

## Changes in the structure of households focusing on families with small children and one-person households

### Introduction

The Labour Force Sample Survey is the source, which in the period between censuses provides the basic information about changes in the structure of private households (PH) of persons who share rooms and basic expenditures (on food, housing costs, etc.).

Changes in demographics are immediately reflected in the structure of households. In the period from the last population and housing censuses, i.e. between 2002 and 2009, the total number of private households increased by 415.3 thousand, i.e. by more than 10%. The most frequent group of two-parent families recorded a slower growth (by less than 4%). In accordance with the total growth of private households, the number of lone-parent families increased (in seven years by more than 14%). However, the fastest growth was recorded in the number of one-person households (by more than 30%). The share of one-person private households grossed up to the total population aged 15+ accounted for more than 10% in 2002, it made almost 12% in 2005, and in 2009 it exceeded 13% of the population. One-person households contributed by two thirds to the total increase of private households in the observed period.

### Development in the number of households by type: 2002-2009

Type of household	Number (thous.)			Increase/decrease 2009-2002	
	2002	2005	2009	abs. (thous.)	(%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 950.9</b>	<b>4 099.7</b>	<b>4 366.2</b>	<b>415.3</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Two-parent families	2 544.6	2 551.9	2 641.7	97.1	3.8
Lone-parent families	392.5	420.4	449.2	56.7	14.4
Individuals	904.7	1 027.4	1 180.6	275.8	30.5
More members but not a family	109.1	100.0	94.8	-14.3	-13.1

Source: CZSO – LFSS

*Note: The conception of private households is more suitable for evaluation of mutual economic links than the conception of census households (CH) based on family or other relationships within one private household. At the same time, cases of more census households living together within one private household are very rare in our conditions – PH/CH index in censuses 2001 reached 98.7%, according to LFSS results in 2002 it was 97.5% and this share was steadily growing to reach 98.8% in 2009.*

Position of a family in the labour market as regards the family life and professional life harmonization is one of current problems of the family policy. The first part of the analysis will show the position of parents in the labour market according to their economic activity and in connection with the age of the youngest child living in the household. Part-time job opportunities both for mothers and fathers living with a small child give a more detailed view on this problem. The second part of the analysis addresses the recent phenomenon, i.e. the growing number of one-person households due to larger individualization of young people as well as the population ageing caused by generally longer life expectancy.

### Family households in the labour market: development of economic activity of mothers and fathers in terms of the age of children

The initial indicator for definition of economic activity within a family is the age of the youngest child, since it is supposed that the greatest care is always devoted to the youngest child within the household and, therefore, particularly the youngest child's age influences the economic involvement of individual members of the household. For purposes of the analysis, especially two-parent families are defined, which are characterized by partner links, regardless whether the partners live with children or without children. Lone-parent families (one parent living with a child) are analysed as well. For easier

interpretation, the age of the youngest child in the household is divided into 3 basic categories (0-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-14 years).

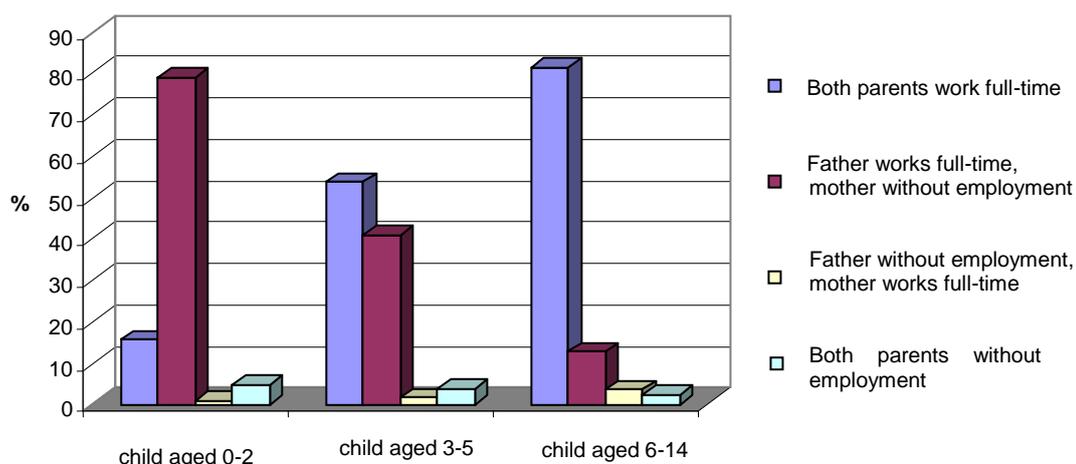
This part of the analysis is based on the assumption that the youngest child influences quite essentially the economic activity of partners or a lone parent. In terms of methodology it is therefore necessary to define the economic activity first of all. The LFSS follows the proposal of the International Labour Office (ILO) and defines three basic types of the economic activity:

**Employed** – persons who were in paid employment or self-employment during the reference week.

**Unemployed** – persons without employment who were actively seeking work and who were able to start work within a fortnight.

**Economically inactive** – persons who do not meet the definition of an employed or unemployed person.

**Graph no. 1: Employment in two-parent families in the Czech Republic: by the youngest child's age, 2002-2009**



Source: CZSO – LFSS

Economic activity of parents in the Czech Republic is largely dependent on the age of the youngest child in the family. In families with the youngest child under 3 years of age the traditional model prevails, i.e. father works and mother is without employment (in the period 2002-2009 they accounted for 78.8% on average). In case of the youngest child aged 3-5 years, there is almost a balance in models where both partners work (53.7%) or where only father works and mother remains without employment (41%). The model where both parents work clearly prevails in families with the youngest child aged 6-14 years (in the period 2002-2009 they accounted for 81.4%). Of a little importance is the category where both parents do not work and quite marginal is the alternative where mother works but father is without employment.

**Employment rate of women aged 20-49 in the Czech Republic: by the youngest child's age, 2002-2009**

Year	Women aged 20-49, total	Youngest child aged 0-2	Youngest child aged 3-5	Youngest child aged 6-14
2002	69.7	16.2	52.3	83.8
2004	67.8	14.9	52.6	83.1
2006	68.3	16.5	54.8	84.6
2007	68.8	16.2	54.5	84.6
2008	68.6	14.9	56.7	87.2
2009	67.0	16.4	58.9	86.7

Source: CZSO – LFSS

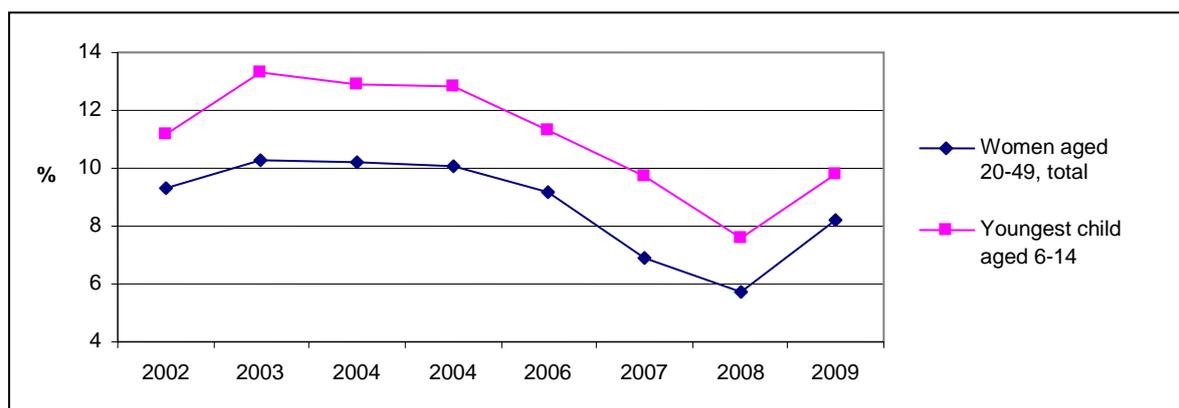
Between years 2008 and 2009 the labour market recorded one of most fundamental changes in its history. In 2008 the Czech Republic was characterized by high employment rates and, in particular, by very low unemployment rates. The global economic crisis in 2008, which affected the Czech Republic

mainly in 2009, caused an extreme slump in the rate of employment and, naturally, also a relatively big jump in the general unemployment rate from 4.4% in Q4 2008 up to 7.3% in Q4 2009.

The economic crisis naturally influenced young families as well, although quite differently. In general, the employment rate of women aged 20-49 decreased, but if we take women aged 20-49 living in a household with the youngest child under 6 years of age we discover to our surprise that the employment rate of women increased year-on-year approximately by two percentage points. This phenomenon is attributable to the fact that women did not postpone their return to work due to economic crisis because they were afraid they would not find a job at a later date. This applies particularly to women who would lose their entitlement to return to work if they received the parental benefit even in the fourth year, because the parental leave itself is claimed only for three years. Contributory factor in this regard may be introduction of so-called three-speed parental leave since 2008, when especially mothers started to use the opportunity to stay on parental leave only for two years. By contrast, the employment rate of women aged 20-49 with the youngest child aged 6-14 dropped from 87.2% in 2008 to 86.7% in 2009.

The analysis of unemployment in young families requires a different procedure than the analysis of employment. In case of the youngest child under 4 years of age it is useless to examine the level of unemployment in detail, because the number of unemployed women with a child at that age will be relatively low – economic inactivity will clearly prevail. For this reason it is more suitable to relate the unemployment rate to the number of women aged 20-49 living with the youngest child aged 4-14. Throughout the period 2002-2009 it is quite evident that young mothers with children show a higher rate of unemployment (the difference ranges between 1.6-3.0 percentage points) in comparison with the unemployment rate of women in general. Due to economic crisis the trend of declining unemployment from 2003-2008 stopped and the unemployment rate in 2009 increased from 5.7% to 8.2% for all women, however, for women with the youngest child aged 4-14 from 7.6% to 9.8%.

**Graph no. 2: Unemployment rate of women aged 20-49 in the Czech Republic (%)**



Source: CZSO - LFSS

The family and professional life harmonization becomes one of main topics of the family policy. Choice of the work time duration evidently improves the possibility to harmonize the family and professional “obligations”. Full-time and part-time employments are usual options for this purpose.

Definition of the work time duration in the LFSS depends on the respondent's point of view taking into account the usual time worked by the respondent. Generally, the labour market recorded no significant increase in part-time employments during the last 10 years. In 2000 there were 5.6% of part-time employees out of the total number of employed persons and in 2009 it was only slightly more (5.9%). Similar is a detailed view according to the work time of partners living with the youngest child aged under 16 on the average throughout the observed period 2002-2009. The model where both partners work full-time clearly prevails – approximately a half of cases (in the period 2002-2009 this model recorded a downward trend – from 52% to 48%). 36.6% participated in the labour market according to the traditional model, i.e. father works full-time and mother is without employment. The category where father works full-time and mother works part-time accounted only for 6.8%, while it remained practically unchanged. The total share of cases where at least one parent worked part-time was 7.6%. In contrast to Northern but also Western Europe it is quite incomparable share. For example, according to the internationally comparable methodology of LFSS across the EU, the Netherlands

have 75% of women who work part-time, in Nordic countries and also in Austria and Germany it is approx. 40%, while young mothers with children are supposed to make even a bigger share.

**Participation of families with the youngest child aged 0-14 in the Czech labour market (average of 2002-2009)**

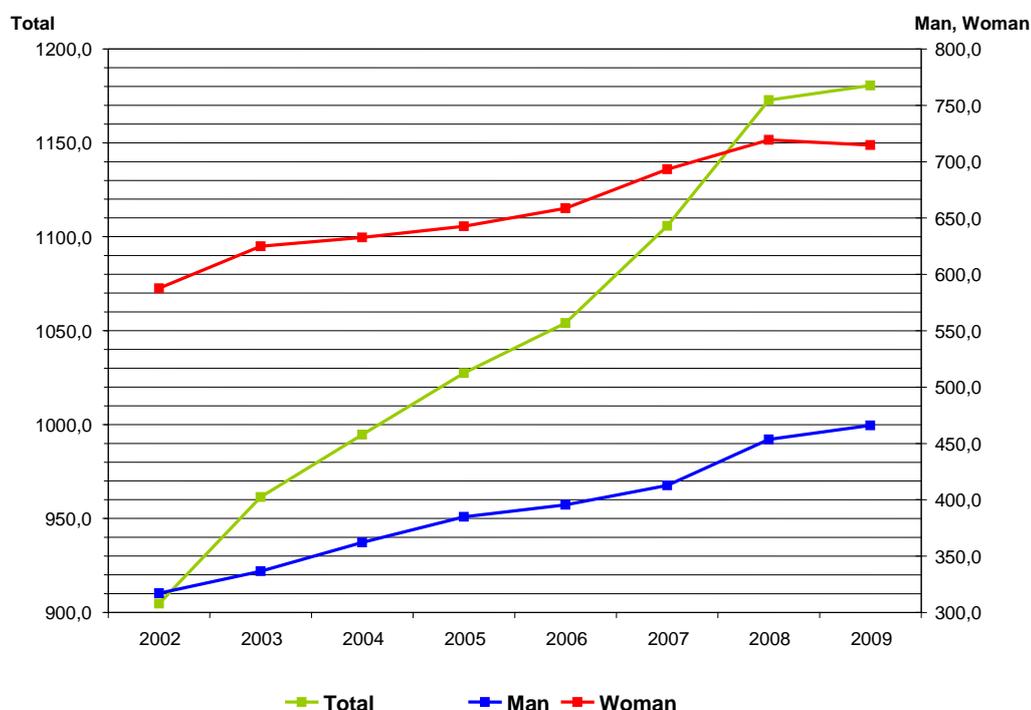
Possibilities of participation in labour market	%
Total	100.0
Both parents work full-time	50.3
Father works full-time, mother works part-time	6.8
Father works full-time, mother without employment	36.6
Father works part-time, mother works part-time	0.3
Father works part-time, mother without employment	0.1
Father without employment, mother works full time	0.2
Father without employment, mother works full-time	2.2
Father without employment, mother works part-time	0.2
Both parents without employment	3.3

Source: CZSO - LFSS

**Development in the number of one-person households, changes in the structure of one-person households**

The share of one-person households increased in all age groups. As a result of shifts in the age structure, their number within the young and middle productive age increased the most in the five-year age group of 30-34, which was clearly the largest five-year age group within the whole population in 2009. The total high increase of one-person private households during seven years was largely caused by significant growth of one-person households run by individuals at the pre-retirement and especially retirement age. Frequency of one-person households in the age group 55+ increased by 139.3 thousand, which represented more than a half of the high overall growth in the number of households of this type.

**Graph no. 3: Development in the number of one-person households: by sex, 2002-2009**



Source: CZSO - LFSS

The growth was registered in all five-year age groups of men and almost in all age groups of women. Results of the survey show that the absolutely biggest increase was recorded in the number of one-woman households run by female individuals aged 65 and over.

### Development in the number of one-person households between years 2002 and 2009: by age group and by sex

One-person households	Thousand											
	2002			2005			2009			Difference 2009/2002		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
<b>Total</b>	<b>904.7</b>	<b>317.1</b>	<b>587.6</b>	<b>1027.4</b>	<b>384.8</b>	<b>642.6</b>	<b>1180.6</b>	<b>465.8</b>	<b>714.7</b>	<b>275.8</b>	<b>148.7</b>	<b>127.1</b>
Age groups:												
15-19	2.3	1.0	1.3	3.2	1.7	1.5	2.4	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.2	-0.1
20-24	26.1	11.3	14.8	27.9	16.2	11.7	40.5	22.2	18.4	14.4	10.8	3.6
25-29	46.9	29.6	17.3	54.5	33.9	20.6	68.9	40.2	28.7	22.0	10.6	11.4
30-34	31.5	24.2	7.3	46.9	33.3	13.6	77.6	53.7	23.9	46.1	29.5	16.6
35-39	30.9	23.7	7.2	36.4	27.7	8.6	50.7	39.5	11.2	19.9	15.9	4.0
40-44	31.7	23.2	8.5	38.8	28.3	10.4	45.8	33.2	12.6	14.1	10.0	4.2
45-49	44.3	26.3	18.0	53.5	34.5	19.0	55.4	35.1	20.3	11.0	8.8	2.3
50-54	68.6	31.7	36.9	74.1	37.9	36.1	77.6	41.5	36.1	9.0	9.8	-0.8
55-59	77.1	32.8	44.2	94.4	37.8	56.6	109.8	48.1	61.7	32.8	15.2	17.5
60-64	80.3	22.2	58.2	99.2	31.4	67.9	123.1	44.2	78.9	42.8	22.0	20.8
65+	465.2	91.1	374.0	498.4	102.0	396.4	528.8	107.0	421.8	63.7	15.9	47.8

Source: CZSO - LFSS

One in four private households (27%) in our republic is a one-person household. However, this share is different in individual regions. In most regions it ranges between 22-27%, the Karlovarský and Jihočeský Region recorded 28% in the last year. In comparison with other regions the share of one-person households was markedly higher in the capital where it approximated to 40% (38.5%) of all private households in Prague in 2009. More than 226 thousand households of this type represent an important social and demographic factor for the capital. Every fifth Prager aged 15 and over runs his/her household and overwhelmingly lives alone.

These differences bring about also big regional differences in relation between two most frequent types of private households, i.e. two-parent families and individuals. Almost in all regions the number of two-parent families is still significantly higher than the number of individuals (at least twice). A different situation is in Prague where the number of two-parent families exceeds the number of individuals by a mere quarter.

### Share of one-person households in the total number of private households and relation between the number of two-parent families and the number of individuals

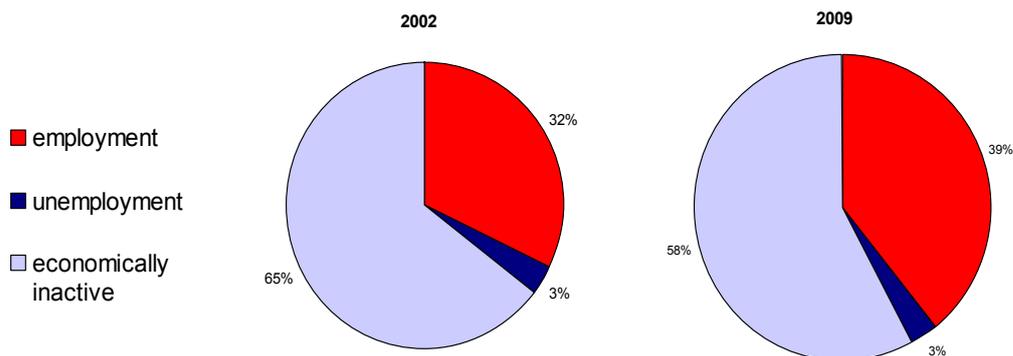
Region	Thousands		
	Number of individuals (I)	Share of individuals (I) in total number of private households (PH)	Index TPF/I
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 180.6</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Hl. m. Praha	226.1	38.5	1.3
Středočeský	126.6	25.0	2.5
Jihočeský	76.3	28.4	2.1
Plzeňský	53.7	23.0	2.8
Karlovarský	37.0	28.1	2.0
Ústecký	94.9	26.5	2.2
Liberecký	45.9	25.7	2.4
Královéhradecký	59.1	26.2	2.4
Pardubický	48.9	23.7	2.8
Vysočina	48.8	24.3	2.7
Jihomoravský	100.0	22.2	2.9
Olomoucký	64.5	24.7	2.6
Zlínský	54.7	23.7	2.7
Moravskoslezský	144.0	27.3	2.2

Source: CZSO – LFSS

Significant changes were registered in the economic status of heads of one-person households. Although there are mainly inactive persons inhabiting these households, in particular the number of employed individuals living in one-person households increased in the observed period. Their number has increased 1.6 times since 2002, i.e. much more than e.g. the number of households of economically inactive pensioners.

In 2002 the number of economically inactive individuals doubly exceeded the number of employed individuals (581.9 thousand to 291.8 thousand). However, in 2005 this ratio was 1.8 and in the last year only 1.5 (682.8 thousand to 461.3 thousand). In seven years, the number of private households of employed individuals increased by more than 169 thousand, i.e. by almost 69 thousand more than the increase in the number of private households of economically inactive individuals.

**Graph no. 4: Share of persons in one-person households by their economic status: in years 2002 and 2009**



Source: CZSO - LFSS

*Note: Economic status corresponds with economic activity of respondents in the reference period. For example, if students or old age pensioners work for at least 1 hour in the reference week, they are classified as employed.*

Within the whole scale of young and middle productive age, one-person households of employed persons prevail. The number of persons who still work and run their households alone increased even in the elderly population group. A significant growth was recorded in the number of working individuals in the age group 55-59, in the threshold group 60-64, and it slightly increased even in the group of persons who reached at least 65 years.

Somewhat different was the situation in cases of economically inactive respondents. In this prevailing type of one-person private households, only the number of inactive persons in the age group 20-24 (mostly students at tertiary level) is higher among younger age groups. The number of inactive persons is rising after reaching the age of 50 and rises sharply with age so that after reaching 65 years and over it exceeds the limit of a half million persons. About one in ten unemployed runs his/her household alone, while most of them were among fifty-year old persons. Compared to 2002 the number of households of unemployed individuals did not change too much, but compared to 2007 and 2008 the growing unemployment in the last year was reflected in a higher frequency of this category of households.

## Economic activity of persons in one-person households in 2009: by age groups

Thousand				
Age group	Total	Employed	Inactive	Unemployed
<b>Total</b>	<b>1180.6</b>	<b>461.3</b>	<b>682.8</b>	<b>36.5</b>
15-19	2.4	0.8	1.2	0.3
20-24	40.5	22.5	14.7	3.3
25-29	68.9	59.7	5.1	4.1
30-34	77.6	71.7	2.8	3.1
35-39	50.7	44.8	2.0	3.9
40-44	45.8	39.6	3.7	2.5
45-49	55.4	45.3	5.8	4.3
50-54	77.6	60.8	10.9	5.9
55-59	109.8	67.5	35.4	7.0
60-64	123.1	27.5	93.6	2.1
65+	528.8	21.0	507.7	0.1

Source: CZSO – LFSS

\* \* \* \* \*

Even at the beginning of the new millennium the traditional division of roles prevails in case of parents with the youngest child up to two years of age, i.e. father works and mother is at home. After termination of the parental leave of mothers in most cases, the model of full employment in families clearly prevails. At the same time, the labour market in the Czech Republic is not very favourable to mothers with children up to 15 years of age, because the risk of losing job or failure to find a job after return from home is significantly higher than in case of the same age childless women or women with an older child. Thus, the number of economically inactive mothers living in a household with a small child aged 6-14 is relatively low.

Moreover, the whole period 2002-2009 is characteristic by low share of part-time jobs, especially mothers do not take advantage of taking care of children at home combined with part-time employment. Introduction of the three-speed parental leave brought about a higher employment rate among women with the youngest child aged 3 to 5 and its adoption offset the economic crisis influence on the decreasing level of employment.

Throughout the observed period 2002-2009 there was a marked growth in the number of one-person private households; 13% of the CR population aged 15+ occupied and run this type of households in the last year. Extremely high is the share of these individuals in Prague where they account for more than one fifth of all Praguers aged 15+.

Although economically inactive persons, especially pensioners, predominate among individuals running their households alone, there was a strong increase in the number of employed individuals in mentioned years. The upward trend in the total number of single persons running the household is caused not only by the population ageing and the growing number of one-person households run by older people, but also by other socio-economic factors. A significant part of the younger and middle productive age population works and at the same time runs and usually occupies the household alone. Last year, it was already 390 thousand persons aged 25-60, i.e. by 143 thousand more compared to 2002.