

1. Summary

Results of the Population and Housing Census on March 26 2011 have documented the specific characteristics of demographic, social and economic structures of the region, both as a whole and in its subregions.

- The settlement structure of Liberecký region is significantly influenced by the geography of the region's territory (by the presence of mountain areas). It is characterized by a high number of minor municipalities. There are 215 municipalities, of which there are 39 towns. Over 44 % of municipalities have less than 500 inhabitants representing less than 6 % of the region's population. On the other hand, three largest towns of Liberecký region concentrate 42.4 % of the population. This is also reflected in the high share of urban population (78.1 %), the fourth highest among the regions in the Czech Republic. Considering the region area, Liberecký region is the second smallest in the country, only next to The Capital of Prague. Population density is however slightly above the national average. Higher population density can be found in the inland parts of the region, while low population density is typical for mountain areas, former military ranges and areas of uranium ore mining in the past.
- As of Census Day (March 26, 2011) Liberecký region had a total of 437 894 permanent residents on its territory, what means increase of 9 710 inhabitants compared to the last census in 2001. The increase is attributed to a positive net balance of population migration and to natural population growth.
- Complying with international recommendations results of 2011 census were processed using the usual place of residence. On the Census Day total of 432 439 persons declared Liberecký region as their place of usual residence. Number of permanent residents surpassed this number by 1.2 %, which falls among the lowest differences across the country's regions. Foreign citizens formed 3.4 % of Liberecký region's population. They were mostly citizens of Ukraine, Slovakia and Vietnam. The highest share of foreign citizens is seen in Liberec district (4.4 %) and the lowest in Semily district (2.1 %).
- Population age structure reflects significant social changes in the region. As a result of lower fertility rate and higher life expectancy the region's population, as well as all the country, has been aging. This fact is reflected mainly in a decreasing share of the child age group and in an increasing share of population older than 65 years. The population in productive age (15-64 years) formed almost 70 % of Liberecký region's population in 2011. The share of the child age category (children up to 15 years old) was 14.9 % while the share of people aged over 65 years reached 15.0 %. Aging of Liberecký region is implied by long-term increase of average age in the region, which reached 40.7 years in 2011. When compared to the national average or in a regional comparison, age structure of Liberecký region is relatively favourable, e.g. average age is the third lowest nationwide. With regard to individual districts of the region, the youngest population lives in Česká Lípa district and the oldest in Semily district.
- The trend of postponing marriages to a later age is yet another social phenomenon. Decreasing share of married at the expense of never-married can be easily traced in the population. Compared to national figures Liberecký region shows the fourth highest share of never-married and, on the contrary, the fourth lowest share of married population. The highest share of married is in the district of Semily, while the highest share of never-married is in the district of Česká Lípa. Liberecký region also has the third highest divorce rate.
- Postponing maternity to later age implies lower fertility rates. Demographic statistics show that the average age of mother at her first birth is 27.9 years. According to 2011 census results women aged 15 or older have on average 1.6 live-born children while mothers aged 15 or older have on average 2.0 live-born children. These figures correspond well with the national average. Married women having vocational education and no religious belief tend to have more children.
- Ethnic structure of Liberecký region is close to homogenous. Over 94 % of respondents, who provided the information, declared the Czech ethnicity. The biggest ethnic minority are Slovaks (6 053 persons), followed by Ukrainian (2 567 persons) and German (1774 persons). A group of 2 567 people declared a double nationality.
- The share of natives in Liberecký region reached 43.4 %. However, there are significant differences within the region. Most people living in the municipality where born were enumerated in the district of Semily (46.7 %), least in the district of Česká Lípa, where the lower rate is related to post-war re-settlement and later to migration caused by uranium ore mining in the district.
- The answer to the religious belief question was responded by only 55.4 % of the region's population. Religious belief with or without certain church affiliation was claimed by 12.9 % of population, i.e. 23.2 % of those responding this question. Nationwide the region is among three regions with the lowest share of

population with a religious belief. Almost 55 % of believers declared their Roman Catholic Church denomination.

- With regard to education attainment, population with a secondary and vocational education holds above-average share in the region (35.9 %). To the contrary, population with upper secondary, post-secondary or secondary professional education have lower share (29.8 %) just as persons with tertiary education (9.6 %). The highest ratio of people with tertiary level of education is observed in the district of Liberec, however, the national average of 12.5 % has not been reached even here.
- The share of economically active people on of the Census Day was 48.2 % of the total population, 10.8 % of them were unemployed. Working pensioners in the region show the third highest share in the country (5.5 % of employed economically active population). Most of economically inactive population were comprised by non-working pensioners (47.7 %), and pupils or students (30.5 %). The rate of economic activity in the region is slightly above the national average, it ranks fourth among the regions.
- Employment structure of the population is related to the industrial character of Liberecký region. Most employees in the region are engaged in the industrial production (31.7 % of those with identified branch of activity). This is a well above average rate and the third highest in the Czech Republic. The other significant branches are wholesale and retail, automotive repair and maintenance (9.2 % of employed) and construction (6.5 % of employed).
- There are 41 305 people commuting to work (58 % are men), of which 83.7 % commute daily. Most of these persons (56.0 %) travel outside of their place of residence to another district and 22.1 % to another region. The region shows a negative balance of commuters (-6 233 persons) since more people travel out than in.
- The count of housekeeping households in the region increased by 2.2 % in the past decade. The increase should be mostly attributed to growth of one-person households, which comprise over one third of housekeeping households in the region, the share ranking the fourth in the country. On the other hand number of one-couple families with dependent children has been decreasing.
- With regard to household technical facilities the only data were collected on personal computer equipment and Internet connectivity. In the region 54.5 % of dwelling households are equipped with a personal computer and 50.8 % are connected to the Internet. With regard to availability of these technologies the region ranks below average countrywide.
- Within the period between 2001-2011 the total number of buildings in the region increased by 8.8 %. Since apartment building construction became declined, construction of new family houses sped up. The number of occupied buildings increased by 10.6 %, and number of vacant buildings by 2.3 %. Vacant buildings comprise over one fifth of the housing stock, the third highest share in the regions. The most frequent reason for vacancy is seasonal use.
- Average age of occupied buildings in the region is about 58 years, which makes the region's housing stock the third oldest in the Czech Republic..
- Number of occupied dwellings increased by almost 6.0 % since the last census in 2001 and most of them (55.5 %) are placed in apartment buildings. Occupied dwellings in family houses are most frequent type of housing only in the district of Semily. With regard to types of dwelling ownership, the most progressive increase can be seen in private ownership (up from 10.6 % to 18.2 %) at the expense of co-operative and rental forms of ownership. The biggest share, however, belongs to dwellings in privately owned houses (34.2 %). Number of vacant dwellings increased within 10 years by 23.5 %. Most of vacant dwellings are destined for seasonal use.
- There are on average 2.46 inhabitants per an occupied dwelling and 0.77 inhabitants per one room (the second highest share in the regions). Recorded data show with regard to technical facilities of dwellings, piped water is available in 99.6 % of dwellings, public sewage disposal only in 70.6 % (next to the lowest rate in the nation). Central heating is the most common type of heating (75.6 % of dwellings). Piped gas is available in 54.1 % of occupied dwellings (next to the lowest rate in the nation). Above-average 6.4 % of occupied dwellings are of lower quality.