

## 5.4 ETHNICITY IN PRAGUE

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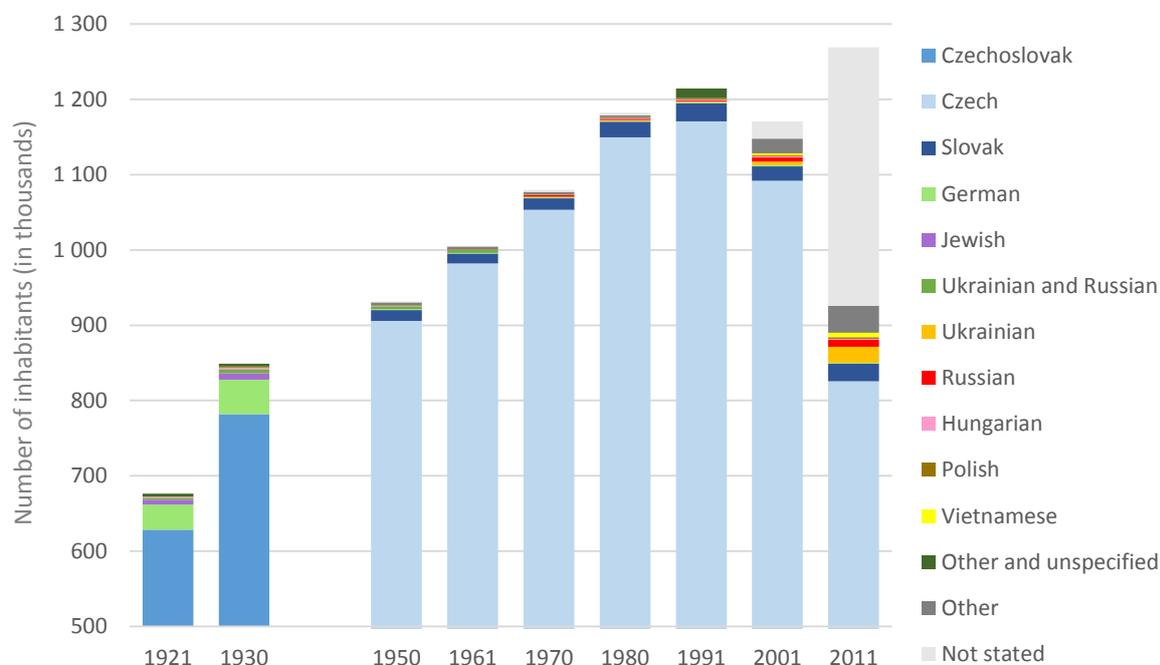


Prague's ethnic structure changed noticeably during the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, usually in the context of important political events of Czech history: the Second World War, the advent of communism and the revolution in 1989 (Přidalová, Ouředníček 2014). The Czech Republic's accession to the European Union in 2004 has also had an impact on the city's ethnic structure. Despite the fact that the current rise in importance of regional and transnational units overshadows the importance of ethnic affiliation (Kučerová 2009), we still consider the information on ethnic structure an important part of national identity. The purpose of this map sheet is to provide more information on the evolution of Prague's ethnic composition during the last century and enhance the understanding of its most prominent trends.

The Population and Housing Census is the only comprehensive data source on Prague's ethnic structure. Setting up a long-term time series using the census dataset presents several issues. The accessibility of different census results (results on ethnic structure from the first socialistic census in 1950 were not even published for Prague's administrative units, the makeup of other census results varies, too) and ethnicity identification methods vary. In pre-war censuses ethnicity was derived from mother tongue, since 1950 respondents have been free to indicate whichever ethnicity they identify the most with and since 1991 they have also been free to use their own wording of their ethnicity. Since 2001 it has been possible to state two ethnic affiliations or leave this question unanswered. While in 2001 only 2% of Prague's inhabitants decided not to state their ethnicity, more than 27% of them did so in 2011 (ČSÚ 2011). This is why data from the 2001 census are used in the map to analyse the evolution of the proportion of people indicating Czech ethnicity. In 1930 the data on ethnic Czechs were, for political reasons, published as a summary figure for Czech and Slovak ethnicity (after all, the number of Slovaks living in Prague was probably very small – see Přidalová, Ouředníček 2014). On the contrary, the last censuses offered the possibility to indicate, apart from Czech ethnicity, also the ethnic affiliation with the other two historical Czech Lands (Moravia and Silesia). It is the number of people of Czechoslovak ethnicity from 1930 and the sum of all “Czech” ethnicities from 2011 that are used in the map sheet to compare the evolution of the share of ethnic Czechs on the total number of Prague's inhabitants (defined as present population in 1930, as permanent residents in 1980 and as usually resident population in 2011).

Three periods can be distinguished in the evolution of Prague's ethnic structure during the last century: interwar, socialist and post-socialist. The characteristic feature of interwar Prague was a relatively high share of other ethnicities (or, more precisely, people with the given mother tongue) than Czechs or Slovaks, many of them Germans and Jews (see Figure 5.2.1). Even though foreign born people lived in most of Prague's neighbourhoods, the highest absolute and relative concentration of the two above-

mentioned ethnic groups was recorded in central parts of the city. The same applies to another, rather important ethnic group of the First Republic – Ukrainians and Russians. While there were more than 7% of foreign born individuals in Prague’s pre-war population, their proportion in socialistic Prague did not exceed 3% (Přidalová, Ouředníček 2014). Due to the persecution of Jews during the Second World War and the after-war expulsion of Germans, Prague’s formerly most important ethnic groups became marginal. Prague’s new largest ethnic group in the following years (socialistic and post-socialistic) turned to be Slovaks. They outnumbered other ethnic groups in different parts of the city – the centre, the inner city and newly built housing estates. Despite the falling numbers of Prague’s inhabitants of Russian and Ukrainian ethnicity after the Second World War, Ukrainians probably left the country for fear of being the target of political repression after the arrival of Soviets in Czechoslovakia (Zilynskij, Rajčincová, Knapová 1998), Russians and Ukrainians remained the next largest ethnic groups in Prague.



**Figure 5.2.1:** The evolution of Prague’s ethnic structure in 1921–2011

**Source:** SÚS 1924, 1934; ČSÚ, 1970, 1980, 1991, 2001, 2011

The fall of communism and the opening of national borders in 1989 brought a transformation in Prague’s ethnic makeup and the proportion of foreign born individuals has been increasing again (Přidalová, Ouředníček 2014). The ethnic groups that have grown the most since 1991 are Ukrainians, Russians and newly also Vietnamese, plus some other, previously less prominent, ethnicities (in 2001, for instance, 2,000 people of Chinese and Bulgarian ethnicity were recorded, ČSÚ 2011). The importance of international migration for the transformation of Prague’s ethnic structure is also obvious from the numbers of foreign nationals registered in Prague. The numbers of foreigners with Ukrainian, Russian and Vietnamese citizenship in 2011

were double the numbers of the same ethnicities recorded in the census (ČSÚ 2011), which means that there were many foreign nationals among those who left the 2011 census question on ethnicity unanswered. The share of people of other than Czech ethnicity during the post-revolutionary period was more pronounced in less-populated areas (Štěrboholy, Horní Měcholupy, Přední Kopanina), however, this only means that lower absolute numbers result in higher proportion. Higher concentration of foreign nationals is worth noticing in the neighbourhoods of Kunratice, Nebušice, Stodůlky, Jinonice, and adjacent areas. Let's take the urbanistic district of Nové Butovice-West in Stodůlky, for instance, which has lately become a location attracting mostly immigrants from Russia as well as other foreign nationals (Ukrainians, Vietnamese, etc.). Even other research methods, not only the analysis of statistical data, prove that the number of foreign nationals in this area has increased (Přidalová 2013). The rising share of foreign nationals on total population most likely changes the ethnic structure of some of Prague's housing estates (e.g. Praha-Libuš) and other parts of the city.

	1930	1980	2001			
Low heterogeneity	Jinonice	0.08	Lipany	0	Zadní Kopanina	0
	Malešice	0.09	Holyně	0	Hrdlořezy	0.04
	Prosek	0.10	Přední Kopanina	0.04	Lipany	0.06
	Radlice	0.11	Cholupice	0.04	Hájek u Uhříněvsi	0.06
	Troja	0.11	Sedlec	0.06	Holyně	0.08
High heterogeneity	Bubeneč	0.51	Zadní Kopanina	0.31	Malá Chuchle	0.48
	Motol	0.51	Křeslice	0.31	Přední Kopanina	0.55
	Nové město	0.57	Štěrboholy	0.31	Kunratice	0.60
	Staré město	0.58	Miškovice	0.35	Jinonice	0.63
	Josefov	0.84	Malá Chuchle	0.39	Nebušice	0.64
<b>Average</b>	<b>Prague, the capital</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>Prague, the capital</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>Prague, the capital</b>	<b>0.26</b>

**Table 5.2.1:** Extreme heterogeneity index values in Prague's cadastral territories.

**Source:** SÚS, 1934, ČSÚ, 1980, 2011

*Note:* Ethnic heterogeneity was calculated using the entropy index which allows to qualify the spatial distribution of any number of groups in a given area using the following formula:  $h_i = -\sum p_{ij} \ln(p_{ij})$ , where  $p_{ij}$  is the proportion of inhabitants of the  $j$ -th ethnicity in the area  $i$ . To calculate the index of ethnic heterogeneity for Prague's cadastral territories, members of different ethnic groups were divided into seven groups based on the largest ethnic groups for each year (other ethnicities were not taken into account). The value of the index is maximized (in this case, i.e. for the distribution analysis of 7 groups, the index maximum value is 1.95) when a maximum number of ethnic groups with an even number of members is present in the area.

The described evolution of the population's ethnic structure is also visible in its ethnic heterogeneity. The highest heterogeneity during the interwar period was recorded in city centre neighbourhoods with high numbers of people of German, Jewish and Russian ethnicity, as well as in other areas – home to more members from smaller ethnic groups (e.g. Hungarian ethnic group in Motol; see Table 5.2.1). Socialistic Prague's ethnic structure was noticeably less differentiated, with low heterogeneity index values. The highest heterogeneity was recorded in relatively less populated neighbourhoods. Today

Prague's ethnic heterogeneity is on the rise again: in 2001 the most heterogeneous population was recorded in Nebušice, Jinonice and Kunratice, which were home to all surveyed ethnicities (with the exception of Vietnamese ethnicity in Nebušice). We assume that Prague's ethnic heterogeneity (or, more precisely, the population's heterogeneity based on individual's nationality) will keep increasing thanks to unceasing international migration.

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