

## ANALYSIS

18 November 2025

### Share of entrepreneurs in the national economy was increasing

#### Employment and unemployment in the Czech Republic as measured by the Labour Force Sample Survey – 3rd quarter of 2025

The number of the employed persons was by 74.8 thousand higher, year-on-year (y-o-y); the total employment thus slightly increased. According to the methodology of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the number of the unemployed was by 20.0 thousand higher, y-o-y. The number of the economically inactive aged 15+ years decreased by 35.6 thousand during the same period.

##### Employment

In the Q3 2025, the seasonally adjusted **average number of employed persons** increased by 10.8 thousand persons, compared to the Q2 2025.

The **number of working persons** aged 15+ years moderately increased, year-on-year. In the Q3 2025, compared to the corresponding period of 2024, an increase by 74.8 thousand persons (i.e. by 1.4%) to the total of 5 272.1 thousand employed persons was recorded. The increase was mainly owing to an increase in the number of working females who were up by 103.9 thousand, year-on-year, whereas the number of working males dropped by 29.1 thousand persons. The most marked increment was recorded as for working persons aged 60+ years, the number of whom increased by 69.6 thousand (i.e. by 12.6%). An increase was also recorded in the youngest age category of 15–24 years, in which there were by 13.7 thousand persons more (i.e. by 4.9%). The number of working persons aged 45–59 years also slightly increased, namely by 34.1 thousand persons (i.e. by 1.6%). Conversely, there was a year-on-year decrease in the age category of 30–44 years, in which the number of working persons dropped by 38.2 thousand (i.e. by 2.1%) and in the age group of 25–29 years by 4.3 thousand persons (i.e. by 1.0%). The year-on-year changes in the number of working persons in individual age groups are to a considerable extent influenced by the demographic structure of the population and by transfers of persons to higher age groups.

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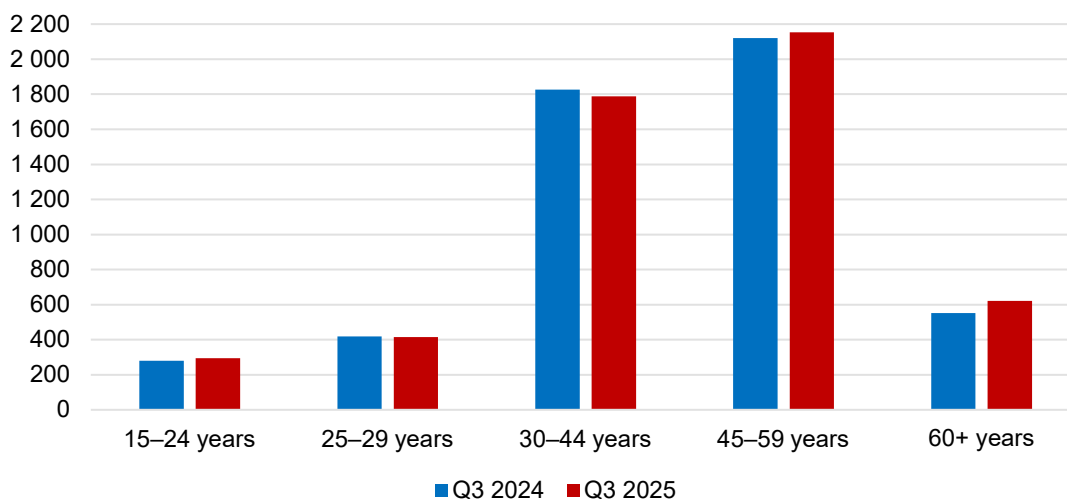
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**Chart 1: The number of working persons in the national economy and their structure by age group (thousand)**



Source: CZSO, LFSS

**In terms of sex**, the most marked decrease in the number of working persons was recorded in males aged 30–44 years, among whom the number decreased by 58.7 thousand persons (i.e. by 5.6%). Conversely, the biggest relative increase was among females aged 60+ years, the number of whom increased by 35.0 thousand persons (i.e. by 14.3%).

The number of **employees** increased by 51.4 thousand persons, i.e. by 1.2%, to 4 432.3 thousand. The number of **the self-employed** (without unpaid contributing family workers) increased by 22.6 thousand. The number of **the self-employed without employees** (own-account workers) was by 20.7 thousand higher (i.e. by 3.0%); the number of **the self-employed with employees** (employers) was by 2.0 thousand higher, year-on-year (i.e. by 1.7%). In concrete numbers, the number of the self-employed without employees was 708.6 thousand and the number of the self-employed with employees was 116.7 thousand. In the Q3 2025, the share of those two groups of entrepreneurs in the total employment was 15.7%.

Two thirds of **the self-employed** (entrepreneurs) were males; they were engaged most often in activities in the CZ-NACE section of 'construction' (28.6% of males doing business), in the area of 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' (11.7%), and in the section of 'professional, scientific and technical activities' (11.1%). They worked most often as craft and related trades workers (38.8%), less frequently as professionals (20.5%) or technicians and associate professionals (13.7%). Over one fifth (21.7%) of females were doing business in the section of 'professional, scientific and technical activities', further in the section of 'other service activities' that includes, among others, hairdressing and other beauty treatment (18.1%). According to the ISCO classification, females were doing business most often as service and sales workers (40.8%), as professionals (27.5%), and technicians and associate professionals (15.5%). Female entrepreneurs usually have higher educational attainment than males. The highest proportion of male entrepreneurs had secondary education without A-level examination (35.3%) and secondary education with A-level examination (34.7%). Among females, the highest

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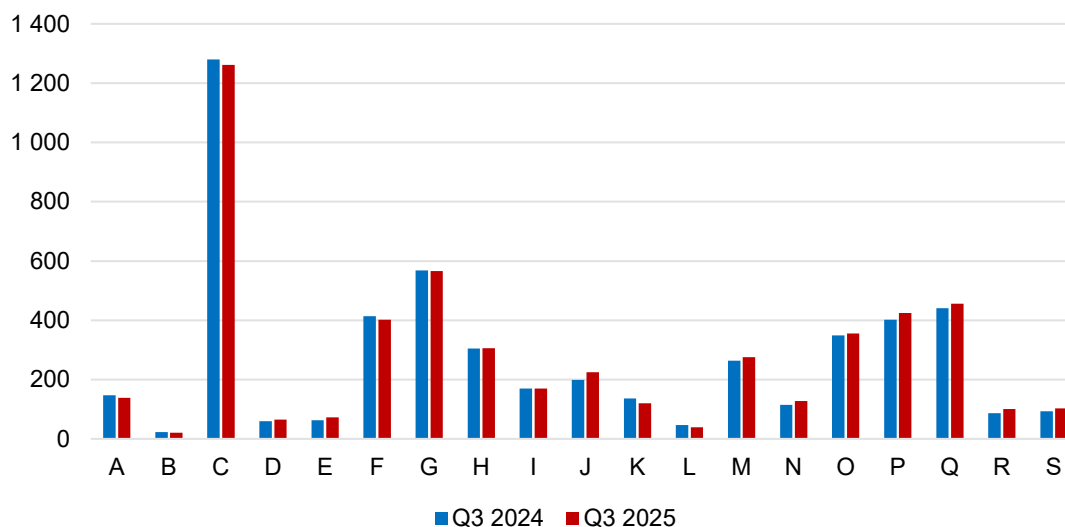
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number of the self-employed had secondary education with A-level examination (40.1%) and higher education (34.4%).

According to data for the Q3 2025, the development of employment in individual economic activities (CZ-NACE sections) in the Czech Republic was different<sup>1)</sup>. In the **primary sector** of agriculture, forestry and fishing, the number of working persons decreased, year-on-year, by 8.5 thousand to 138.7 thousand persons. Employment in the **secondary sector** of industry and construction also moderately decreased; a decrease in the number of working persons by 17.4 thousand to 1 820.9 thousand was recorded. In the **tertiary sector** of services, the total employment increased, y-o-y, by 100.8 thousand to 3 312.5 thousand persons. In this sector, the biggest relative increment of working persons was in the section of 'arts, entertainment and recreation,' namely by 13.6 thousand persons, i.e. by 15.7%; also the following sections were considerably increasing: 'water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities' (by 9.7 thousand persons, i.e. by 15.5%) and 'information and communication' (by 26.1 thousand persons, i.e. by 13.1%). A decrease in employment was recorded, for example, in the section of 'real estate activities', in which the number of persons decreased by 7.6 thousand (i.e. by 16.3%) and in 'financial and insurance activities,' in which there was a decrease by 15.5 thousand persons (i.e. by 11.4%).

**Chart 2: The number of working persons in the national economy by economic activity (thousand)**



A – Agriculture, forestry and fishing; B – Mining and quarrying; C – Manufacturing; D – Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; E – Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities; F – Construction; G – Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; H –

<sup>1)</sup> Data for economic activities (CZ-NACE sections) may be influenced by the employed methodology of the Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS). The survey only covers persons living in dwellings (flats), i.e. private households. Data on persons living in collective accommodation establishments are not measured; these establishments often give accommodation to foreign nationals.

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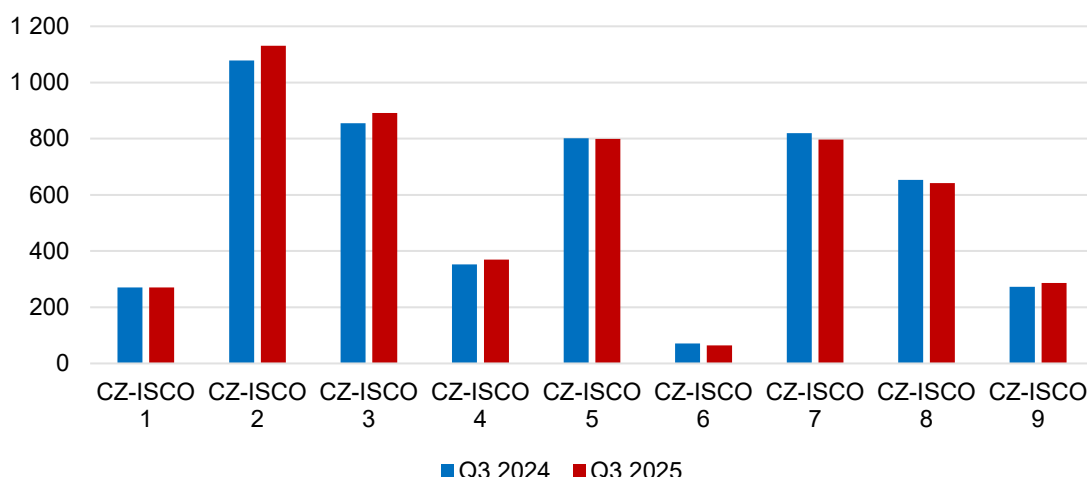
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Transportation and storage; I – Accommodation and food service activities; J – Information and communication; K – Financial and insurance activities; L – Real estate activities; M – Professional, scientific and technical activities; N – Administrative and support service activities; O – Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; P – Education; Q – Human health and social work activities; R – Arts, entertainment and recreation; S – Other service activities.

Source: CZSO, LFSS

Along with changes in the structure by economic activity (CZ-NACE section), changes in the structure of working persons by occupation also occurred. **According to the Classification of Occupations (CZ-ISCO)**, the number of working persons increased relatively the most in the major group of elementary occupations (by 13.9 thousand persons, which is an increase by 5.1%) and in the group of clerical support workers (by 17.2 thousand persons, i.e. by 4.9%). The biggest decrease occurred in the major group of skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers (by 6.4 thousand persons, i.e. by 9.0%).

**Chart 3: The number of working persons in the national economy by Classification of Occupations (thousand)**



CZ-ISCO 1 – Managers; CZ-ISCO 2 – Professionals; CZ-ISCO 3 – Technicians and associate professionals; CZ-ISCO 4 – Clerical support workers; CZ-ISCO 5 – Service and sales workers; CZ-ISCO 6 – Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; CZ-ISCO 7 – Craft and related trades workers; CZ-ISCO 8 – Plant and machine operators, and assemblers; CZ-ISCO 9 – Elementary occupations.

Source: CZSO, LFSS

The development trend in the number of **working persons according to the educational attainment** is also related to the mentioned changes in the employment structure. The number of working persons with **primary education** increased by 3.3 thousand to 247.5 thousand. The number of working persons with **secondary education without A-level examination** decreased by 27.7 thousand to 1 559.0 thousand persons. On the other hand, the number of working persons with **secondary education with A-level examination** was higher, year-on-year, by 32.2 thousand. The biggest increase occurred in employed persons with **tertiary education** the number of whom increased by 66.4 thousand to 1 524.1 thousand working persons. This increase

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mainly applied to working females with tertiary education the number of whom increased by 54.0 thousand, year-on-year.

The **employment rate** (the percentage of working persons in the age group of 15–64 years old) increased in the Q3 2025 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year by 0.2 percentage point (p. p.) to 76.0%. The development among males and females was opposing. The male employment rate decreased by 1.1 p. p., y-o-y, to 80.4% and the female one increased by 1.7 p. p. to 71.5%.

Development of **part-time jobs** also had an influence on the growth of the total employment. They have been increasing in number during the last years. In 2018, 387.9 thousand persons worked part-time; their number increased during the last eight years by 116.4 thousand (i.e. an increase by 30.0%).

In the Q3 2025, 504.3 thousand persons were working part-time, which is by 12.0 thousand more, year-on-year (an increase by 2.4%). However, part-time jobs were only increasing in females, where the increment was 17.7 thousand persons, year-on-year (an increase by 5.2%); in males, part-time jobs decreased by 5.7 thousand persons (i.e. 3.7%).

During the reference period, 355.4 thousand females were working part-time, i.e. 70.5% of all part-time jobs in main job. A part-time job (shortened working hours) enabled them to be more flexible, mainly when carrying out their caring responsibilities. Females were working part-time most often in 'education,' 'human health and social work activities,' and 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles'. Of the total number of all working females, 14.5% worked part-time.

Females gave most often the following reasons for working part-time: other personal reasons (71.1 thousand), childcare or care for an adult person in need of care (69.1 thousand), or that only a part-time job was available (55.5 thousand). The highest number of females working part-time was in the age of 30–44 years (124.4 thousand, i.e. 35.0%).

Males used part-time work significantly less. 148.9 thousand males worked part-time, which is only 5.3% of all working males. They worked mainly in 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles', in 'public administration and defence; compulsory social security,' but also in 'manufacturing'. Males worked part-time mainly due to "other personal reasons" (45.2 thousand). Most of males working part-time were in the age of 60+ years (63.5 thousand, i.e. 42.7%).

### Chart 4: The number of part-time workers and their age structure (thousand)

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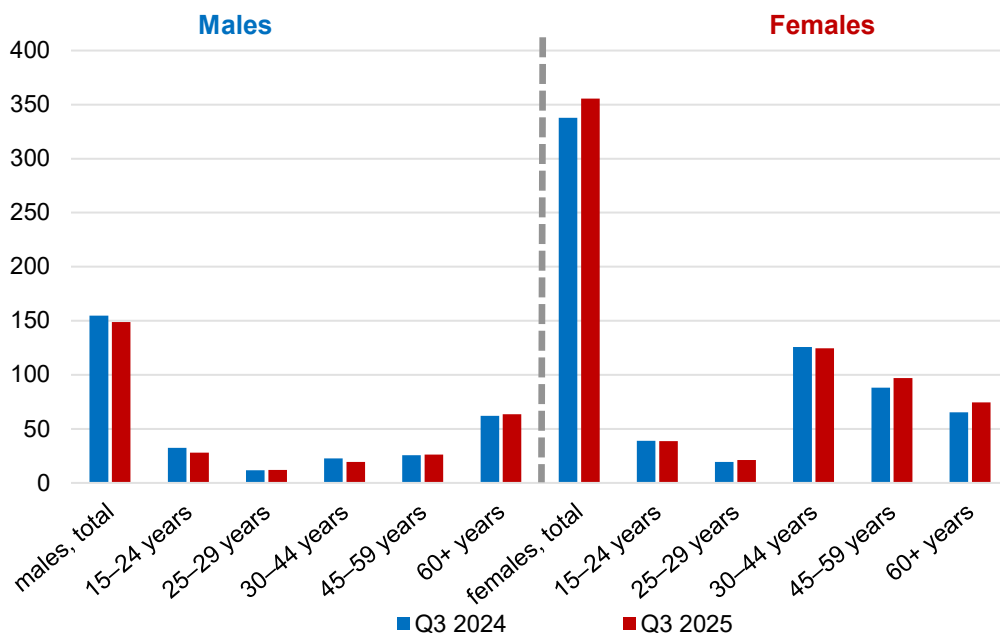
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Source: CZSO, LFSS

### Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted **average number of unemployed persons according to the ILO methodology**<sup>2)</sup> increased in the Q3 2025 by 5.9 thousand persons, compared to that in the Q2 2025.

**Chart 5: The number of the unemployed in Regions of the Czech Republic (thousand)**

<sup>2)</sup> The ILO methodology defines **the unemployed** as persons who during the reference period were without a job, did not work an hour for pay or remuneration, and were in an active manner seeking a job they would be able to join within fortnight at the latest. This methodology is uniform for all EU Member States and provides internationally comparable data. It has to be taken into consideration that the definition of "the unemployed" by the ILO differs from the definition of "job applicants kept in the register of the labour offices" of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

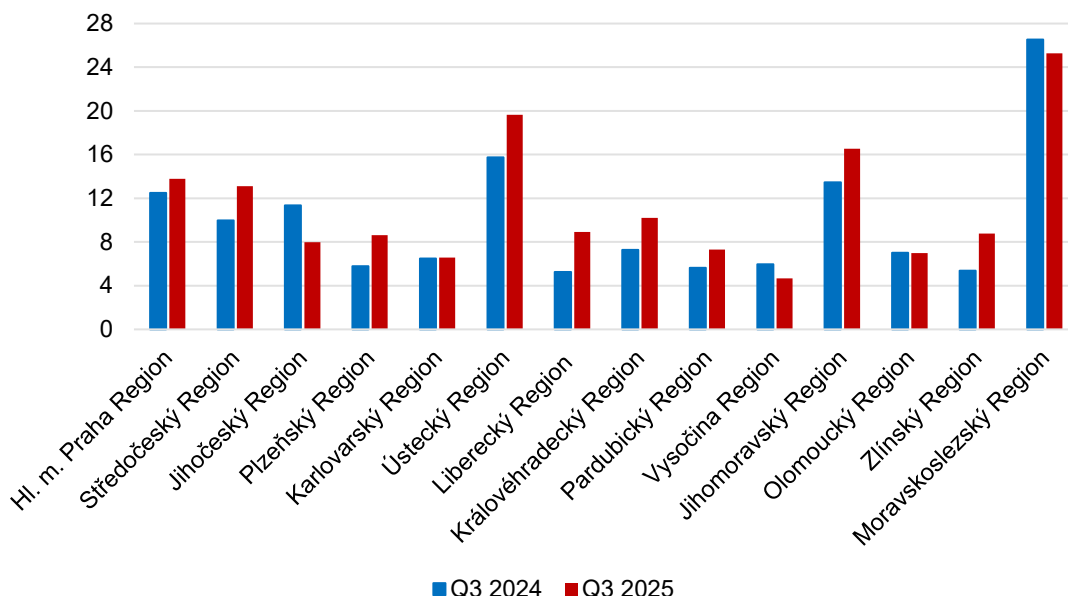
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Source: CZSO, LFSS

The total number of **the unemployed aged 15+ years** increased, year-on-year, by 20.0 thousand to 158.4 thousand persons in the Q3 2025. The number of the unemployed females increased by 8.4 thousand to 81.2 thousand, the number of the unemployed males by 11.6 thousand to 77.2 thousand. The highest number of unemployed males were in the age of 15–24 years (23.9 thousand), whereas in females the age group of 30–44 years was prevailing (28.9 thousand). The unemployment thus often affects young males after they finish or discontinue their education, whereas in females it is more often after their return from parental leave.

The most marked relative year-on-year increase in the unemployment was recorded in the *Liberecký* Region (by 3.7 thousand, i.e. by 70.1%), in the *Zlínský* Region (by 3.4 thousand, i.e. by 63.2%), and in the *Plzeňský* Region (by 2.8 thousand, i.e. by 48.8%).

The number of persons **unemployed for one year and longer** (the long-term unemployed) has also increased; it was by 13.8 thousand, y-o-y, to 48.6 thousand persons. It was an increase in both sexes; the number of the long-term unemployed males increased by 6.5 thousand, the number of the long-term unemployed females was higher by 7.3 thousand.

The number of the long-term unemployed males was 24.4 thousand in total; most of them were in the age of 45–59 years (9.1 thousand). In females, the number was 24.2 thousand, while most of them were in the age group of 30–44 years (9.0 thousand). The highest relative year-on-year increment of the long-term unemployed was recorded in the age group of 60+ years (an increase from 1.8 thousand in the Q3 2024 to 5.7 thousand in the Q3 2025). The increment was higher in males.

**Chart 6: The number of persons unemployed for one year and longer and their age structure (thousand)**

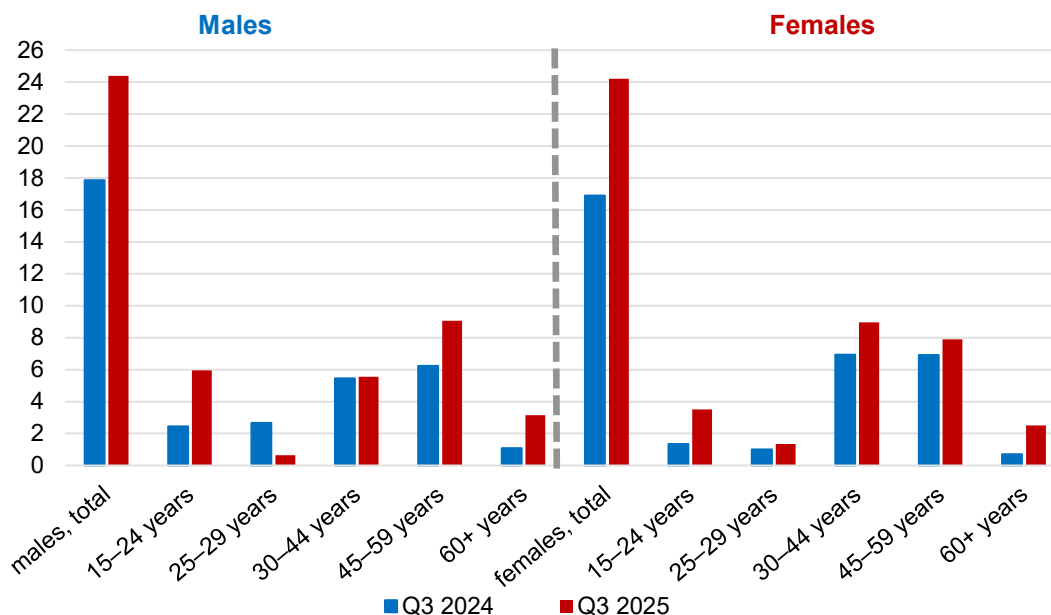
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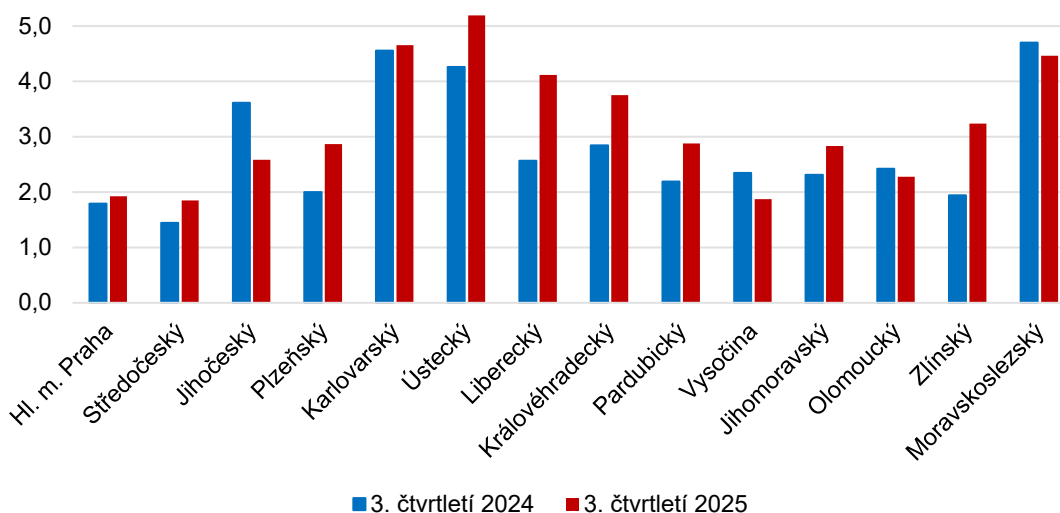
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Source: CZSO, LFSS

The **general unemployment rate according to the ILO definition** in the age group of 15–64 years old (the percentage of the unemployed in the labour force, i.e. in the sum of the employed and the unemployed) increased by 0.3 p. p., year-on-year, and in the Q3 2025 it was 3.0%.

**Chart 7: Unemployment rate of the 15–64 years old in Regions of the Czech Republic (%)**



Source: CZSO, LFSS

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In terms of a **regional comparison**, the general unemployment rate of the 15–64 years old was the highest in the *Ústecký* Region (5.2%), in the *Karlovarský* Region (4.7%), and in the *Moravskoslezský* Region (4.5%). The lowest figures were reported by the *Středočeský* Region (1.8%), the *Vysočina* Region and the *Hl. m. Praha* Region (all the same 1.9%). The biggest y-o-y decreases in the unemployment rate were in the *Jihočeský* Region (by 1.0 p. p. to 2.6%) and in the *Vysočina* Region (by 0.5 p. p. to 1.9%). The biggest year-on-year increase was, on the other hand, in the *Liberecký* Region (by 1.6 p. p. to 4.1%) and in the *Zlínský* Region (by 1.3 p. p. to 3.2%).

### Economic inactivity

**The number of economically inactive persons aged 15+ years** was by 35.6 thousand lower, year-on-year, and amounted to 3 430.4 thousand. The number of economically inactive males increased by 23.4 thousand to 1 381.8 thousand, whereas the number of economically inactive females was by 58.9 thousand lower than a year ago and their number thus was 2 048.6 thousand.

In the sample survey, data are also collected on **persons who do not work and do not seek a job in an active manner and therefore do not comply with the ILO conditions for the unemployed**, however, they state that they would like to work. In the Q3 2025, the number of such persons was 76.4 thousand, i.e. by 15.4 thousand persons less than in the corresponding period of 2024. The number of persons who would like to work, however, they are not able to start in a potential job immediately, is relatively high. Only 14.6 thousand persons are able to start in a job within a fortnight, at the latest.

#### Note:

**Data in the analysis have not been seasonally adjusted unless otherwise stated.**

#### Recalculation to the same population structure

*The Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS) is carried out in selected dwelling households. Collective accommodation establishments are not included in the survey. The data found were weighted to the population of the Czech Republic based on the results of the population (demographic) statistics as at the beginning of the reference quarter; estimates of the number of persons living outside private households were subtracted from the population totals of the demographic statistics.*

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