

Mean age of working persons has increased by 3.5 years since 2010

17 August 2026

Employment and unemployment in the Czech Republic as measured by the Labour Force Sample Survey – 2nd quarter of 2026

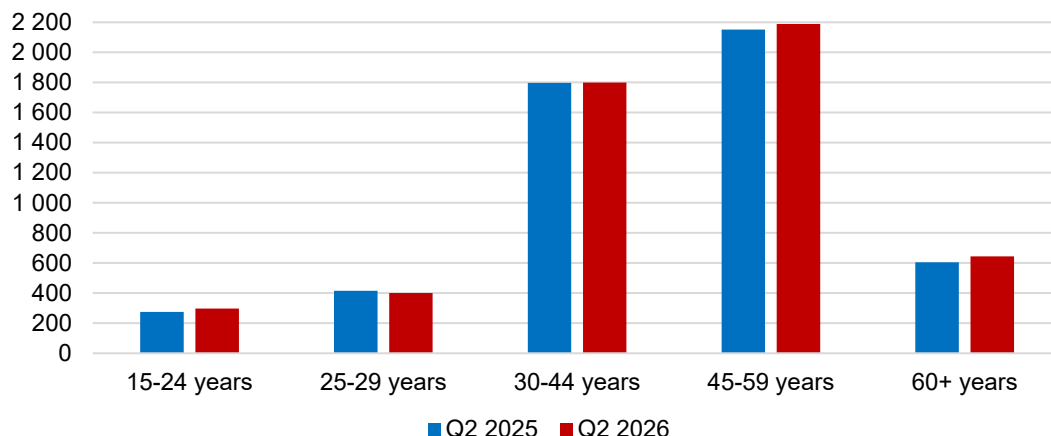
The number of the employed persons was by 87.2 thousand higher, year-on-year (y-o-y); the total employment thus moderately increased. According to the methodology of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the number of the unemployed was by 17.1 thousand higher, y-o-y. The number of the economically inactive aged 15+ years decreased by 31.1 thousand during the same period.

Employment

In the Q2 2026, the seasonally adjusted **average number of employed persons** increased by 28.6 thousand persons, compared to the Q1 2026.

The **number of working persons** aged 15+ years moderately increased, year-on-year. In the Q2 2026, an increment by 87.2 thousand persons (i.e. by 1.7%) resulting in the total of 5 330.7 thousand employed persons was recorded. The increase was mainly owing to an increase in the number of working persons of both sexes – the number of working males increased, year-on-year, by 64.7 thousand; the number of working females by 22.5 thousand. The most marked increment was recorded as for the youngest age category of 15–24 years, where the number of working persons increased by 22.6 thousand persons (i.e. by 8.2%). A considerable increase was also recorded in the age group of 60+ years, where the number of working persons increased by 39.5 thousand (i.e. by 6.5%). A moderate increase was also recorded in the age group of 45–59 years, in which there were by 37.8 thousand working persons more (i.e. by 1.8%). On the other hand, in the age category of 30–44 years, the number of working persons remained almost at the same level when it increased by 2.4 thousand, y-o-y (i.e. by 0.1%). In the age group of 25–29 years, the number of working persons decreased by 15.1 thousand (i.e. by 3.6%). The year-on-year changes in individual age groups are to a considerable extent influenced by the demographic structure of the population and by gradual transfer of persons to higher age categories.

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 relative decrease in the number of working persons was reflected in females in the age group of 25–29 years, the number of whom decreased by 7.3 thousand (i.e. by 4.2%). Conversely, the biggest relative increase was recorded also as for females, this time in the age category of 15–24 years, where their number increased by 14.5 thousand, y-o-y (i.e. by 12.4%).

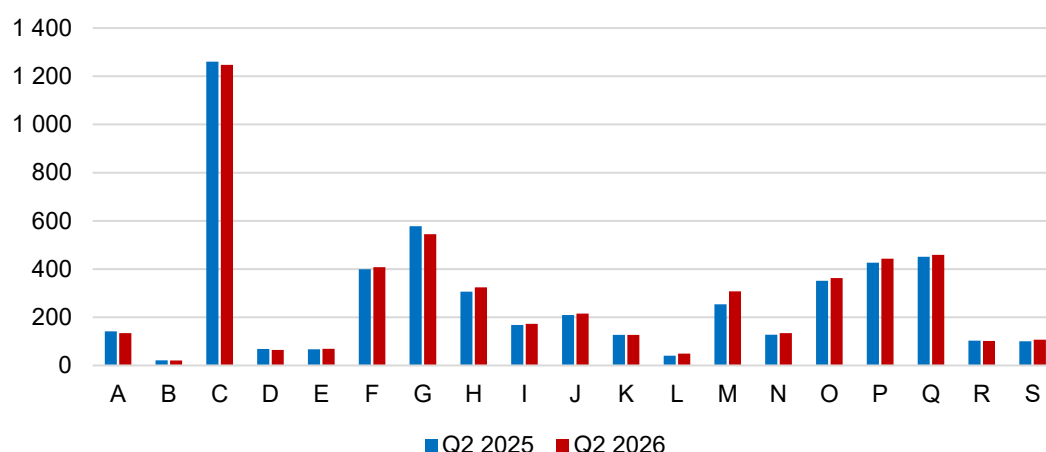
A trend of population ageing is clearly visible on the labour market, which is reflected in the growth of the **mean age of working persons**. During the last 16 years, it increased by 3.5 years – from 41.3 years in the Q2 2010 to 44.8 years in the corresponding period of 2026. Working females are, on average, older than males; in the Q2 2026, their mean age was 45.4 years, whereas as for males it was 44.3 years. This difference is caused, among other things, by the fact that younger females more often leave the labour market due to maternal and parental leave. For comparison: in the corresponding period of 2010, the mean age of working females reached 41.7 years and the male one was 41.0 years.

The number of **employees** increased by 50.2 thousand (i.e. by 1.1% to 4 476.9 thousand persons). The number of **the self-employed** (without unpaid contributing family workers) increased by 35.1 thousand persons. The number of **the self-employed without employees** (own-account workers) was by 43.5 thousand higher (i.e. by 6.3%), whereas the number of **the self-employed with employees** (employers) was by 8.3 thousand lower, year-on-year (i.e. a decrease by 7.2%). In concrete numbers, the number of the self-employed without employees reached 733.9 thousand and the number of the self-employed with employees 106.8 thousand. In the Q2 2026, the share of the self-employed in the total employment was 15.8%, which is by 0.4 percentage point (p. p.) more than in the corresponding period of 2025.

The trend of the workforce ageing is obvious across all groups by status in employment. When compared to the Q2 2010, data up to the Q2 2026 show an increase in the mean age in all of the observed categories. In the most numerous group consisting of employees, the mean age increased by 3.6 years to 44.4 years. The most marked shift was recorded by the self-employed with employees, in whom the mean age increased by 4.6 years to precisely 50.0 years. In the group of the self-employed without employees, there was an increase by 3.2 years to 46.3 years in the same period. What remains to be a specific feature of all those categories is the fact that the mean age of females in all types of status in employment is higher than in males.

According to data for the Q2 2026, the development of employment in individual economic activities (CZ-NACE sections) in Czechia was different¹⁾. In the **primary sector** of agriculture, forestry and fishing, the number of working persons decreased, year-on-year, by 7.4 thousand to 134.1 thousand persons. Employment in the **secondary sector** of industry and construction also moderately decreased; the number of working persons decreased there by 7.8 thousand to 1 809.4 thousand persons. In the **tertiary sector** of services, on the other hand, the total employment increased, y-o-y, namely by 102.2 thousand to 3 386.9 thousand persons (i.e. by 3.1%). In services, the biggest relative increment was recorded in the section of 'real estate activities,' namely by 8.8 thousand persons (i.e. by 21.7%). The section of 'professional, scientific and technical activities' also markedly increased (by 54.1 thousand persons, i.e. by 21.3%). Conversely, a decrease in employment was reflected in the section of 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles,' in which there were by 33.3 thousand persons less (i.e. by 5.8%).

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 – 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.

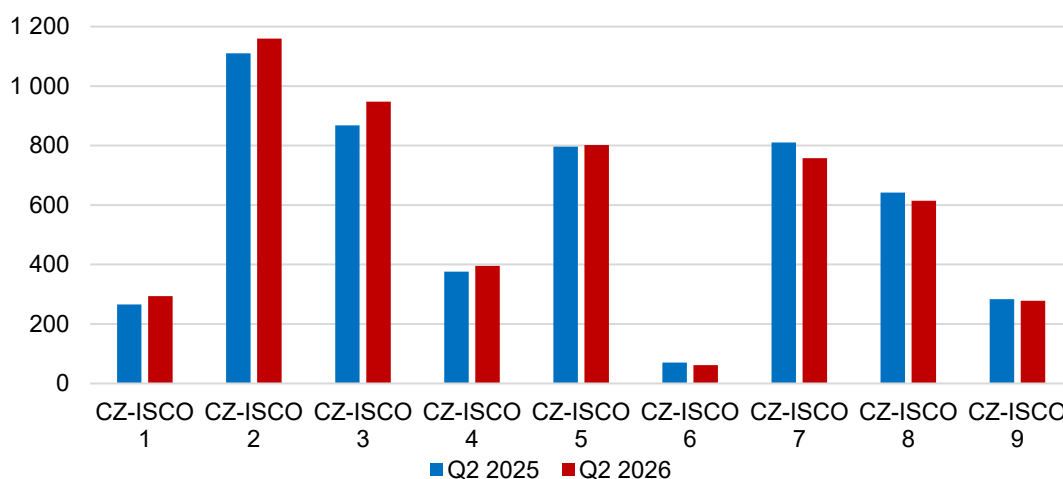
Source: CZSO, LFSS

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 managers (by 27.7 thousand persons, i.e. by 10.4%) and in the major group of technicians and associate professionals (by 79.3 thousand persons, i.e. by 9.1%).

¹⁾ 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.

The biggest decrease in the number of working persons occurred in the major group of craft and related trades workers (by 52.7 thousand persons, i.e. by 6.5%). The most marked relative decrease was in the major group of skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers (by 8.3 thousand persons, i.e. by 11.8%).

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 structure of **working persons according to the educational attainment** also develops along with the mentioned changes in the employment structure. The number of working persons with **primary education** dropped by 18.2 thousand to 222.8 thousand persons and the number of the employed with **secondary education without A-level examination** decreased by 35.8 thousand to 1 541.5 thousand persons. On the other hand, the number of working persons with **secondary education with A-level examination** increased, year-on-year, by 37.5 thousand to 1 966.4 thousand persons. The biggest increase occurred in persons with **tertiary education** the number of whom increased by 102.5 thousand to 1 598.0 thousand. This increase mainly applied to males with tertiary education the number of whom increased by 58.4 thousand, year-on-year, whereas in females with tertiary education it increased by 44.2 thousand.

The **employment rate** (the percentage of working persons in the age group of 15–64 years old) reached 76.1% in the Q2 2026; compared to the corresponding period of the previous year it thus increased by 0.4 percentage point. The male employment rate was 80.4%, which is a year-on-year increment by 0.2 p. p., the female one reached 71.7% with a y-o-y increase by 0.4 p. p.

Ongoing development of **part-time jobs in main employment** also had an influence on the growth of the total employment. Their number in individual quarters has been constantly increasing during the last years.

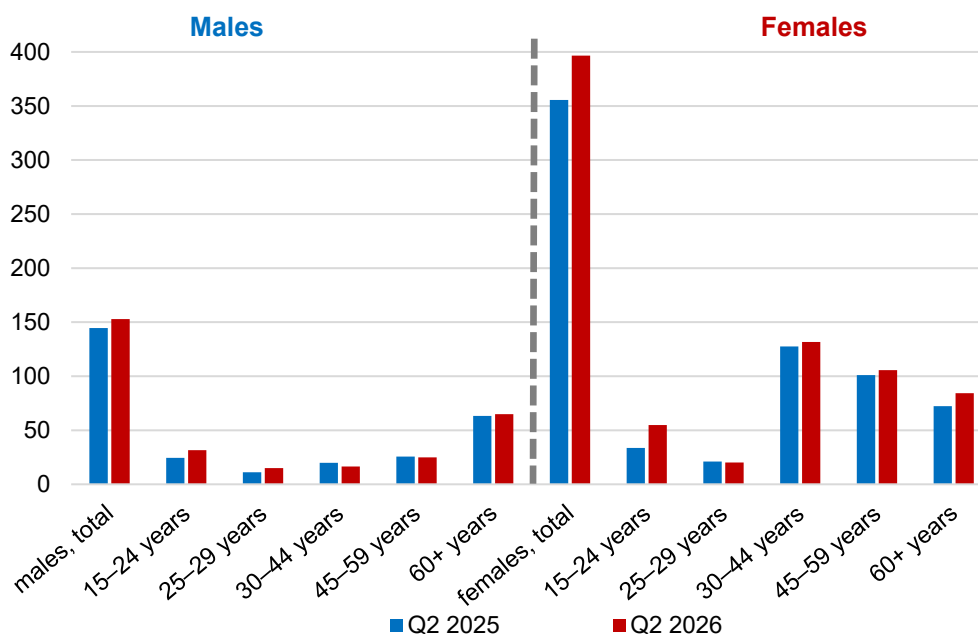
In the Q2 2026, 549.4 thousand persons worked part-time, which was by 49.3 thousand more, year-on-year (an increase by 9.9%). In the Q2 2018, 387.9 thousand persons worked part-time; their number increased during the last eight years by 161.5 thousand (i.e. an increase by 41.6%).

In the Q2 2026, the number of part-time jobs mainly increased among females, in whom it increased, year-on-year, by 40.9 thousand persons (by 11.5%). As for males, the growth was not so pronounced, the y-o-y increment was 8.4 thousand persons (i.e. 5.8%).

In the reference period, 396.5 thousand females worked part-time, which was 72.2% of all persons using this type of employment. Reduced working hours provided them greater flexibility, especially when carrying their caring responsibilities. Females worked part-time most often in 'education,' 'human health and social work activities,' and in the section of 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles'. From the total number of all employed females, 16.0% worked part-time. Females gave most often the following reasons for that: other personal reasons (82.1 thousand), childcare or care for an adult person (77.0 thousand), or the fact that another job was unavailable (57.7 thousand). The highest number of females working part-time was in the age of 30–44 years (131.6 thousand, i.e. 33.2% of females working part-time).

Males used reduced working hours significantly less. 152.9 thousand of them worked part-time, which is only 5.4% of all working males. They were employed most often in 'manufacturing,' 'education,' and also in the section of 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles'. Males worked part-time most often due to "other personal reasons" (43.5 thousand). As for age, the highest number of them was in the group of the 60+ years old (64.9 thousand, i.e. 42.5%). The data confirm that there is a different motivation of both sexes: while females primarily use part-time jobs in relation to caring for small children, males choose them rather in their higher age.

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

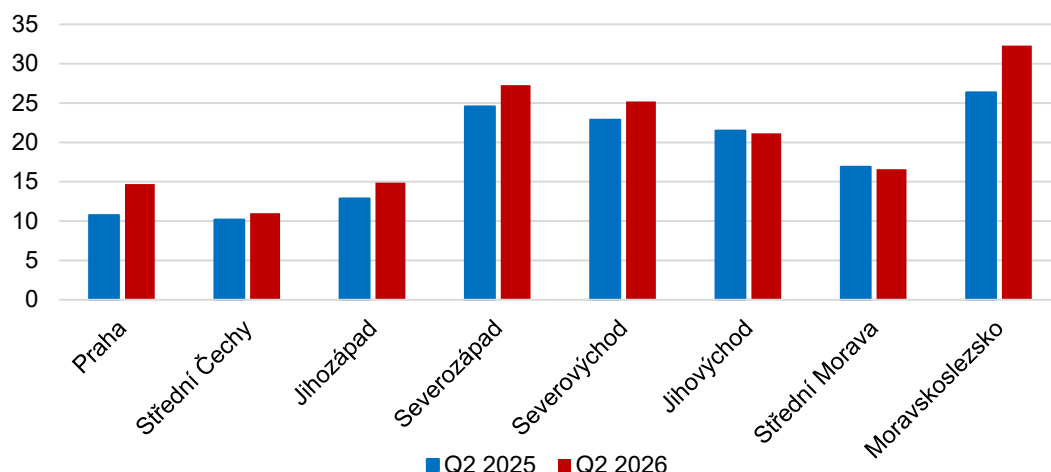


Source: CZSO, LFSS

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted **average number of unemployed persons according to the ILO methodology**²⁾ increased in the Q2 2026 by 0.9 thousand, compared to that in the Q1 2026.

Chart 5: The number of the unemployed in cohesion regions of the Czech Republic (thousand)



Source: CZSO, LFSS

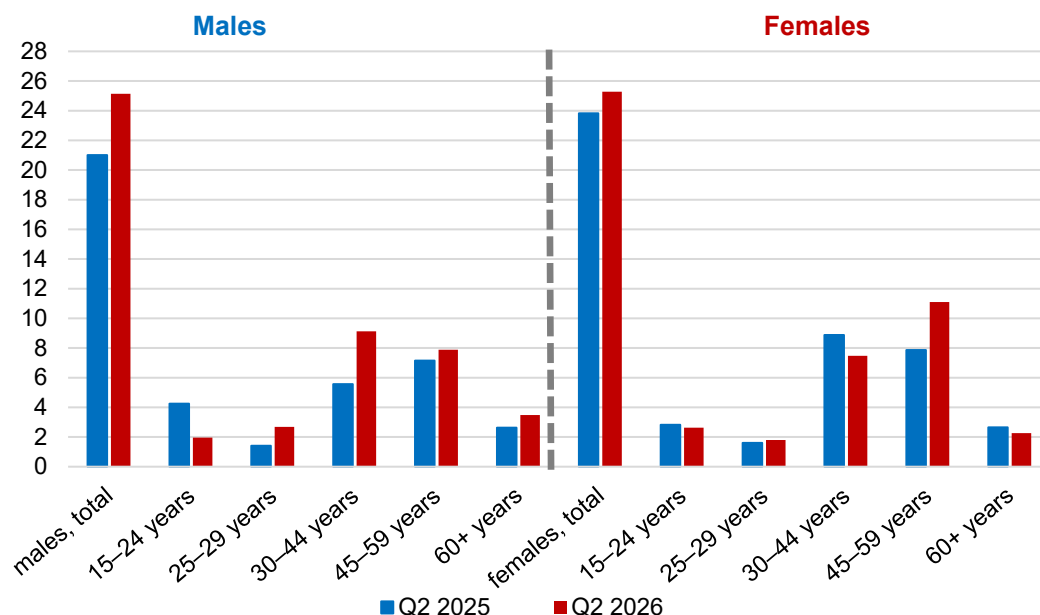
The total **number of the unemployed aged 15+ years** increased, year-on-year, by 17.1 thousand to 163.1 thousand persons. The number of the unemployed females increased by 10.6 thousand to 85.1 thousand, whereas as for males, there was an increase by 6.5 thousand to 78.0 thousand. This unfavourable development often affects persons in younger middle age – the most numerous group consisted of people in the age category of 30–44 years; concretely, it was 25.0 thousand males and 26.3 thousand females.

The number of persons **unemployed for one year and longer**, i.e. the long-term unemployed, has also increased. Year-on-year, their number increased by 5.6 thousand to 50.4 thousand persons. In the Q2 2026, the long-term unemployed made 30.9% of all the unemployed. A more marked increase was recorded for males the number of whom increased by 4.1 thousand, y-o-y, whereas among females, the number of the long-term unemployed increased by 1.5 thousand.

The number of the long-term unemployed males was 25.1 thousand in total; most of them were in the age of 30–44 years (9.1 thousand). In females, the number was 25.3 thousand and the most numerous one was the age group of 45–59 years (11.1 thousand).

²⁾ 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.

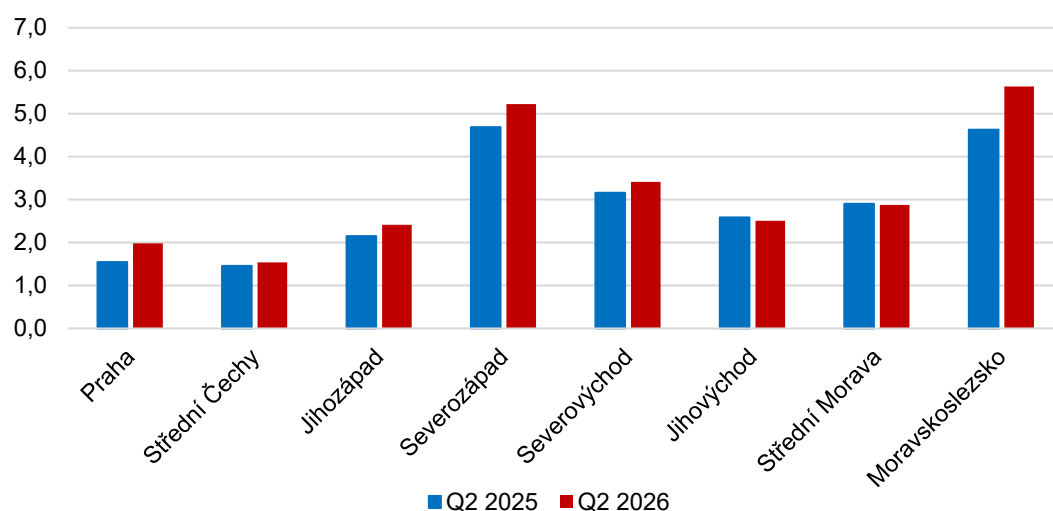
Chart 6: The number of persons unemployed for one year and longer and their age structure (thousand)



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 Q2 2026 it was 3.1%.

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



Source: CZSO, LFSS

In terms of comparison of **cohesion regions**, the general unemployment rate of persons aged 15–64 years was the highest in the *Moravskoslezsko* cohesion region (5.6%) and in the *Severozápad* cohesion region (5.2%). On the other hand, the lowest figures were reported by the *Střední Čechy* cohesion region (1.5%), the *Praha* cohesion region (2.0%), and the *Jihozápad* cohesion region (2.4%). The unemployment rate increased, year-on-year, in almost all areas; in the *Střední Morava* cohesion region it remained on the same level (2.9%) and in the *Jihovýchod* cohesion region it decreased by 0.1 p. p. to 2.5%.

Economic inactivity

The **number of economically inactive persons aged 15+ years** decreased by 31.1 thousand, year-on-year, to 3 426.4 thousand. The number of economically inactive males decreased by 32.9 thousand to 1 390.5 thousand, whereas the number of economically inactive females was by 1.8 thousand higher than a year ago, i.e. 2 035.9 thousand in total.

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 express their wish to work. In the Q2 2026, the number of economically inactive persons willing to work reached 79.3 thousand, which is by 3.5 thousand less than in the corresponding period of 2025.

Nevertheless, the number of persons who would like to work, yet they are not able to start in a job immediately, remains relatively high. Only 18.8 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.

Starting with the first quarter of 2026, results in the quarterly analysis are published in the territorial breakdown at the NUTS 2 level (cohesion regions) instead of the previous NUTS 3 level (Regions).

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