

3.1 HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF MIGRATION IN CZECHIA

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Migration (movement of people, change of the permanent residence) is of central interest in geographical analyses. This is due to the relatively synthetic nature of migration processes, which reflect residential preferences of the population and the attractiveness (quality) of target and source locations. The number of studies published is also influenced by the rather high-quality data basis for migration evidence. The purpose of this map sheet is to cover the main (turning) points in migration during the whole period of existence of Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic) from 1921 to the present. Four periods were chosen and implemented in the maps, describing the different development trends in migration balance in Czech districts.

The first period covers the situation after the independent republic was established, marked with rural depopulation, industrialization and urbanization. Data was obtained using the differential method, i.e. the difference between the total population change and natural increase between the two interwar population censuses. There are three significant trends that can be identified in the interwar Czech population's migration: (i) relatively high emigration abroad, which according to Kučera (1994) between 1920 and 1937 amounted to approximately 180 thousand inhabitants, and resulted in negative migration rate of 110 thousand people. Among target countries, there were the USA, France and Germany; (ii) urbanization of the Czech lands, which can be described on the basis of 1930 census data on the share of inhabitants born outside the municipality of their current residence. According to the census results, there were 60% of people born outside the municipality in Prague, 57% in Brno, 46% in Ostrava, and 55% in Plzeň (Kučera 1994); (iii) relatively intense rural depopulation, mainly in South Bohemia and Vysočina regions (Pohl 1932). Regional differentiation of migration was quite significant; while Bohemia gained 31,570 inhabitants due to migration, Moravia and Silesia lost 93,010 inhabitants due to migration (Kučera, Srb 1966). The greatest gains were reported in the suburban zone of Prague, hinterland of other larger cities (Plzeň with Dobřany, Jablonec and Liberec) and districts in north-west Bohemia. In Moravia, Zlín was growing markedly.

The greatest migration in the observed period was recorded during the first two years after the Second World War, when 80–100 thousand people returned to the republic from abroad (Kučera 1994) and at the same time, almost the whole German minority was expelled. Almost 3 million original inhabitants of German nationality left the former Czechoslovakia (Kocian et al. 2014); more detailed data was provided by Srb (2004), as shown in Table 3.1.1. Internal migration was typically directed at border areas, where before May 1947, more than 1.1 million people returned or newly migrated, and additional 116 thousand people came from Slovakia (Kučera 1994, p. 141). Those who

contributed most to the new settlement of border areas were the inhabitants of adjacent inland areas (Häufler 1966). The second map partially covers the effects of the Second World War. It is based on the register of ration cards between May and August 1946, which is the period of the organized expulsion of Germans. The map shows the index of population change of German nationals in administrative districts. Even though it only depicts a part of German nationals' migration losses, it shows the rather significant regional impacts in the total decrease of population, predominantly in border areas.

State and changes	Number of expelled German citizens
Number of Germans 01. 05. 1945	3,000,000
Non-organized expulsion 1945–1946	650,000
Organized expulsion 1945–1946	2,100,000
Additional expulsion 1947	70,000
Total	2,820,000
Number of Germans 22. 05. 1947	180,000

Table 3.1.1: *Expulsion of German citizens from the territory of today's Czechia in 1945–1947*

Source: *Srb (2004) based on Osídlení pohraničí v letech 1945–1952 (1953)*

Since the 1960s, migration was recorded roughly within the current administrative districts; and the development of migration can be assessed in relatively stable territorial units (CSR versus SSR, regions, districts and municipalities, see Figure 3.1.1). During the socialist period, regional differentiation of migration processes was described by several authors, including cartographic and statistical processing according to size categories of municipalities (for instance Hrdlička 1983, Hampl, Kühnl 1993, Čermák 1996). Čermák emphasizes the importance of administrative tools of the centrally planned system on the regulation of migration flows in the first decade of the socialist period:

"whereas in the 1950s, also direct tools were used, where graduates were placed by the government into certain locations or certain politically unsound persons were forced to move out of Prague, since the 1960s only indirect methods were used, mainly through the centrally planned housing construction" (Čermák 1996, p. 182).

The significant impact of the central planning system of housing construction on the growth of cities and creation of inner peripheries was confirmed by Musil (2002).

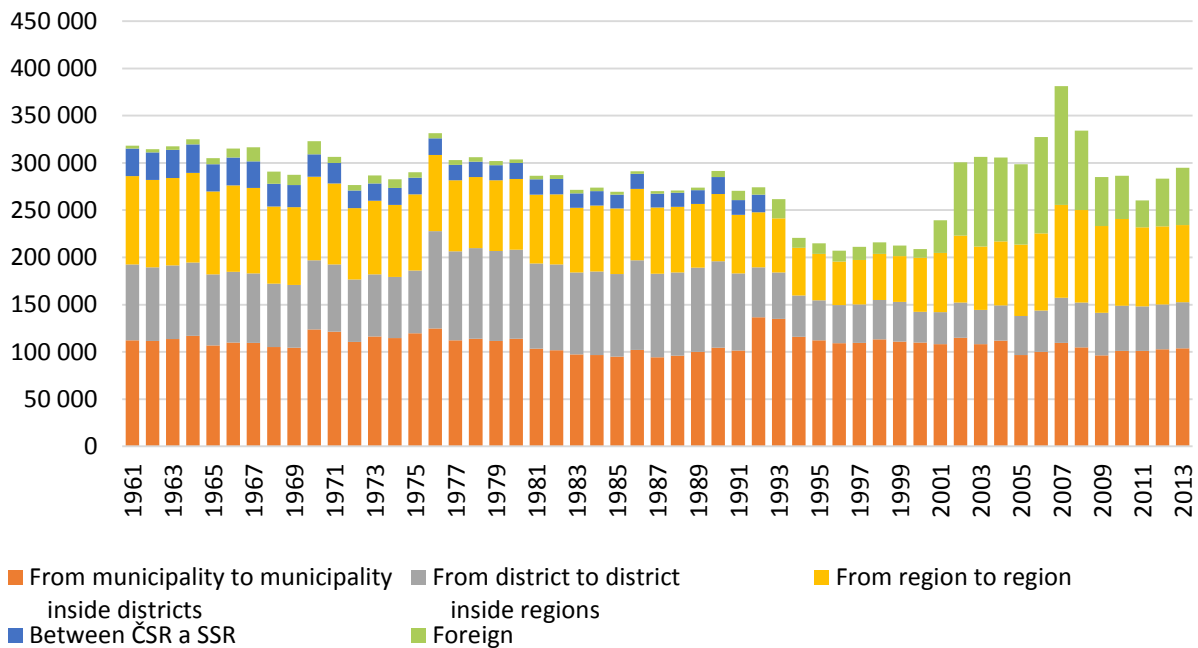


Figure 3.1.1: Development of number and structure of migration within the Czech Republic 1961–2013.

Source: ČSÚ, 2014

The third and fourth maps describe migration flows between districts during 1961–1974, and the current development between 2005 and 2013. They are inspired by the depiction of migration between regions made by Hampl and Kühnl (1993). In their article, also the main tendencies in the development of migration flows in Czechoslovakia during 1961–1989 were described. During the socialist period, migration was gradually losing its intensity (Čermák 1996), and migration relations were established at the micro-regional level, especially within districts (Hampl, Kühnl 1993). This closedness/openness is shown for the seven most open/closed regions. It is interesting that for both periods observed (1961–1974 and 2005–2013), the spatial distribution of these districts is rather similar: open districts with intensive migration flows across their borders can be found in the hinterland of Prague, Plzeň and Brno; closed districts are in Czech border areas. Comparing the balances of district towns and districts as wholes, we can notice differences within districts, where in both observed periods, the situation is basically inverted. Whereas during the socialist period, the migration rate of all district towns was positive (with the exception of Karlovy Vary, Domažlice and Svitavy), currently the (internal) migration rate of most medium-sized and large cities is negative. It is important to note that this is only the case for internal migration, as foreign migration changes the balances of some cities (see Prague, Plzeň or Pardubice in map sheet section A 3.2 Migration in Czechia 2000–2013).

Comparing the observed periods in the last two maps, it is interesting to note the enlargement of the migration hinterland of Prague, and in terms of districts, the change from a positive to a negative migration balance in Sokolov, Chomutov, Karviná and in large cities. As opposed to the socialist period, suburban districts of Brno and Plzeň show significant migration gains thanks to suburbanization. The current migration balance at the district level shows a marked polarization and concentration of districts attractive for migrants in inland Bohemia, mainly in the Plzeň-Prague-České Budějovice triangle, and also in the hinterland of Brno and partly also Ostrava (Novák et al. 2011). Other districts in the rather broadly defined rural areas and inner and outer peripheries are quite the opposite in terms of migration. A more detailed assessment of the period between 2000 and 2013 is provided in the map sheet section A 3.2 Migration in Czechia 2000–2013.

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