

POPULATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2006^{*)}

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Abstract: The article describes the demographic situation in the Czech Republic in 2006 and evaluates it in the context of development since 1995. From the second half of the 1990s population development has occurred at a more fluid pace, the changes are not occurring as fast as they were in the first half of the 1990s. The article analyses changes in the fertility rate and its structure by the family status of women and by birth order, the decrease in the interest in marrying, and the postponement of the start of marriage and family life to a later age, the improvement of mortality and the contribution of the change in mortality by causes of death to this improvement. Divorce and abortion rates are also evaluated, along with the growing significance of international migration, ensuring population growth. The analysis is based on data processed by the Czech Statistical Office.

Keywords: population development, Czech Republic, age structure, nuptiality, divorce rate, fertility, abortion rate, mortality, migration

In 2006 the Czech Republic experienced positive population growth, and for the first time in thirteen years, since 1993, a natural population increase was recorded. Live births outnumbered deaths as a result of a higher fertility rate and a lower mortality rate. But the increase was very small, just 1.4 thousand, while the decreases recorded in the years between 1994 and 2005 ranged between 5.7 thousand (2005) and 22.3 thousand (1996).

After a period of population loss between 1993 and 2002, net migration produced a numerical increase in the population of the Czech Republic for four consecutive years, reaching a figure of 34.7 thousand people in 2006. The total population increase was thus 36.1 thousand and was the highest since 1980 (inclusive). The biggest source of the population increase in 2006 was the immigration of Ukrainian, Slovakian, and Vietnamese nationals.

The number of marriages and divorces grew slightly in 2006 compared to the previous year (by 1.0 thousand and 127, respectively) and led to a rise in the total marriage and divorce rates. The divorce rate in 2006 was actually the second highest ever recorded in history – just short of the record high in 2004. If the intensity of divorce by marriage duration recorded in those years were maintained, 49% of marriages would end in divorce.

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The number of births and total fertility continued to rise in 2006, even though the increase in the number of live-born children was slightly smaller than in previous years: between 2003 and 2004 the inter-year increase was almost 4.0 thousand, between 2004 and 2005 it was 4.6 thousand, and between 2005 and 2006 it was “only” 3.6 thousand. Nevertheless, total fertility rose above the limit of 1.3 children per woman of reproductive age, thus pulling the Czech Republic out of the category of countries with “lowest-low” fertility. Unmarried women gave birth to one-third of all live-born children in 2006.

The total number of abortions stopped falling, but the number of induced abortions and the induced abortion rate both continued to decrease. The number of abortions stagnated at around 40 thousand, partly as a result of the increase in the number of miscarriages. This is connected with the overall higher number of pregnancies as a result of the increased fertility rate and the postponement of fertility to a later age, when the intensity of miscarriage is higher.

During 2006, 104.4 thousand people died, which was 3.5 thousand fewer people than in the previous year. Another positive trend emerged in life expectancy at birth, which increased by 0.6 years for both men and women. Infant mortality decreased by one-tenth of a per mille point to reach 3.3 in 2006.

Population size and structure by age and marital status

The year 2003 marked the first year of a population increase recorded after nine years of population decreases. The population size also grew in subsequent years, but, except in 2006,

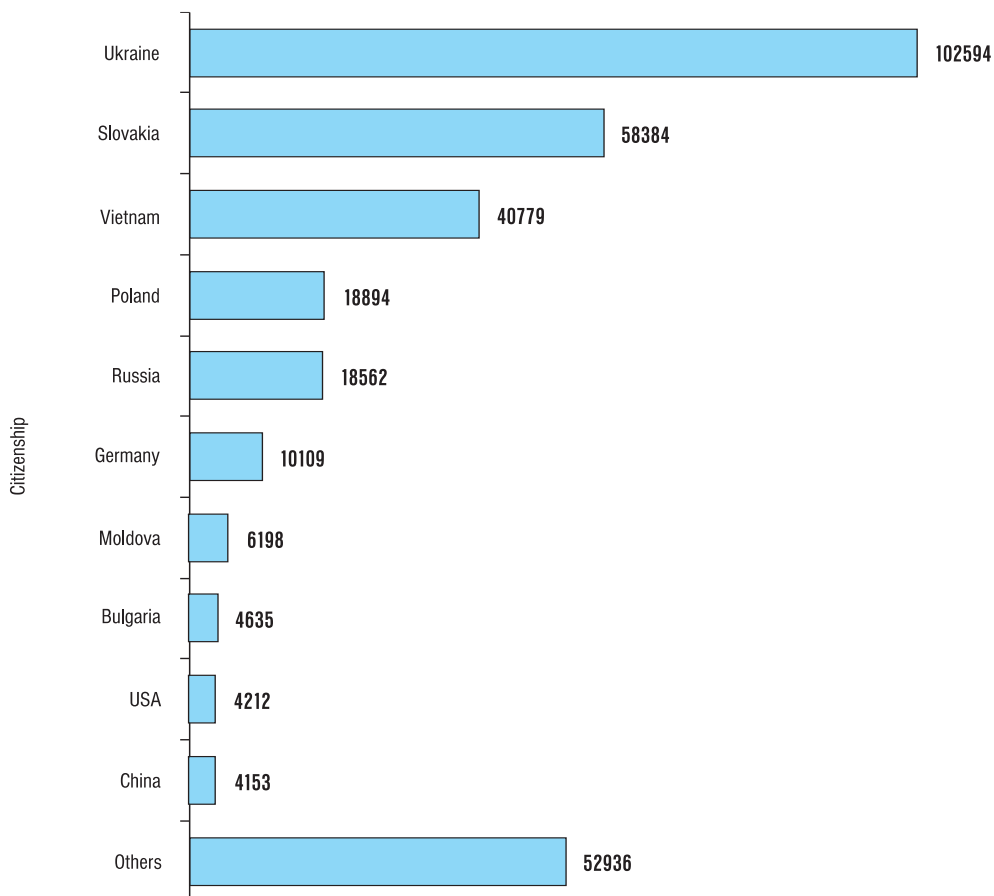
Table 1 Population change, 1995–2006

Indicator	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Numbers							
Live births	96097	90910	90715	92786	93685	97664	102211	105831
Deaths	117913	109001	107755	108243	111288	107177	107938	104441
Infant deaths	740	373	360	385	365	366	347	352
Marriages	54956	55321	52374	52732	48943	51447	51829	52860
Divorces	31135	29704	31586	31758	32824	33060	31288	31415
Abortions, total	61590	47370	45057	43743	42304	41324	40023	39959
induced abortions	49531	34623	32528	31142	29298	27574	26453	25352
Immigrants	10540	7802	12918	44679	60015	53453	60294	68183
Emigrants	541	1263	21469	32389	34226	34818	24065	33463
Natural increase	-21816	-18091	-17040	-15457	-17603	-9513	-5727	1390
Net migration	9999	6539	-8551	12290	25789	18635	36229	34720
Total increase	-11817	-11552	-25591	-3167	8186	9122	30502	36110
Population (1 July)	10330759	10272503	10287482	10189423	10201651	10206923	10234092	10266646
	Per 1000 population							
Live births	9.3	8.8	8.8	9.1	9.2	9.6	10.0	10.3
Deaths	11.4	10.6	10.5	10.6	10.9	10.5	10.5	10.2
Marriages	5.3	5.4	5.1	5.2	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.1
Divorces	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1
Abortions, total	6.0	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9
induced abortions	4.8	3.4	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.5
Immigrants	1.0	0.8	1.3	4.4	5.9	5.2	5.9	6.6
Emigrants	0.1	0.1	2.1	3.2	3.4	3.4	2.4	3.3
Natural increase	-2.1	-1.8	-1.7	-1.5	-1.7	-0.9	-0.6	0.1
Net migration	1.0	0.6	-0.8	1.2	2.5	1.8	3.5	3.4
Total increase	-1.1	-1.1	-2.5	-0.3	0.8	0.9	3.0	3.5

the numerical increase stemmed exclusively from the immigration of foreign nationals. In 2006 the natural population increase also reached positive figures.

The total number of foreign nationals legally residing in the Czech Republic (on the basis of a permanent or long-term residence visa) at the end of 2006 was 321.5 thousand, according to information from the Foreign Police Headquarters of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. These foreign nationals make up 3.1% of the population of the Czech Republic.

Figure 1 Foreigners by citizenship (ten most common), 31 Dec 2006



Although, since hitting a low in 1999, the number of live-born children each year has gradually increased, the number of children aged 15 and under and their percentage of the population has continued to fall. Children aged 0–14 currently make up 14.4% of the population, which is seven percentage points lower than in 1990 and four percentage points lower than in 1995. The share of the population over the age of 65 has thus gradually approached the share of the population aged 0–14 and last year even exceeded it (albeit only very slightly). People born in the first large birth cohorts of the war years (1940 and 1941) have recently begun to

reach the age of 65. So after years of slow growth and subsequent stagnation at the start of the millennium, this segment of the population has begun to grow. Once people born in other large birth cohorts from the 1940s begin to reach the age of 65, the over-65 age group will begin to expand even more dramatically. There has been an increase in the share of the population aged 15–64, though it was smaller than the increase in the over-65 age group. Combined with the decrease in the number of children, this meant just a very slight inter-year increase in the burden on the working-age population.

Table 2 Age distribution characteristics, 1995–2006 (31 Dec)

Indicator	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Population, thousands							
Total	10321	10267	10206	10203	10211	10221	10251	10287
0–14	1893	1664	1622	1590	1554	1527	1501	1480
15–64	7056	7179	7170	7196	7234	7259	7293	7325
65+	1372	1423	1415	1418	1423	1435	1456	1482
80+	277	250	260	277	293	308	322	336
	Structure (%)							
0–14	18.3	16.2	15.9	15.6	15.2	15.0	14.6	14.4
15–64	68.4	69.9	70.2	70.5	70.9	71.0	71.2	71.2
65+	13.3	13.9	13.9	13.9	13.9	14.0	14.2	14.4
80+	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.3
	Age structure characteristics							
Index of ageing ¹⁾	72.5	85.5	87.2	89.2	91.6	94.0	97.0	100.2
Total dependency ratio ²⁾	46.3	43.0	42.3	41.8	41.2	40.8	40.6	40.4
Mean age	37.3	38.8	39.0	39.3	39.5	39.8	40.0	40.2
Median age	36.4	37.6	37.9	38.2	38.5	38.7	38.9	39.1

Note: ¹⁾ Number of persons aged 65+ per 100 children aged 0–14.

²⁾ Number of children aged 0–14 and number of persons aged 65+ per 100 persons aged 15–64.

The age structure of foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic differs considerably from the age structure of the “domestic” population. There is a larger proportion of men, who make up 60% of all foreign nationals, while in the total population men make up 48.9%. Younger age groups (20–39) are also proportionally larger; this is linked to the economic motives of their immigration to the Czech Republic. Conversely, there are fewer children and generally fewer old people among foreign nationals in the Czech Republic. Exceptions with regard to the relative proportion of children among foreign nationals in the CR are found among Vietnamese nationals (21.0% of whom were children in 2005) and Russian nationals (13.0%). Foreign nationals with the largest proportion of people in post-productive age among them are Bulgarians (14.7%), Germans (11.4%), and citizens of the United States (10.9%).

The structure of the population by marital status has undergone significant changes as a result of the postponement of marriage to a later age or the rejection of marriage altogether and the spread of unmarried cohabitation (or living together apart) in its place, and as a result of the rise in the divorce rate, the decrease in the rate at which divorced people remarry, and the improvement in the mortality rate. The proportion of people (over the age of 15) who are married is still more than 50%, but among women only slightly more (50.4%), and among men the figure is 53.8% (in 2006). The decrease in the proportion of married people in the population has occurred with a corresponding rise in the proportion of single people, but even the proportion of divorced people has increased. In 2006 one-third of the male population was single and 23.5% of women had never been married. More than 10% of men and women

are divorced. There are slightly more divorced women than men: 10.1% of men and 12.0% of women in 2006. A slight decline in the proportion of widows has occurred as a result of the improved mortality rate of men. The biggest difference between men and women is in the proportion of widows compared to widowers: 2.8% of men are widowed vs. 14.0% of women (in 2004).

Nuptiality

In the second half of the 1990s around fifty-five thousand marriages were taking place annually. In the new millennium this figure decreased slightly by around two to three thousand. In 2003 a historical low was reached with fewer than fifty thousand marriages taking place. In the following years the annual number of marriages again rose above fifty thousand. The number of marriages registered in 2006 (52.9 thousand) was the highest in the past six years, but this is owing to the fact that men and women born in the large birth cohorts in the mid-1970s are currently at the age of highest nuptiality.

The postponement of marriage to a later age or the rejection of marriage altogether by part of the population has led to a sharp reduction in the proportion of people getting married. Ac-

Table 3 Population distribution by sex, marital status and age groups (%), 1995, 2005 and 2006 (31 Dec)

Age group	1995	2005	2006	1995	2005	2006	1995	2005	2006	1995	2005	2006
	Men											
	Single			Married			Divorced			Widowed		
20–24	77.6	96.3	96.8	21.3	3.5	3.0	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
25–29	34.6	71.3	73.9	59.4	26.0	23.7	6.0	2.7	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
30–34	17.6	36.8	39.7	73.2	54.2	51.8	9.1	8.9	8.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
35–39	12.4	18.9	20.2	76.4	65.4	64.2	11.0	15.5	15.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
40–44	9.6	13.1	13.5	77.4	68.6	67.5	12.5	17.9	18.6	0.5	0.4	0.4
45–49	7.2	10.5	10.8	79.2	70.4	69.4	12.6	18.4	19.0	1.0	0.8	0.7
50–54	5.7	8.2	8.5	81.5	73.2	72.2	11.2	17.2	17.9	1.6	1.4	1.4
55–59	4.8	6.0	6.3	83.6	76.9	76.0	8.8	14.5	15.2	2.8	2.6	2.5
60–64	4.2	4.5	4.6	84.1	80.1	79.4	6.8	11.2	11.8	4.9	4.2	4.2
65–69	3.8	3.7	3.7	82.0	81.5	81.2	5.6	7.8	8.3	8.6	7.0	6.8
70–74	3.8	3.1	3.1	77.7	79.7	79.8	4.5	5.8	6.0	14.0	11.4	11.1
75–79	3.5	2.8	2.7	71.4	74.1	74.7	3.8	4.5	4.5	21.4	18.6	18.1
80–84	3.0	3.0	2.8	61.4	65.0	65.6	2.7	3.5	3.6	32.9	28.6	28.1
85+	4.0	2.7	2.8	44.7	51.2	52.9	1.7	2.2	1.9	49.6	43.9	42.4
	Women											
	Single			Married			Divorced			Widowed		
20–24	54.0	88.5	89.7	43.2	10.8	9.6	2.7	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0
25–29	15.7	51.2	54.4	75.0	43.6	40.8	8.8	5.1	4.7	0.4	0.2	0.1
30–34	7.1	20.3	22.9	80.7	66.1	64.3	11.4	13.0	12.3	0.8	0.5	0.5
35–39	4.7	8.8	9.8	80.5	70.7	69.5	13.2	19.4	19.6	1.6	1.1	1.1
40–44	3.7	5.5	5.8	78.8	71.6	70.4	14.7	20.8	21.8	2.7	2.1	2.0
45–49	3.3	4.1	4.3	77.5	72.1	71.3	14.3	20.0	20.8	4.9	3.8	3.6
50–54	3.0	3.4	3.5	75.4	71.5	71.0	12.7	18.6	19.2	8.8	6.5	6.3
55–59	2.7	3.0	3.0	71.2	69.7	69.4	10.1	15.8	16.5	15.9	11.5	11.1
60–64	2.5	2.7	2.7	62.5	64.5	64.7	8.9	13.1	13.7	26.0	19.7	18.8
65–69	2.9	2.4	2.4	49.7	55.8	56.1	8.0	10.0	10.4	39.4	31.9	31.0
70–74	3.5	2.2	2.2	34.9	42.8	43.6	7.0	8.5	8.6	54.7	46.5	45.6
75–79	3.6	2.5	2.4	21.7	28.0	29.0	5.5	7.5	7.6	69.1	62.0	61.0
80–84	4.1	3.0	2.8	11.8	15.3	15.9	4.2	6.6	6.7	79.9	75.2	74.5
85+	5.4	3.2	3.0	5.7	7.2	8.0	2.8	4.6	4.7	86.1	85.1	84.3

cording to nuptiality tables, in 2006, 37.1% of men and 30.3% of women under the age of 50 were single. This means that between the last two years there was a slight increase in marriage intensity (more pronounced among women), but compared to 1995, that is, after the sharp fall in the first half of the 1990s, there are ten percent fewer people entering into a first marriage. In 2006 the average age of partners at the time of first marriage increased further (by 0.2–0.3 of a year, compared to 2005), and the age has been rising steadily since 1990.

Although the inter-year increase in the number of marriages stemmed mainly from the increase in the number of marriages among single people, there were also slight increases in the number of higher-order marriages and in the marriage rate among divorced people. In 2006, 44.3% of divorced men and 43.1% of divorced women married again.

The proportion of marriages between two single people out of the total number of marriages has remained steady at around 64–65% (in 2006 there were 34.2 thousand such marriages, making up 64.7% of the total), and at the start of the 1990s the figure was roughly five percentage points higher. The second-largest proportion of marriages take place between partners that are both divorced (14.1% in 2006), followed by marriages between a divorced man and a single woman (10.0%), and vice versa (9.1%). Marriages of widowed people (with a partner of any marital status) are rare.

In 69.3% of marriages in 2006 the man was older than the woman and in 10.0% both partners were the same age. Over time, however, there has been a gradual increase in the proportion of marriages in which the woman is older than the man (20.7% in 2006, 16.9% in 1995). Most frequent are marriages in which the partners are the same age and marriages in which the groom is one to three years older than the bride. The average age difference between marrying partners has become stable at around three years.

A typical feature of marriage behaviour among the Czech population is that more than one-half of marriages (57.5% in 2006) are between people with the same level of education. Marriages in which there are very big differences between the education levels of the marrying partners are rare.

The proportion of marriages in which at least one of the marrying partners is a foreign national has increased since the mid-1990s, but there is no clearly increasing trend. At the start of the millennium such marriages made up one-tenth of all marriages within the given year. Marriages between a male of foreign nationality and a woman with Czech citizenship are 1.5

Table 4 Nuptiality table indicators, 1995–2006

Indicator	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Proportion of pop. single at age	Men							
30	40.6	51.8	55.8	57.9	62.8	63.3	64.7	66.2
35	32.1	38.8	42.5	43.3	47.5	47.1	48.1	48.8
40	29.1	33.7	37.2	37.4	41.4	40.4	41.6	41.4
45	27.6	31.6	35.1	35.0	38.7	37.8	38.5	38.6
50	26.8	30.5	34.0	33.8	37.5	36.4	37.2	37.1
Total first marriage rate (%)	73.2	69.5	66.0	66.2	62.5	63.6	62.8	62.9
Mean age at first marriage	26.7	28.8	29.2	29.7	30.2	30.5	30.7	31.0
Proportion of pop. single at age	Women							
30	29.1	38.2	41.2	42.7	47.2	47.3	48.7	49.3
35	23.8	30.7	32.7	33.3	37.4	36.4	37.1	37.3
40	21.7	27.7	29.6	29.8	33.9	32.9	33.1	33.1
45	20.7	26.4	28.3	28.3	32.2	31.1	31.8	31.3
50	20.1	25.6	27.5	27.6	31.3	30.2	30.9	30.3
Total first marriage rate (%)	79.9	74.4	72.5	72.4	68.7	69.8	69.1	69.7
Mean age at first marriage	24.6	26.4	26.9	27.2	27.7	28.0	28.1	28.4

times more common than marriages between “Czech” men and women of foreign nationality. In the years under observation, several dozen marriages have taken place in which both partners were foreign nationals. In 2006 marriages between a man of foreign nationality and a female Czech citizen were most often between a Slovak man and a Czech woman (24.0%), followed by marriages between German men and Czech women (9.4%), British men and Czech women (6.0%), and Vietnamese men and Czech women (5.6%). In the case of marriages in which the foreign national was a woman, most often the woman was of Slovak (40.5%) or Ukrainian (23.3%) citizenship.

Divorce rate

Although there were only 127 more divorces in 2006 than in 2005, this increase combined with the decline in the number of marriages from previous years brought the divorce rate back up to the level of 49%. While this was still below the highest previous figure to date (from 2004), the decrease in 2005 to 47.3% of marriages ending in divorce did not lead to a reduction in the very high intensity of divorce. Instead, the figure has become stable at around fifty percent. The average duration of a marriage before ending in divorce only changed slightly – from 12.2 to 12.0 years. It appears that this indicator is also becoming stable.

The maximum intensity of divorce is gradually moving towards marriages of longer duration. In 2006 the highest divorce rate occurred after 4–6 years of marriage, while in 1995 it was after 2–4 years of marriage, but, on average, the intensity was more than twenty percent lower. Between 1995 and 2006 the divorce rate within the first year of marriage increased, most dramatically among marriages of more than ten years in duration.

Table 5 Selected divorce rate indicators, 1995–2006

Indicator	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total divorce rate	0.38	0.41	0.45	0.46	0.48	0.49	0.47	0.49
Mean duration of marriage (years)	10.50	11.00	11.30	11.50	11.80	11.90	12.20	12.00
Proportion of suits settled by divorce (%)	80.3	85.00	86.10	86.6	86.90	87.20	87.60	88.00
Divorced marriages without dependent children	9027	10637	11037	11346	12119	12255	12078	12412
Divorced marriages with dependent children	22108	19067	20549	20412	20705	20805	19210	19003
Total number of dependent children at divorced marriages	32792	28215	30385	30260	30927	31008	28732	28117

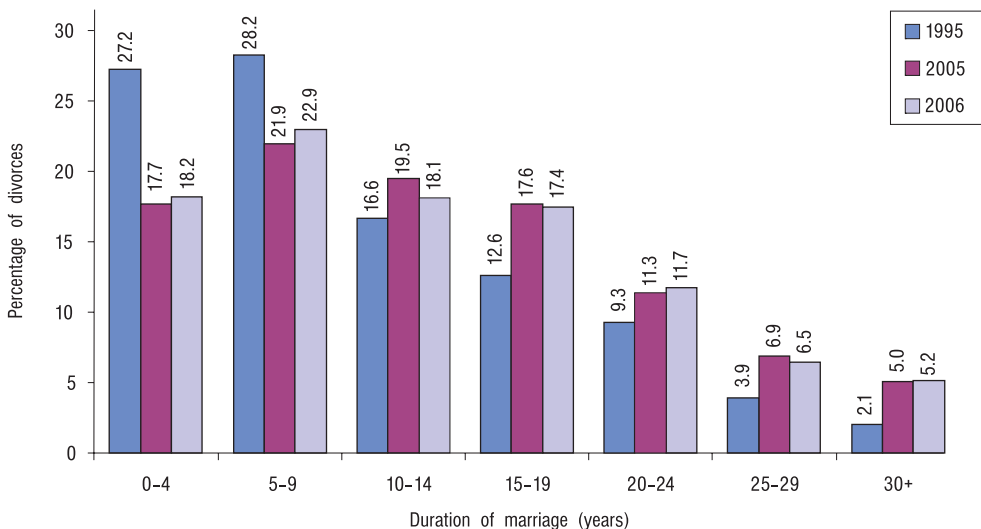
Table 6 Divorce rate by duration of marriage, 1995–2006

Duration of marriage (years)	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0	0.41	.	0.28	0.31	0.38	0.37	0.36	0.30
1	1.90	2.33	2.10	2.05	2.17	2.16	1.94	2.17
2	2.49	2.88	2.89	2.74	2.83	2.81	2.63	2.79
3	2.51	3.21	3.12	3.12	3.13	3.02	2.84	2.83
4	2.34	3.00	2.97	3.04	3.02	3.00	2.88	3.03
5	2.13	2.66	2.82	3.02	2.97	3.06	2.96	3.02
6	1.99	2.44	2.75	2.62	2.83	2.87	2.63	2.88
7	1.74	2.29	2.50	2.48	2.63	2.60	2.50	2.61
8	1.66	2.14	2.38	2.27	2.24	2.50	2.29	2.31
9	1.45	1.98	2.07	2.16	2.10	2.30	2.08	2.32
10–14	1.08	1.49	1.68	1.73	1.82	1.88	1.80	1.81
15–19	0.70	0.96	1.10	1.18	1.27	1.33	1.33	1.32
20–24	0.50	0.65	0.73	0.76	0.86	0.91	0.89	0.92
25+	0.24	0.29	0.32	0.34	0.38	0.38	0.41	0.41

In 2006, the proportion of divorce proceedings that ended in the granting of a divorce increased – 88.0% of all divorce petitions were granted. In 1995 the figure was 80.3%, and in 1990 it was three percentage points lower. However, what has changed little is the proportion of divorces filed for by women, who continue to be the petitioners in two-thirds of all divorces. The percentage of repeated divorces is also basically stable – around one-fifth of men and women divorce more than once.

On the other hand, the structure of divorces by marriage duration changed, with a smaller proportion of divorces occurring within a short period since marriage: while in 1995, 27.2% of marriages ended in divorce within five years of marriage (at the start of the 1990s the figure was even higher), by 2006 the figure had decreased to 18.2%. Conversely, there was a sharp increase in the proportion of divorces that occurred among marriages of longer duration. Over the same period there was a 1.6-fold increase in the proportion of divorces occurring after 25–29 years of marriage and a 2.5-fold increase in the proportion of divorces occurring after more than 30 years of marriage.

Figure 2 Divorces by duration of marriage (%), 1995, 2005 and 2006



Since the second half of the 1990s the proportion of divorces among marriages with dependent children has been decreasing (60.5% in 2006, 71.0% in 1995), but this means that each year around twenty thousand marriages with children are legally dissolved (the exception was 1999, when the figure was fourteen thousand). In 2006, more than 28 000 dependent children were deprived of living in a two-parent family as a result of the divorce of their parents.

Statistics on divorce by the cited grounds for divorce are gradually losing their informative value – an increasing proportion of divorces are due to “other causes”, which are today cited in one-quarter of all divorces, while in the late 1980s and early 1990s fewer than ten percent of divorces occurred on these grounds. There has also been an increase in the proportion of divorces (on the part of both men and women) that are due to “irreconcilable differences”, which in 2006 was cited by 54.6% of men and 52.8% of women as the grounds for divorce. Conversely, there was a relative decrease in the proportion of divorces citing more specific reasons (ill-considered marriage, alcoholism, adultery, family neglect, cruel and inhuman

treatment, criminal conviction, health or sexual reasons), and in the proportion citing the final category of “no-fault divorce”.

Natality

The natality trend in 2006 fits the context of trends in the past few years and the gradual rise in the number of births and total fertility. For two years in a row the annual number of children born has been higher than one hundred thousand, a figure last surpassed in 1994. In that year there were 106.6 thousand live births, which is 748 higher than in 2006, but 4.4 thousand higher than in 2005. Total fertility was also higher in 1994 – 1.44 children per woman of reproductive age were born, while in 2006 the figure was only 1.33 (1.28 in 2005). The average age of mothers at the time of first birth rose again in 2006 to 26.9 years, and the age of women at maximum first-order fertility intensity increased to 27–28 years. Even in the mid-1990s the highest fertility was still recorded among women aged 20–21.

Table 7 Fertility indicators, 1995–2006

Indicator	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total fertility rate	1.28	1.14	1.15	1.17	1.18	1.23	1.28	1.33
– first births	0.56	0.54	0.54	0.56	0.57	0.60	0.63	0.66
– second births	0.51	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.44	0.46	0.48
– third and upper births	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.19
Probability of having 1st child	0.56	0.54	0.54	0.56	0.57	0.60	0.63	0.66
Probability of having 2nd child	0.92	0.79	0.80	0.77	0.76	0.73	0.74	0.72
Probability of having 3rd child	0.28	0.29	0.29	0.30	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28
Mean age of mothers	25.8	27.2	27.5	27.8	28.1	28.3	28.6	28.9
Mean age of mothers at 1st birth	23.3	24.9	25.3	25.6	25.9	26.3	26.6	26.9
Mean age of mothers at 2nd birth	26.4	28.1	28.4	28.7	29.0	29.3	29.6	29.9
Mean age of mothers at 3rd birth and higher-order birth	30.6	31.7	32.0	32.3	32.4	33.6	32.8	33.0
Premarital conception (%)	50.8	41.6	39.5	37.6	33.6	32.2	31.7	30.1
Net reproduction rate	0.61	0.55	0.55	0.56	0.57	0.59	0.62	0.64

Since 2002, when a more notable rise in fertility and natality began to be observed, there has been an increase in the fertility of all birth orders (or up to 4+), but most strikingly in the case of first-order fertility. The probability of first-order births increased most. Thus, in recent years the statistical significance of the assumption that when a woman has one child there is a relatively high chance that she will have a second has slightly decreased. In terms of increasing fertility towards a level of two children born per woman, the most significant factor is the start of reproduction among young people. The average interval between the birth of the first and second child (in the current marriage) increased slightly in the first half of the 1990s, and in the ensuing years it basically stagnated around 3.8–3.9 years. The question is whether there will be an overall shift in the age interval of reproduction among women, or whether, as a result of the effect of the postponement of the start of family life, women will already be relatively old once they reach the time to give birth to a second (or higher-order) birth and they will more often “settle” with just one child.

The trend since the late 1980s of a rising proportion of extramarital births continued in 2006. One-third of all live-born children were born to unmarried women. The number of extramarital second-order births has seen relatively the most dramatic increase since the late 1980s and early 1990s. Nevertheless, 60% of the 3.5-fold increase in the number of children born to unwed mothers in the past two decades comes from the increase in the number of first-order births. First-order births make up just under two-thirds of all extramarital births,

Table 8 Live births by legitimacy and birth order, 1995–2006

Birth order	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Live births inside marriage							
1.	35877	32209	30873	30919	29282	29615	29962	30287
2.	33606	29127	29026	28621	28262	28672	30079	30237
3.	8333	7067	7002	7125	6964	7069	7296	7573
4.+	3334	2715	2538	2662	2464	2469	2465	2475
Total	81150	71118	69439	69327	66972	67825	69802	70572
Structure (%)								
1.	44.2	45.3	44.4	44.6	43.7	43.7	42.9	42.9
2.	41.4	41.0	41.8	41.3	42.2	42.3	43.1	42.9
3.	10.3	9.9	10.1	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.7
4.+	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.5
Total of all children	84.4	78.2	76.5	74.7	71.5	69.4	68.3	66.7
Live births outside marriage								
1.	8645	11695	12464	13826	16081	18451	19968	21536
2.	3420	4746	5190	5826	6561	6997	7914	8801
3.	1701	2076	2242	2406	2597	2793	2975	3139
4.+	1181	1275	1380	1401	1474	1598	1552	1783
Total	14947	19792	21276	23459	26713	29839	32409	35259
Structure (%)								
1.	57.8	59.1	58.6	58.9	60.2	61.8	61.6	61.1
2.	22.9	24.0	24.4	24.8	24.6	23.4	24.4	25.0
3.	11.4	10.5	10.5	10.3	9.7	9.4	9.2	8.9
4.+	7.9	6.4	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.4	4.8	5.1
Total of all children	15.6	21.8	23.5	25.3	28.5	30.6	31.7	33.3

Table 9 Fertility rate by age and marital status (per 1000 women) 1995, 2005 and 2006

Age	All women			Single women			Married women		
	1995	2005	2006	1995	2005	2006	1995	2005	2006
20	85.3	33.4	32.9	20.0	24.4	25.2	280.7	295.6	285.6
21	102.3	39.8	39.3	22.5	26.0	27.5	230.7	242.0	241.2
22	109.4	47.1	44.0	23.2	28.1	27.0	196.3	212.1	209.9
23	110.7	54.5	53.1	25.6	28.7	29.7	169.6	194.1	198.4
24	107.4	66.8	63.5	24.9	30.1	31.4	148.7	192.4	190.4
25	102.5	82.4	79.8	29.2	34.5	34.4	130.0	190.9	196.8
26	94.6	95.4	92.4	33.2	38.6	39.8	113.2	186.5	187.1
27	79.5	104.9	103.9	33.1	45.8	47.1	92.1	173.9	180.4
28	70.8	109.6	111.5	31.4	49.5	53.5	80.1	161.7	170.0
29	59.0	109.7	114.8	31.0	58.3	58.6	65.1	145.0	158.5
30	49.9	96.8	106.1	30.3	60.6	65.7	53.9	118.2	132.7
31	40.6	84.3	92.9	28.1	56.5	64.7	42.9	99.7	109.1
32	33.3	69.3	75.1	21.1	53.2	57.4	35.1	77.4	85.7
33	26.8	55.5	63.9	24.0	47.4	54.2	27.3	59.8	70.3
34	22.8	45.9	51.5	24.8	45.8	53.0	23.1	47.3	53.4
35	17.5	37.2	41.8	12.3	38.3	46.8	17.8	37.3	41.7
36	13.8	28.8	32.2	14.7	37.2	33.0	13.7	27.6	32.5
37	10.8	21.4	22.7	9.7	26.6	29.4	10.6	20.7	21.2
38	7.2	15.5	18.3	6.8	21.5	26.7	7.0	13.9	16.5
39	5.5	10.6	12.8	6.0	14.2	19.9	5.1	9.3	11.3

while in the case of married women the ratio of first-order to second-order children is much more balanced and in the past four years the difference was never more than five percent. Thus, among married women, the above-mentioned assumption that if a woman has one child she will also have another is true.

The fertility rate among married women reached a low in the mid-1990s, rising again in the following years, most significantly among 30–40 year-olds, while the fertility rate among the youngest age groups of married women decreased. The fertility rates of single and divorced women have been rising since the end of the 1990s, especially among women over the age of 30.

Even though the number of foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic has gradually been rising, the number of children with foreign citizenship born in the country is not large, even though it has increased slightly. Overall relatively few foreign nationals in the Czech Republic start a family. In 2006 the number of children with foreign citizenship born in the country made up only 1.6% of all live births. Most of these children were Vietnamese (unlike most other groups of foreign nationals Vietnamese nationals tend to reside in the Czech Republic long term or permanently), followed by children of Ukrainian nationality and Slovak nationality.

Abortion rate

The uneven trend in the abortion rate by type of abortion has changed the structure of total abortion rate. While the number and intensity of induced abortions has been decreasing constantly since the end of the 1980s, the number of miscarriages and the rate of miscarriage stagnated from the mid-1990s and in the past three years has even been slightly rising. In 2006, a total of 40.0 thousand abortions were recorded, of which 25.4 thousand were induced abortions, 13.3 thousand were miscarriages, and 1.3 thousand were extrauterine pregnancies (there were three other abortions). Induced abortions thus made up 63.4% of all abortions, while in 1994 the figure was 80.4% (and in the late 1980s and early 1990s it was as high as 88.3%). In 2006 miscarriages accounted for a full one-third of the total number of abortions, and three percent were terminated extrauterine pregnancies.

In 2006, 17.4% of all pregnancies ended in abortion, while in 1995 the figure was almost twice that – 31.4%. The share of miscarriages out of all terminated pregnancies increased: in 1995, 6.7% of registered pregnancies ended in a miscarriage, while in 2006 the figure was 9.1%. Currently less than one-third of all pregnancies end in abortion, compared to almost forty percent in the mid-1990s.

The significant decrease in the rate of induced abortion, which tends to be related to the spread of modern birth control methods (according to data from UZIS, in 2005, 51% of wom-

Table 10 Pregnancies by type of termination (%), 1995–2006

Pregnancies by type of termination	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Spontaneous abortion	6.7	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.6	8.9	8.6	9.1
Induced abortion	31.4	25.0	23.9	22.8	21.5	19.8	18.6	17.4
Other abortion	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9
Live birth	60.8	65.6	66.7	67.8	68.7	70.1	71.7	72.4
Stillbirth	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Table 11 Abortion rate by type of abortion, 1995–2006

Indicator	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Abortion rate	0.84	0.63	0.60	0.58	0.56	0.55	0.53	0.53
Total induced abortion rate	0.68	0.47	0.44	0.42	0.39	0.37	0.35	0.34
Total spontaneous abortion rate	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.17

en of reproductive age were using prescription birth control), signified a decrease in the average number of abortions per woman to 0.34 (in 2006). The average number of all types of abortion per woman is 0.53. The sharp fall in the intensity of induced abortion occurred across the age structure, but most of all among women between 20 and 30 years of age. The effect of the uneven decrease in the intensity of induced abortion in individual age groups combined with the postponement of the age of pregnancy to a later age shifted the highest induced abortion rate into the 29–35 age group. In the first half of the 1990s the average was five years younger.

The most induced abortions are still recorded among married women (43.6% in 2006), but they account for a smaller proportion of abortions (64.0% in 1995, down from 74.1% in 1990). This is not just owing to the effect of the decrease in the proportion of married women in the population, but is also the result of the sharp decrease in the induced abortion rate among married women (compared to women of other marital statuses). The induced abortion rates of married and single women have become almost even. In 2006 single women aged 28 and under had a lower abortion rate, while the biggest difference was among the youngest age group of women – up to the age of around 22. In other age units married and single women were essentially even or single women had a slightly higher abortion intensity than married women (in selected age units after the age of 30). However, the highest abortion rate was found among divorced women, though even among this group of women there was a significant decrease since the late 1980s and early 1990s (roughly equal to the decrease among women who had never been married). However, today divorced women account for only 13.1% of all induced abortions.

Table 12 Induced abortion rate by age and marital status (per 1000 women), 1995, 2005 and 2006

Age	All women			Single women			Married women		
	1995	2005	2006	1995	2005	2006	1995	2005	2006
15	3.0	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.1	.	.	.
16	6.9	5.2	4.9	6.8	5.1	4.9	x	x	x
17	12.0	7.6	7.2	11.7	7.4	7.1	x	x	x
18	16.9	10.2	9.7	16.3	9.9	9.4	x	x	x
19	21.9	11.6	11.3	20.2	11.2	11.1	33.1	33.1	26.8
20	25.6	12.8	13.1	23.1	12.4	12.6	32.3	24.6	25.6
21	28.0	14.3	13.9	24.5	13.4	13.0	32.4	23.8	28.3
22	28.7	14.8	13.3	24.1	13.8	12.0	31.3	21.4	22.8
23	30.8	14.3	14.0	25.4	13.3	12.9	32.4	18.7	17.6
24	32.3	14.9	14.0	26.7	13.2	12.9	33.5	18.9	16.3
25	33.7	14.4	13.1	27.1	12.9	11.6	33.8	15.8	14.5
26	34.8	14.2	13.8	28.4	12.9	11.9	34.0	14.6	15.1
27	32.9	14.7	13.3	23.9	13.4	12.5	32.7	14.4	12.9
28	33.3	14.5	13.9	27.8	12.9	12.9	32.7	14.1	13.4
29	32.9	14.6	14.2	25.9	13.3	13.7	32.0	13.7	13.3
30	32.8	16.0	14.1	24.0	15.7	12.6	32.0	14.8	13.3
31	31.5	15.6	14.7	23.5	14.3	14.5	30.5	14.7	13.6
32	30.6	16.6	15.2	19.8	16.2	15.0	29.9	15.2	13.8
33	29.1	14.4	14.9	21.7	14.5	15.1	27.8	13.3	13.3
34	26.8	16.2	14.2	21.0	14.8	13.5	25.7	15.0	13.2
35	24.8	15.8	14.6	19.7	14.7	13.0	24.2	14.3	14.1
36	23.0	13.7	14.0	16.9	11.8	12.4	22.7	13.0	12.4
37	21.2	12.5	13.0	14.1	11.4	15.1	21.3	11.2	11.8
38	19.1	11.5	11.0	13.1	8.1	11.5	18.9	10.6	10.1
39	16.1	10.2	10.1	11.3	10.2	9.7	15.6	9.3	9.1

In 2006, 41.5% of all induced abortions were repeat abortions. The relative proportion thus remained the same as in 2005. However, this was a decrease compared to previous years. First induced abortions are most common among women of every marital status: in 2006 more than 70% of abortions among single women were first abortions, and around one-half the abortions among married and widowed women were first abortions, while a little over one-third of abortions among divorced women were first abortions. From the perspective of how many children a woman has already given birth to before an abortion, the largest number of abortions is still recorded among women with two or more children (34.5% in 2006). However, the proportion of abortions among childless women has increased (27.4%). The proportion of abortions among women with one child has remained stable for several years at around 25%. Induced abortions among women with two or more children are most often among married women. While more single women (57.8%) deal with their first pregnancy by having an induced abortion, among married women very few first pregnancies end in an induced abortion (5.8% in 2006). The pattern of the most frequent induced abortions occurring among women with two or more children is also typical of divorced women. In their case, abortions are also more common among women with one child.

Out of all induced abortions in 2006, 6.9% were among foreign nationals, and although the number and percentage of induced abortions among foreign women grew during the 1990s and at the start of the new millennium, the figures have not grown since 2004. On the contrary, in the past three years there has even been a slight decrease.

Mortality

The trend in the mortality rate in 2006 has been favourable: life expectancy at birth of men and women increased by almost six-tenths of a year. A similarly large increase in the life expectancy of men and women last occurred between 1997 and 1998, and an increase of more than half a year was also recorded in 2004. The most recent increase among men stemmed mainly from the decreased mortality rate of men over the age of 55 and women over the age of 65. The difference between the life expectancy at birth of women and men in 2006 was 6.2 years, the same as the year before that, and seven-tenths of a year less than in 1995.

From the perspective of causes of death, the increase in life expectancy at birth in 2006 was again primarily the result of the decrease in the rate of death from cardiovascular diseases. But there was also an improvement in the death rates from the other most frequent causes of death. A more detailed breakdown of mortality by causes of death in 2006 showed a decrease in the death rate from myocardial infarction, especially among men, and among both men and

Table 13 Mortality indicators, 1995–2006

Indicator	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Live expectancy at age of men – 0	69.7	71.6	72.1	72.1	72.0	72.5	72.9	73.4
– 45	27.6	28.9	29.3	29.3	29.2	29.6	29.9	30.4
– 65	12.7	13.7	13.9	13.9	13.8	14.2	14.4	14.8
– 80	5.7	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.4
Live expectancy at age of women – 0	76.6	78.3	78.4	78.5	78.5	79.0	79.1	79.7
– 45	33.3	34.6	34.6	34.8	34.7	35.2	35.2	35.7
– 65	16.0	17.1	17.1	17.2	17.1	17.5	17.6	18.0
– 80	6.6	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.4
Difference women – men (at birth)	6.9	6.7	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.2	6.2
Infant mortality rate	7.7	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.3
Neonatal mortality rate	4.9	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.3
Perinatal mortality rate	6.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.2

Note: Perinatal mortality rate = stillbirths and deaths at age 0–6 days inclusive per 1000 live births.

women there was decrease in the intensity of mortality from cerebrovascular diseases. Among men the positive trend in the rate of death from malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung, while among women the opposite, rising trend continued (the intensity of death from these types of neoplasms has increased since the start of the 1990s by more than 45%). The rate of mortality from the most common types of neoplasms among women – malignant neoplasm of breast and genital organs – remained essentially at the same level as in 2005, after a long trend of a slight continuing decrease. With regard to the well above-average mortality rate from malignant colorectal neoplasms in the Czech Republic, the trend in recent years may suggest the possibility of a decrease. However, more time is needed to confirm this trend. But a decrease in the mortality rate from this cause cannot be ruled out entirely, as the public has been targeted with an information campaign about this disease and preventive screenings to check for the presence of blood in the stools are carried out every two years on citizens over the age of 50 in an effort to detect the early stages of neoplasm in time and thus increase the possibility of successfully treating the disease. In the case of external causes of death, in 2006 there was a significant decrease in the rate of death from transport accidents (by 11% among men and 13% among women), probably in connection with the introduction of a demerit point system for drivers. There was also an inter-year decrease in the mortality rate from suicide.

Table 14 Contributions of selected groups of causes of death to the difference between life expectancies at birth

Causes of death	2006 – 1995		2006 – 2005		Difference women–men		
	Men	Women	Men	Women	1995	2005	2006
Neoplasms	0.74	0.48	0.09	0.03	1.67	1.59	1.57
Diseases of the circulatory system	2.16	1.83	0.24	0.31	2.92	2.20	2.25
Myocardial infarction	1.04	0.48	0.08	-0.11	1.15	0.59	0.43
Other chronic ischemic heart disease	0.31	0.43	0.00	0.22	0.75	0.67	0.87
Cerebrovascular diseases	0.55	0.56	0.07	0.07	0.47	0.33	0.32
Other diseases of the circulatory system	0.25	0.35	0.09	0.13	0.55	0.62	0.64
Diseases of the respiratory system	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.32	0.38	0.37
Diseases of the digestive system	0.07	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.41	0.42	0.42
Injury and poisoning	0.56	0.32	0.12	0.08	1.38	1.21	1.18
Other causes	0.12	0.24	0.03	0.06	0.25	0.39	0.43
Total	3.71	2.95	0.56	0.55	6.96	6.19	6.22

In 2006, 352 children died within their first year of life, 246 of them within the first 28 days since birth. The number of infants that died was very slightly higher in 2006 than in 2005, but owing to the higher number of children born the infant mortality rate was lower – 3.3 compared to 3.4 in 2005. On the other hand, the intensity of neonatal mortality was higher (2.3 compared to 2.0). However, fluctuations are natural in the case of such low figures.

The number of deaths of foreign nationals with some type of residence permit in the Czech Republic is very low. However, foreign nationals in the Czech Republic have a different – younger – age structure. Less than one-half of a percentage point of all deaths are among foreigners.

International migration

In 2006 net international migration was 34.7 thousand, the second largest figure since the Czech Republic was established in 1993. The difference between the number of immigrants and emigrants was larger only in 2005 by 1.5 thousand. However, the volume of migration was larger in 2006. The increase in the population due to immigration was again primarily the result of the immigration of Ukrainians, Slovaks and Vietnamese. The number of people with

Ukrainian citizenship in the Czech Republic has increased the most – the number of Ukrainians increased each year since 2003 by more than ten thousand people. The Czech Republic has had long-term positive net migration with Slovakia, the exceptions being the years 2001–2002 and 2004, years when demographic statistics were already extended to include foreign nationals with one of the types of long-term residence status. Positive net migration is also observed among Vietnamese citizens (including 2001, when overall negative net migration was recorded), although the level is much lower than in the case of Ukrainians. For example, in 2006 the net migration of Vietnamese was 3.2-fold lower than the net migration of Ukrainians. The Czech Republic has positive net migration (since 2002) also, for example, with the Russian Federation, Germany, Poland, Moldova, Mongolia, and the United States.

Table 15 Net migration by citizenship (10 highest in given year), 1995, 2005 and 2006

1995		2005		2006	
Citizenship	Net migration	Citizenship	Net migration	Citizenship	Net migration
Czech Republic	4180	Ukraine	12483	Ukraine	12993
Slovakia	2513	Slovakia	8161	Slovakia	6152
Ukraine	650	Vietnam	3489	Vietnam	4083
Vietnam	359	Russia	1994	Russia	2214
Germany	281	Germany	1332	Moldova	1143
Russia	274	Poland	1119	Mongolia	1075
USA	196	Moldova	891	Poland	853
Romania	118	Mongolia	654	China	777
Jugoslavia	97	USA	628	Germany	734
Bulgaria	85	Belarus	426	USA	542
Others	1246	Others	5052	Others	4154
Total	9999	Total	36229	Total	34720

The difference between the number of immigrant and emigrant Czech citizens has shown an unstable trend in recent years: in 2000–2001 and 2003–2004 more Czech citizens immigrated than emigrated, in 2002 and 2005–2006 it was the other way around. However, the number of Czech emigrants is probably underestimated.

Internal migration

In 2006, 225.2 thousand changes of address were registered, which was 11.6 thousand more than the year before. A total of 44.5% of the mobility occurred between municipalities within the same district, 19.4% between districts within the same region, and 36.1% was between regions.

Typical for large cities are migration flows in and out of town occurring largely within the (greater) area of the cities. For example, out of 18.9 thousand people who moved out of the City of Prague in 2006, 7.1 thousand moved to neighbouring districts of Prague-West (3.8 thousand) and Prague-East (3.3 thousand). Conversely, 18.5 thousand people migrated into Prague (though more than one-third of them were foreign nationals), and most of these migrants were from the Central Bohemia Region (6.2 thousand). A total of 6.7 thousand moved out of Brno, mainly to the suburban district Brno-Rural (39.1% of all migrants) and 4.5 thousand people moved into the city, of which 1.2 thousand (26.9% of all migrants) from the district of Brno-Rural.

The total volume of internal migration includes the registered changes of address of foreign nationals. Over time their share of the total volume of internal migration has been growing, and somewhat more rapidly than the actual number of foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic. The share of internal migration of foreign nationals out of the total volume of in-

ternal migration in 2006 has already surpassed ten percent (up from 8.4% in 2005); this entailed 23.0 thousand changes of address of foreign nationals. The majority of the total number of foreign nationals migrating within the Czech Republic are Ukrainian citizens (56.2% in 2006), followed by Vietnamese citizens (14.7%), Slovak citizens (6.0%), Moldovans (4.9%), and Russians (4.4%). However, when the number of migrating citizens by nationality (taking into account only the largest groups of foreign nationals residing in the country) is related to the total number of people of the given nationality residing in the Czech Republic, the highest mobility in 2006 was observed among Mongolian and Moldovan citizens (respectively 190 and 180 per thousand of each nationality moved in 2006), and only then Ukrainians (126 people per thousand).

The current demographic situation in the Czech Republic compared to other EU countries

Owing to the deep decline in fertility, the Czech Republic is today one of the countries in Europe with the lowest proportion of children in the population. In the Czech Republic, like in another thirteen EU countries, since 2006 the number of people over the age of 65 has been

Table 16 Basic demographic indicators of EU states, latest available data

Country	Proportion of children aged 0–14 years in population	Proportion of persons aged 65+ in population	Index of ageing	Mean age of women at first marriage	Proportion of marriages terminated in divorce (%)	Total fertility rate	Mean age of women at the birth of the first child	Proportion of births out of wedlock (%)	Life expectancy at birth – men	Life expectancy at birth – women	Infant mortality rate (‰)
	1. 1. 2006	1. 1. 2006	1. 1. 2006	2003	2003	2005	2003	2005	2005	2005	2005
Belgium	17.2	17.2	100	27.1	56.1	1.72	.	26.9	76.7	82.4	4.4
Bulgaria	13.6	17.2	127	24.9	25.8	1.31	24.2	49.0	69.0	76.3	10.4
Czech Republic	14.6	14.2	97	25.6	47.9	1.28	25.9	31.7	72.9	79.1	3.4
Denmark	18.7	15.2	81	30.1	47.3	1.80	.	45.7	75.6	80.2	4.4
Estonia	15.1	16.7	111	25.5	47.6	1.50	24.6	58.5	67.3	78.1	5.4
Finland	17.3	16.0	93	28.8	50.1	1.80	27.9	40.4	75.5	82.3	3.0
France	18.4	16.4	89	28.2	42.9	1.92	.	48.4	76.8	83.8	3.9
Ireland	20.5	11.1	54	.	.	1.88	28.3	32.0	77.1	81.8	4.0
Italy	14.1	19.5	138	.	13.0	1.34	.	17.3	77.6	83.2	4.7
Cyprus	18.4	12.0	65	27.3	22.4	1.42	26.9	4.4	77.0	81.7	4.6
Lithuania	16.5	15.3	93	24.4	42.2	1.27	24.5	28.4	65.4	77.4	6.8
Latvia	14.3	16.8	117	24.8	31.8	1.31	24.6	44.6	65.6	77.4	7.8
Luxembourg	18.6	14.4	77	27.9	47.7	1.70	28.7	27.2	76.2	82.3	2.6
Hungary	15.4	15.8	102	25.8	41.7	1.32	25.9	35.0	68.6	76.9	6.2
Malta	17.1	13.4	79	26.5	x	1.37	.	20.0	77.7	81.4	6.0
Germany	14.1	19.3	136	28.1	.	1.34	28.8	29.2	76.2	81.8	3.9
Netherlands	18.3	14.3	78	28.4	35.5	1.73	28.8	34.8	77.2	81.6	4.9
Poland	16.2	13.3	82	24.7	18.4	1.24	25.3	18.5	70.8	79.4	6.4
Portugal	15.6	17.1	110	26.1	32.1	1.40	27.1	30.7	74.9	81.4	3.5
Austria	15.9	16.5	104	27.7	44.6	1.41	26.9	36.5	76.7	82.2	4.2
Romania	15.5	14.8	95	24.1	21.1	1.32	24.2	28.6	68.2	75.4	15.0
Greece	14.3	18.5	129	27.3	.	1.28	27.9	5.10	76.6	81.5	3.8
Slovakia	16.6	11.7	71	25.0	32.3	1.25	25.0	26.0	70.1	77.9	7.2
Slovenia	14.1	15.6	110	27.5	25.0	1.26	27.2	46.7	74.1	81.3	4.1
United Kingdom	17.8	16.0	90	.	.	1.80	29.3	42.9	76.9	81.1	5.1
Spain	14.5	16.7	115	28.3	.	1.34	29.2	26.8	77.4	83.9	4.1
Sweden	17.3	17.3	100	30.5	54.0	1.77	28.5	55.5	78.4	82.8	2.4

Note: Wherever data were not available for the given year data from the previous year were used.

Source: Eurostat.

greater (albeit just slightly) than the number of children under the age of 15 (for greater comparability Table 16 presents data from 2005 for the Czech Republic). According to the index of ageing the Czech Republic currently ranks directly in the middle of EU countries.

Differences in nuptiality are relatively substantial, especially with regard to the average age at the time of first marriage. Given the ongoing changes in demographic behaviour among the Czech population, as a result of which people are postponing marriage to a later age, and even interest in formal unions is waning, the Czech Republic is currently one of the countries with the lowest intensity of marriage among men and women. However, the populations of the Czech Republic and other countries of Eastern and Central Europe still marry at a younger age than in the rest of Europe, by 2–4 years.

Differences in legislation on the conditions for granting divorce must be taken into account in an international comparison of divorce rates (for example, in Malta divorce is not even permitted). Public attitudes towards divorce as a solution to marital problems also certainly vary between individual countries. The gradual rise in the intensity of divorce, which has somewhat gained in strength since the 1990s, has ranked the Czech Republic among EU countries with the highest divorce intensity.

Despite the slight rise in the fertility rate of Czech women in recent years, the country still has one of the lowest rates in Europe. But almost all the countries of eastern and central Europe are experiencing low fertility. Countries of southern Europe also have very below-average fertility: Greece, Italy, Spain. Even though women living in the Czech Republic quickly began to postpone starting a family to a later age, they still begin their reproductive life around 2–3 years earlier than women in western, southern, and northern Europe. Significant differences are found between countries also in terms of the proportion of extramarital births. The rapid rise in this indicator since the 1990s in the Czech Republic has put the country in the middle of this imaginary scale of countries.

Even with the significant improvements in mortality that began back at the start of the 1980s, the Czech Republic is still lagging behind other advanced western European countries in terms of mortality rates. Mortality has of course also been improving constantly in these countries. The differences are thus still considerable. Czech women and men have a life expectancy at birth around 3–5 years lower than women and men living in countries with the lowest mortality, and the difference is most pronounced among men. On the other hand, the Czech Republic currently has one of the lowest infant mortality rates, though at the start of the 1990s it was among the countries with a higher rate.

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