

# CHANGES IN POPULATION DEVELOPMENT IN 2001–2002

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Yearly absolute figures concerning demographic events are not sufficient grounds to evaluate population migration and ongoing demographic processes. However, if they ensue from precedent detailed analyses drawn from intensive indicators in a repetitive time sequence, they are reliable enough to research long term trends, as in the above mentioned analysed year.

The August floods have damaged the Czech Statistical Office as well. Fortunately population movement analysed data have neither been destroyed nor lost, but significantly worsened working conditions will obviously impair securing Population Movement in 2001 publication normal analysis and editing within its usual deadline as in preceding years. That is the reason why 2001 data are not accompanied by certain intensive or structural characteristics. From a methodological point of view, the second most significant cause is the fact that as of the year 2001, all data from population new balance will be based on gender, age and family status according to 1.3.2001 population, houses and flats census. It is logical that former balance established since 1991 census, had been burdened throughout the years with certain inadequacies when determining demographic data and accidental mistakes within the frame of analysis (e.g. unidentified age projection). The main cause for discrepancy between both balances – the final one from 1991 census and the starting one from 2001 census – is, in addition to both censuses inadequate computing, on one hand population census definition change and on the other hand, the well known incomplete registration of Czech citizens permanent emigration abroad. Mainly due to the latter reason, minor modifications will occur within population age structure thus triggering certain intensive indicators possible discontinuity (greater year to year differences as in preceding years) as well.

Yet these realities do not affect absolute data concerning 2001 and 2002 demographic events numbers. That is why acquired differences oriented evaluation and preliminary computations or intensity indicators estimates can be considered as reliable. In most cases, they are already based on the Czech Statistical Office published data on grounds of migration preliminary results analysis and age structure according to new census results.

Throughout 2001 and 2002 no unexpected changes in demographic events numbers did occur – except obviously foreign migration, due to its findings radically modified methodology. Yearly marriages number fluctuation went on and due to a legislative change, the former reduced number of divorces rose again up to its precedent level. Though in 2002, live births total number increased by 2 000 following a six-year stagnation, this increase does not correspond to total female population number at reproductive age. According to projections, abortions total number is still decreasing, first of induced ones, and following an approximately three-year stabilization, the deceased total number has slightly increased. Consequently population total number decrease due to natural movement lessened. Foreign migration data are incomparable: earlier official migration increase due to number of emigrants data underestimation turned into, according to hypotheses, a relatively high increase.

**No Significant or  
Unexpected Changes  
Have Taken Place  
within the Czech  
Republic Population  
Development So Far**

**Table 9.1: 2000–2002 Population Movement**

Events	2000	2001	2002p	2001–2000 Difference		2002–2001 Difference	
				Abs.	%	Abs.	%
Marriages	55 321	52 374	52 732	–2 947	–5,3	358	0,7
Divorces	29 704	31 586	31 758	1 882	6,3	172	0,5
Live Births	90 910	90 715	92 786	–195	–0,2	2 071	2,3
Deaths	109 001	107 755	108 243	–1 246	–1,1	488	0,5
Decrease Due to Natural Movement	18 091	17 040	15 457	–1 051	–5,8	–1 583	–9,3
Immigrants	7 802	12 918	44 679	5 116	65,6	31 761	245,9
Emigrants	1 263	21 469	32 389	20 206	(17x)	10 920	50,9
Net Migration	6 539	–8 551	12 290	.	.	.	.
Total Decrease	11 552	25 591	3 167	.	.	.	.

**Marriage  
Postponement onto  
an Older Age Is Going  
on, Singles Numbers  
Are Still Rising as well  
as Children Born out  
of Wedlock**

Demographic events registered number relatively high stability is to a greater extent caused by population development constant conditions. Age structure ongoing current changes bear almost no influence, modifying merely slightly the number of potential future spouses, existing couples, as well as the number of women at reproductive age. Even in the social domain, conditions barely change. Population continuous very differentiated income growth went along with a lowering inflation rate, the number of available new flats has only moderately increased (certainly, improved conditions for young married couples to own their own flat can only occur later). However, unemployment continued to rise, mostly targeting young people thus becoming an important factor in their marriage decision and particularly in planning and timing their future children births. In 2001, the number of marriages slumped to its lowest registered minimum so far even though the number of potential future spouses kept on growing. In 2002 a negligible increase occurred. On one hand it led to a further decrease of first marriages and on the other hand, to single future spouses ongoing rising average age by approximately six months.

As expected after the new situation "stabilization" of marriage breakup solution following a preceding tightening, the total number of divorces rose but did not reach its 1996-1998 level. According to preliminary computing, total divorce rate (marriage breakups hypothetical percentage) further increased, reaching above the 45% limit of current marriages ending in divorce. Less frequent marriage contracting and furthermore at an older age is revealed by divorced marriages longer duration on average (11 years).

Already for its sixth consecutive year, the number of live born children has remained at the level of approximately 90 000. 2001 decrease was negligible, 2002 increase was more significant though it is a mere fluctuation occurring at approximately the same level. Total fertility (1.14) has not changed as compared to 2000, reaching 1.17 in 2002 though average age of mothers of children of all orders at childbirth kept on rising. However, at the same time a change occurred in childbirth structure: in 2001 the percentage of children born out of wedlock reached 23.5% and in 2002 it got close to the 25% limit, thus fertility intensity must have decreased as well as the number of children born to married women. It was one of the consequences of marriage postponement onto an older age or its refusal. One can assume that the majority of children born out of wedlock come from common-law marriages, less binding than legal ones particularly for men, though actually they fulfil their reproductive function as well. The number of registered abortions kept on decreasing at a slower pace, obviously due to the impact of reliable contraception use. However the number of spontaneous abortions reduced as well, thus the proportion of childbirths to spontaneous abortions improved. Total abortion rate decreased to a 0.60 value per woman at reproductive age, total induced abortion down to 0.44.

Following a three-year stabilization of yearly numbers of deaths within the range of 109 000–110 000, this long term decreasing trend stopped since there is an increasing number of the elderly with a higher mortality intensity. One may assume that life expectancy at birth has still been rising thus exceeding on average for both genders, the 75 years limit. Infant mortality reached 4.0–4.1 deceased infants of up to one year of age per 1 000 live births at a stabilized level. A higher live births number was more significant than a small increasing number of stillbirths thus leading to a merely limited modification of natural movement, therefore the 2001 difference between stillbirths and live births numbers amounted to 17 000. However in 2001, a more significant population decrease occurred due to foreign migration, registered according to a new methodology (see Migration Chapter) of 9 000, thus bringing total Czech population decrease down to approximately 26 000. Nevertheless in 2002 a reversal took place. Migration balance was highly active (12 000), particularly due to the impact of registered immigrants increasing number. Thus 2002 total population decrease slumped to 3 000.

To sum up, one can observe that ongoing, individual demographic processes throughout preceding years actually remained identical in 2001 and in 2002 as well. Even more significant than total population decrease, age structure major deformation is caused by numerously weak generations at the basis of the age pyramid (see graph 1.1). Nuptiality intensity increase has the most significant impact on possible fertility rate increase since more than three fourths of children are born to married couples. Fertility rate of actual couples is in fact substantially lower than that of married couples, specifically as to second childbirth.

Due to the fact that singles average marriage age as well as married women age at childbirth is still a few years lower than in most Western European countries, one may assume that marriage and childbirth postponement onto an older age will continue for a few more years. Only then will it be obvious to what extent, current fertility rate is the outcome of marriage timing (its postponement onto future spouses older age), respectively of legitimate marriages replacement by informal ones, and to what extent it actually is a refusal of permanent partner cohabitation and its consequence on future numbers of childbirths.