

1. Summary

- Population (1 289 211) and area (11 015 sq. km) of Středočeský Region is the biggest in the Czech Republic. Despite its central location and vicinity of the capital, region is characteristic by a rural settlement pattern with a low share of urban population and high fragmentation of settlement structure, reflected by a relatively high number of municipalities and their parts (localities). Population density is below average of the Czech Republic (117 inhabitants per sq. km) and the share of population living in towns (52.7 %) is actually the lowest in the Czech Republic.
- On the Census Day there were 1 145 municipalities, however 79.3 % of them had less than one thousand inhabitants. The population is mostly concentrated in municipalities sized between 1 and 20 thousand of inhabitants. Thus over a half of population (57.4 %) lives in one fifth of municipalities (20.3 %), which cover only a third of the region's area (33.5 %). Only 15.3 % of population live in five towns over 20 thousand inhabitants.
- The Census data confirm the most dynamic trend of population growth nationwide in Středočeský Region. The region has turned to be the most populated region of the country. Population growth within the past two decades is caused by migration and recently also by natural population growth. A distinctive place in this trend belongs to former inhabitants of the capital moving to suburban municipalities in the central zone of the region. The process of population flow outward from large towns occurs also elsewhere in the region and in the country. However, it is most prominent in the vicinity of Prague. The Census supplies evidence on how this process affects other characteristics of the region's evolution and causes uneven development of the central and peripheral parts of the region.
- For the first time the census results were processed using usual place of residence. The majority of inhabitants (91.6 %) have both their usual place of residence and their permanent residence in the region. However, the census shows that some region's inhabitants have only usual residency here, mostly around the metropolitan area of Prague.
- Immigration of mostly young families and younger or middle-aged people into the region led to a significant reduction of average age to 40.3 years, the region thus became the youngest in the country. The share of children younger than 14 years (15.5 %) is also favourable and the highest in the country. Most males and females in the region were just 35 years old on the Census Day. The region is gender balanced, the share of women is 50.6 %. Male population prevails slightly in industrial areas.
- Immigration of population resulted in decreasing share of natives who were born in the municipality of their actual residence. Their share (39.7 %) is next to lowest among the regions. Within the region it grows from the lower rate in the central part towards the higher one in peripheral zones.
- Just as in the whole country the share of never married grew at the expense of married in the region. More than a half of men 31 years old or younger and women 28 years old or younger were never married. The share of divorced is on rise as well. Nevertheless, the region's population older than 15 years are most often married and the rate of 43.5 % is above average in the country. To the contrary, the shares of never married (39.4 %), divorced (9.9 %) and widowed (7.1 %) are below average nationwide.
- The trend of lifestyle change emerging in the young generation after 1989 has been confirmed – postponing of marriage and maternity to a later age. Most frequently the age of mother at her first birth is 28 years. One fifth of women were childless on the Census day. Fertility of women older than 15 years in the region is slightly lower than the nation's average. Most mothers have two children, the second highest rate in the regions (56.9 %).
- The share of foreign citizens in the region is the second highest in the country. There are 55 thousand of foreigners, representing 4.3 % of the region's population, most of them males from Ukraine, Slovakia and Vietnam, concentrated around the capital and large industrial centres.
- Over a quarter of the region's population opted not to respond to the ethnicity question in the census form. Those who responded declared the Czech ethnicity in 94.8 %. The most prominent ethnic minorities of the region remain Slovak, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.
- Only a half of the region's population addressed their religious belief. Of those who responded this question 26.3 % claimed a religious belief. The majority of believers are women and older persons. Most of them identified themselves with the Roman Catholic Church. Affiliation with religion varied widely in the region, starting in strongly religious areas in the South-East and decreasing quickly in the North-West direction, along with the nationwide trend. The share of population with no religious belief is among the highest in the country.
- Immigration of young people and decrease of older population with lower educational attainment have a positive effect on steady improvement of education characteristics of the region's population. In total 43.9 % of population over 15 years old has an upper secondary education and 11.5 % tertiary education. Thus only Prague and Jihomoravský Region reached a better education level than the Středočeský region.
- The rate of economic activity is above the national average (62.5 %, next to highest). The rate grows from the peripheral zones towards the central area. In relation to population development of the region

the share of economically active women on their maternity leave (2.3 %) is the highest nationwide.

- The share of employed population (57.4 %) is bolstered by a lower unemployment rate, the second lowest in the Czech Republic. In the economically inactive population non-working pensioners have the biggest share. However the rate of 45.7 % is the lowest in all regions. To the contrary the share of economically inactive persons including children of pre-school age is the highest in the Czech Republic as a result of the higher fertility rate.
- Between 2001 and 2011 business sector developed quickly due to immigration flow into the region. During the Census almost 105 thousand entrepreneurs lived in the region, of which 31 thousand were women. Entrepreneurs comprise 17.9 % of all employed population (employers 3.7 % and self-employed 14.1 %), the second highest national rate behind the capital. A strong private entrepreneurs activity of own account workers is found especially around Prague, where every fourth employed person has been an entrepreneur. The most frequent branches of their economic activity are construction for men (26.2 %) and wholesale and retail trade for women (20.4 %).
- With regard to employment structure by branch of economic activity the most prominent share belongs to industry (23.2 % of persons with identified branch), trade and automotive vehicle repair (11.2 %) and transportation and storage (7.1 %). Agriculture, forestry and fishery take up 2.8 %, about the national average. Just as in the rest of the Czech Republic, the share of people employed in manufacturing sectors decreased whereas the share of people employed in the tertiary sector increased.
- Characteristics of commuting to work differ from the other regions of the Czech Republic. While only every fifth person in the region commutes to work within municipality of their residence, almost every second person does nationwide. The region residents commute to work most frequently. Over a half commute outside the municipality of residence (58 %), while in the other regions most are employed in the municipality of their residence. Moreover half of persons commute outside of the region, while elsewhere in the Czech Republic only a quarter. Four times more persons travel to work or school outside from the region than travels in. Only Prague has a positive balance in this respect. This is thanks to a good accessibility to the capital and its plentiful work and education opportunities.
- Despite the biggest population among regions the number of housekeeping households (523 046) is second to Prague. Household structure reflects the rural character of the region: the share of family households (65 %) is above the national average (fifth highest) and on the contrary the share of one-person households (30.4 %) is below the national average (fourth lowest), despite its increase (most often younger males or females of senior age). The number of cohabiting couples is on rise, every tenth one-couple family is a co-habiting couple. Woman is the reference person in eight of ten lone-parent families.
- More than every second household was equipped by a personal computer connected to the Internet (54.4 %), third best connectivity in the Czech Republic, more frequently in the central part of the region.
- In total 353 037 houses were enumerated in the Středočeský Region, most among the regions, comprising 16.4 % of the whole country housing stock. The share of occupied dwellings (81.2 %) is nationally below average. Half of vacant houses are used for seasonal or recreational purpose.
- Because of the settlement structure and rural characteristics of the region there are more family houses than apartment buildings. The ratio of family houses to occupied houses with dwellings (91.7 %) is next to highest nationwide and the share of inhabitants living in family houses (65.1 %) is even the highest among regions. Above country average, almost 90 % of houses are owned by natural persons. Along with privatization the share of houses owned by central or local authorities has been decreasing. At the same time number of privately owned dwellings is increasing and the share of rented and co-owned apartments has been decreasing.
- Since the last census the housing stock has grown by 15 %. Inclusion of these new houses constructed within the last decade led to decreasing average age of buildings to 48.6 years.
- New dwelling construction, focused mostly on family housing, has caused the increase of space dispositions of dwellings and, in general, new dwellings in family houses have more rooms. The opposite trend can be observed in new dwellings in apartment houses. On the average there are 2.59 persons per one occupied dwelling and 0.75 persons per one room.
- Technical facilities of dwellings have been improving. Enumerated data show that 99.4 % of occupied dwellings are connected to a water supply system, 71.7 % has public sewage disposal and 86.4 % central heating. Piped gas is available to 55.4 % of occupied dwellings, the third lowest rate in the regions. Only 6.2 % share of dwellings of lowered quality are slightly above the country average.
- The Census data point in many respects to a continuing uneven development of the region's parts. The region thus cannot be regarded a homogenous entity and evaluation of the region by a bulk characteristics may be misleading. For instance, characteristics of municipalities of the same size group may differ depending on whether they are located in a central, peripheral or intermediate area of the region. Since the census provides data on population, buildings and dwellings down for a municipality level of any area of the region it is a solid basis for further surveys and makes possible analyses of collected data from different points of view.