

## 1.2 PRAGUE'S GROWTH

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In the past two centuries, Prague's population and population density has been growing significantly not only due to the inflow of new inhabitants and housing construction, but also due to the gradual expansion of its administrative borders. The purpose of this specialized map is to describe the spatial differentiation of Prague's population evolution from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the present in the context of the expansion of the capital's administrative borders. This part complements the map sheet section B 1.1 Migration and Natural Growth in Prague, and it is also important for the interpretation of the evolution of specific demographic and socio-economic structures assessed in other specialized maps of Prague.

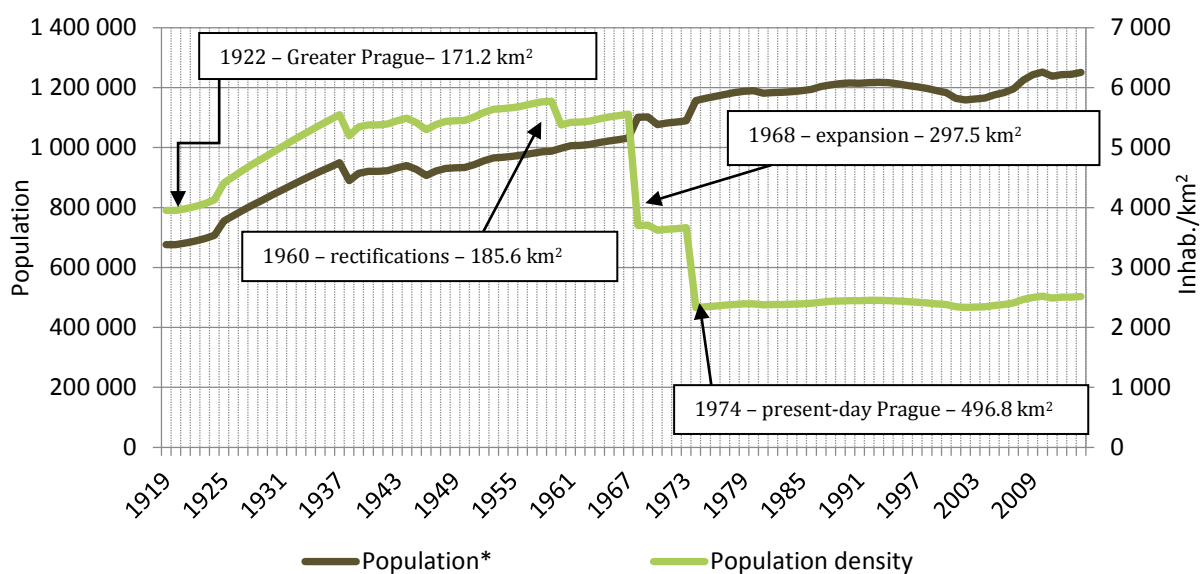
The map sheet and text are based on census data related to population of Prague for cadastral territories from 1921–2011 and Prague urban districts from 1980 and 2011. Data for territories which weren't part of Prague at that time was taken from Historický lexikon obcí (ČSÚ 2007). Data regarding population of municipal districts in 1869–2011 was adopted from Co víme o Praze (ČSÚ 1990) and geometric data is a direct output of the "Disclosure of historic spatial and statistical data in GIS environment" project (NAKI, MK ČR, 2012–2015). The map sheet contains one map assessing the population and population density evolution in Prague municipal districts since 1869 within Prague's current borders. The remaining three maps feature cartograms of population density in selected years in the interwar, socialist and post-1989 periods and proportional symbols of population evolution for each individual period. The diagram contains three concentric symbols representing the population in the given year. For clarity reasons, the data was normalized. The individual symbols are marked with different colours and turned by 120 and 240 degrees with respect to the initial symbol, so that for units with no significant changes values for all time horizons were clearly evident.

The evolution of Prague's population was determined by three main waves of expansion in 1922, 1968 and 1974 and the subsequent housing construction<sup>1</sup> (see Figure 1.2.1, and also map sheet section B 9.2 Typology of Residential Areas). After the first wave of expansion, where developing suburbs became part of Prague and its area grew from 21 km<sup>2</sup> to 171 km<sup>2</sup>, the population increased more than three times. In the postwar period, marked by extensive construction and labour migration, the evolution of population and growth of population density continued (Votrubec 1965, Hrůza 1989, Ouředníček et al. 2015). The temporary drops during the economic crisis and Second World War were soon compensated and moderate growth continued also in the 1950s and 1960s, despite construction activity being more intense in other cities. Due to Ruzyně

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<sup>1</sup> Besides by migration, population evolution is also shaped by natural population change. Natural population growth rate is not such a significant factor in terms of total Prague's population evolution as it is the case of migration rate, however, it is clearly important for assessing the internal differentiation of Prague (see map sheet section B 1.1 Migration and Natural Growth in Prague).

becoming part of Prague and minor rectifications, population density decreased in 1960. However, much more significant decreases occurred upon the next two expansion waves, when population slightly increased. The expansion of administrative borders occurred after the construction of panel housing estates had been planned and approved, stretching beyond the administrative borders of the city (Hrůza 1989). Population growth continued until 1991, when due to the decreasing and later even negative net migration rates<sup>2</sup> population started decreasing; it started growing again in 2003. At that time, Prague recorded migration gains again (which was significantly influenced by the change in methods of data collection, see map sheet section B 3.2 Migration in Prague 2000–2013), and the positive net migration rate was later complemented by natural population growth. In recent years, Prague's population has been stagnating.



**Figure 1.2.1:** The evolution of Prague's population and population density in 1919–2014

**Source:** ČSÚ, 2014a; Kohout, Vančura, 1986

*Note:* In 1945 and 1946 data, German nationals are not included. 1919–1921 data already pertain to Greater Prague, established in 1922. Changes in area (and population density) don't include minor changes between individual waves of expansion.

\* Mid-year population

The evolution of population in Prague municipal districts since 1869 is marked by a long-term decrease of population in the city centre, which is sometimes mistakenly attributed to the post-1989 period only. Surrounding districts recorded a population increase due to the development of industry in the industrial period; in the socialist period, money was invested in other parts of Prague. Nowadays, the population is rather stagnating. On the outskirts, which due to their area are highly differentiated in terms of types of housing, the socialist period brought new housing estates and after 1989, suburban neighbourhoods have been built at the city borders. This general trend can be assessed for three periods of Prague's development.

<sup>2</sup> Prague's population has been naturally decreasing since 1980 (see map sheet section B 1.1 Net Migration and Natural Increase in Prague).

In the interwar period, housing construction in Prague was extensive. The number of completed dwellings increased by 14 thousands annually, which is a rate that hasn't been matched any time since (Kohout, Vančura 1986; Ouředníček et al. 2015). What was built were blocks of flats in existing neighbourhoods (Nusle, Pankrác, Libeň, etc.), new neighbourhoods of family houses within existing neighbourhoods (almost in all then Prague neighbourhoods, for instance in Hlubočepy, Krč, Střížkov, Hostivař, Braník<sup>3</sup>) and villa neighbourhoods, such as Hanspaulka, Barrandov, etc. The largest project of that time was Dejvice, built according to a new regulation plan (Borovička, Hruža 1983). The poor built slums by themselves, or later with assistance of the City (see map sheet section B 9.1 Quality of the Housing Stock in Prague). These extensive construction activities resulted in the increased population in almost all neighbourhoods outside of the city centre. Population density was highest in central parts and was decreasing towards the outskirts, which is typical of Prague until today. However, if we consider population only in relation to built-up area, the population density was greatest in the inner city and lower in the centre and on the outskirts (Boháč 1921).

In the socialist period, the construction continued further from the centre. During 40 years, approximately 250 thousand new dwellings were constructed in Prague (Hruža 1989). The greatest development occurred in the 1970s and 1980s in the new Prague areas. The map sheet assesses the population evolution between 1961 and 1980; the most growing neighbourhoods were thus those with panel housing estates built in the 1960s and 1970s, such as Jižní Město, Severní Město (Bohnice, Prosek, Střížkov, Kobylisy) or Lhotka. Besides the central and inner city neighbourhoods, also these neighbourhoods had a high population density.

Cadastral territory	Index of change	Cadastral territory	Index of change	Cadastral territory	Index of change
Pitkovice	700.63	Josefov	76.66	Žižkov	101.86
Hrdlořezy	294.59	Hradčany	79.23	Střížkov	101.78
Křeslice	259.77	Lahovice	81.30	Vokovice	100.48
Lipany	254.00	Malá Strana	81.94	Petrovice	100.27
Štěrboholy	214.39	Staré Město	89.05	Smíchov	99.74
Dolní Měcholupy	211.16	Karlín	90.47	Podolí	99.37
Březiněves	191.25	Nusle	92.15	Dejvice	99.32
Hostavice	185.56	Bohnice	92.70	Michle	99.21
Čakovice	184.92	Bubeneč	92.75	Čimice	99.07
Běchovice	183.27	Kamýk	94.08	Lhotka	98.68

**Table 1.2.1:** Ten cadastral territories recording the greatest increase, greatest decrease and stagnation of population between 2001 and 2011

**Source:** ČSÚ, 2014b

*Note:* Index of population change between 2001 and 2011. Prague index of change is 107.03.

<sup>3</sup> All new neighbourhoods with family houses were described by Kohout, Vančura (1986).

In the post-1989 period, construction hasn't been as intense as in the socialist period; one of the reasons being that it has not only been focused on blocks of flats, but also on family houses. Between 1994 and 2012, approximately 90 thousand new dwellings were built in Prague, where about one quarter of these is dwellings in family houses (ČSÚ 2014c). Population increased in the first decade after the revolution mostly in the housing estates, which were still under construction in the 1990s (Černý Most, Nové Butovice as a part of Jihozápadní Město). In the second decade, mainly the population in cadastral territories on the outskirts was growing, such as Pitkovice, where the population grew from 160 to 1,120 during the decade, or the neighbouring Křeslice and Lipany (see Table 1.2.1). Also the north-east Prague neighbourhoods were developing, such as Čakovice, Miškovice, Vinoř; or Lipence in the south-west. By contrast, in the past decade population was decreasing mainly in the city centre, where the decrease is a long-term trend, in inner city neighbourhoods and even in some housing estates (Bohnice).

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