

### 3. Demographic Changes and Environmental Development

#### 3.1. Demographic Development

- The birth rate growth probably culminating in 2008**

The number of live-born children (118,348) in 2009 was 1,222 children lower than in the record-breaking previous year, but higher than the 2001–2008 average (102,136 children). The continuously growing tendency from years 2003–2008 in the number of children born and the growing fertility rate was interrupted. This confirmed that the increase in the number of children born was related to the strong population of women born in 1970's, and not to a change of the reproductive behaviour. In spite of the decrease, however, the number of children born in 2009 exceeded the number of deceased persons so that the natural population growth remained positive (in continuous series since 2006), reaching 1.0 ‰.
- The share of children born outside of marriage continued growing**

In a long-term perspective, there was a significant decrease in the share of children born in marriage, and this tendency continued in 2009 as well. While in 1991, the share of children born outside of marriage was 9.8%, in 2001 it was already 23.5% and in 2009 it climbed up to nearly 40%. This is related to the continuously decreasing interest of young people in marriage. The number of marriages (47,862) in 2009 was the lowest ever not only since 2000, but even since 1918. In addition to the reason mentioned above, the weaker population groups in the typical marriage age and partially the reflection of crisis forcing the people to economize more and to spend money for other purposes also played their role. Another reason was the design of conditions for drawing parental benefits, which were more favourable for single mothers.
- Hand in hand with the inflow of foreigners, the share of children born to foreign national mothers was increasing**

The share of children born to mothers with other than Czech nationality increased, from 1.5% in 2005 to 2.6% in 2009 in the overall number of children born (in 2008 it was 2.2%). It reflected the inflow of foreigners to the country, particularly in the years 2007 and 2008. At the end of 2008, the share of foreigners in the total population reached 4.2%; in 2009 it declined to 4.1% due to the lower positive balance. As a result of the crisis, the number of job vacancies – and thus also the possibility of employment for a large number of foreigners – decreased. In total 11,629 persons emigrated, of which 4,167 Slovaks. On contrary, 39,973 persons immigrated. The foreign migration balance of 28,344 persons decreased by more than 43 thousand person compared to 2008.
- The average age of women at child birth decreased in the past year by 0.1 year, on a year-to-year basis**

The average age of women at the birth of the first as well as the next children was continuously increasing. Compared to 2000, it was higher by 2.5 years at the birth of the first child (from 24.9 years to 27.4 years) in 2009. In overall average, the age of women giving birth increased by 2.2 years (from 27.2 years to 29.4 years) in the same period of time. This shift to a higher age brought, together with the increasingly used assisted reproduction and use of hormonal products, also an increase in multiple births. While in 1994 and 1995, there was 1 multiple birth per 100 confinements, since 2005 it has already been 2 multiple births, particularly due to the permanent growth of twin births.

**Table No. 3.1.1 Multiple births**

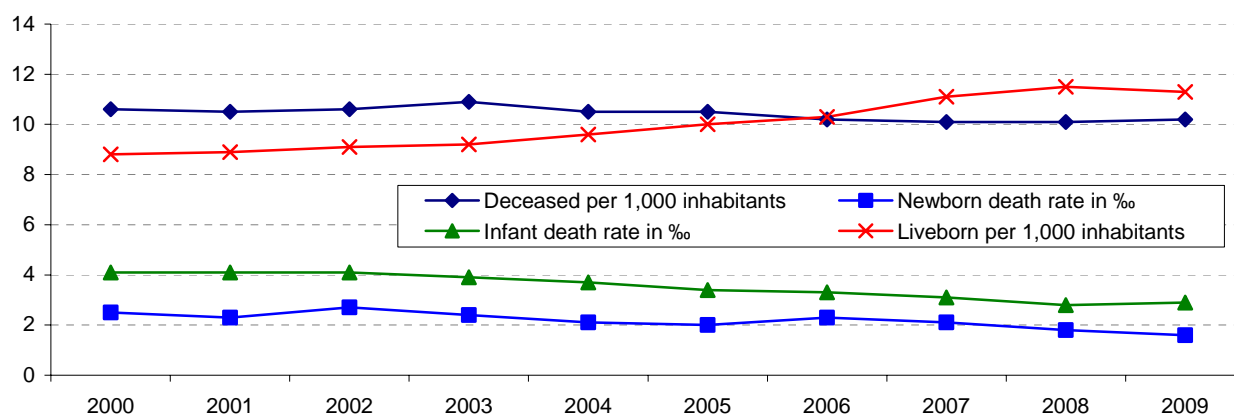
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total births	89754	89425	91502	92335	96078	100546	103985	112605	117429	115000
of which birth of: twins	1368	1525	1502	1591	1813	1926	2115	2298	2381	
triplets	22	11	20	14	19	13	15	22	16	
quadruplets	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Share of multiple births in %	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	

Source: CZSO

- **With the low death rate, particularly as regards newborns and infants, the Czech Republic continues to rank among the most developed countries**

The long-term trend of decreasing death rate at all age groups contributed to the positive natural population growth, although this trend was interrupted in several cases in 2009 compared to 2008. The most significant decrease was recorded with born children up to 1 year of age (infant death rate), dropping from 4.1 ‰ in 2000 to 2.9 ‰ in 2009. In the same period of time, the newborn death rate decreased from 2.5 ‰ to 1.6 ‰, while the total death rate declined from 10.6 ‰ to 10.2 ‰.

**Graph No. 3.1.1 Birth rate and death rate – relative data**



Source: CZSO

- **Longer life expectancy**

Until 2008, the life expectancy (at birth) increased by 2.4 years for men and by 1.8 years for women compared to 2000. This expectancy increased even more significantly in the previous 10-year period (1991 to 2000), by 3.4 years for men and by 2.6 years for women.

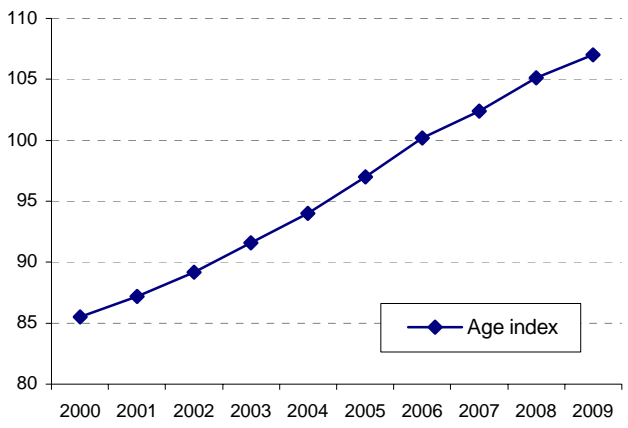
In the development of death rate by cause, the same ranking as in the previous years remained also in 2009. More than a half of the deaths were caused by circulation system disorders; the second place belongs to deaths from neoplasm; external factors were the third most frequent cause of death, of which nearly one-quarter was attributed to suicides. There were 1,464 suicides recorded in 2009, i.e. 85 cases more than in 2008, but 78 suicides less than the annual average of the period 2001–2007.

- **The number of inhabitants has been increasing since 2003; the population is ageing**

As at 31 December 2009, the Czech Republic had 10,506,813 inhabitants, i.e. 39,271 people more than in 2008. A positive year-on-year population growth has been recorded since 2003, primarily due to the predominant (though declining) influence of the high number of immigrant. The population growth due to migration in 2009 contributed 72% to the total population growth (83% in 2008). Among the age groups, the strongest increase was recorded with persons aged 65 years and more (a strong generation from 1944 reached 65 years of age), which resulted in a deterioration of the relationship between the dependent components of population (graphs No. 3.1.2 and 3.1.3). Other strong population groups from the last war year and, particularly, the following post-war years together with the repeated expected decrease in the birth rate will further deteriorate the current situation.

According to preliminary results as at 31 December 2009, the share of children population 14.2% (14.1% in 2008), the share of persons aged 65 years and more increased from 14.9% to 15.2%. The age index deteriorated, on a year-to-year basis, from 105 persons aged 65+ years per 100 children aged 0-14 years to 107 persons. The economic burden index (share of children aged 0-14 years and persons aged 65 years and more per 100 persons aged 15-64 years) increased from 40.9 to 41.7. The average age increased by another 0.1 years against 2008, reaching 40.6 years for both genders (of which 39.1 years for men and 42.1 years for women).

**Graph No. 3.1.2 Age index**  
(number of persons aged 65 years or more per 100 children aged 0-14 years)



**Graph No. 3.1.3 Economic burden index**  
(number of children aged 0-14 years and persons aged 65 years per 100 persons aged 15-64 years)

