

### Job Seekers placed in Retraining Courses

(Graph 28)

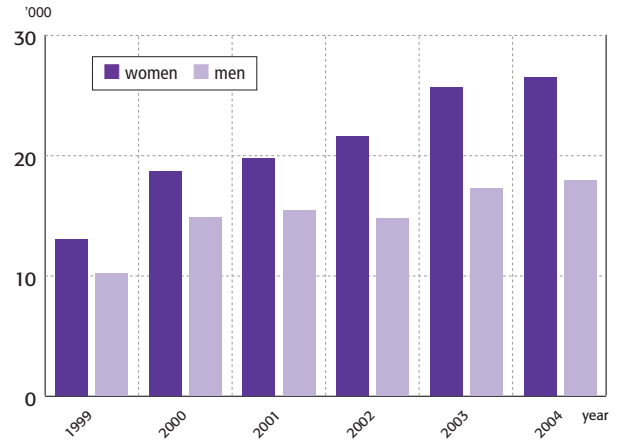
Source: MLSA of the CR (data for 1999–2004)

A job seeker means everybody who is not in an employment or analogous relationship, and who is not self-employed or preparing systematically for an occupation and who personally seeks appropriate employment at the Labour Office on the basis of a written application.

Retraining means a change in the job seeker's current qualification necessary in order to acquire new know-how and skills through theoretical or practical training, which will enable the job seeker to find suitable employment.

In 2004, there were 44,089 job seekers undergoing retraining, of which 59.5 % were women, which represents an increase of 3.5 percentage points against 1999, while the proportion of men fell by the same number. Ever more people are interested in retraining: from 1999 to 2004, their number rose by 21,151, which represents an increase of 92.2 %. The proportion of women in this increase is 63.2 %. Women thus show greater interest in retraining than men.

Graph 28: Job Seekers Placed in Retraining Courses



## Social Benefits

(Table 10)

Source: MLSA statistics – data for 2004

The number of paid parental benefits – monthly average for 2004.

As of 1.1.2004, changes were introduced in the conditions of payment for parental benefit (e.g. the amount of gainful activity is no longer decisive). With effect from 1.5.2004 the benefit rose from 1.1 times the minimum wage to 1.5 times the minimum wage. Parental benefit thus rose from CZK 2,500 to CZK 3,500.

The data does not include pensions paid abroad and are an aggregate of reduced and permanently fixed pensions.

Women are more often the recipients of social benefits than men. The largest proportion of women (98.9 %) is among recipients of parental benefit, while women comprise 88.1 % of the recipients of widow's/ widower's pensions, and 87.2 % of all recipients of old-age and widow's/ widower's pensions concurrently. Only in the case of old-age pension is there near parity (women make up 56.3 %). Women are disadvantaged, however, when it comes to the size of pension paid: their old-age pension is only 81.2 % that for men, and women receive on average CZK 1,531 less than men every month. When the old-age pension is combined with the widow's pension this figure falls to CZK 998. The average widow's monthly pension is CZK 1,166, or 30.2 % higher than the widower's pension.

Table 10: Social Benefits in 2004

|                                              |                                    | Women   | Men     |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| <b>Parental benefit</b>                      | no. of allowances                  | 268,363 | 3,021   |
|                                              | <b>Independent old-age pension</b> |         |         |
|                                              | number of persons                  | 769,885 | 598,755 |
|                                              | average amount (in CZK)            | 6,610   | 8,141   |
| <b>Old-age and widow's/widower's pension</b> | number of persons                  | 483,874 | 71,214  |
|                                              | average amount (in CZK)            | 8,080   | 9,078   |
| <b>Independent widow's/widower's pension</b> | number of persons                  | 55,839  | 7,535   |
|                                              | average amount (in CZK)            | 5,028   | 3,862   |