

In demographically advanced countries, i.e. countries having completed their transition onto low natality and mortality rates within the frame of the demographic revolution process thus including the Czech Republic, structural population changes bear a much greater significance compared to sheer total number evolution. Population composition transformations according to age, sex, and family status are becoming an increasingly substantial factor, underlying its complete social and economic development. In these countries, due to a long term low fertility rate and growing life expectancy, the process of demographic aging is developing and will gradually keep on deepening, concurrently leading to, as this process is most often characterised, a change in main age groups relative representation within population. Children total number and percentages are dropping and gradually, absolutely as well as relatively, there will be fewer people at reproductive age and the mere numerous, increasing age group within population, will be represented by persons from older age groups. A worsening of the economic relation between population productive stratum and non-productive stratum will take place. Population aging is fast becoming the most researched demographic process in advanced countries. Its outcome will penetrate all spheres of social and economic development; most significantly within present, social and medical care systems functioning, since the latter emerged amidst totally different demographic conditions. At present advanced countries economists and politicians are specifically focusing on expected, accelerated population aging, resulting from numerous postwar generations shifting into post-active age during the next few years.

Figure 1.1a: Population Composition according to Age and Family Status (1.1.1991)

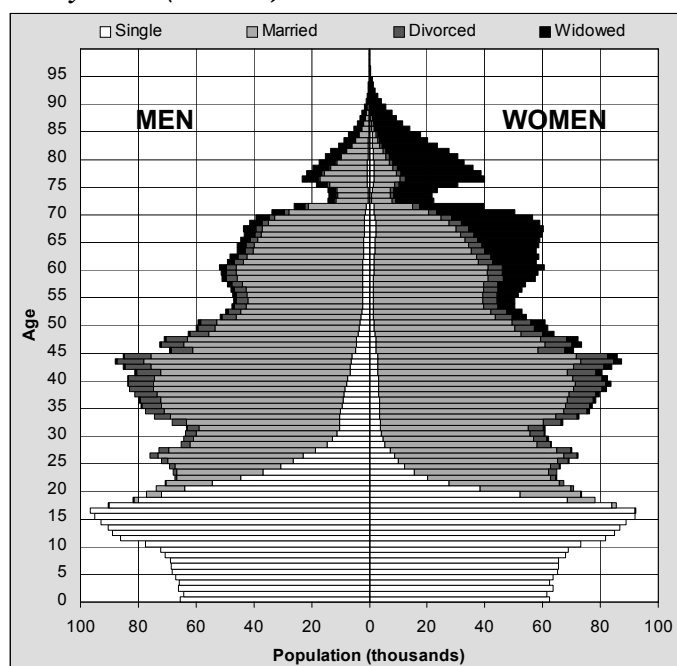
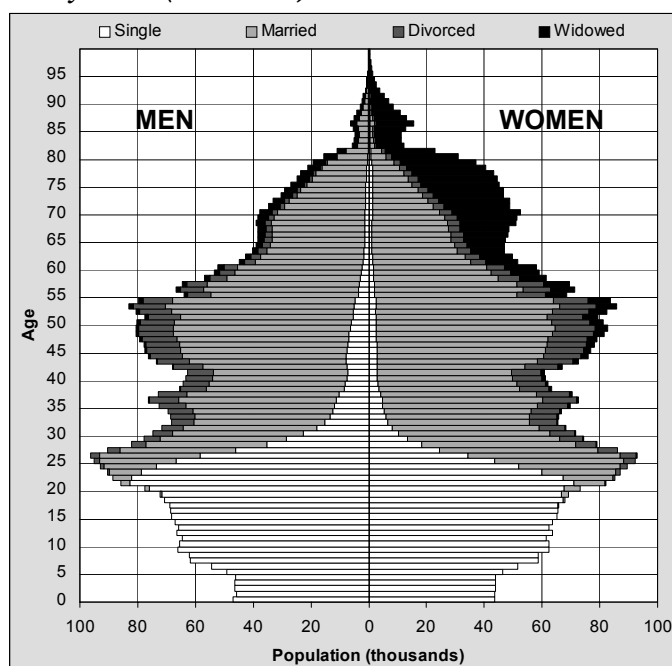


Figure 1.1b: Population Composition according to Age and Family Status (31.12.2000)



Every population age structure ensues from natality, mortality and migration rates development as long as the latter were significant approximately during the past hundred years. A characteristic feature shared by most European populations is that their age structures at the turn of the 21st century are thoroughly irregular, reflecting ongoing events influence throughout the 20th century. These events led to numbers of children born in specific calendar years – generations whose future number was influenced by mortality intensity and migrations. First and foremost age structures deformations reflect natality rate shifting and these generation total number irregularities have influenced and will even keep on influencing population aging increase. The impact of both world wars, the thirties economic crisis when natality rate was low and postwar compensatory natality waves can be traced in most European populations; some further influences are specific for each population. Besides, as far as the Czech Republic is concerned, there has already been a natality rate decrease in the early 40's during the Nazi occupation, an early 60's slump stemming from abortion legalization, a mid-sixties slight rise triggered by pronatal policy measures and a renewed decrease at the end of this

Long Term Natality Rate Decrease Is Increasingly Obvious in Age Structure

period reflecting the socio-economic crisis. The early to mid-70's natality rate sharp increase, subsequent to governmental, pronatalist legal measures (1974 and 1975 being the Czech population most numerous generations), significantly appears within the Czech population age structure, as well as, since the mid 90's, its present, substantial slump, reflecting young people's reaction to the post 1989 political and socio-economic transformation. The above mentioned natality rate fluctuations are, in most cases, side effects of earlier generation total number development influencing potential mothers' total number at a given time. In the 90's, external conditions impact on reproduction was significantly more considerable than the 70's natality wave potential mothers total number increase thus a second increased natality wave did not occur.

The 60's Natality Rate Decrease Became Evident in Middle Age

Above mentioned fluctuations within each generation total number have also left their mark on Czech population aging development from post-war years to 1990. Even though Czech population age structure aging linked to demographic revolution completion in the Czech Republic had already started in our country in the interwar years, its further postwar development was slow and far from smooth. In the 50's it was held back at the age pyramid base by postwar high natality wave and infant and children mortality fair development. Thus in the early 60's total children rate within population rose above 25% and people over 65 years of age did not reach 10%. The 60's was an intensive aging period from the base as well as at the top of the age pyramid, due to the significant decrease of younger than 15 children rate within population and the elderly total number increase. The 70's natality wave again broadened the age pyramid base and slowed down aging during subsequent years. It was reflected as well in temporary, slight improvement of age structure global composition characteristics such as average age, median age and aging index. In the 80's development at the top of the age pyramid contributed to this as well, due to the impact of older than 65, scant generations born during WWI and increased mortality at middle and older age, specifically concerning men. Hence the older than 65 population total number temporarily fell, indicated by their relative representation narrowing within total population in the 80's from 13.5% in 1980 down to 12.6% in 1991. In fact we can state that throughout the postwar period into the early 90's, the age structure was fair: children under 15 represented more than one fifth of total population and productive age population rate towered over 60% while elderly population percentage grew merely slightly. Economic burden indexes were relatively low and within dependants structure, children under 15 outnumbered the over 60 elderly. Not even during intensive aging years did aging index exceed 100, i.e. children under 15 remained more numerous than the older than 60 elderly within population.

Table 1.1: Development of Main Age Groups and Population Age Composition Characteristics according to 1961–2001 Census Data

Age Group	1961	1970	1980	1991	2001 ¹
0–14	25.4	21.2	23.4	21.1	16.2
15–59	59.7	60.4	59.6	61.1	65.4
60–64	5.3	6.2	3.5	5.2	4.6
65+	9.6	12.2	13.5	12.6	13.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average Age	35.0	35.8	35.4	36.3	39.0p
Median Age	32.2	33.4	33.0	35.4	38.0p
Aging Index	58.7	86.5	72.3	84.4	113.8
Dependency Index I	42.5	35.1	39.3	34.6	24.7
Dependency Index II	24.9	30.4	28.4	29.2	28.2
Economic Burden Index	67.4	65.5	67.7	63.8	52.9

¹1.3. 2001 census.

Aging index – number of persons aged 60 and older for 100 children aged 0–14.

Dependency index I – number of children aged 0–14 for 100 persons aged 15–59.

Dependency index II – number of persons aged 60 and older for 100 persons aged 15–59.

Economic burden index – number of children aged 0–14 and number of persons aged 60 and older for 100 persons aged 15–59.

In the nineties shiftings of diversely numerous generations onto older ages continued within age composition which further affected total number development and relations between main age groups as well as population aging increase during this period (due to research long term trends, we still use age limits of 15 and 60 to delimit main macro-economic groups even though they no longer fully correspond to reality; specifically entrance into economic activity usually occurs later than at 15 years of age). The most substantial change within population concerns under 15 years of age children total number and representation. Since 1991 under 15 years of age children total number has registered a continuous, almost stable decrease of approximately 50 000 yearly. First of all the 70's baby-boom

numerously strong generations shifting from child categories to productive age population groups, subsequently replaced by scant generations born in the 80's and early 90's came to an end. During the second half of the nineties continuous children segment dwindlings were due to 1994–1996 natality rate plunging slump which led to an additional incisive notch in age composition. During the 20th century last decade, Czech population was reduced by more than half a million children aged 0–14 (23% of early 90's total number). Due to population total number stagnation, this age group percentage sharply decreased by almost 5 percentage points from 21 % to 16%, its historically lowest registered value so far.

Population category at potential economic activity age underwent positive changes. Throughout the nineties its total number grew though at a reduced rate and its percentage within total population as well. However its 2000 total number stabilization indicates that it was a temporary state. More numerous generations born in the 40's have started leaving this age category and according to the age pyramid one should not expect any situation change. Consequently after 2005 further generation transfers must be expected (over the 60 years of age limit as well as over the 15 years of age one) including productive age population gradual decreases.

Despite 1930–1939 generations irregular total numbers and their reaching 60 years of age during the 90's, post-productive age population total number remained almost the same; it oscillated at above 1.8 M and this age group percentage stabilized at 18%. 65 or older total population slow growth was more or less compensated by 60–64 age group decreases, due to the 30's reduced yearly population entering this age. Deformation gradual upwards shifting onto an older age started modifying this situation. Since the late 90's, the 60–64 years old elderly total number has started rising again, significantly obvious from total post-productive age group substantial rise (amounting to a 22 000 people increase) in 2000. Elderly population total number stagnation during the last decade was affected as well by high middle age mortality intensity during the last thirty years, on the contrary a positive mortality intensity development at middle or elderly age after 1990 is beginning to appear as a contributing factor of the elderly total number growth.

The Elderly Total Number and Representation Have Not Changed So Far

Table 1.2: Population Composition according to Main Age Groups (as of 1.1. of given year)

Age Group	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ¹
Population (thousands)											
0–14	2 176	2 121	2 065	2 010	1 948	1 893	1 843	1 795	1 752	1 707	1 655
15–59	6 292	6 347	6 406	6 466	6 526	6 571	6 609	6 647	6 674	6 698	6 688
60–64	535	530	527	515	503	485	469	456	453	455	473
65+	1 302	1 315	1 328	1 343	1 356	1 372	1 388	1 402	1 411	1 418	1 411
60+	1 837	1 845	1 855	1 858	1 859	1 857	1 857	1 857	1 864	1 873	1 884
Total	10 305	10 313	10 326	10 334	10 333	10 321	10 309	10 299	10 290	10 278	10 230
Population (%)											
0–14	21.1	20.6	20.0	19.4	18.9	18.3	17.9	17.4	17.0	16.6	16.2
15–59	61.1	61.5	62.0	62.6	63.2	63.7	64.1	64.5	64.9	65.2	65.4
60–64	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6
65+	12.6	12.9	13.0	13.0	13.1	13.3	13.5	13.6	13.7	13.8	13.8
60+	17.8	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.1	18.2	18.4
Age Composition Characteristics											
Average Age	36.3	36.5	36.6	36.8	37.0	37.3	37.6	37.9	38.2	38.5	.
Median Age	35.4	35.6	35.9	36.0	36.2	36.4	36.6	36.8	37.1	37.3	.
Aging Index ¹	84.4	87.0	89.8	92.5	95.4	98.1	100.8	103.5	106.4	109.7	113.8
Dependency Index I	34.6	33.4	32.2	31.1	29.8	28.8	27.9	27.0	26.3	25.5	24.7
Dependency Index II	29.2	29.1	29.0	28.7	28.5	28.3	28.1	27.9	27.9	27.9	28.2
Economic Burden Index	63.8	62.5	61.2	59.8	58.3	57.1	56.0	55.0	54.2	53.5	52.9

¹1.3.2001 census (3 481 persons of undetermined age).

From an economic burden perspective the nineties were even more favourable than the previous period for productive age population. Number of dependants corresponding to 100 persons at active economic age dropped from 64 to 53 during this period. Continuous diminution of under the age of 15 children total number contributed to it in a significant manner. However among mentioned trends within main age groups development a turnabout is emerging and active population economic burden will rise again. First and foremost relations between population postproductive and productive strata will worsen. From an economic point of view not only mere economic burden index rise will be substantial

Czech Population Holds a Higher Number of the Elderly than of Children

but so will dependants structure change. Postactive age population will represent a more marked percentage and according to analyses, 2–3 times higher social expenses are linked to one person at this age as compared to one underage child.

In the 90's population aging evolved in a rather peculiar manner caused by historically triggered age structure deformations due to the 70's natality wave slowing down impact and present, sharp and accelerated natality rate slump. Measured by the over 65 elderly relative representation, aging grew at a very slow pace and only in the second half of the nineties did it reach the same percentage as at the turn of the 80's, its highest so far (13.5%). However intensive aging appeared primarily at the age pyramid base, due to children percentage drop within population. Ongoing aging since 1990 has been characterized by a continuous rise of average age, median age and specifically aging index. Since 1977 total adult number older than 60 years of age has become higher than children under 15 years of age.

However from the aging level point of view, the domestic situation is not homogeneous. As a consequence of domestic migration activity during the second half of the 20th century (completed border region settlement, immigration to Ostrava and later to Northern Bohemian coal basin), these regions counties still maintain a relatively young age structure including aging population low percentages. Furthermore the Romany ethnic community higher percentage plays a substantial role here. On the contrary Prague and other cities (Brno, Pilsen) counting more than one fifth older than 60 inhabitants, primarily due to these cities low fertility rate and a low immigration level, have the relatively oldest population. A noticeably older age structure can further be observed in a string of western, central and southern Bohemia and Moravia counties, marked by young people long term emigration to larger urban centers.

Table 1.3: Districts with Lowest and Highest Shares of over 60 Years of Age Population (2001 census data)

Lowest Rates Districts				Highest Rates Districts			
District	%	District	%	District	%	District	%
Česká Lípa	14.3	Bruntál	15.2	Hl.m. Praha	20.7	Kolín	20.0
Český Krumlov	14.8	Jeseník	15.9	Brno-město	20.5	Písek	19.9
Tachov	14.8	Nový Jičín	16.3	Plzeň-město	20.3	Plzeň-jih	19.9
Sokolov	14.8	Cheb	16.4	Rokycany	20.2	Hradec Králové	19.9
Chomutov	14.9	Most	16.4	Pelhřimov	20.1	Pardubice	19.8

Regional Differences at Demographic Aging Level Remain Unchanged

The 90's most powerful consequence of population evolution on age structure is embodied by 1994–1996 childbirths total number considerable slump, stabilized since 1996 at 90 000 births yearly, amounting to almost one third less than in the late 80's. This development fully hit total numbers of the youngest as well as preschool children. Nowadays our population counts 30% less 0–2 and 3–5 years old children than in the early 90's. Childbirths plunging decrease always temporarily underlined year to year children dwindling within concerned age categories. In 1994–1996, the most intensive drop concerned the youngest children and in 1997–1999, 3–5 years old children. In 2000 a sharper curtailment occurred concerning six-year old children enrolling at primary schools including first-formers more significant total number shrinking which had otherwise registered mere minimal changes during the last decades.

Table 1.4: Age Composition up to 23 years of age (as of 1.1. of given year)

Age Group	Population (thousands)						Shares of Total Population (%)					
	1991	1995	1998	1999	2000	2000*	1991	1995	1998	1999	2000	2000*
0–2	384	346	276	271	270	270	3.7	3.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6
3–5	392	382	347	322	291	276	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.7
6–9	548	522	512	503	498	476	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.6
10–14	852	698	661	656	648	643	8.3	7.1	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3
15–18	711	701	598	565	549	541	6.9	7.0	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.3
19–23	699	862	909	889	853	811	6.8	7.9	8.8	8.7	8.3	7.9
Total	3 586	3 511	3 303	3 206	3 109	3 017	34.8	34.4	32.1	31.2	30.2	29.4

Note: 2000 (*) data listed in this table and all subsequent ones result from end of 2000 balances calculated since 1991 census. Data as of 1.1.2001 will be drawn from 2001 census results unavailable in their detailed forms during present research study analysis. As opposed to 1991–2000 time span data as of 31.12.2000 and 1.1.2001 ones will differ.

The 1973–1979 natality wave gradual shift onto an older age and its replacement by less numerous generations born in the 80's played a keyrole on older children and youth total number development.

The most intensive shrinking concerned 10–14 years old children during the first half of the nineties followed by 15–18 years old teenagers during 1995–1998. Total numbers of persons in these age groups have fallen by one fourth. The 1980 radical change in continuous natality rate decrease appeared in 1995 sharp year to year 15 year-olds total number slump and consequently in 1998 18 year-olds one as well. Total numbers of 19–23 years old young people thus at the usual age of entering the workforce or university kept on increasing intensively till 1997; during the 1991–1996 period their total number rose from 700 000 to 911 000. However in the past few years this increase gave way to a total numbers renewed shrinking thus there were again 100 000 less young people of this age at the end of 2000.

Children and Youth Total Numbers Have Stabilised at Ongoing Lower Levels

The 70's baby-boom numerous generations gradual shifting did not merely significantly change total numbers of pupils, students and young people entering the workforce but productive age population total numbers as well. From a demographic point of view, it is essential that female and male total number within population, at a high intensity nuptiality and fertility age considerably grew during the 90's. In early 1995 the natality wave crest reached the age of 20 thus in comparison with 1991, 20–24 year-olds total number grew by 138 000, i.e. 20%. Taking into account that into the late 80's, the 20–24 age group was still characterised by the highest nuptiality and fertility rate, one expected a much higher rise in young marriages and subsequent childbirths. These projections of an occurring secondary natality wave proved to be erroneous. Change in external socioeconomic conditions had been so powerful since the transformation process beginning that young people started delaying their first marriages and consequently their first child as well. The much expected natality wave did not occur. During the following years, all the 70's numerous generations reached above 20 years of age and maintained a still numerous 20–24 years old group. In late 2000 the wave crest reached the age of 26 thus increasing by more than one fourth the 25–29 years old young people total number in the late 90's.

Table 1.5: Children in Selected Preschool and School Age Segments (thousands; as of 1.1. of given year)

Age	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2000*	2000*-1991 Difference
3	128	130	126	128	128	121	120	106	96	90	90	-38
6	134	133	131	128	130	126	128	129	121	120	106	-28
15	187	182	177	174	168	151	141	139	135	134	134	-53
18	160	176	189	187	182	177	174	168	151	141	139	-21

By postponing marriage, possibly even refusing it, percentages of young singles have considerably risen whereas inversely proportional percentages of married couples specifically until 25 years of age have sharply fallen. Yet at 25–29 years of age more than half of men and almost one third of women are presently still single while at the transformation process beginning corresponding percentages represented 28%, respectively 11%. Divergences in single male and female percentages stem from a younger female age at marriage. Thus a huge potential of young singles occurred though remaining reproductively unexploited so far due to the fact that almost 80% of children total number are still born within marriages. Percentages of divorced young men and women till 25 years of age shrank, primarily a consequence of this age group single nuptiality intensity sharp decrease.

Marriage Postponement onto an Older Age is Still Going on

Striking irregularities of Czech population age composition even affected development within population large age group at productive age and led to changes in its structure. Throughout this whole period the most significant change was represented by the rise of the 45–54 years old population segment amounting to almost 400 000 people, corresponding to a 33% rise. Development within this category, for the first time the most numerous among active age population, depended on war and specifically 1946–1951 postwar numerous generations shift to a given age strip. On the contrary postwar natality wave shift to an older age led to an intense decrease of 35–44 years old population, the most numerous age group within productive age population in the early 90's, since during the last decade this age was being gradually reached by men and women born in the fifties and early sixties when natality was decreasing. In the second half of the nineties, due to the 70's numerous generations, the 25–34 years old age segment started rising again and at present, it represents the second most numerous productive age group. In the coming few years, one must expect their numbers to keep on growing while the whole natality wave will gradually reach above the 25-year limit. Almost throughout the nineties the smallest group on the job market showing merely minor year to year changes was the 55–64 years of age group. It was made of generations born during the thirties economic crisis. However in the late nineties this was a mere provisional phenomenon since stronger war generations started crossing over the lower limit of this category, thus total population number close to the end of economic activity and on the verge of retiring, started growing more significantly.

Figure 1.2: Number of Children and Youth according to Preschool and School Age Groups (1.1. of given year balance)

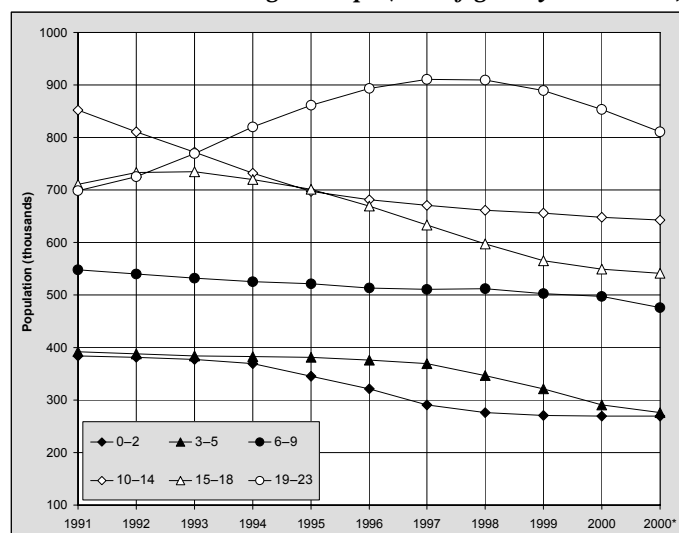
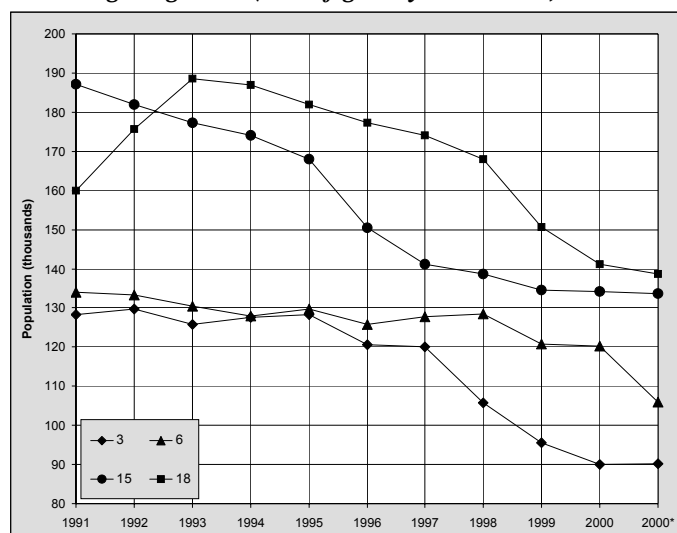


Figure 1.3: Number of Children in Selected Preschool and School Age Segments (1.1. of given year balance)



The 70's Demographic Wave Crest Shifted to 25-26 Years of Age

Generally a change in sex relations takes place in middle age. A biologically given slight preponderance of male babies, obvious from a higher representation of men as to women at a younger age, is gradually reduced due to male population segment higher mortality intensity throughout life and at approximately 45 years of age, women start prevailing within total population. This is a characteristic feature shared by all advanced countries. In our country, prior to 1990, women preponderance at middle and pre-retirement ages took on somewhat more specific forms due to more intensive male mortality in the 70's and 80's and more male emigration prior to 1989. In the nineties sharp sex differences as to mortality intensity moderately lessened thus female preponderance within the 45-59 age group decreased as well.

Table 1.6: Population at 20-30 years of age (thousands; as of 1.1. of given year)

Year	Age										
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Men										
1991	73.9	70.8	67.5	67.9	69.1	72.1	75.9	72.8	65.3	64.4	63.6
1995	96.2	90.2	81.8	77.3	74.2	71.1	67.7	68.1	69.2	72.2	76.0
2000	86.0	88.8	90.4	92.9	95.1	96.4	90.5	82.2	77.8	74.7	71.7
2000*	77.4	85.9	88.7	90.4	92.9	95.1	96.4	90.5	82.2	77.9	74.8
	Women										
1991	70.7	67.4	64.8	65.0	66.1	69.2	72.3	70.1	63.1	62.0	61.0
1995	92.3	85.5	78.4	73.7	71.1	67.8	65.1	65.3	66.3	69.4	72.4
2000	82.0	85.3	87.0	89.5	92.3	92.8	86.1	79.0	74.3	71.7	68.2
2000*	73.3	82.0	85.3	87.0	89.5	92.4	92.9	86.2	79.1	74.4	71.7

Mortality level improvement in middle age translated as well into this age group widowed people decrease, specifically widows. However it did not lead to an increase in married population. On the contrary a decrease in married men and women percentages across all age groups till sixty years of age was recorded due to long term nuptiality rate decrease, continuous divorce increase and ever since the nineties repeated marriages intensity reduction. Consequently middle-aged single and divorced men and women percentages recorded a rising tendency. Within population total number the relatively most numerous divorcees belong to the 40-49 age group – up to 15% men and 17 % women in late 2000. We may assume that some of the latter live with partners in common-law marriages. Their total number will be better specified as well as young people informal marriages after 2001 census data processing.

In the nineties retiring age population age structure was marked by a gradual shifting thus leading to a weakening influence of the deep dent representing the unborn during WWI. During the first half of the nineties a temporary decrease of 75-79 years old population total number occurred while during the second half total number of older than 80 years of age population registered a gradual shrinking over several years. Among 70 years old total population those born during the twenties natality wave

gradually started to prevail though their numbers were affected by a higher mortality level in the 70's and 80's and much weaker generations born in the thirties were reaching 60–69 years of age, the latter significantly indicating a positive mortality development during the past decade. Consequently older population age structure did not change much: while sixty-year olds number and percentage kept on moderately decreasing, seventy-year olds number and percentage increased. Older than 80 population percentage within the postproductive age group as well as within population total number was relatively low due to above mentioned generation shifting and past high mortality level. For example in 2000, 80-year old and older population represented a mere 13.2 % of above 60 population and 2.5% of total population. The 2000 change – more numerous generations from the 40's started reaching above the 60 years old limit and generations born in the 20's reaching the 80 years old one – due to life expectancy at an older age prolongation in the last decade, does indicate that our population is entering a period of renewed total increase in elderly population and in the eldest total number as well.

Table 1.7: Sex Ratio (female share per 100 men)

Year	Age Group							Total
	0–14	15–29	30–44	45–59	60–69	70–79	80+	
1991	95.3	95.7	98.4	105.6	129.8	165.4	240.7	106.1
1995	95.2	95.7	98.0	104.5	126.2	163.7	235.7	105.8
2001	94.9	95.8	96.7	103.4	121.1	161.7	236.2	105.3

1991 census, 1995 balance as of 1.1., 2001 census.

After reaching above the 60 years of age limit, when domestic male mortality intensity is already high, female preponderance starts to rise significantly and rapidly increases with age. In 2000, 100 men corresponded to 121 women within the 60–69 age group yet at over 80 years of age there were 234 women thus representing 70% of this age group total population. In the nineties elderly men and women total numbers discrepancy, specifically at the ages of 60–69, moderately decreased due to male high mortality decline at this age. In the early nineties female preponderance was even more striking in older age categories (at 60 years of age 100 men corresponded to 130 women). Besides long term significant differences in male and female mortality rates during the 1960–1986 period, female preponderance within elderly population during the nineties was a consequence of male war casualties and already mentioned, men greater percentage among emigrants during the 1948–1989 period.

Figure 1.4a: Shares of Married and at least Once Married Men according to Age, 1991 and 2000

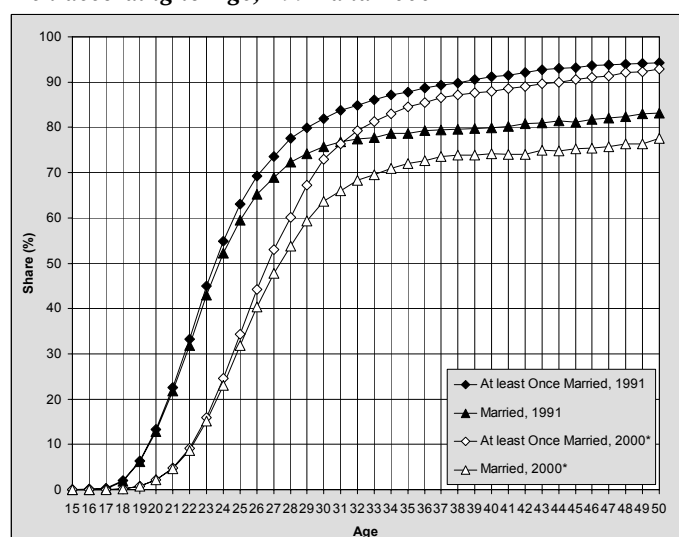
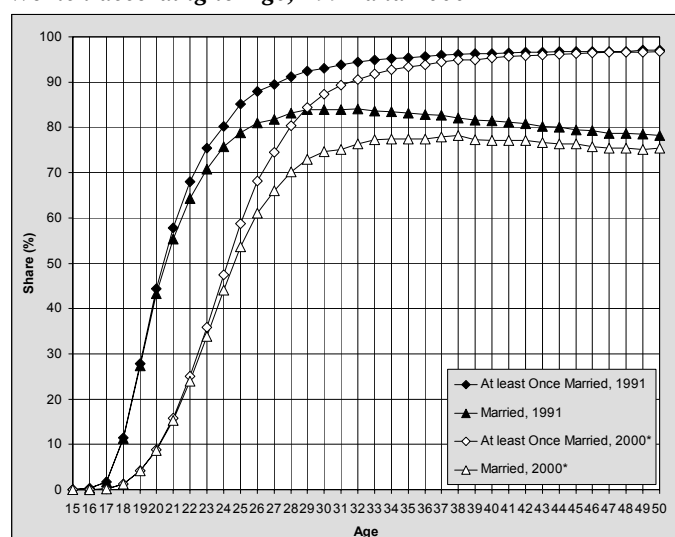


Figure 1.4b: Shares of Married and at least Once Married Women according to Age, 1991 and 2000



Higher female representation among the elderly is further reflected in composition according to family status. Differences according to sex are significant and increase at older ages. Even at an elderly age, men are preponderantly married while married women percentages rapidly decline and widow representation grows. Women indicate as well a higher percentage of divorcees. These considerable differences in elderly male and female structure according to family status are, apart from male high mortality, similar as to younger population, due to differences between spouses' ages (most women marrying older men) and a lower intensity of repeated marriages concluded by women. Even though widows preponderance remained substantial among elderly population, a powerful change occurred

**Within Czech
Population Married or
Formerly Married
Percentages Keep on
Shrinking Until 60
Years of Age**

in the nineties. Percentages of elderly men and women living within marriage (as opposed to younger age categories) increased primarily at the expense of a slump in widows percentage. On one hand it reflects improving mortality conditions within elderly population since the late eighties, the late fifties and early sixties high nuptiality rate influence and on the other hand these marriages low divorce intensity. Elderly divorced representation has moderately increased so far. Elderly married rising rate must be analysed as a positive phenomenon. Married life boosts the elderly quality of life from an economic and psychological point of view translating into a lower mortality and illness rate compared to that of unmarried ones. Mutual help and care in case of one partner's health problems are meaningful as well. Thus higher percentages of married persons contribute to lowering state, social and medical care expenses concerning the elderly. However this positive situation will again be modified due to singles rising rate. Generations counting a high percentage of divorcees are going to start reaching 60 years of age and above.

Table 1.8: Population over 60 Years of Age in Selected Years

Age Group	1991			1995			2000*			2001		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Population (thousands)												
60–64	535	241	294	503	230	273	472	219	253	473	220	253
65–69	507	212	295	478	203	274	439	193	246	435	191	244
70–74	260	103	157	417	162	256	408	165	244	406	164	242
75–79	278	100	178	176	63	113	326	116	210	324	115	209
80–84	175	55	120	185	59	126	131	42	88	133	43	90
85+	82	20	62	100	26	74	119	33	87	113	30	83
Total	1 837	731	1 106	1 859	743	1 116	1 895	767	1 129	1 884	763	1 121
Population (%)												
60–64	29.1	33.0	26.6	27.1	31.0	24.5	24.9	28.5	22.5	25.1	28.8	22.6
65–69	27.6	29.0	26.7	25.7	27.3	24.6	23.2	25.1	21.8	23.1	25.0	21.7
70–74	14.2	14.1	14.2	22.4	21.8	22.9	21.5	21.5	21.6	21.6	21.5	21.6
75–79	15.1	13.7	16.1	9.4	8.5	10.1	17.2	15.1	18.6	17.2	15.1	18.7
80–84	9.5	7.5	10.8	10.0	7.9	11.3	6.9	5.5	7.8	7.0	5.6	8.0
85+	4.5	2.7	5.6	5.4	3.5	6.6	6.3	4.3	7.7	6.0	4.0	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Shares out of Total Population (%)												
60–64	5.2	4.8	5.5	4.9	4.6	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.8
65–69	4.9	4.2	5.6	4.6	4.0	5.2	4.3	3.9	4.7	4.2	3.8	4.7
70–74	2.5	2.1	2.9	4.0	3.2	4.8	4.0	3.3	4.6	4.0	3.3	4.6
75–79	2.7	2.0	3.3	1.7	1.3	2.1	3.2	2.3	4.0	3.2	2.3	4.0
80–84	1.7	1.1	2.3	1.8	1.2	2.4	1.3	0.8	1.7	1.3	0.9	1.7
85+	0.8	0.4	1.2	1.0	0.5	1.4	1.2	0.7	1.6	1.1	0.6	1.6
Total	17.8	14.6	20.8	18.0	14.8	21.0	18.5	15.3	21.4	18.4	15.3	21.4

1991 and 1995 – balances as of 1.1., 2000* balance as of 31.12., 2001 census.

During the nineties population composition according to family status was markedly transformed. Within adult population singles and divorced percentages and total numbers grew whereas married and widowed persons percentages and total numbers shrank. Age structure global aging linked to nuptiality behaviour and mortality rate fluctuations were reflected on older than 15 male and female average age increase according to family status. The most significant shift affected married women and men average age. First during the 1991–2000 period singles marriage age rose by more than 4 years, second elderly marriages lasted longer due to mortality intensity decrease. Unexpected widowers average age decrease was caused by structural influences within older than 70 population total number fluctuations. Population structure shifts according to age and family status corresponded to census households composition change – decrease of complete family households representation within society, ongoing rise of incomplete family households percentage and temporary slackening of former, sharp increase in elderly singles households.

Despite demographic aging spreading to all European countries (excluding Albania situated at a demographic development lower level), its intensity – measured according to older than 65 inhabitants percentage within total population – is distinctive in each country. First and foremost we find differences between advanced Western countries and former communist bloc countries. They are the outcome of a few factors. Elderly population lower percentages in postcommunist countries stem from the

demographic revolution delayed ending in most countries of this part of Europe (excluding the Czech Republic) and mostly from fertility and mortality distinct development during the second half of the 20th century. Since the mid-sixties fertility rate in Western Europe has continuously decreased within the frame of the second demographic transition under sheer reproduction limit and concurrently mortality rate at middle and older age has gradually dwindled thus leading to accelerated population aging. On the contrary in Eastern bloc countries a so-called Eastern European reproduction pattern originated: total fertility stabilised at approximately 2 children per woman and mortality rate either stagnated or worsened, thus due to both factors aging developed at a mere slow pace. Even in the nineties when a reproductive conditions transformation occurred in these countries, mainly regarding fertility rate significant decrease, the elderly percentage within population still remained relatively low due to a long term, continuously worse mortality situation compared to other advanced countries, and the fact that fertility rate decrease has been going on for a relatively short time and has not yet significantly emerged within age structure. These past few years have seen the most intensive aging process specifically in Southern European countries. Even though the second demographic transition started there later than in Northern and Western Europe (not till the late 70's) its fertility rate slump occurred faster and deeper. Children percentage within population started to ebb and senior citizens percentage is sharply rising due to improved mortality rate. For example, Italy counting 18.2% older than 65 years of age population overtook in the late 20th century the hitherto traditionally, demographically oldest European country, Sweden. Swifter population aging in Germany and Austria – countries with a long term, low natality rate – has been hindered by another factor applied to age structure formation, intensive immigration. Immigration rejuvenating influence can be traced in France as well where total fertility rate has furthermore indicated a more moderate decrease. Compared to the Czech Republic senior citizens lower percentages in Poland and Slovenia ensue from their long term, higher fertility and mortality levels still maintaining relatively high children strata percentages and low elderly percentages within their population.

Figure 1.5: Population Older than 60 Years of Age

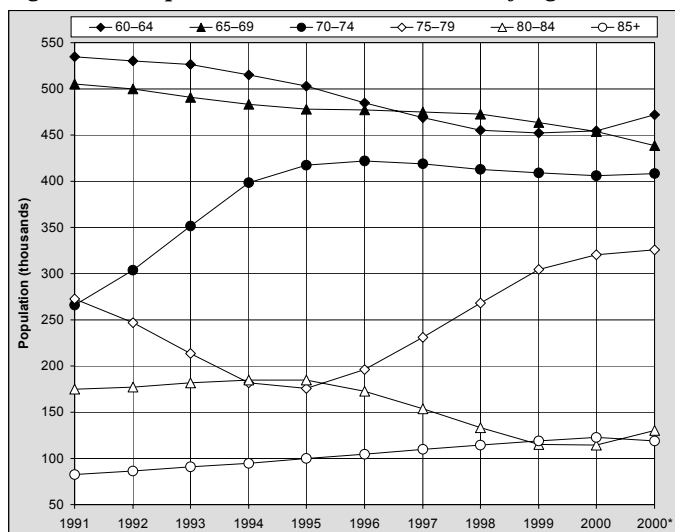


Table 1.9: Population over 15 Years of Age according to Family Status

Family Status	Men				Women				Men		Women	
	1991	1995	2000*	2001	1991	1995	2000*	2001	1991	2000*	1991	2000*
	Population (thousands)								Average Age			
Single	973	1 096	1 251	1 258	668	779	922	920	25.3	26.6	25.2	25.3
Married	2 545	2 525	2 432	2 371	2 549	2 527	2 430	2 373	46.8	49.8	43.7	46.9
Divorced	241	281	350	352	330	375	455	459	46.0	46.8	47.2	48.5
Widowed	127	120	110	122	695	682	652	663	71.4	70.8	70.2	71.4
Total	3 886	4 022	4 143	4 133	4 242	4 363	4 459	4 442	42.2	43.1	45.5	46.2
	Population (%)								2000*-1991 Difference			
Single	25.0	27.2	30.2	30.6	15.7	17.9	20.7	20.8	5.2		5.0	
Married	65.5	62.8	58.7	57.8	60.1	57.9	54.5	53.8	-6.8		-5.6	
Divorced	6.2	7.0	8.4	8.6	7.8	8.6	10.2	10.4	2.2		2.4	
Widowed	3.3	3.0	2.7	3.0	16.4	15.6	14.6	15.0	-0.6		-1.8	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-		-	

1991, 1995 – balances as of 1.1., 2000* balance as of 31.12., 2001 census (56 514 persons of undetermined family status).

Table 1.10: Population over 65 Years of Age in Selected European Countries (as of 1.1. of given year; %)

Country	1991	1995 (1996)	2000 (2001)	Country	1991	1995 (1996)	2000 (2001)	Country	1991	1995 (1996)	2000 (2001)
Czechia	12.6	13.3	13.8	Poland	10.1	11.2	12.3	France	14.6	15.2	16.1
Slovakia	10.3	10.9	11.5	Germany	15.4	15.7	16.3	Sweden	18.0	17.5	17.2
Hungary	13.4	14.2	14.7	Austria	15.2	15.0	15.5	Italy	14.6	16.4	18.2

During the 1990–2000 period, the Czech Republic population age structure registered a noteworthy stabilization at the top of the age pyramid, a deep notch at its base and an increase of population representation at economic activity age. From macroeconomic perspective it was a favourable state,

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productive population being relatively moderately burdened by dependants. However late development had already foretold major, unavoidable age structure changes. Within the next few years (according to forecasts in 2007) this period will come to an end under the influence of numerous postwar generations transition into retirement age. Total number of retirees will begin to rise sharply whereas total number of productive age population will ebb. According to demographic forecasts research findings, one is to expect that in 2010 almost 2 400 000 persons will be older than 60 and their percentage within population will rise from 18% at present to 23%. Senior citizens total number increase will be enabled by further life expectancy rise onto an older age. Total number of postproductive age dependants per person at economically active age will sharply rise even in the case of further retirement age increase. The most intensive rise within the frame of the elderly population will concern highest age groups, persons who represent a significant group in terms of higher family, social and medical care demands. Thanks to present, sharp natality rate slump and further expected, positive mortality development the Czech Republic will gradually rank among the first from the aging process level perspective.

Table 1.11: Population Older than 15 Years of Age according to Age Groups and Family Status

Age Group	Total (thousands)	Men – Family Status (‰)															
		Single				Married				Divorced				Widowed			
		1991	1995	2000*	2001	1991	1995	2000*	2001	1991	1995	2000*	2001	1991	1995	2000*	2001
15–19	349	985	992	998	998	15	8	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20–24	431	667	741	903	909	320	247	92	86	13	12	5	5	0	0	0	0
25–29	442	275	319	532	547	680	623	423	408	44	57	45	45	1	1	0	0
30–34	351	152	170	231	249	775	745	660	647	72	84	108	103	1	1	1	1
35–39	351	107	120	142	152	795	772	722	717	95	105	134	129	3	3	2	2
40–44	342	79	92	111	115	808	782	737	734	107	121	147	146	6	5	5	5
45–49	394	63	70	88	89	821	799	752	749	106	121	151	153	10	10	9	9
50–59	708	50	52	60	59	843	829	793	788	83	97	127	131	24	22	20	22
60–69	411	43	40	39	40	825	830	832	820	57	61	71	78	75	69	58	62
70–79	279	37	38	33	34	723	754	775	750	40	43	42	49	200	165	150	167
80+	73	34	33	35	30	502	548	637	543	24	24	20	33	440	395	308	394
Total	4 133	250	272	302	306	655	628	587	578	62	70	84	86	33	30	27	30

Age Group	Total (thousands)	Women – Family Status (‰)															
		Single				Married				Divorced				Widowed			
		1991	1995	2000*	2001	1991	1995	2000*	2001	1991	1995	2000*	2001	1991	1995	2000*	2001
15–19	334	927	958	991	992	72	42	9	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20–24	413	351	485	762	771	616	485	225	214	32	29	13	15	1	1	0	0
25–29	423	109	139	315	320	817	772	608	599	70	85	74	78	4	4	3	3
30–34	336	57	68	108	108	839	817	749	746	95	107	136	139	9	8	7	7
35–39	338	41	45	60	61	825	811	769	765	117	128	158	160	17	16	13	14
40–44	335	35	37	44	44	808	793	763	761	127	142	169	170	30	28	24	25
45–49	396	32	32	36	36	790	779	752	749	123	139	171	172	55	50	41	43
50–59	744	28	29	30	30	736	737	726	721	97	111	143	145	139	123	101	104
60–69	497	34	28	25	24	533	555	592	583	77	83	93	96	356	334	290	297
70–79	452	42	37	29	30	261	299	330	312	51	63	73	74	646	601	568	584
80+	173	56	47	38	37	84	94	113	82	32	36	42	50	828	823	807	831
Total	4 442	157	179	207	208	601	579	545	538	78	86	102	104	164	156	146	150

1991, 2001 censuses (shares of persons of determined family status), 1995 balance as of 1.1., 2000* balance as of 31.12.