## Definitions of demographic events valid in the past

**Definition of the population**

Until 1949, population statistics was based on the present population concept, since 1950 on the resident population concept which is based on the place of registered residence.

In the practice of the Czech and the former Czechoslovak demographic statistics, since 1950 not only citizens of the Czech Republic (or former Czechoslovakia) are considered to be residents, but all persons who were registered for residence in a given territory at reference time, i.e. including foreigners. Until 2000, the data only referred to the population with permanent residence in the Czech Republic (irrespective of their citizenship). From 1 January 2001 to 1 May 2004, following the 2001 Census of population, houses and dwellings, the data also newly included foreigners with temporary residence on a visa for a stay over 90 days and foreigners with valid asylum status in the Czech Republic.

**Definitions of the divorce**

In the years 1919–1949, divorces included only dissolutions of marriage which, according to the valid legislation at the time, corresponded to divorce in its current meaning. Since 1950, divorce has been the only form of legal termination of a marriage.

The conditions for divorce are set by law. In the period from 1 January 1950 to 31 March 1964 they were defined in the Family Law Act, from 1 April 1964 to 31 December 2013 by the Family Act (the number and structure of divorces were significantly affected by its amendment by the Act No 91/1998 Sb effective from 1 August 1998), and since 1 January 2014 conditions for divorce have been defined by the Act No 89/2012 Sb, the Civil Code (so-called ‘the New Civil Code’).

Since 2007, the CZSO has been receiving from the data warehouse of the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic data only on divorces, while up to this year, it had data on all divorce petitions.

**Definitions of live birth/stillbirth**

Until 1948, the international definition of live birth was effective in the Czech Republic (or in the Czechoslovak Republic), according to which the foetus with recognized signs of respiration or heartbeat (regardless of its gestational age) was considered to be a live-born child, and the definition of stillbirth, according to which the stillborn foetus born after the 28th week of pregnancy was considered to be a stillborn child.

In the years 1949–1952 according to the national definition, a foetus had to weigh at least 400 g to be considered to be a child. Whether it was a live-born or stillborn child depended on whether the foetus showed any evidence of life at birth or not.

In the years 1953–1964, a foetus measuring at least 35 cm and weighing at least 1,000 g, and whose gestational age was at least 28 weeks was considered to be a child (all three criteria had to be met). A live-born child was considered to be one that breathed at least once after birth, either spontaneously or after being resuscitated. The live birth was also a foetus which was born alive and did not meet these criteria but survived for 24 hours. In the case of multiple births, at least one foetus had to fulfil all criteria of a child and all foetuses from the pregnancy were considered to be children.

In the period from 1 January 1965 to 29 February 1988, internationally recommended definitions of a child were effective in the Czech Republic, according to which: a birth of a live foetus (a live-born foetus) is a complete expulsion or extraction of a foetus from its mother (regardless of its gestational age) provided that the foetus after the delivery is breathing or shows other evidence of life such as the beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or movement of voluntary muscles, although the umbilical cord had not been cut or the placenta had not been delivered; a birth of a dead foetus (a stillborn foetus) is a birth of a foetus that died prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother (regardless of its gestational age). The death is indicated by the fact that the foetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as the beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles (the Decree of the Ministry of Health No 194/1964 Sb). A foetus born after 28 weeks of pregnancy or, when the duration of pregnancy could not be determined, a foetus weighing at least 1,000 g is considered to be a stillborn child.

In the period from 1 March 1988 to 31 March 2012, live birth was defined by the Decree of the Ministry of Health No 11/1988 Sb, on Mandatory Notifications of Terminated Pregnancies, Death of a Child, and Death of the Mother, as the complete expulsion or extraction of a child from its mother provided that the child showed at least one evidence of life and its birth weight was 500 g or more, or lower than 500 g if it lived the first 24 hours after birth. The evidence of life was breathing or beating of the heart or pulsation of the umbilical cord or movement of voluntary muscles, although the umbilical cord had not been cut or the placenta had not been delivered. A stillbirth was understood as the complete expulsion or extraction from the mother of a foetus that showed no evidence of life and its birth weight was 1 000 g or more. As of 1 April 2012, the Decree No 11/1988 Sb was repealed by the Act No 372/2011 Sb, on Health Services.

**Definitions of abortion**

Abortion statistics has been kept in Czechoslovakia since 1953, however, in the years 1953–1957 it only included abortions performed according to the Penal Code No 86/1950 Sb (§218, subsection 4) which allowed to perform ‘a killing of a human foetus by a physician in a medical facility with the consent of the pregnant woman’ under given conditions (health of the pregnant woman or her foetus was in danger).

Detailed statistics broken down by all types of abortions (legally induced, spontaneous and other) has been kept since 1958 in connection with the entry into force of the Act No. 68/1957 Sb, on Induced Termination of Pregnancy.

Until 1964 all foetuses which could not be considered to be children according to the national definition effective at that time were considered to be abortions.

In the period from 1 January 1965 to 29 February 1988, according to the internationally recommended definitions of a child, abortion was every stillborn foetus born before the 28th week of pregnancy, or when the duration of pregnancy could not be determined a foetus weighed less than 1,000 g.

From 1 March 1988 to 31 March 2012, the definitions of abortion were defined by the Decree of the Ministry of Health No 11/1988 Sb, on Mandatory Notifications of Terminated Pregnancies, Death of a Child, and Death of the Mother. An abortion was understood as the termination of a pregnancy of a woman, at which:

1. the foetus showed no evidence of life and its birth weight was below 1,000 g, and in the case the weight could not be measured if the pregnancy lasted less than 28 weeks;
2. the foetus showed at least one evidence of life and its birth weight was below 500 g, but it did not survive the first 24 hours after birth;
3. the foetal egg without a foetus or decidua was removed from the mother’s uterus.

Ectopic pregnancies were not registered in the period from 1958 to 1986. In 1987, they were included in the category of other abortions in the outputs of the CZSO, from 1988 to 1991 in the category of legally induced abortions. Since 1992, the termination of ectopic pregnancies has been a separate category of abortions.

As of 1 April 2012, the Decree No 11/1988 Sb was repealed by the Act No 372/2011 Sb, on Health Services, which has introduced the new, currently valid, definition of foetus after abortion.

**Cause of death statistics**

The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD), the internationally recommended classification for coding causes of death published by the World Health Organization (WHO), has been used in the Czech Republic since 1919.

The comparability of individual decennial revisions is limited. Currently (since 1994), the 10th revision (ICD-10) and its updates are used for statistics on cause of death in the Czech Republic.

Period of validity of individual revisions of the International Classification of Diseases in the Czech Republic:

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| **Revision** | **WHO approved in** | **Effective in the CR in** |
| ICD-3\* | 1920\*\* | 1919–1930 |
| ICD-4 | 1929\*\* | 1931–1940 |
| ICD-5 | 1938\*\* | 1941–1948 |
| ICD-6 | 1948 | 1949–1957 |
| ICD-7 | 1955 | 1958–1967 |
| ICD-8 | 1965 | 1968–1978 |
| ICD-9 | 1975 | 1979–1993 |
| ICD-10 | 1990 | 1994– |
|  ICD-10 Updates: | 2004–2009 | 2009– |
|   | 2010 | 2011– |
|  | 2012 | 2012– |
|  | 2013 | 2013– |
|  | 2014–2016 | 2018– |
|  | 2019 | 2021– |

\* International Classification of Causes of Deaths

\*\* Approved by International Statistical Institute, resp. by Health Organisation of League of Nations.