

Development of national structure of population in the Czech Republic and impact of international migration of foreigners after 1990

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Abstract

The first part of the article examines changes in the ethnic structure of population on the territory of the Czech Republic from the historical aspect. The second part is focused on analysis of changes in the ethnic and demographic structure of foreigners in the Czech Republic in the 1990s and at the start of 21st century. The intensity of migration streams and the long-term destinations of immigrants are the main factors that are contributing to the growing number of foreigners and influencing their structure by residence status, and regional distribution. The demographic characteristics of foreigners also differ by their purpose of residence. Despite increasing number of foreigners is the Czech Republic very homogeneous state. Persons of Czech nationality (incl. Moravian and Silesian) made up 94% of the population in 2001, the largest other ethnic group was made up Slovaks.

The descriptive analysis is based mainly on data from population censuses and from publication “Foreigners in the Czech Republic” (Czech Statistical Office).

Key words: nationality – ethnic group – foreigner – international migration – Czech Republic

Introduction

Increasing numbers of foreigners who have been coming to the Czech Republic since the 1990s are causing a great interest in the national structure of population data. The structure of foreigners by their legal nationality is in the focus of the statistical offices as well as the public media which have brought it to a greater attention by the public, particularly since the foreign nationals became part of the Czech national census in 2001. There is a long history of monitoring the national structure in Czech Lands: the multinational Austro-Hungarian Empire with Czech Lands being part of it always showed a great interest in the national structure and recorded it since the 19th century. The article will briefly follow development of the national structure of population in the area of the Czech Republic, including data gathering methods and sources. The content will however focus on the changes in the nationality structure at the beginning of the 21st century in the light of migration. The nationality structure (legal nationality) of foreigners will be analysed by resident sta-

tus and variability in their demographic structure. If nationality or ethnicity is to be defined in the article, it will be only to assess changes in the criteria used for this phenomenon and to be able to judge data quality and for data comparison. Also note the definitions vary on the international scale; many countries determine who their nationals are in a different way or not at all (Haug 1998).

National structure of the population in the Czech Republic territory in historical context

The first, though incomplete, statistical data on the ethnic structure in the Czech Lands date from 1828 from the official publication “Tafeln zur Statistik der Oesterreichischen Monarchie”. According to data the population of Bohemia to 56.1% was comprised of Bohemians, 41.9% were Germans, 1.7% were Jewish and other nationalities made up the remaining 0.3% (data for Moravia and Silesia were missing). Nationality was determined on the basis of mother tongue (Srb 2004; Sekera 1981). In the following years nationality/ethnicity data were based on the prevailing language on a given region. The table from census in 1857 produced the following data for the Czech Lands: 61.4% Czech, Moravian, and Slovak nationals, 34.9% German nationals, 1.8% Polish nationals, and 1.9% were others, but ethnicity data was not surveyed in this census, the source of data is unknown (Sekera 1978; Berrová 2008). It was not until the 1880 census was the nationality structure of the Czech lands examined in more detail and on the basis of usual language. The ethnic structure changed over the course of the 19th century, partly under the influence of the different rate of reproduction among different nationalities (natural population increase decreased more rapidly among people of Germany nationality than Czech), and also under the influence of emigration (higher in industrial region with the majority of persons with German nationality) and finally as a result of assimilation and changes of nationality declaration – at that time to the advantage of people of German nationality; conversely, after Czechoslovakia emerged as an independent country, changes of nationality was mainly to the advantage of the majority Czech nationality. If we compare data from censuses between 1880 and 1910, population increases were larger among Czechs than Germans. The proportion of people of Czech nationality increased from 62.5% to 62.9% while the proportion of Germans decreased from 34.9% to 34.7% (Srb 2004).

In independent Czechoslovakia, nationality was determined by self-declaration and in relation to mother tongue. To determine nationality in the 1921 and 1930 surveys, ‘Czechoslovak’ nationality was created as a category, but it was possible to distinguish between and record the number of people of Czech and Slovak nationality separately on the basis of mother tongue. In the 1930 census, it was possible to indicate nationality separately from mother tongue only if the respondent did not speak their mother tongue in the family and had mastered the language of the nationality that he/she indicated in the census form (Berrová 2008).

Tab. 1 Nationality of inhabitants of the Czech Lands (results of population censuses 1910–1930)

Nationality	Population in thousands			Share of total population (in %)		
	1910 ¹⁾	1921	1930	1910	1921	1930
Czech, Moravian ²⁾	6,336	6,759	7,305	62.9	67.5	68.5
Slovak ²⁾		16	44		0.2	0.4
German	3,492	3,061	3,150	34.7	30.6	29.5
Polish	159	104	93	1.6	1.0	0.9
Ukrainian, Russian	–	13	23	–	0.1	0.2
Hungarian	–	7	11	–	0.1	0.1
Jewish	–	36	37	–	0.4	0.3
Another, unknown	92	10	11	0.8	0.1	0.1
Total	10,079	10,006	10,674	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes:

¹⁾ In 1910 according to usual language

²⁾ Calculation of Czechoslovakian nationality according to mother language

Sources: Srb (2004), Kučera (1994).

In 1921 more than 30% of the population in Czech Lands was of German nationality (4 percentage points fewer than in 1910). Germans mainly lived in the border regions – in some neighbouring districts they made up more than 98% of the population. In 1921 the Poles in Silesia also formed a larger nationality (13.5% – Kučera, 1994). Slovaks made up just 0.2%. The share of Germans in the population was on the decrease until 1930: share of persons of Czechoslovakian nationality grew by more than 8%, while Germans by just 3%. In the 1921 and 1930 censuses it also became possible for people to declare Jewish nationality (36,000 people in 1921, which was just 30% of the number of people who declared Jewish religion). In 1937 as of September 30 the number of inhabitants of the Czech Lands according to balance of natural movement and estimation increased to 10,905,000; the share of Germans decreased to 29.2%, the share of Czechs made up 68.5%, the share of Slovaks 0.6% of population (Srb 2004).

After the Second World War the nationality structure changed greatly. With the expulsion of the German population from Czechoslovakia, the country became homogeneous by nationality but immigration directed at settling people in the vacated border regions led to an increase in the share of Slovaks in the population. Records indicate that by July 1946, more than 2.7 million Germans had left Czechoslovakia (Kučera 1994). Nationality was again determined by self-declaration. In the 1950 and 1961 censuses, nationality was an affiliation to the nation with culture background and working background a person is bound internally and claims to be a member of, so called “definition of nationality by Stalin” (Fajfr, Jureček, Ullmann, 1960). In the 1970, 1980, 1991 censuses, nationality was interpreted on the basis of belonging to a nation or nationality, and everyone could write down their nationality as they saw fit; nevertheless, Roma were not able to declare their nationality until 1991, and before that they were just an ‘ethnic group’.

The 2001 census used a definition in which nationality was understood to mean affiliation to a nation or a nationality or ethnic minority. In the Czech Republic, it is the personal decision of the individual, not their maternal language or the language that they use, that is decisive; nationality of children up to 15 years is determined by nationalities of their parents, the same way it was in the preceding censuses. For the first time in history, a person might state multiple nationalities and for the first time the answer to the question about nationality was voluntary (Národnostní složení obyvatelstva, 2003).

Tab. 2 Nationality of inhabitants by population censuses in the period 1950–2001

Nationality	1950	1961	1970	1980	1991	2001
	Population in thousands					
Czech	8,344	9,023	9,271	9,734	8,364	9,250
Moravian ¹⁾	–	–	–	–	1,362	380
Silesian ¹⁾	–	–	–	–	44	11
Slovak	258	276	321	360	315	193
Romany ²⁾	–	–	–	–	33	12
Polish	71	67	64	66	59	52
German	160	134	81	58	49	39
Ukrainian, Russian	19	20	16	15	13	34
Other	33	42	45	38	41	86
Not identified	11	34,700	10	21	22	173
Total	8,896	9,572	9,808	10,292	10,302	10,230
Share of total population (in %)						
Czech	93.8	94.3	94.5	94.6	81.2	90.5
Moravian ¹⁾	–	–	–	–	13.2	3.7
Silesian ¹⁾	–	–	–	–	0.4	0.1
Slovak	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.1	1.9
Romany ²⁾	–	–	–	–	0.3	0.1
Polish	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
German	1.8	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4
Ukrainian, Russian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3
Other	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.8
Not identified	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes:

1950: present (de facto) population, 1961–1991: resident population, 2001: resident population and foreigners with long-term residence permits.

¹⁾ In 1950, 1961, 1970 a 1980 included in Czech nationality

²⁾ In 1950, 1961, 1970 a 1980 Romany nationality was not surveyed

Source: Czech Demographic Handbook 2007.

In the first post-war population census in 1950 just under 94% of the present population were people of Czech nationality, Slovaks came second at 2.9%, and Germans were third at 1.8% – some Germans did not admit their nationality – in

reality there may have been 10–20% more (Kučera 1994). In the next forty years the nationality structure changed little.

The 1991 survey was exceptional – for the first time after many years it was possible to freely state one’s opinions and the survey method based on self-declaration allowed each individual to freely declare their nationality. The classification of nationalities for processing the data was extended to include Moravian and Silesian nationality, and results for Roma and Czechoslovak nationality were also processed.

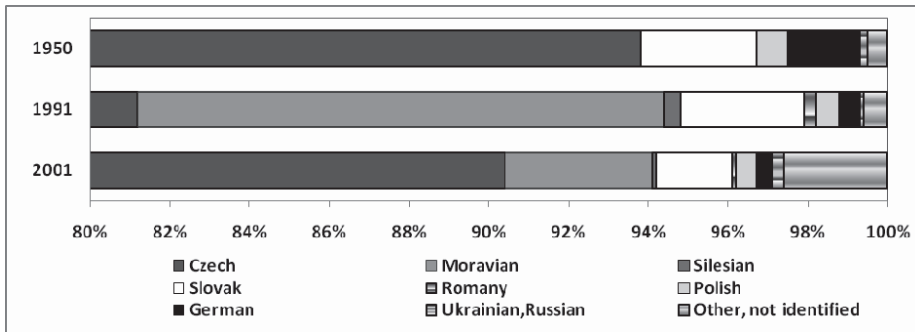


Fig. 1 Population by nationality: as measured by 1950, 1991, 2001 censuses

Notes: See Table 2

Source: Czech Demographic Handbook 2007. Praha, ČSÚ.

In 1991, 13.2% of the population declared Moravian nationality and 0.4% Silesian. In 2001 only one-quarter of that number declared Moravian or Silesian nationality (3.7% and 0.1% respectively). It seems that the number of people who declared themselves to be of these nationalities in 1991 was more about a reaction to the atmosphere in society at that time than it was a matter of their permanent status. In 2001 Slovak nationality remained the next largest after Bohemian and Moravian, even despite the break up of the country into two. As a result of the post-war settlement of the border regions and later recruitment of people to settle in industrial regions, the share of Slovaks reached almost 3% by 1961. Further immigration and natural reproduction increased their share by 1980 to 3.5%, and since then it has decreased – gradually until 1991, and more quickly in the 1990s to reach 1.9% in 2001. Another factor contributing to the decrease was that Roma for the first were able to freely declare their nationality, while previously they had often declared Slovak or Hungarian nationality. However, the Roma did not take much advantage of this opportunity. In 1991 only 33,000 people declared Roma nationality, while the real number of Roma is estimated at around 160,000. The drift away from Roma nationality continued in 2001, when fewer than 12,000 people declared Roma nationality. The decrease in the share of people of Slovak nationality is also the result of natural assimilation and mixed marriages. The processing of nationality data of census 2001 distinguished 18 separate nationalities.

The share of people of other nationalities did not exceed the one-percent mark in 2001 or before that. One of the largest nationalities was Poles, whose share gradually decreased from the 1950s. The share of Poles (0.5%) usually decreased by assimilation, changes of nationality declaration and ageing, and since 1991 people of Polish nationality in the Czech lands have also been able to declare Silesian nationality. The share of Germans (0.4%) decreased faster than that of Poles – usually by emigration, assimilation, and attrition. Other nationalities that in 2001 made up more than a tenth of a percentage of the population of the Czech Republic included Ukrainians, Vietnamese, Russians, and Hungarians. The numbers in the first three groups increased partly as a result of legislative amendments, whereby since the 2001 census apart from foreigners (i.e. people who do not have Czech state citizenship) with permanent residence permit also foreigners with long-term residence status have also been counted in the inhabitants of the Czech Republic. In the 2001 census there were nearly 70,000 such foreigners making up just less one percent of the population. Almost one-half of these foreigners were people of Ukrainian, Vietnamese and Slovak nationality (each of them made up 15–17% of the total), more numerous among foreigners were even persons of Russian and Polish nationality i.e. nationality in the sense of citizenship, legal nationality (Národnostní složení obyvatelstva, ČSÚ 2003).

Tab. 3 Inhabitants of the Czech Republic with long-term residence by nationality*) and sex (census 2001)

Nationality	Population, total	Persons with long-term residence				Share of persons given nationality (%)
		total abs.	structure in %			
			total	males	females	
Slovak	193,190	10,967	15.7	56.4	43.6	5.7
Polish	51,968	3,366	4.8	63.3	36.7	6.5
German	39,106	1,377	2.0	67.3	32.7	3.5
Ukrainian	22,112	11,876	17.0	52.6	47.4	53.7
Vietnamese	17,462	11,671	16.8	61.6	38.4	66.8
Hungarian	14,672	827	1.2	63.4	36.6	5.6
Russian	12,369	6,322	9.1	46.0	54.0	51.1
Bulgarian	4,363	1,384	2.0	61.6	38.4	31.7
Czech ¹⁾	9,641,129	1,393	2.0	54.5	45.5	0.0
Other	60,862	15,396	22.1	60.8	39.2	25.3
Not identified	172,827	5,075	7.3	60.0	40.0	2.9
Population, total	10,230,060	69,654	100.0	57.6	42.4	0.7

Notes: Czech nationality – including Moravian, Silesian nationalities

¹⁾ Nationality of the persons with long-term residence i.e. legal nationality, in the sense of citizenship (Haug, 1998).

Source: Národnostní složení obyvatelstva. Praha. ČSÚ 2003.

Out of the total number of inhabitants of the above-mentioned nationalities (that is, both Czech state citizens and foreigners with permanent and long-term residence), two-thirds of the Vietnamese had long-term residence, more than one-half

of the Ukrainians and Russians did. Among members of nationalities that have historically settled in the Czech lands there were understandably relatively few foreigners with long-term residence and they accounted for only 5.7% of Slovaks and 6.5% of Poles residing in the Czech Republic. Alongside people of Russian nationality with long-term residence, among all the numerically larger nationalities men outnumbered women, a fact that is associated with the purpose of residence and with age.

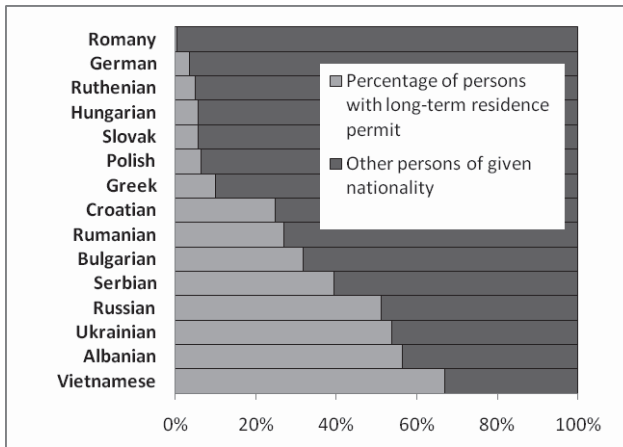


Fig. 2 Percentage of persons with long-term residence permit from persons of given legal nationality (census 2001)

Source: Národnostní složení obyvatelstva (2003). Praha. ČSÚ 2003.

The development of foreign migration since the 1990s

The nature of international migration changed considerably over the 1990s – three phases can be differentiated as to migration across the Czech Republic borders. The first was genuinely triggered with political transformation in 1989. The number of emigrants and immigrants increased already in 1990 but migration balance with then foreign countries was still negative. Since 1991 the Czech Republic became a country with positive net migration mainly due to the wave of return migration. This period came to an end in 1992 due to Czech and Slovak migration exchange as a result of Czechoslovakia division (until 1992 migration to and from Slovakia was a part of internal migration within the frame of Czechoslovakia and net migration always remained positive). Since 1993 migration to and from Slovakia became an external one but its nature kept on distinguishing itself from other countries. The powerful compensation migration was still going on in 1993, concerning numerous balanced flows of migrants in both directions (about 7,000 persons) then until 1997 migration flows decreased. In contrast the number of immigrants from other states rose from 1993 in the first half of the decade. The number

of immigrants in the Czech Republic stabilised in the second half of the 1990s at around 10,000 annually (the third phase of migration development). In the second half of the 1990s., there was also a change in the way immigrants viewed the Czech Republic, as it went from being a transit country to, for many, being a destination country by the end of the 1990s. Also, labour migration became the key reason for people moving to the Czech Republic. Therefore the composition of foreigners by type of residence status also changed (Bartoňová 2008).

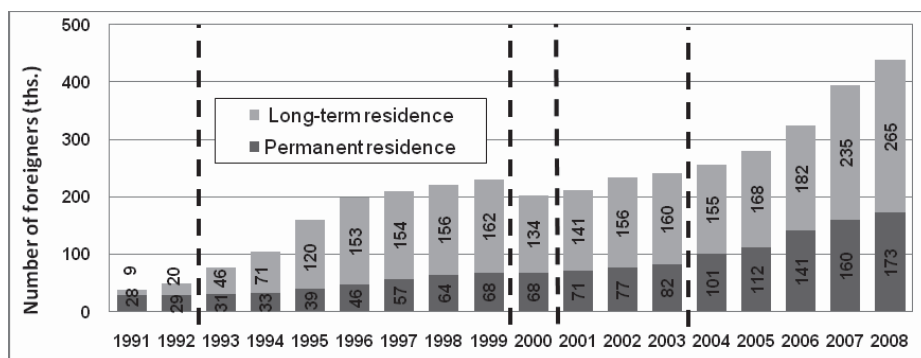


Fig. 3 Foreigners in the Czech Republic by type of residence in the period 1991–2008

Notes:

- until 1993 without people of undetermined citizenship.
- permanent residence: in the period 1999–2007 including foreigners with valid asylum statuses
- long-term residence: temporary (EU Citizens) / long – term / visas over 90-days residence
- dashed lines on the figure illustrate the most important changes in migration legislation or methods of registration (owing to changes in legislation and in the method of registering foreign migration, data on foreign migration from the 1990s and since 2000 are not entirely compatible)

Source: Cizinci v České republice 2008. Praha. ČSÚ.

The number of foreigners with temporary residence permits increased much more quickly than the number of foreigners with permanent residence permits. Since 1993, when the number of foreigners with temporary long-term permits first exceeded the number of foreigners with permanent residence permits, the share of foreigners with temporary long-term residence permits increased to 77% by 1996. At the end of 20th century, however, the proportion of foreigners with permanent residence permits has also begun to rise more quickly, as many applicants for permanent residence permits from the ranks of foreigners have satisfied the legally required period to apply for permanent residence and owing to introduction of stricter immigration regulations concerning persons with temporary residence permits. The share of foreigners with permanent residence permits stabilised in the half of the 21st century at around 40%.

In the structure of foreigners by citizenship, the order of countries at the top has been constant since 2000. In 2007 the largest share of foreign migrants were Ukrainians (127,000 people, one-third of foreigners, and 2.5-fold increase in numbers since 2,000), followed by Slovaks, with almost half that number – their number in-

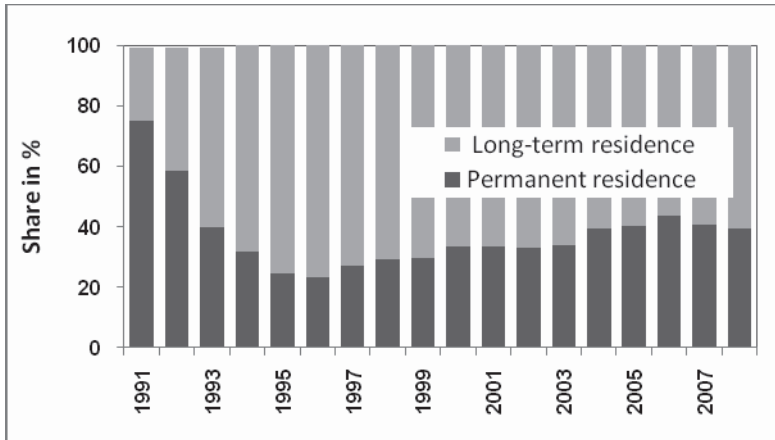


Fig. 4 Proportion of foreigners by type of residence
 Source: *Cizinci v České republice 2008*. Praha. ČSÚ.

creased 1.5-fold (owing though to the change of registration rules). The third-largest group was comprised of Vietnamese; their numbers increased twofold to 51,000. These groups are followed by large shares of citizens from Russia, Poland and Germany – among which the biggest increase, by more than threefold, was in the number of Germans and the smallest increase was in the number of Poles. Three-quarters of Ukrainians have temporary long-term residence permits (mostly work visas), and 60% of Slovaks do. Conversely, citizens of Vietnam and Poland prevalingly have permanent residence permits, and among other large groups of foreigners this was also true of citizens from Bulgaria, the United States, and China, and almost one-half of Russian citizens were living in the Czech Republic with a permanent residence permit (*Cizinci v České republice 2008*; Bartoňová 2008).

The intensity of migration streams and the long-term destinations of immigrants are the main factors that are contributing to the growing number of foreigners in the Czech Republic and influencing their structure by residence status and their regional distribution.

For the past three years the top four countries whose citizens migrate most to the Czech Republic has remained unchanged. In 2005–2007 the largest net migration was from Ukraine (in 2007 the number of emigrants was almost 40,000 people), the second highest net migration was from Slovakia (almost 14,000 immigrants), more than one-tenth of the population gain from migration was made up by Vietnamese citizens, 12,300 of which immigrated to the Czech Republic. Poland, Germany, Moldova, Mongolia, the United States, and China alternated in ranking with the next largest numbers of immigrants. Ukrainians also had the largest migration mobility – almost 40% of the total volume in 2007 (Bartoňová 2008).

The demographic description of the country’s nationality composition would be incomplete were we not to mention also the structure of individual nationalities by

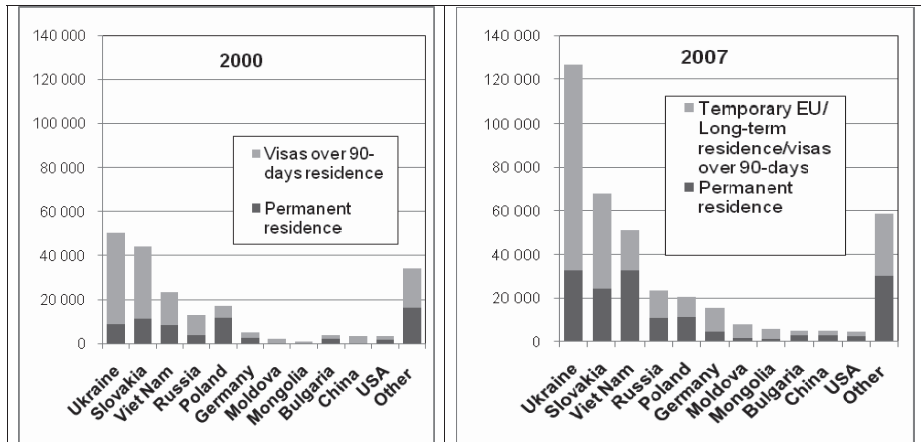


Fig. 5 Citizenship of foreigners by type of residence permit in 2000 and 2007

Notes:

Number of foreigners without foreigners with valid asylum statuses

2000: Visas over 90-days residence

2007: Temporary residence: Temporary EU / Long-term residence/Visas over 90-days residence

Sources: Bartoňová, 2008

Cizinci v České republice 2008. Praha. ČSÚ.

age and sex. The age and sex structure of these groups are partly based on the historical population development of other nationalities in the Czech Republic and the natural increases of these populations and partly reflect changes in migration mobility in the 1990s. Therefore the biggest differences compared to the Czech population relate to the age and sex structure of foreigners who come to the country for work or study and especially of foreigners with long-term residence. Among these foreigners there is generally a higher proportion of persons of productive age, a very small share of persons of post-productive age, a small share of children, and more men than women among people of productive age.

Most often (63%) these are persons aged 20–45, while there are far fewer children under the age of 15. If foreigners have families while residing in the Czech Republic, they are usually foreigners with a permanent residence permit. In 2007, 2,094 children with other than Czech citizenship were born: most of them were Vietnamese and Ukrainians. Unlike the domestic population there is only a small share of persons over the age of 60 among foreigners (5%). The difference is even more pronounced if we compare the two populations using the index of ageing (the ratio of persons over the age of 60 to persons under the age of 15): the index is 144% for the domestic population and 58% for foreigners.

The composition of the population of foreigners by sex is quite distorted. Among foreigners between the ages of 35 and 50 the proportion of men was in 2007 even almost twice that of women. Differences by sex are mainly evident among foreigners with long-term residence, who come to the country for work. While in 2007 for

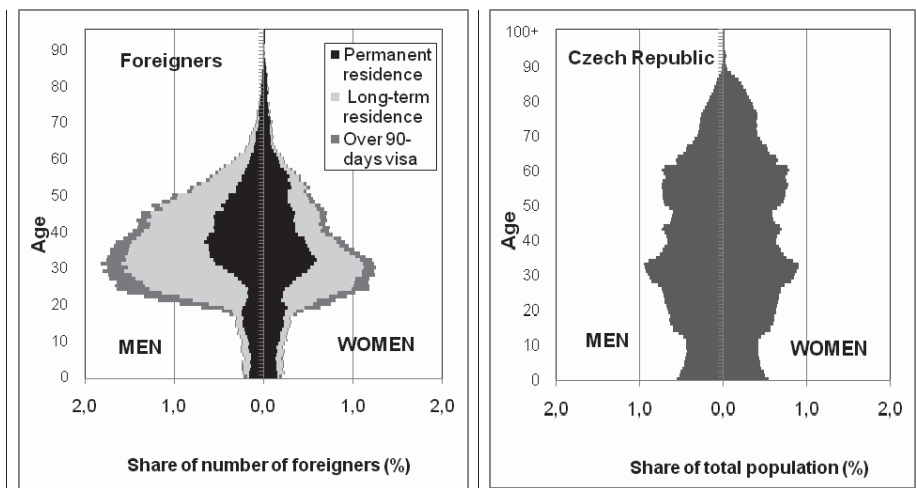


Fig. 6 Age composition of foreigners and population of the Czech Republic in 2007

Notes:

Permanent residence: including foreigners with asylum statuses

Long-term residence: including temporary residence (EU citizens)

Source: Bartoňová, 2008

Cizinci v České republice 2008. Praha. ČSÚ.

every 100 men there were 104 women in the Czech Republic, among foreigners there were 66 women. Among foreigners with permanent residence this index approximated the structure of the domestic population (90 women per 100 men). Among foreigners with long-term residence there were just 52 women for 100 men, as seasonal job migration to the Czech Republic still mainly involves men. However, there are considerable differences between regions and even more so between districts, based on the variability of the work performed by foreigners, on the percentages of foreigners by citizenship and type of residence; among foreigners with long-term residence the smallest number of women per 100 men was in the Moravia- Silesia Region – 23 women, and the largest numbers were in Prague and the Karlovy Vary Region – 62 women (Bartoňová 2008).

The regional distribution of foreigners in the Czech Republic is still very uneven and it reflects the objectives of the immigrants moving to the country. A total of 45% of foreigners living in the Czech Republic were concentrated in Prague and in the Central Bohemia Region.

Conclusion

After the Second World War the nationality structure of inhabitants of the Czech Republic with the expulsion of the German population from Czechoslovakia, changed greatly and the country became ethnically homogeneous. In the census in

1950 just under 94% of inhabitants were persons of Czech nationality, 2.9% of Slovak nationality and Germans were third at 1.8%. In the next forty years the nationality structure changed little. Despite increasing number of foreigners since the 1990s remained the Czech Republic very homogeneous state. Persons of Czech nationality (including Moravian and Silesian) made up 94% of the population in 2001, while the largest other ethnic group was made up Slovaks.

Nevertheless, the intensity of migration streams and the long-term destinations of immigrants are the main factors that are contributing to the growing number of foreigners. The number of foreigners in the Czech Republic grew more than five-fold from 1993 (division of Czechoslovakia) to 2007 so that there were 392,000 foreigners living in the Czech Republic in the end of 2007, i.e. 38 foreigners for every 1,000 citizens; 346,000 of those were included in the population of the Czech Republic which shows a fivefold increase since the census in 2001 in which foreigners with long-term stay were included for the first time.

Ukrainians dominated the structure of the population of foreign nationals living in the Czech Republic and made up almost one third of all foreigners, followed by Slovaks (17%) at some distance, Vietnamese (14%), and somewhat large groups of citizens from Russia and Poland. Most of the Ukrainians and Slovaks have temporary residence status while Vietnamese and Poles hold more often permanent residence status.

Most foreigners come to work or study in young and productive age. This reflects the age structure: the largest groups are foreigners aged 20 to 45. If they start family life, they usually have acquired permanent residence status. The gender structure of foreigners is equally deformed; nearly twice as many men as women were recorded among foreigners between age 35 and 50.

The number of foreigners has been growing very fast; there were 438,000 foreigners in the Czech Republic by the end of the 2008 (245,000 of them had a long-term stay permit) i.e. 42 foreigners for 1,000 persons in the population.

Compared to other European states the number of foreigners in the Czech Republic is still small. In 2007 similarly small shares of foreigners, at around 4%, were recorded in Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Malta. Higher shares of foreigners, 5–10%, were recorded in Sweden, France, the UK, Belgium, Greece, Germany, Austria, and Spain.

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Résumé

Vývoj národnostní struktury obyvatelstva České republiky a dopady mezinárodní migrace cizinců po roce 1990

Obyvatelstvo českých zemí až do druhé světové války tvořily zhruba ze dvou třetin osoby české, moravské a slezské národnosti, podíl německého etnika se pohyboval kolem třetiny, přičemž od vzniku samostatného Československa se zastoupení Němců snižovalo, a to i při jejich rostoucím počtu. Bylo to způsobeno objektivně vyššími přirozenými přírůstky osob české národnosti, větší emigrací Němců, zřejmě i asimilací a konjunkturálním přikláněním k majoritní české populaci. Snižování podílu německého obyvatelstva po vzniku Československé republiky mohlo být způsobeno i změnou způsobu zjišťování národnosti při cenzech; v československých předválečných cenzech byla národnost zjišťována deklaratorně a ve vazbě na mateřský jazyk, zatímco v rakousko-uherských cenzech se odvozovala národnost z obcovací řeči. Jedinou další větší domácí národností byli v předválečném Československu Poláci, žijící převážně ve Slezsku, kteří tvořili zhruba 1 procento obyvatelstva.

Po druhé světové válce se národnostní situace velmi změnila, neboť následkem odsunu německého obyvatelstva se stalo Česko národnostně homogenním státem. Při prvním poválečném sčítání lidu v roce 1950 osoby české národnosti tvořily necelých 94 % přítomného obyvatelstva, druzí Slováci 2,9 %, třetí v pořadí byli Němci s 1,8 procentním podílem. V dalších čtyřiceti letech se národnostní složení významněji neměnilo. Ačkoliv se od roku 1990 výrazně zvyšoval počet cizinců, zůstalo Česko i v současnosti národnostně velmi homogenním státem. Osoby české, moravské a slezské národnosti v roce 2001 tvořily 94 % populace, druhé nejvyšší zastoupení měli Slováci (1,9 %), následovali Poláci (0,5 %). V důsledku legislativní úpravy, podle níž jsou do počtu obyvatel od roku 2001 započítáváni i cizinci s povolením k dlouhodobému pobytu žijící na území ČR déle než rok, se zvýšily podíly osob ukrajinské, ruské a vietnamské národnosti na více než desetinu procenta.

Česko se po změně politického systému v roce 1989 a zvláště pak po rozdělení Československa postupně stalo pro cizince migračně atraktivní zemí. Počty cizinců trvale nebo dlouhodobě usedlých poměrně strmě vzrůstají zejména po roce 2004. Do roku 2007 dosáhl počet cizinců téměř 400 tis., z toho cizinců zahrnutých do počtu obyvatel České republiky bylo 346 tis., což představovalo 3,3 % obyvatel. Největší podíl mezi nimi

měli Ukrajinci, Slováci, Vietnamci a Rusové (národnost cizinců je chápána ve smyslu státního občanství, na rozdíl od deklaratorně zjišťované národnosti obyvatelstva při sčítání).

Věková a pohlavní struktura obyvatelstva jiných národností než české se odvíjí jednak z vývoje obyvatelstva na našem území historicky usedlého a jeho přirozeného přírůstku, jednak se v ní promítají změny migrační mobility, především od 90. let 20. století. Největšími rozdíly oproti české populaci se vyznačuje věková a pohlavní struktura cizinců, kteří k nám přicházejí za prací nebo za studiem, což jsou zejména cizinci s povolením k dlouhodobému pobytu. Toto obyvatelstvo se vyznačuje vysokým zastoupením osob produktivního věku, velmi nízkým podílem osob poproduktivního věku, nízkým podílem dětí a v produktivním věku výraznou převahou mužů.

Do konce roku 2008 počet cizinců vzrostl na 438 tisíc, na 1000 obyvatel tak připadalo již 4,2% cizinců. Ačkoliv se od roku 1993 zvýšil počet cizinců v Česku více než 5,5krát, patří Česko v evropském srovnání dosud k zemím s nízkým podílem cizinců.

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