



7.2 EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE IN CZECHIA

Peter Svoboda

The employment structure is one of the indicators which widely reflect the economic and social situation in the area. It provides information on the dominant sector of inhabitants' occupation, mirrors the level of advancement of the economy and society and indirectly also the effects of (geo)political situation on production. An important element of one's identity, employment influences inhabitants' values and preferences (e.g. voting preferences) but also contributes to social exclusion (Katrňák, Mareš 2007). Regarding the employment structure from a regional point of view allows us to identify regions prone to economic recessions in their dominant sectors or regions suffering from structural issues.

The purpose of this map sheet is to assess the evolution and changes in Czechia's employment structure as well as its regional differentiation in the long-term context of changing economic reality from the establishment of Czechoslovakia until today. The map sheet includes triangular graphs showing the percentage of individuals with earned income¹ who stated the sector of their economic activity in the census form in each sector. It is important to note that the classification of economic activity and the methods of data collection have changed during the more-than-hundred-year-long evolution of the economy (see Figure 7.2.1). Therefore, they are not and cannot be fully comparable (Svoboda, Přidalová, Ouředníček 2014). Moreover, the high share of people who didn't state their employment sector (13% in 1921, 8% in 2001 and 15% in 2011) hampers the interpretation of results.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the territory of today's Czechia was, thanks to its industrial background, one of the most developed parts of Austria-Hungary. Pronounced regional differentiation was characteristic for the main tendencies in the evolution of employment during the 20th and 21st century (see Figure 7.2.2). These tendencies were: a steady decline in agricultural employment during the whole period (except for the period of collectivization), an increase of employment in construction during the 70s thanks to the construction of large infrastructure projects and mass construction of housing estates (see map sheet section A 9.1. Dwelling stock in Czechia), a slow but steady increase in industrial employment (up until the 80s), and a long-term growth of the service sector intensified by the tertiarization of the economy during the 90s.

The interwar period was marked by the Austro-Hungarian industrial heritage, mostly along the borders of northern and western parts of Sudetenland, in the regions of Plzeň and Ostrava and in Brno's hinterland (see map sheet). People employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing were distributed quite evenly, but their highest concentration was in areas with favourable climate, such as southern Bohemia, the region of Vysočina and southern and

¹ In 1921-1947 individuals with earned income included individuals having a gainful occupation, helping family members and domestics. In 1950 domestics were included in the category of individuals having a gainful occupation. New classification according to the "participation on social work" applied since 1961 considered all economically active individuals as individuals with earned income. Since 1991 this category has also included the unemployed with their sector category based on their latest job.

eastern Moravia. With its minority share on employment during this period, the service sector was more developed in cities. This spatial pattern was intensified by Czechoslovakia's pre-war economic growth. The number of people employed in industrial sectors and mining in industrialized areas along the border grew even further. Several middle-sized cities, such as Kladno or Zlín (thanks to the expansion of the Baťa Company), underwent industrialization as well. This tendencies were still in place immediately after the war. The 1950 census data on economy didn't reflect the victory of the communist party in the elections in 1948 nor the subsequent turn to a centrally planned economy, as stated in one period publication:

"The population census on March 1st 1950 took place at the very beginning of the second stage of 1948–1949 socialization, the socialization of small craftsmen's and trade businesses was not yet completed and the whole agricultural sector was still private. Substantial reorganization of the economy and state administration did not happen until after the census, in years 1951–1953. Agricultural cooperatives also developed after 1950. Economic data collection and processing, which draw on previous censuses, were influenced by this situation and affected the content of different classifications as well as the applied terminology. This must be taken into account when assessing economic classifications used for processing the 1950 census results."

(SÚS 1950, p. 6)

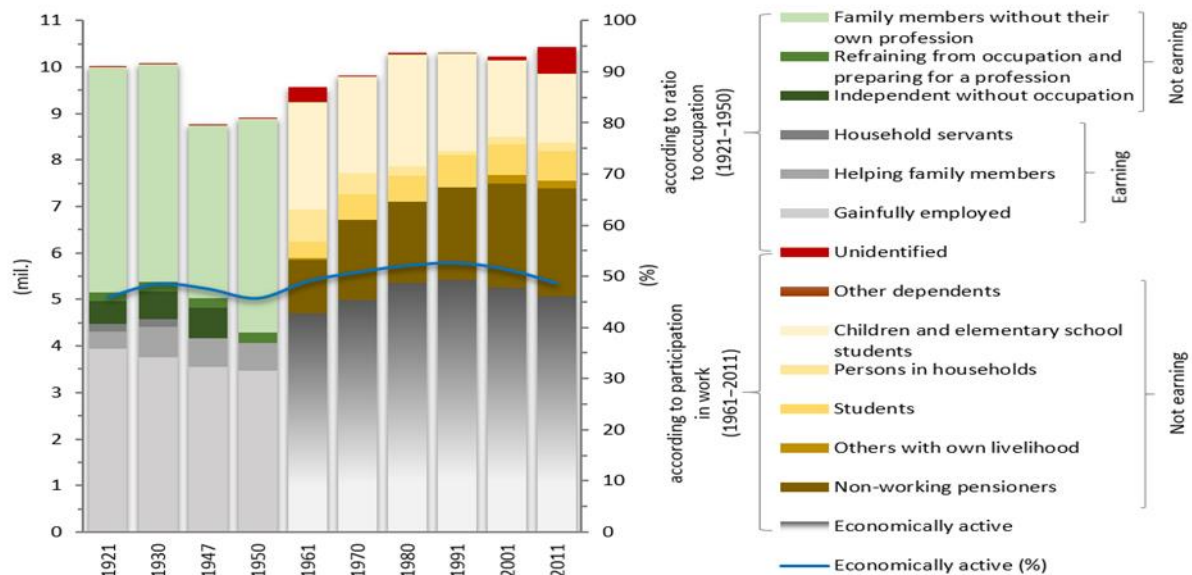


Figure 7.2.1: The evolution of inhabitants' work participation in Czechia (1921-2011)

Source: ČSÚ, 1970; ČSÚ, 1980, ČSÚ, 1995; ČSÚ, 2004; ČSÚ, 2012; SÚS, 1919–1950; SÚS, 1927; SÚS, 1934; SÚS, 1935; SÚS, 1949; SÚS, 1950; ÚKLKS, 1965.

The 1961 census results manifested for the first time the effects of socialist transformation, subsequent collectivization and the change in the sector structure (see Figures 7.2.1 and 7.2.2). At the same time a considerable change in methods took place. The centrally

planned economy brought social and territorial equality and a redistribution of economic prosperity. Regional differentiation of the employment structure was marked by insensitive interventions into regional economies and the suppression of job-pooling centres (e.g. Prague's metropolitan area) in favour of smaller cities and peripheral areas (Hampl 2005). The intensity of this mass territorial job redistribution between regions and sectors is clearly visible in the later stages of socialism and immediately after the revolution (1991 census results). The long-term effort to achieve spatial equality and the centrally determined sector structure resulted in an unclear/ambiguous spatial pattern of the employment structure with two sole prominent features: Prague dominated the service sector and coal basins dominated industry and mining.

The post-revolutionary transformation from a centrally managed to a market economy rapidly gave the employment structure its natural spatial pattern affected by market forces. The loss of Comecon markets, the inability to compete with western markets and a deeper economic recession in the second half of the 90s brought a mass deindustrialization which resulted in a pronounced tertiarization of the economy (see Figure 7.2.2) and a change in its spatial pattern (see map sheet). Regional disparities in tertiarization were influenced by the population size and social (primarily educational) structure of municipalities, the participation in the global economy or the ability to respond and adapt to economic changes. Prague and its metropolitan area amassed a large proportion of services. A similar tendency was observed in other big cities and regional centres. New market conditions intensified the concentration of services in peripheral areas thanks to, besides other factors, new job opportunities in the developing sector of tourism (Krkonše, Šumava, České Švýcarsko etc.). The substantially reduced sectors of agriculture, forestry and fishing remain dominant in the traditional areas of Vysočina, southern Bohemia (fishing) and Moravia (wine-making). Czech economy's performance following the completion of integration processes and the widening access to the global economy amplified the spatial pattern of regional and structural differentiations in employment (see 2011 census results). The last decade has seen a growing economic performance of regional centres and their hinterlands pooling jobs in retail, transportation and logistics (see Sýkora, Ouředníček 2007) and affecting the employment structure. The recent population growth of these suburban zones have emphasized the importance of public and municipal services responsible for the smooth running of these ever-growing suburban municipalities.

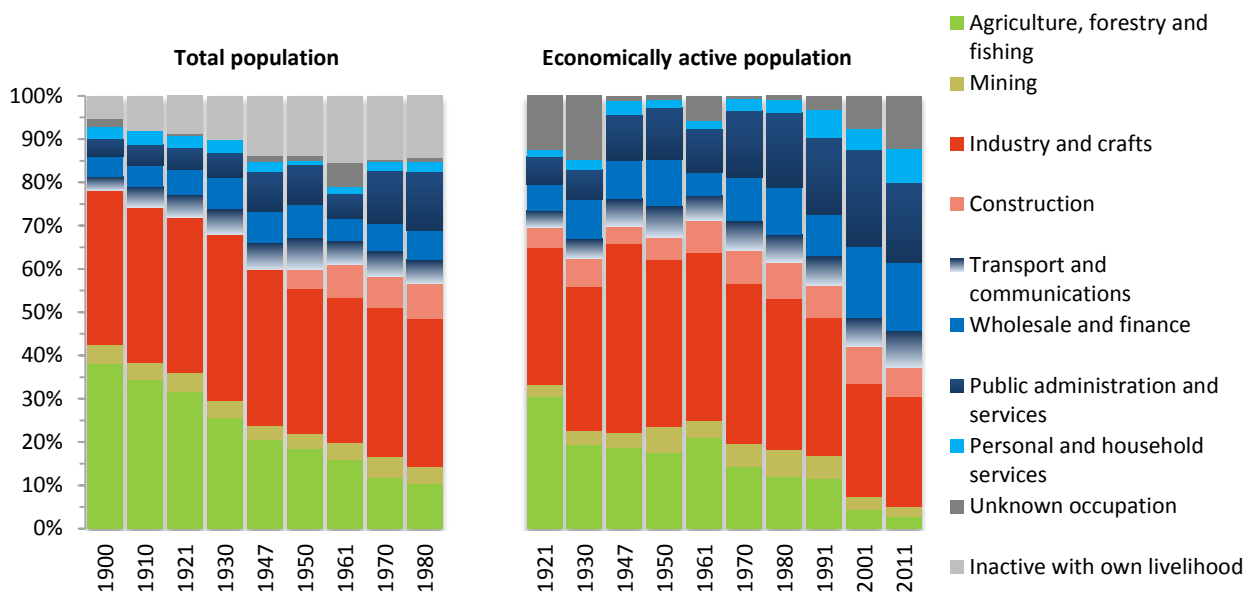


Figure 7.2.2: The evolution of the employment structure by economic sectors in Czechia in 1900-2011

Source: originally in Svoboda, Přidalová, Ouředníček 2014. Based on the following data: ČSÚ, 1970; ČSÚ, 1980; ČSÚ, 1995; ČSÚ, 2004; ČSÚ 2012; ČSÚ, 1970; ČSÚ, 1980; SÚS 1919–1950; SÚS 1927; SÚS 1934; SÚS 1935; SÚS 1949; SÚS 1950; ÚKLKS 1965.

Note: The classification of occupations and economic sectors has changed considerably over time, the comparison is, therefore, only indicative (for more detail see for ex. Kopačka 2009; Svoboda, Přidalová, Ouředníček 2014).

References:

- HAMPL, M. (2005): Geografická organizace společnosti v České republice: transformační procesy a jejich obecný kontext. Univerzita Karlova v Praze, Přírodovědecká fakulta, Praha.
- KATRŇÁK, T., MAREŠ, P. (2007): Segmenty zaměstnaných a nezaměstnaných v České republice v letech 1998 až 2004. Sociologický časopis, 43, n. 2, pp. 281–303.
- KOPAČKA, L. (2009): Vývoj a změny sektorové struktury hospodářství (1948–2005). In: Hrnčiarová, T., Mackovčín, P., Zvara, I. et al.: Atlas krajiny České republiky. Ministerstvo životního prostředí ČR a Výzkumný ústav Silva Taroucy, Praha-Průhonice, pp. 176–177.
- SVOBODA, P., PŘIDALOVÁ, I., OUŘEDNÍČEK, M. (2014): Ukazatele ekonomické struktury a mobility obyvatelstva ve sčítáních lidu. Historická geografie, 40, n. 2, pp. 285–306.
- SÝKORA, L., OUŘEDNÍČEK, M. (2007): Sprawling post-communist metropolis: commercial and residential suburbanisation in Prague and Brno, the Czech Republic. In: Razin, E., Dijst, M., Vázquez, C. (eds.): Employment Deconcentration in European Metropolitan Areas: Market Forces versus Planning Regulations. Springer. Dordrecht, pp. 209–233.

Data sources:

ČSÚ (1970): Databáze výsledků ze Sčítání lidu, domů a bytů k 1. 12. 1970. Elektronická databáze dat. Český statistický úřad, Praha.

ČSÚ (1980): Databáze výsledků ze Sčítání lidu, domů a bytů k 1. 11. 1980. Elektronická

databáze dat. Český statistický úřad, Praha.

ČSÚ (1991): Databáze výsledků ze Sčítání lidu, domů a bytů k 3. 3. 1991. Elektronická databáze dat. Český statistický úřad, Praha.

ČSÚ (2001): Databáze výsledků ze Sčítání lidu, domů a bytů k 1. 3. 2001. Elektronická databáze dat. Český statistický úřad, Praha.

ČSÚ (2011): Databáze výsledků ze Sčítání lidu, domů a bytů k 26. 3. 2011. Elektronická databáze dat. Český statistický úřad, Praha.

SÚS (1919–1950): Edice: Zprávy Státního úřadu statistického republiky Československé. Ročníky I–XXXI, Praha, Státní úřad statistický.

SÚS (1927): Sčítání lidu v Republice československé ze dne 15. února 1921. Díl II., Povolání obyvatelstva, Část 4. Státní úřad statistický, Praha.

SÚS (1934): Sčítání lidu v Republice československé ze dne 1. prosince 1930. Díl II. Povolání obyvatelstva, Část 1. Státní úřad statistický, Praha.

SÚS (1935): Sčítání lidu v Republice československé ze dne 1. prosince 1930. Díl II. Povolání obyvatelstva, Část 3. Státní úřad statistický, Praha.

SÚS (1949): Soupisy obyvatelstva ke dni 22. května 1947. Část V, Poměr obyvatelstva k povolání, skupiny objektivního povolání. Zprávy Státního úřadu statistického republiky Československé. Ročníky I–XXIX, Státní úřad statistický, Praha.

SÚS (1950): Sčítání lidu v Republice československé ke dni 1. března 1950. Díl II. Věkové složení a povolání obyvatelstva. Státní úřad statistický, Praha.

ÚKLS (1965): Sčítání lidu, domů a bytů v Československé socialistické republice k 1. březnu 1961, Skupina A, Svazek č. 36, Díl 1. Ústřední komise lidové kontroly a statistiky, Praha.