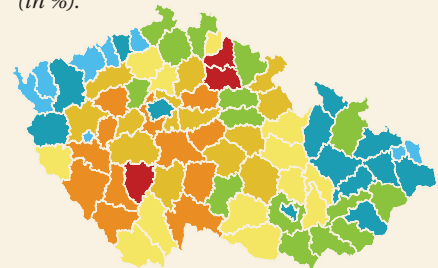
This census was complicated by some new circumstances, including the relatively large number of persons and households that took the advantage of submitting census forms at their local municipal authority, or who delivered it directly to the Czech Statistical Office – there were about 250 000 of them. Another complication was the unusually high number of those who were recorded outside their permanent domicile (nearly 750 000). Because results were published by permanent domicile, it was necessary to classify such persons manually.

Other serious complications of processing and publishing the results were caused by the floods in August 2002. Luckily, no data files were lost, and the processing of census results could go on, though under rather provisional conditions.



This was the first time when an audit of dublicately registered persons was conducted using birth certificate numbers. Birth certificate numbers were used purely for this purpose, and it was not a part of any input data of a person nor was it processed together with other data.

The proportion of unoccupied apartments of the total housing pool as of 1 March 2001 (in %).





↑ *The basic results were presented at a press conference by President of the CZSO Mrs Iva Ritschelová and by Vice-President of the CZSO Mr Stanislav Drápal.*



2011 PHC

The record date of the most recent population and housing census is 12:00 AM on 26 March 2011. With this census, the Czech Statistical Office first abandoned the traditional method of listings and moved to a combined method with the use of registers. The census sheets were thus pre-completed by data available at administrative sources.

95% of the census takers were employees of Česká pošta, s. p. (Czech Post, a state-owned enterprise). The Czech Statistical Office also cooperated with other institutions. In collaboration with Asociace poskytovatelů sociálních služeb (The Association of Social Service Providers) and with Sdružení azylových domů (The Association of Safe Houses) it, for the very first time, strived to also register homeless people. Legal persons that showed an interest received housing sheets via e-mail. It was also possible to complete and submit the census sheets electronically via the Internet.

THE NUMBER OF
INHABITANTS OF THE
CZECH REPUBLIC AS
OF 26 MARCH 2011:

10 436 560



↑ *The campaign for the 2011 PHC did not forget about national minorities.*



Envelopes with census sheets delivered to the CZSO P. O. BOX included hundreds of documents inserted by mistake by registered persons. There were identity cards, passports, birth certificates, health insurance cards, school reports, lease contracts, marriage and death certificates and announcements, purchase and insurance contracts and even photographs of new-borns and children's drawings.



In autumn 2010, a Minicensus was held in some schools throughout the Czech Republic. Through various entertaining activities, pupils could try working with statistical data and discover how they are useful and interesting.

For the first time in the history of censuses, statisticians also monitored actual domiciles, i.e. the places where persons actually live. Forms reflected the development of society and all related legislative measures, and thus a new question appeared dealing with registered partnerships of persons.

This census no longer monitored household equipment. Also, the census sheet did not contain any questions on the ownership of personal vehicles, holiday homes, phones or other objects. From the point of view of household equipment, the statisticians only needed to know whether a household had the ability to use a personal computer and have an Internet connection.

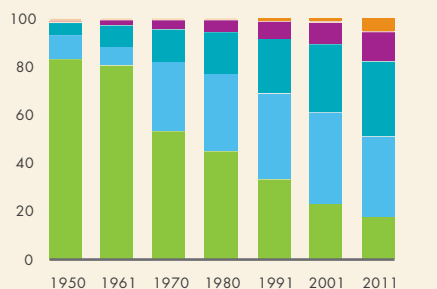
Replies to the question of nationality and religious denomination were again optional. The question of religious belief was supplemented with an option for those who do not claim allegiance to any church or religious society and yet tend to consider themselves believers.



↑ All outputs of the 2011 PHC are available in electronic form (CDs) or online.



The population census also captured all changes in the structure of the population's education.



- primary education
- secondary education with an apprenticeship certificate
- secondary education with a general secondary education exam
- tertiary (university) education
- no education
- n/a



The most electronic forms were received on the very first day of collection on 26 March 2011. It totalled 510 300 census forms, which approximated almost one-eighth of all electronically submitted forms.



The results of the 2011 PHC are available online at www.scitani.cz. They are presented as statistical tables from where the data can also be exported in XLM format suitable for subsequent machine processing. The data are thus applicable in other information systems.



According to results of the 2011 Census there were almost 11 500 homeless people, out of which there were almost 400 persons younger than 15 years.

↓ 95% of census takers were employees of Česká pošta (Czech Post).



↓ For the first time, it was also possible to complete the census forms online.

