

ANALYSIS

6 May 2016

Number of Hours Worked in The Czech Republic Is One of The Highest in The Whole EU

Hours usually worked per week in the main job attained 40.4 hours in the last year. The number of hours differ namely by respondents' status in employment and type of activity performed. The number of hours worked ranks the Czech Republic to the fifth place in the whole European Union.

Hours usually worked per week attained on average 40.4 hours in 2015. They declined by 2.7 hours since the first year the Labour Force Sample Survey was carried out in 1993. The number of hours worked decreased in all groups of the productive age except for the aged 60-64 years.

Males usually work more hours than females (in the last year it was 41.8 hours, while females worked 38.6 hours). The number of hours worked in males got reduced in all groups of the productive age, except for younger sexagenarians. The highest decline was recorded for the number of hours worked by the young aged up to 24 years. The decline in the number of hours worked can be similarly found in females. Yet the duration of hours worked prolonged in the group of the aged 60-64 years and in the age group of 55-to-59-year-old females. It is a result of either ageing of the economically active population and either of increased age limit for the old-age retirement.

The sample survey also measures the number of hours which the respondent actually worked in the reference week. The average number of hours actually worked is lower especially due to taking vacations, sickness leaves, and bank holidays (35.8 hours). Differences found among the hours actually worked broken down by age and by other factors correspond to differences found in the hours usually worked.

The average number of hours usually worked in the main job by age in 2015

Indicator	Hours usually worked					
	Total		Males		Females	
	2015	decrease /increase 2015/1993	2015	decrease /increase 2015/1993	2015	decrease /increase 2015/1993
The employed, total	40.4	-2.7	41.8	-2.9	38.6	-2.4
By age group :						
15 to 19 years	34.6	-7.0	36.1	-5.9	32.6	-8.7
20 to 24 years	38.3	-4.8	39.3	-4.6	36.9	-4.7
25 to 29 years	40.2	-3.3	41.0	-4.4	39.0	-0.9
30 to 34 years	40.6	-3.1	42.2	-3.5	38.0	-2.8
35 to 39 years	40.9	-3.5	42.6	-4.1	38.6	-3.1
40 to 44 years	41.3	-2.7	42.9	-2.7	39.3	-2.8
45 to 49 years	41.4	-2.2	42.9	-2.3	39.8	-2.2
50 to 54 years	41.1	-2.0	42.5	-2.0	39.6	-2.0
55 to 59 years	40.9	-0.5	42.3	-1.1	39.3	3.1
60 to 64 years	38.9	2.9	40.4	2.3	35.8	3.8
65+ years	29.0	-3.6	31.6	-3.0	25.4	-4.3

Source: CZSO; Labour Force Sample Survey

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Educational attainment has no significant effect on the number of hours usually worked. Persons with primary education work the least number of hours (38.5 hours in the last year) yet starting the persons with apprenticeship certificates differences in between respective educational attainment groups are minimum. They fall within the interval of 40.3 hours for university graduates up to 40.7 hours for working persons with secondary education without A-level examination.

Working Week of Blue-Collar Workers Is Usually Long

Differences between main groups by status in employment (classification of the CZ-ICSE) are substantially higher. The self-employed with employees work the highest number of hours per week in the main job (47.7 hours), followed by own-account workers (44.1 hours). Then there is a gap followed by the largest group of employees (39.5 hours). Contributing family workers usually work 37.1 hours per week.

Numbers of working persons by status in the main job and numbers of their hours usually worked per week in 2015

Indicator	Total		Males		Females	
	Working persons (thousand)	Hours usually worked	Working persons (thousand)	Hours usually worked	Working persons (thousand)	Hours usually worked
Total	5 041.9	40.4	2 837.3	41.8	2 204.6	38.6
Status in employment according to the CZ-ICSE:						
1, 4 Employees, including members of producers' cooperatives	4 167.7	39.5	2 244.8	40.6	1 922.9	38.3
2 Employers	177.7	47.7	136.7	48.7	41.0	44.1
3 Own-account workers	666.2	44.1	448.6	45.9	217.6	40.5
5 Contributing family workers	30.4	37.1	7.2	37.2	23.1	37.1

Source: CZSO; Labour Force Sample Survey

The share of the self-employed affects the average number of hours usually worked in the main groups of the classification of occupations (CZ-ISCO). In the last year it was skilled agricultural and fishery workers who worked the highest number of hours (44.6 hours) in their main job, followed by managers, including employers (44.0 hours.), and then craft and related trades workers (41.7 hours). These three main groups also, at the same time, feature substantially higher shares of the self-employed in employment than other groups of the CZ-ISCO.

Different characteristics of the occupations performed and simultaneously different statuses in employment reflect in different numbers of hours worked in respective economic activity sections of the CZ-NACE. Occupations featuring a high share of strenuous physical work are frequently found in agriculture, forestry and fishing and in construction. Agriculture and, namely, construction are also characteristic for a high share of the self-employed. Longer hours of work can also be found in transportation and storage where work also often means a higher physical strain.

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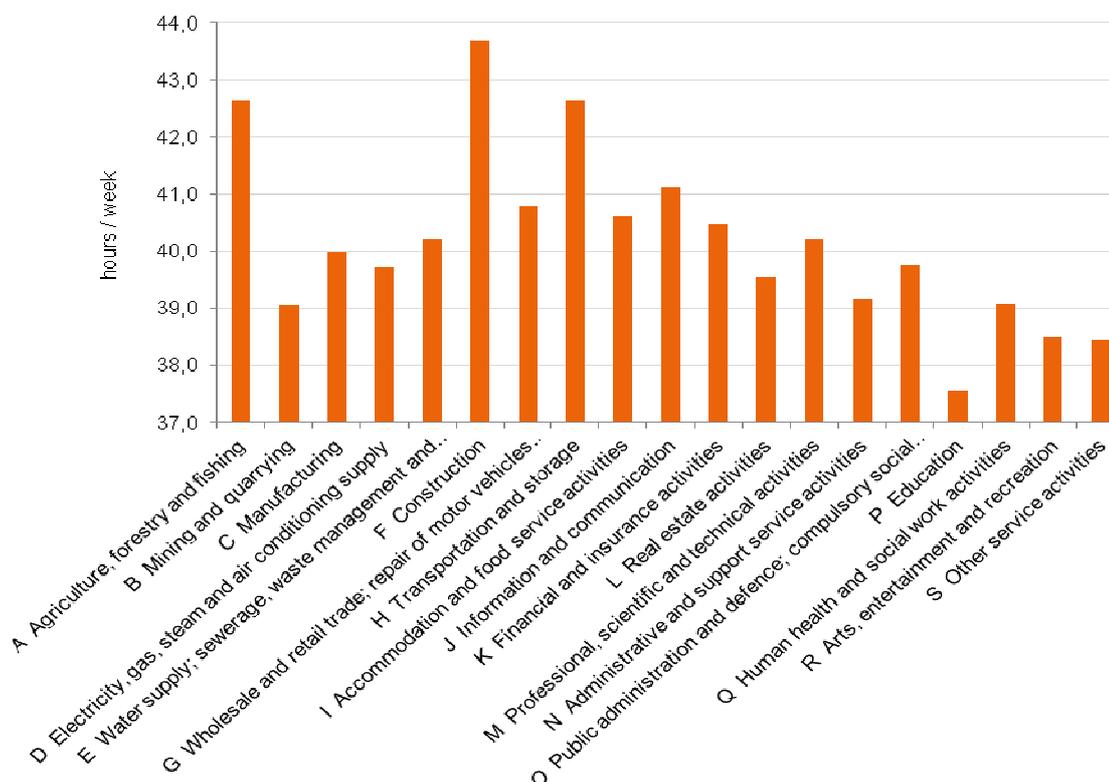
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Average number of hours worked in the main job in respective CZ-NACE sections of economic activities in 2015



Source: CZSO; Labour Force Sample Survey

More Years to Work for Less Hours A Week or Less Years of Work for More Hours per Week?

The expected number of years of economically active life in the Czech Republic is the eleventh highest within the European Union. Yet it is not even at the level of the average of all the EU Member States. In 2014 the expected total number of years of economic activity in the Czech Republic was 34.9 years compared to the EU average of 35.3 years. The economically active life is significantly longer especially in countries with a high working activity in the youngest productive age (Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Germany). These countries markedly affect the expected length of economic activity for the whole EU28. More detailed data can be found in a document at <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/crt/ctvrtletni-analyza-vsps-na-aktualni-tema-4-ctvrtleti-2015>

The Czech Republic working persons, on the contrary, spend at work essentially longer time than the EU average (40.4 of hours usually worked per week, i.e. by 3.2 hours more than the EU28 average). This way the Czech Republic occupies the fifth place in all the EU Member States. The longest hours are usually worked by Greeks (almost 42 hours) and males and

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females in Bulgaria work more hours per week than those in the Czech Republic as well. Our neighbouring countries of Poland and Slovakia are also ranked above the Czech Republic yet with minimum differences.

Expected length of the economically active life of the aged 15+ years and the average length of the weekly working hours in the Member States of the EU28 in 2014

Territory and country	Length of economically active life (years)			Number of hours usually worked per week		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
EU28	35.3	37.8	32.7	37.2	40.2	33.6
Belgium	32.6	34.7	30.4	37.1	40.6	33.2
Bulgaria	32.1	33.4	30.7	40.8	41.1	40.4
Czech Republic	34.9	38.0	31.5	40.4	41.9	38.5
Denmark	39.0	40.5	37.4	33.5	35.6	31.1
Germany	38.0	40.2	35.6	35.3	39.4	30.5
Estonia	36.5	37.5	35.4	38.9	39.9	37.8
Ireland	34.7	38.6	30.5	35.6	39.4	31.5
Greece	32.1	35.7	28.3	41.9	44.0	39.0
Spain	34.8	37.1	32.3	37.9	40.8	34.6
France	34.7	36.5	32.9	37.2	40.1	34.2
Croatia	32.3	34.1	30.3	39.9	40.6	39.1
Italy	30.6	35.1	25.8	36.9	40.0	32.7
Cyprus	36.7	39.8	33.4	39.4	41.4	37.4
Latvia	34.7	35.2	34.2	39.1	39.8	38.3
Lithuania	34.6	34.5	34.7	38.1	38.8	37.4
Luxembourg	33.2	36.3	30.0	37.4	40.3	33.8
Hungary	31.8	34.2	29.4	39.8	40.5	39.0
Malta	33.0	39.7	25.9	38.0	40.5	34.0
Netherlands	39.6	42.4	36.7	30.2	34.9	24.5
Austria	36.6	38.7	34.4	36.7	40.9	31.9
Poland	32.6	35.0	29.9	40.7	42.5	38.6
Portugal	36.6	38.2	35.0	39.7	41.1	38.3
Romania	32.8	35.8	29.7	40.0	40.5	39.3
Slovenia	34.1	35.4	32.7	39.3	40.3	38.1
Slovakia	33.1	35.9	30.2	40.5	41.5	39.2
Finland	37.3	37.8	36.8	36.8	38.8	34.8
Sweden	41.1	42.3	39.8	36.3	38.1	34.4
United Kingdom	38.5	41.1	35.7	36.7	41.1	31.7

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

The number of hours worked is in substantial way affected by the use of part-time jobs. One fifth of all employed persons in the EU Member States work part time in their main job. In the Czech Republic, however, this type of employment is used by mere 5.5% of all working persons.

A longer economically active life and simultaneously less hours worked per week than in other countries are characteristic for economically developed countries. This is typical especially for Germany and Austria, Nordic countries, United Kingdom and Ireland. Up to one fourth of all

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working persons in these countries work part time. In the Netherlands it is even a half of all the employed.

It is mostly females who work part time. In 2014 it was almost one third of them (32.2% of all working females in the European Union). In numerous countries this is a quite ordinary way of employment. In Austria and Germany the share of women working part time is close to a half of all working females (over 46%). In the United Kingdom the share is 41%. In the Netherlands the share of females working part time (77% of the total female employment) clearly prevails over the number of females having full-time jobs.

Conversely, in the Czech Republic less than 10% females aged 15-64 years work part time which is the sixth lowest value within the whole European Union.

There are great differences among males as well. In the EU28 on average there is every eleventh male working part time yet in the Netherlands it is every fourth one. In the Czech Republic, on the contrary, the share of males with part-time jobs is the second lowest (2.5%) next to Bulgaria.

Share of part-time jobs in the main job in 2014

Territory and country	Total	Males	Females
EU28	19.6	8.8	32.2
Belgium	23.7	8.4	41.2
Bulgaria	2.5	2.2	2.8
Czech Republic	5.5	2.5	9.5
Denmark	24.6	15.2	35.0
Germany	26.5	9.2	46.3
Estonia	8.3	5.7	11.2
Ireland	23.0	13.1	34.4
Greece	9.3	6.5	13.0
Spain	15.8	7.7	25.5
France	18.6	7.4	30.5
Croatia	5.3	4.2	6.7
Italy	18.1	7.8	32.1
Cyprus	13.5	10.3	16.8
Latvia	6.8	4.7	8.9
Lithuania	8.6	6.4	10.6
Luxembourg	18.5	4.7	35.6
Hungary	6.0	4.1	8.3
Malta	15.5	7.0	28.8
Netherlands	49.6	26.1	76.7
Austria	26.9	9.6	46.3
Poland	7.1	4.4	10.3
Portugal	10.1	7.6	12.6
Romania	8.7	8.2	9.5
Slovenia	10.0	6.8	13.7
Slovakia	5.1	3.7	6.8
Finland	14.1	9.2	19.3
Sweden	24.6	12.8	37.3
United Kingdom	25.3	11.2	41.3

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

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The total number of hours worked is also affected by second jobs. On average there were mere 4% of all working persons in the EU28 having a second job. There are more important shares of the such way employed in countries with higher numbers of part-time jobs. Sweden, where every tenth working persons has a second job, may be taken as a typical example. Their share is high also in Germany (9%) or in Denmark (8%). Because these jobs are approximately of one third of the length of the main job their effects on the total hours worked in respective countries are low.

The total number of hours worked varies greatly. There are countries, which the Czech Republic belongs to, where expected length of the economically active life is shorter yet high numbers of hours are worked per week. However, there are countries, mostly economically developed ones, where the relation of the economically active life length and hours worked per week is reversal. These countries feature high employment of the young up to 25 years of age and a similarly high share of working persons old 60+ years. It is obvious that the regime of a lower number of hours worked enables to a better way harmonise the work and family life and also enables involvement in the long-term education process and, simultaneously, is also advantageous for other activities out of work.

Higher Pay for More Hours?

A higher number of hours worked does not mean a higher income at all. The Labour Force Sample Survey does not include questions on income from gainful activities and Eurostat has not had any precise data on gross wages after 2010. In order to make comparison, however, macroeconomic indicators as the gross domestic product per capita and especially the real adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita both in purchasing power standards (PPS) may be applied. The real adjusted gross disposable income of households indicates the real amount of money which a household has at its disposal for consumption and potential accumulation. The financial income from gainful activities makes a substantial portion thereof. Moreover, there is the actual individual consumption per capita in PPS (AIC) given here. Data are for 2014. In that year the GDP of the Czech Republic reached almost CZK 4.3 trillion, real adjusted gross disposable income of households was CZK 2.7 trillion, and the actual individual consumption of households was CZK 2.5 trillion.

There are two demographic indicators, the median age of the population and life expectancy at the age of one year, added for information as well.

What is interesting is the comparison of the two macroeconomic indicators of GDP and gross disposable income. There are solely five Member States of the European Union, in which the value of the real adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita is higher than the EU average of the GDP per capita. These are, first of all, France, Italy, and Germany. Conversely, a substantially lower portion of the real adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita as percentage was reached especially in Ireland, and also in other countries as Denmark, Sweden, and the Netherlands. There are no data for Luxembourg but it is justifiable to estimate that the difference between the two indicators is extremely great in this

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particular case. It is already indicated by the difference between the GDP per capita and the actual individual consumption per capita in PPS.

The Czech Republic is among countries with a high negative difference in between the real adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita and the gross domestic product per capita. In 2014 this difference in the Czech Republic was the sixth highest in the EU.

Selected indicators of labour market, macroeconomic, and demographic indicators in 2014

Territory and country	Employment rate of the aged 15-64 years	Number of hours usually worked per week	GDP in purchasing power standards per capita related to the EU average (%)	Gross adjusted disposable income of household per capita related to the EU average (%)	Actual individual consumption per capita related to the EU average (%)	Median age of the population	Life expectancy in 2014
EU28	64.8	37.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	42.2	80.2
Belgium	61.9	37.1	118.6	115.5	114.1	41.2	80.6
Bulgaria	61.0	40.8	46.7	43.8 ¹⁾	47.4	43.2	74.1
Czech Republic	69.0	40.4	84.7	75.2	71.4	40.8	78.1
Denmark	72.8	33.5	124.8	107.3	118.2	41.3	80.1
Germany	73.8	35.3	125.9	129.1	120.8	45.6	80.4
Estonia	69.6	38.9	76.3	63.1	66.7	41.3	76.6
Ireland	61.7	35.6	134.3	91.0	107.3	36.0	80.7
Greece	49.4	41.9	72.6	71.0	82.8	43.0	80.8
Spain	56.0	37.9	91.2	88.6	90.6	41.8	82.5
France	63.8	37.2	106.9	117.3	108.3	40.8	82.1
Croatia	54.6	39.9	58.8	59.6	58.9	42.6	77.3
Italy	55.7	36.9	96.4	100.1	100.0	44.7	82.5
Cyprus	62.1	39.4	81.8	78.5	89.6	36.8	81.9
Latvia	66.3	39.1	63.9	57.0	63.0	42.4	73.7
Lithuania	65.7	38.1	75.2	72.8	77.6	42.4	74.0
Luxembourg	66.6	37.4	266.4	x	158.9	39.2	81.5
Hungary	61.8	39.8	67.9	63.3	58.3	41.3	75.3
Malta	62.4	38.0	86.1	x	79.7	40.7	81.5
Netherlands	73.1	30.2	131.0	110.3 ¹⁾	115.6	42.0	81.1
Austria	71.1	36.7	129.6	124.8	122.4	42.9	80.9
Poland	61.7	40.7	67.9	67.9	67.7	39.2	77.1
Portugal	62.6	39.7	78.1	81.2	84.4	43.1	80.6
Romania	61.0	40.0	55.5	44.2	53.6	40.8	74.7
Slovenia	63.9	39.3	82.5	78.0	76.0	42.5	80.4
Slovakia	61.0	40.5	77.0	75.6	73.4	38.6	76.4
Finland	68.7	36.8	110.6	111.3	113.5	42.4	80.5
Sweden	74.9	36.3	123.0	113.9	114.6	40.9	81.5
United Kingdom	71.9	36.7	109.1	106.6	120.3	39.9	80.7

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey – calculated by the CZSO

¹⁾ Data for 2013

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Methodological Note: The real adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita in purchasing power standards is calculated for households and non-profit institutions serving households. The “adjusted” shall mean that it includes, besides the gross disposable income, also natural transfers for general government and non-profit institutions. This way structured variable is in a better way comparable internationally than the “classic” gross disposable income. In a similar way, the actual individual consumption of households per capita in PPS (AIC) includes also non-profit institutions and general government resources serving households (as health and education, for instance).

The difference in between the disposable income and the actual individual consumption is the item of savings, which may be used for financial and non-financial investments. Both the indicators are determined, in terms of methodology, in the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010).

It is necessary to take into account that the indicators are average values, which do not give much information on the income internal differentiation in respective countries. In any case differences in macroeconomic values among the EU Member States are significant.

Europe Is Getting Older

There are differences in demographic conditions in the EU Member States as well. Looking at the value of the median age Germany is the oldest country. We give, as a matter of interest, that, in the last but one year, the median age in Germany was 45.6 years but in Turkey it was mere 30.4 years. Both the countries however, have comparable populations.

In fifteen countries people live on average over eighty years of age. These are all Nordic countries, Ireland, Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Luxembourg, and United Kingdom. People living in the belt of the Mediterranean coast from Spain to Greece reach the longest life. On the contrary to developed countries located up to North, these Mediterranean states do not belong to countries with above average values of the selected macroeconomic indicators. It is clear that life expectancy is affected by the overall lifestyle, climate, yet also by other factors as diet, for instance. The Czech Republic belongs, unfortunately, to ten countries, in which the life expectancy is shorter.

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