

INSTITUT PRO DEMOKRACII A EKONOMICKOU ANALÝZU

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INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Think Tank of the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

English Summaries of Recent IDEA Studies

May 2022 – May 2023



PROJECT OF THE ECONOMICS INSTITUTE OF THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

IDEA Interactive web tools

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A Comparison of Journal Citation Indices ▶

Publication Performance and Authors of Research Organizations in the Slovak Republic in 2019–2020 ▶

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Regional Differences in the Impact of Immigration from Ukraine ▶

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Poverty and Social Benefits in Socially Excluded Localities.

Authors: Miroslava Federičová, Klára Kalíšková, Lucie Zapletalová, June 2022 [▶](#)

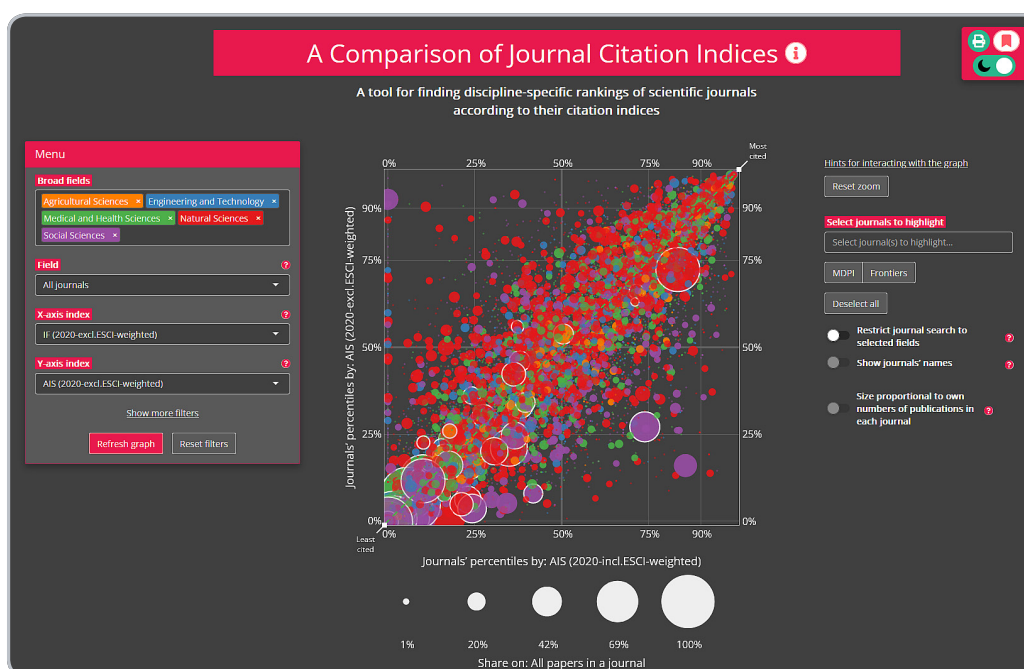
An EU Comparison of 2015-2016 Academic Publication Output and its Citation Impact

https://ideaapps.cerge-ei.cz/EU_citations/ 



A Comparison of Journal Citation Indices

https://ideaapps.cerge-ei.cz/AIS_IF/ 



Publication Performance and Authors of Research Organizations in the Slovak Republic in 2019–2020

https://ideaapps.cerge-ei.cz/Performance_SK/

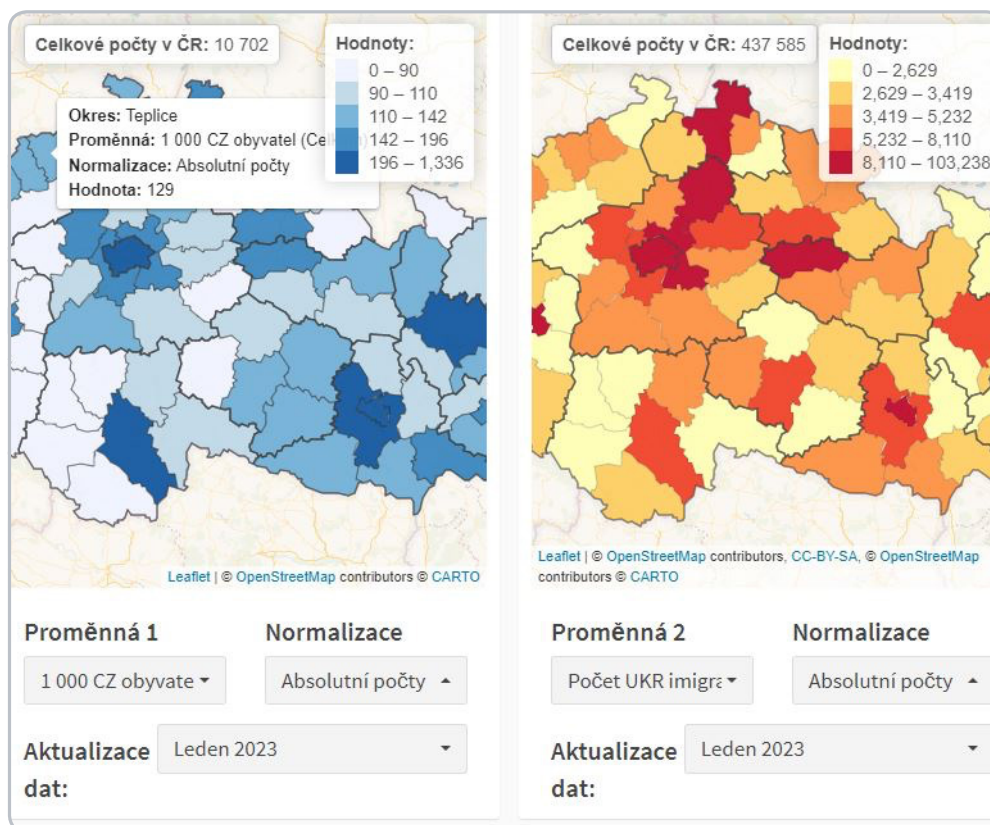
Publication Performance and Authors of Research Organizations in the Czech Republic in 2007–2021

<https://ideaapps.cerge-ei.cz/Performance/>

Obor	Výskumné organizace	Součásti VŠ	Horních 10%	Horní čtvrtina	Horní polovina	Spodní polovina	Všechny	Metoda 1	Metoda 2	Metoda Y	Metoda X
Economics and Business	UK- Univerzita Karlova v Praze	Celá VŠ	10.7	48.4	114.7	110.5	225.3	56	51	56	57
Economics and Business	AVČR-Národohospodářský ústav AV ČR, v. v. i.		6.5	21.5	30.5	17.8	48.3	14	14	13	14
Economics and Business	VŠE-Vysoká škola ekonomická v Praze	Celá VŠ	2.3	9.8	32.1	134.4	166.5	58	47	108	119

Regional Differences in the Impact of Immigration from Ukraine

<https://ideaapps.cerge-ei.cz/lmigrace/>





Study 6/2023

What the Data Says about Generations X and Y: When Our Parents Were as Young as We Are²

MAY 2023

EVA PEŇÁZOVÁ, MICHAL ŠOLTÉS

Summary

- This study presents a unique comparison of the lives of generation Y (millennials, born in 1981–1996) and those of generation X (their parents, born in 1965–1980) at the same age, based on available statistics related to education levels, relationships, and relative earnings.
- The data is taken from the 2006 and 2021 rounds of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) carried out by the Czech Statistical Office. This survey is run on a representative sample of households and the individuals within them annually. The sample years, 2006 and 2021, enable us to compare the situations of generations X and Y at similar ages. At the time of data collection in 2006, representatives of generation X were between the ages of 25 and 40. Representatives of generation Y were between 24 and 39 years old in 2021.
- The most marked difference between generations X and Y is in their levels of education. 32% of generation Y have completed a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with just 13% in generation X. In contrast, the percentage of people with professional training has fallen, from 40% in generation X to 23% in generation Y. It is worth noting that the extent of the increase in university education is substantially different across genders: in generation X, the share of university-educated women was the same as the share of university-educated men, at 13%. Among millennials, however, 37% of women have a university education, compared with “only” 27% of men.

² This study presents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Economics Institute nor of the Charles University Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). Any remaining ambiguities or errors are the authors' own. We would like to thank Jaromír Kalmus for his advice on the data and Daniel Münich for his comments and suggestions. This study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences within its AV21 Research programme Society in Motion.

- The second most prominent intergenerational difference we observe is a reduction in the rate of marriage. Members of generation Y were married far less often in the age period we observe than their parents in generation X were at this age. While 65% of generation X women were married in 2006, in 2021 the equivalent share among generation Y had fallen to just 46%. The percentage of married Y men is even smaller. In generation Y, only 34% of men were married by the age of 40, while in generation X the percentage was 52%.
- This trend towards not marrying, or marrying later, is also related to generation Y's fewer children. In our data, every adult living in a household with at least one dependent child is considered a parent. While in generation X, 74% of women and 50% of men are categorised as parents, in generation Y, at the same age, the percentages of parents are lower: 65% of women and 43% of men.
- Lastly, we compare households' material means across the generations. We compare data that depicts a household's financial situation, such as whether households could afford a week's holiday away from home, meat every other day, a car or a computer, and how well they managed to make ends meet on their salaries. Our analysis shows that, in all of these observed budget indicators, generation Y is unequivocally better off than generation X. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that these differences in material means are not solely the result of improvements in individual household financial situations, but also reflect external improvements, including real economic growth, higher salaries, improved productivity, and the long-term low rate of unemployment in the Czech Republic.



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Study 5/2023

(Not) Increasing Social Benefits in 2012–2023: An Overview²

APRIL 2023

PETR JANSKÝ, DANIEL KOLÁŘ

Summary

- In this overview, we map trends in the value of social benefits over the past ten years and compare them to trends in inflation, average salaries and old age pensions. If the real purchase power of benefits is to remain stable, they should be raised at least at the same rate as inflation. If we want social benefits to continue to provide the same level of financial security, keeping pace with economic developments in the long term, then their value should rise at approximately the same rate as the average salary, and spending on benefits should increase at approximately the same rate as GDP.
- Each of the benefits we track had its nominal value raised at least once in the period between 2012–2022. Different benefits were raised by different amounts and at different times. The real value of these benefits in 2023 thus varies widely, between 75% and 200% of their real value in 2012.
- Most of the benefits we look at increased more slowly than the average salary and average old age pension, both of which experienced real growth of approximately 20% between 2012 and 2023 (salaries 17.6%; pensions 23.8%). For example, the real value of the parental allowance in 2023 was substantially lower than its real value in 2012, despite a one-off raise from 220,000 CZK to 300,000 CZK in 2020. Exceptions to this trend include foster care benefits, which real value doubled during the observed period, and the mobility allowance, which grew by one half in real terms, largely as a result of a raise in 2022.

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- Eligibility for most benefits is based on subsistence levels that are defined for households and for individuals. Although these reference values have been raised repeatedly in the past few years, their real values in 2023 are lower than they were in 2012. As a result, eligibility for the benefits that are contingent on these values is now narrower.
- Total spending on the benefits we track between 2012 and 2023 increased both in nominal and in real terms. The substantial nominal growth over the past two years is a result of high inflation and related cost-of-living increases (the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis). Total spending on benefits as a share of GDP has, however, fallen over the last ten years, albeit only slightly.
- Below, we describe in greater detail the trends in: **(i)** the real value of these benefits; **(ii)** their value relative to the average salary; **(iii)** expenditures on benefits relative to GDP; **(iv)** eligibility for benefits based on standardised subsistence levels.
- In **Appendix 1** we present trends in the nominal value of the benefits and public spending on them. In **Appendix 2** we describe each of the benefits we examine, and explain why we have excluded certain other benefits from our comparison.



Study 4/2023

Would Real House Prices Risen More Slowly if More New Housing Had Been Built in 2013–2021? Probably Not²

MARCH 2023

ROMAN ŠUSTEK, LUCIE ZAPLETALOVÁ

Summary of key issues

- This study presents an easily applicable method for the study of price trends in residential property markets and the factors that affect them. The study describes the basic reasoning behind the method and presents results of using it to analyse house price increases in the Czech Republic during the period of 2013–2021, and to analyse various future housing market scenarios.
- Between 2013 and 2021, real residential property prices in the Czech Republic rose by 63%. The income effect, i.e., growth of real household income, was responsible for 32 percentage points (p.p.). A further 20 p.p. of growth was due to increasingly affordable mortgage financing. The implicit costs of mortgage financing decreased during the observed period, particularly as a result of expected further growth in real household incomes, which allowed faster amortisation of mortgage payments in relation to household income.
- During 2013–2021, the rate of new housing construction remained at approximately the historical average, when expressed in percentage growth. Even if new housing had been constructed more intensively, this would not have limited rising real estate prices, because they were driven by other factors. For new housing construction to have reached a level sufficient to compensate for the increase in property prices that resulted from the drop in the implicit costs of mortgage financing, construction would have had to exceed 100,000 residential housing units per year in this period; a rate that exceeds the historical record high for housing construction reached in 1975.

² The authors are grateful to Daniel Münich and Martin Lux for their valuable comments and advice both on the original academic study and on this shortened version. This study presents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Czech Academy of Sciences Economics Institute nor of the Charles University Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). Any remaining ambiguities or errors are the authors' own. This study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences within its Strategy AV21 Research Programme Society in Motion.

- This study presents several hypothetical scenarios as regards future trends. If the Czech National Bank's basic interest rate stabilises within the next three years at the expected 3% level, mortgage interest rates are around 4.9%, and the inflation target of 2% is met, then the implicit costs of mortgage financing will increase by 20% even if real household incomes rise by 3.2% (as they did in the boom years of 2013-2021). Although the impact on residential property prices would be partially reduced by the income effect, it would still take more than 6 years for that effect to fully compensate for the increase in the costs of mortgage financing.
- This analysis relates to the Czech Republic as a whole and does not reflect regional differences or region-specific influences.
- This study is based on Roman Šustek's academic paper "*A back-of-the-envelope analysis of house prices: Czech Republic, 2013-2021*" (2022), which includes a detailed description of the method used and the study's mathematical calculations. The method described in the study combines approaches currently used by the Czech National Bank and is capable of explaining house price movements 2013–2021. Although the study uses the latest, often complex, approaches to analysing the property markets, it offers a simple, practical method for approximating how individual factors affect price movements.



Study 3/2023

Evolution in Czech Public Attitudes towards War Refugees from Ukraine²

FEBRUARY 2023

DANIEL MÜNICH, TOMÁŠ PROTIVÍNSKÝ

Summary

- In the wake of Russia's military assault on Ukraine at the end of February 2022, an atmosphere of solidarity prevailed in the Czech Republic and most of the Czech population supported the country's intake of war refugees. By the end of November 2022, that support had fallen by approximately one quarter. Czechs' perceptions of how well integrated Ukrainians were into Czech society worsened similarly.
- This change in Czech public attitudes over time did not, however, stem primarily from personal or first hand experience of welcoming refugees; rather, it was related to a gradual decrease in public interest in the conflict after the initial shock of its first beginning. Although several aspects of Ukrainian refugees' integration improved in real terms in the second half of 2022, for example in relation to schools and to the labour market, this progress was not reflected in Czech public opinion.
- There continue to be very large differences in the extent to which different groups of the Czech public support the acceptance of Ukrainian refugees. Refugee rejection often stems from a lack of knowledge and from fears that the arrival of refugees could worsen people's own situations: negative attitudes to refugees are more often expressed by people who do not follow the news

² This study presents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Economics Institute nor of the Charles University Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). Any remaining ambiguities or errors are the authors' own. The authors collaborated closely with PAQ Research on the preparation of the survey and wish to thank them – in particular Daniel Prokop and Eliška Dvořáková – for providing the data and for their expert advice. The authors would like to thank their colleagues Michal Bauer, Vojtěch Bartoš, Jana Cahlíková and Julie Chytilová for their contribution to the preparation of questions for the Ukrainian module of the Life during the pandemic. The authors also thank the National Institute of Mental Health and Dominika Grygarová for agreeing to the use of their data in the study and they also thank the Czech Social Science Data Archive of the Institute of Sociology of the CAS and Yana Leontiyeva for the same.

The data collection and the study were produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences within its AV21 Strategy programme Society in Motion.

This publication uses data obtained through the data services of the Czech Social Science Data Archive (CSDA). The CSDA research infrastructure project is supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports under Grant No. LM2018135.

or who find themselves in difficult circumstances. People who have had first hand contact with Ukrainians living in the Czech Republic, on the other hand, usually express greater solidarity and are more often supportive of welcoming refugees.

- People's subjective interpretations of the geopolitical events are also a key factor: respondents who are convinced that the war was caused by unprovoked Russian aggression are far more accommodating towards Ukrainians, agree with refugee intake more often, and perceive those already in their country as better integrated. Media depictions of war-related topics and the types of news sources the respondents follow also play a key role here.
- Although the Czechs are wary of foreigners coming into the Czech Republic and tend to perceive them as a threat, their first hand experience of interaction with foreigners is predominantly positive.



Study 2/2023

Pandemics and Parental Beliefs about Returns to Education²

FEBRUARY 2023

VÁCLAV KORBEL

Summary

- This study summarises the findings of an empirical survey of the impacts that interruptions to in-person teaching in schools had on parents' expectations about the returns to their financial and time investments in their children's education. The study made use of four repeated questionnaire surveys carried out during 2020 and 2021, in which parents responded to hypothetical scenarios involving two fictitious families who invest different amounts of time and money in their children's education. On the basis of these scenarios, the parents estimated how much each fictitious child would earn at the age of 30, taking into account the given level of investment in their education. They also estimated how much the quality of the child's schooling would impact their future earnings. This experimental methodology enables us to identify how parents' expectations changed during the pandemic.
- During 2020 and 2021, schools in the Czech Republic were closed for nearly half a year due to the Covid-19 epidemic. Teaching took place remotely or in combined form (part remote, part in-person). As a result of this situation, parents became far more involved in their children's education than they had previously been. The experience parents gained in this way might have changed their expectations as to the role school plays in their children's education and about the extent to which their own involvement, in terms of time and money, benefits their children's development.
- The research was based on repeated questionnaire surveys carried out in April, June and September 2020 and in April 2021 with the same group of 500–800 respondents, all of whom were parents with at least one child attending primary school. The average future income these parents estimated for pupils with below-average skills increased between April 2020 and April 2021 by 5%. This represented growth at a rate slightly higher than inflation at

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the time. Parents' expectations about the future earnings of their pupils with above-average skills did not change.

- During the course of the pandemic, parents' expectations that they could effectively help their children with their education – either financially or in terms of time investment – gradually reduced. In April 2020, when the parents had only very brief experience of school closures, they expected that spending 5 hours per week on school work with their children or investing 500 CZK per week would lead to an average increase in their child's earnings at the age of 30 by 12–14% compared to zero time or financial investment. In April 2021, after a year of school interruptions due to the pandemic, the parents' expectations of the return on their time and financial investments had fallen by approximately one third, to an 8–10% increase in income.
- The main factor behind this change in parental expectations appears to be distance learning, which revealed to parents the limitations in their ability to effectively assist their children's learning. Other factors, such as the family's financial situation, concerns about the pandemic, or the amount of time parents spent with their children during distance learning, are not strongly correlated with the parents' expectations about their children's future income.
- Our findings indicate that parents are more aware of the benefits of education for weaker pupils. It is nevertheless problematic that after a year of the pandemic parents had developed lower expectations about how worthwhile it is to invest time and money in their children's education. A positive interpretation of this could be that the parents simply became more aware of their own limits, but that they will continue to invest in their children's education to the same or a greater extent, or will become more interested in the quality of their children's school. If so, there would not necessarily be any negative impact on their children's education. However, should the observed change in parental expectations also lead to a reduction in the real time and money parents invest in their children's education, this would have negative impacts. Furthermore, it would deepen existing educational inequality, since our findings indicate that these negative effects would be greater among families who receive lower quality remote – and, likely, in-person – teaching.



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Study 1/2023

Czech Women's Heads and Hands Remain Unused²

JANUARY 2023

JAKUB GROSSMANN, DANIEL MÜNICH

Summary

- This analysis maps life-long profiles in the unemployment rate and hours worked by Czech women and changes in these over the past twenty years. Its key findings are presented in the form of graphs with commentary. The economic and statistic details are provided in the accompanying texts.
- Up until the age of about 25, women's average hours worked increase across the EU countries, as female graduates enter the labour market. The share of the youngest Czech women who are in work is slightly above average among the EU countries. Above this age, the growth in hours worked slows, in some countries temporarily stops, and in the Czech Republic actually reverses. This phenomenon is closely related to maternity and parenting, the workings of the labour market and the way in which systems of support for parents are set up in each country.
- The slump in the employment rate and average hours worked among Czech women aged 25–34 years (which is currently the typical parenting age) has long been one of the largest across the EU. This represents a long-term underuse of the rather well-educated and productive female Czech workforce's capacity, which the Czech labour market would benefit from engaging.
- After the period typically devoted to maternity and bringing up young children, Czech women's participation in the labour market once again increases and after the age of 50 even surpasses the average for women across the EU and approaches the profile for Czech men. Czech women's high employment rate and large number of working hours only begins to drop, and that rather sharply, as the statutory retirement age approaches.

² The authors thank Alena Bičáková, Štěpán Jurajda, and Klára Kalíšková for their valuable comments and advice. This study presents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Economics Institute nor of the Charles University Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). Any remaining ambiguities or errors are the authors' own. The study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences within its AV21 Strategy programme and as part of the NPO project „Národní institut pro výzkum socioekonomických dopadů nemocí a systémových rizik“ „LX22NPO5101“.

- Czech women's labour market participation is substantially dependent on their level of education. The higher rate of employment among women with secondary education without school-leaving certificates in the youngest age category is primarily due to these women terminating their studies early. The abnormally substantial drop in labour market participation among Czech women in 30–34 year age group in relation to other EU countries is primarily driven by women with university education. In 2019, university-educated Czech women constituted the largest group in this age category.
- Between 2000 and 2019, labour market engagement among Czech women with higher education rose. The retirement age also rose. In the life-long employment rate profiles, there is a clear shift in the period typically dedicated to maternity and bringing up young children by about 8 years. While in the year 2000 the drop in work engagement due to maternity and parenting was largest between the ages of 25–29 years, in 2010 and 2019 we observe this drop only around the age of 30–34 years.
- Better availability of pre-school care facilities would facilitate the reconciliation of family and working life and would help to better exploit the job potential of Czech women during parenthood. Support for part-time work, especially for women with young children, should be similarly beneficial. It will be interesting to see the impacts of the introduction of measures to promote part-time work that will come into force in the Czech Republic at the beginning of 2023.



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Study 14/2022

What Effects did the Parental Allowance Increase Have on Women's Participation in the Labour Market²

NOVEMBER 2022

JAKUB GROSSMANN, FILIP PERTOLD, MICHAL ŠOLTÉS, MATĚJ ŠARBOCH, LUCIE ZAPLETALOVÁ

Summary

- We evaluate the effects of the 2020 increase in the total value of the parental allowance by 80 thousand CZK (36%) on labour market participation among mothers of young children. Mothers' employment decisions have reflected the raise in income that resulted from the higher allowance, and many mothers responded to the increase by claiming the parental allowance over a longer period of time. Among mothers of three-year-olds, the labour market participation rate reduced from 70% to 60%, i.e. by a whole 10 percentage points (p.p.) Among mothers of two-year-olds, the labour market participation rate fell 6 p.p. to 20%. In both groups, the number of hours worked per week also decreased correspondingly.
- The reform's effects also varied with the number of children. The reduction in employment rate was more pronounced (10 p.p.) among mothers receiving the parental allowance for their first child. It is likely that these mothers were planning to have another child and that they used the additional allowance to bridge the remaining time until the birth of their second child, i.e. avoiding a return to work in between children.

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This study summarises the main findings and conclusions of the research paper by Grossmann, J., Pertold, F., Šoltés, M. and Šarboch, M., "Parental Allowance Increase and Maternal Labour Supply: Evidence from Czech Reform" (2022).

This result was financially supported via institutional support for the long-term conceptual development of the research organization for 2018–2022, and is part of research task 09-S4-2021-VÚBP, "Determinants and impacts of the choice of the length of parental leave in the Czech Republic," addressed by the Occupational Safety Research Institute in cooperation with CERGE-EI, 2021–2023.

- As far as education levels are concerned, the effect of the parental allowance increase was most evident among mothers with university education. The share of working mothers in this group reduced by as much as one third (by 16.4 p.p.) and their hours worked dropped by 4.8 hours per week (a reduction of 30%).
- These effects of the increase in the parental allowance on mothers' labour market participation remained stable for 1 year after the reform. Although it is likely that some of these effects will ease off over time as a result of changes in mothers' expectations about their family budgets, the one-off increase to the parental allowance has led to short-term, society-wide negative costs in the form of a reduction in women's labour market participation. These costs would not have been incurred if the value of the parental allowance had been increased more regularly, in smaller increments, in a predictable manner, or if a shorter time limit had been imposed for claiming the allowance.



Study 13/2022

Rising Energy Prices and the Increase in Housing Benefits: Did it Help?²

SEPTEMBER 2022

FILIP PERTOLD, PETR PLETICHA

Summary

- This study analyzes the effects of changes in the housing benefits policy in Czechia. In response to the surge in energy prices, the Czech government increased the maximum contributions for eligible households. Although the number of households drawing the contribution rose, their share among all eligible households dropped.
- Increasing the maximum contribution by itself does not increase the number of eligible households. The rising number of eligible households is caused mainly by the hike in energy prices.
- Increasing the maximum contribution did not compensate for the surge in housing costs. For instance, households whose housing costs as a share of their net income had increased by 15 percentage points were not able to offset even a fifth of the cost increase.
- Although the increased maximum contribution makes the housing benefit more attractive, the amount of the actual contribution is often so small that households do not bother applying for it. Apart from the small contribution, the considerable administrative demands also likely discourage many households from applying. Households are aware of the housing benefit policy, but they are misinformed and often deem themselves ineligible when in fact they are eligible.

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- The most likely eligible households are those of retirees. Although the share of eligible retirees did not increase in the covered period, the take-up of housing benefits increased the most among them.
- The analysis is based on *Život během pandemie* survey data gathered by PAQ Research. The study analyzes two waves of the survey: November 2021 (before the policy change) and April 2022 (after the policy change). The dataset consists of 1,472 respondents.



Study 12/2022

Teacher Salaries in 2021: Peak Reached so What Next?²

AUGUST 2022

DANIEL MÜNICH, VLADIMÍR SMOLKA

Summary

- In the long term, the level of teacher salaries co-determines the attractiveness of the teaching profession and ensures sufficient interest in choosing to embark on a career in teaching. The selectivity of the profession, both in the process of university preparation and during the career itself, stimulates the quality of teachers' work. However, these are long-term processes, occurring through continuous entry into and exit out of the profession and through further training. Therefore, the effects of teacher salaries on interest in the profession, teacher quality and educational outcomes can only be traced over a period of years, or rather decades.
- The level of teacher salaries relative to other salaries in the economy is an important indicator. Until 2017/2018, teacher salaries in the Czech Republic (CR) were among the lowest in the EU and top ten most economically advanced countries in the world (OECD). In 2021, however, thanks to an unusually dynamic rate of increase for several years in a row, salaries of Czech teachers reached levels significantly closer to the average of OECD and EU countries, reaching 122% of the average salaries in the Czech economy. Thus, in just a few years, the government of Andrej Babiš achieved what no previous government had managed to do; it succeeded in making significant steps towards fulfilling its ambitious commitment, which few people had believed was possible given the lack of success the past.

² This study represents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences nor of the Charles University Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). We are grateful to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for its approval to use ISPV data collected and managed by TREXIMA spol. s r. o. The authors are grateful to Karel Gargulák, Václav Korbel, Tomáš Protivínský, and Jan Zeman for their valuable comments and advice. We appreciate consultations on salary indicators kindly provided by the Department of Statistics at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and in particular Petr Čech. Any remaining ambiguities or errors are the responsibility of the authors. The study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as part of its AV21 Strategy programme "Society in Motion and Public Policies".

- In the coming years, maintaining the achieved relative level of teacher salaries will require increasing them at the rate of nominal wage growth in the economy. However, relative teacher salaries are likely to fall slightly to 119% in the 2022 outlook. Based on promises made in the summer following the government's negotiations with unions, salaries are likely to remain at the same level in 2023. Teacher salaries will certainly not reach the 130% level promised by the previous and current governments, let alone the salaries of the wider pedagogical workforce.
- In 2021, relative salaries for teachers in all age groups increased further. By far the most attractive salaries now are those of the youngest teachers under 30. By contrast, the relative salaries of middle-aged teachers aged 30-49 remain the lowest. Teachers' salaries rise very slowly with years of experience (even in the international comparison), but also over the long term, throughout their teaching career. In addition to the setting of salary scales, the continued absence of career regulations and quality standards for the performance of the teaching profession at various stages of the career contributes to this.
- Variability in teacher salaries remains very low in 2021 and does not reflect the diversity in the quality of teachers' work. Teacher pay continues to be principally determined by scales, i.e. primarily by years of experience. Overly generalized salaries in the education sector lead to underpayment and insufficient motivation of quality teachers. This is associated with a higher risk of teachers leaving the profession and low interest in the profession among younger generations.
- After the 2019-2020 period, the share of the above-scale component of teachers' salaries continued to increase in 2021, albeit to a lesser extent than before. The 13-16% share of the above-scale component achieved in 2021 far exceeds the 8-12% share of the public sector's university-educated segment.
- Doubts as to whether the achieved relative level of salaries will be maintained have undermined the hard-won confidence of the public, and particularly of people interested in the teaching profession over the last few years. The idea of the statutory valorization of teacher salaries, originally proposed by the authors of this study in 2017, is therefore still on the table. At the time of completing this study, it is going as a government proposal to the Parliament.
- In addition, in the coming years, the continued need to increase the number of teaching staff, including teachers, must be considered in terms of government spending on education, taking into account demographic developments, the objectives of reducing inequalities and the immigrant wave of school-age children from Ukraine. The demands of the educational budget will be driven by low salaries and wages for non-teaching professions in regional education.
- When comparing teachers' pay over time or across countries, it is important to consider the details of the methodology of calculations. There are many reasons values may vary for apparently identical indicators, and these are not always sufficiently elucidated in discussions accompanying the methodologies and data sources used. It is crucial to be clear, for example, whether or not the pay includes all components of pay, including end-of-year bonuses, whether the pay includes that of the school principals, whether only teachers' salaries are counted, or if there is a broader range of pedagogical positions included. It is also important to note whether private school data is included, whether the figures are only for primary schools, or if they are for a whole regional education sector including preschools and upper-secondary schools.



Study 11/2022

The Publication Performance of the Czech Science Foundation Panel Members (2019–2021)²

SEPTEMBER 2022

MATĚJ BAJGAR

Summary

- The aim of this research has been to find out to what extent the scientific results of the members of the Czech Science Foundation (GA ČR) evaluation panels confirm their erudition for evaluating GA ČR Standard Project proposals.
- One of the principal goals of GA ČR is to „provide financial support in research and development for research projects in basic research with a high potential for achieving world class results“. The GA ČR evaluation panels play a key role in identifying such projects. They assess the quality of submitted projects, draft evaluation reports and prepare recommendations for discipline committees. Each panel comprises approximately 10 scientists working in a given field. In order for the panels to succeed in their mission, their members need to be able to identify projects with a high potential. It can be expected that scientists are better placed to recognize excellent research if they have themselves undertaken research projects at such level.
- Using bibliometric tools, we have analysed the share of panelists who served in GA ČR evaluation panels in years 2019–2021 whose publication performance during the preceding decade was substantially lower than the publication performance of lead researchers of projects that these panels evaluated and that ended up being supported. We show results separately for each of 3 alternative measures of publication performance: i) the qualitatively highest group of scientific journals (e.g. the top decile) where a researcher has published an article, ii) the number of publications in the top two quartiles of scientific journals in terms of their influence and iii) the total number of citations received by the researcher’s publications.

² This study represents the author’s own views and not the official position of the Czech Academy of Sciences’ Economics Institute nor the Charles University Centre for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). An earlier draft of this study has been shared with the GA ČR Presidium. I would like to thank Martin Srholec for invaluable advice and comments throughout the process of preparing the study. I would also like to thank Taras Hrendash, Štěpán Jurajda, Dan Münich and members of the Presidium and the staff of GA ČR for their help and useful suggestions. I would like to thank the Czech Science Foundation for providing additional data for this project. The study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as part of its Center for Research, Development and Innovation Analysis programme (RaDIAC). All remaining omissions and errors are my own.

- The main findings of the study are the following:
 - In most panels, the publication performance of panelists matches that of the lead researchers on supported projects, and in many panels it is even exceeds it.
 - The share of panelists with inadequate publication productivity is low to negligible in most panels. Fewer than a quarter of members of an average panel are characterised by a publication productivity substantially inferior to that of above-average lead researchers.
 - In some panels, however, the share of members with inadequate publication productivity is high enough to potentially influence the recommendations issued by the panel as a whole. This is the case in about a third of all panels; the share of members with an inadequated publication productivity exceeds 30% in these panels.
 - A higher share of panelists with publication performance substantially below that of lead researchers is observed particuarly in social and technical fields. These fields lag behind other research areas in the Czech Republic also in terms of the overall publication performance.
 - Even in the fields where a high share of panelists have inadequate publication performance, there are many scientists with sufficiently high publication performance who have never been members of a GA ČR panel. On average, these fields include several dozens scientists whose publication performance is comparable to that of lead researchers on supported projects.
- Our findings lead to the following recommendations:
 1. In the case of panels characterised by a high share of members with inadequate publication performance, the relevant bodies within GA ČR should put a stronger emphasis on the publication performance of the nominated scientists during the selection procedure, and they should try to attract more nominations of excellent researchers.
 2. The top scientists in all fields, and particularly the fields with a higher share of panelists with inadequate publication performance, who have never served on GA ČR panels should consider joining a panel. The situation in their respective fields is unlikely to improve without their help.
 3. The relative scientific quality of panels could be increased be a stronger participation of researchers based outside Czechia. These changes would be particularly valuable in fields characterised by a lack of sufficiently qualified potential panelists within the Czech Republic. This could be facilitated, in particular, by simplifying the nomination procedure. A more extensive use of English as a working language and support to online participation from abroad could also be helpful in this regard.



Study 10/2022

Income Loss Compensation during the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Winners and the Losers²

JULY 2022

KLÁRA KALÍŠKOVÁ, LUCIE ZAPLETALOVÁ

Summary of key findings

- In this study we analyze how income compensation tools adopted by the Czech government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic were targeted at various groups of households. We reveal what proportion of the state's overall expenditure on compensatory measures was targeted to the households most heavily affected by the pandemic.
- Despite the fact that the state spent a substantial amount on measures to compensate households for loss of income, the pandemic still had a substantially heavier impact on the poorer layers of society. This may manifest itself in the future as a deepening of existing problems with debt, executions and child poverty.
- Our analysis is based on unique data from a continuous survey of a sample of households that was collected as part of PAQ Research's 'Life During the Pandemic' project in collaboration with IDEA at CERGE-EI and with financial support from the Czech Academy of Sciences. The data on household income structure are from the SILC survey run by the Czech Statistical Office and our simulations are performed using our own TAXBEN model.

² This study represents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences nor the Charles University Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). The authors would like to thank Daniel Münich, Michal Šoltés and Daniel Prokop for their valuable comments and suggestions for improving the study, and to a number of colleagues for helpful comments on working versions of the calculations and text. Any remaining errors are the authors' own.

This study was created within the project "Mapping the effects of the economic crisis and optimizing the systems of taxes, benefits, executions and insolvencies to mitigate its adverse effects" (No. TLO4000332), which was co-financed by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic. The study was also supported by the Czech Academy of Sciences as a part of Strategy AV21.

- The most adversely affected sets of households as far as economic activity is concerned were households involving self-employed individuals and those who were in various kinds of precarious work immediately prior to the pandemic. Households with children under 12 years of age, single-parent households and households who were already in income poverty prior to the pandemic also experienced substantial reductions in income.
- The greatest proportion of the funds set aside to compensate for the Covid-19 pandemic's negative impact on incomes was spent on taxation amendments (almost 130 billion CZK per year). More than 63 billion CZK was spent on temporary pandemic measures directly designed to help households affected by Covid-related restrictions. The smallest proportion of expenditures in this area was allocated to strengthening the benefits system, changes to which only cost just under 4 billion CZK per year.
- While they had the heaviest impact on state finances, the tax modifications made during the pandemic primarily benefitted wealthier households and those with higher incomes, which were relatively less affected by the pandemic.
- The range of measures implemented to directly compensate for the income effects of pandemic-related restrictions were successful in compensating income losses among workers with stable incomes (both employees and the self-employed). However, these measures were not capable of helping people with occasional or intermittent incomes from precarious jobs. On the contrary, as part of these measures, more than 14 billion CZK were allotted to a one-off contribution for pensioners, whose incomes were only minimally affected by the pandemic.
- The modifications made to the benefits system were minimal in scope and were not sufficient to assist low-income families whose financial situation had substantially worsened.



PROJECT OF THE ECONOMICS INSTITUTE OF THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Study 9/2022

Differences in the Strictness of Grading and its Impact on Student Educational Aspirations²

JUNE 2022

DANIEL MÜNICH, TOMÁŠ PROTIVÍNSKÝ

Summary

- For students and their parents, school grades are a key piece of information that helps to shape educational and career ambitions. We find that 87% of Czech ninth graders with an A in mathematics want to go to university. Among students with a C, only 39% have the same aspiration.
- There is wide variation in the strictness of grading across Czech primary schools. On average, grades awarded can differ by as much as a full letter grade between stricter and more moderately grading schools.
- Even when they in fact have measurably equivalent skills, students from schools that grade more strictly have lower academic aspirations than students from schools that grade more moderately. Grades on report cards are also often among the admissions criteria for secondary schools and high schools. Differences in the strictness of grading and the crucial roles of grades in planning future educational paths can therefore lead to misguided decisions by students and parents, inefficiencies in the education system, and suboptimal allocation of talent.
- Girls and students from advantaged socio-economic backgrounds generally receive higher grades than boys and students from disadvantaged backgrounds who otherwise have the same level of tested skills. In fact, it has been shown that teachers' grades reflect the students' socio-emotional characteristics and attitudes towards learning, in addition to their educational performance.
- Girls and students from advantaged backgrounds have significantly higher aspirations to attend university than do boys and students from disadvantaged backgrounds with the same level of math skills. These differences persist even after we consider grade effects.

² This study represents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences nor the Charles University Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). The authors would like to thank Josef Basl, Václav Korbek, Jiří Münich, Jiří Novosák, Tomáš Pavlas, and Petr Suchomel for their valuable comments and advice. Any remaining errors are the authors' own. The study was produced with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences as a part of the Strategy AV21.

- The aim of school assessments should be primarily to support the learning process and to shape educational aspirations. Grades should therefore be based on objective and standardized criteria and should be supplemented by more detailed qualitative assessments. Aspects of behavior and attitude should be communicated separately from the evaluation of student achievement.
- The Czech ministerial decree on evaluation standards in primary education leaves schools and teachers a great deal of autonomy in assessment. Given the central role of grades in the Czech education system, it is appropriate to pay much more attention to the issue of student assessment, grading, school inspections, educational policies and research, and data collection.



Study 8/2022

Poverty and Social Benefits in Socially Excluded Localities²

JUNE 2022

MIROSLAVA FEDERIČOVÁ, KLÁRA KALÍŠKOVÁ, LUCIE ZAPLETALOVÁ

Summary

- This study presents a unique analysis of the living conditions of individuals and households in socially excluded localities (SELs) in terms of their income and exposure to poverty, compared to the average population. Special attention is paid to the receipt of social benefits and their effectiveness in reducing poverty. The analysis is based on unique data from living conditions in a socially excluded localities survey (SEL-SILC), conducted in 2020 by the Agency for Social Inclusion of the Czech Ministry of Regional Development, and from data from the Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC) conducted by the Czech Statistical Office in 2020.
- On average, SEL households have more members than do average households, and their average age is lower, mainly due to the lesser share of pensioner households in SELs. The population of SELs also has a significantly lower level of education. The percentage of people living in SELs without a high school diploma is 85%, compared to 40% in the general population. Households located in SELs are up to 4 times more likely to experience unemployment and economic inactivity than are average households.
- As a result of their overall significantly lower educational attainment and economic activity, the equivalised net market income of SEL households is about 33% lower than that of the general population. Large differences between the two populations persist even when pensions, social benefits, and other cash income are added to SEL employment income. For example, 10% of SEL households have zero disposable income, while there are no households with zero disposable income in the general population.

² This study represents the authors' own views and not the official position of the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences nor the Charles University Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE). The authors would like to thank Daniel Münich and Roman Matoušek for their valuable comments and advice for improving the study, and to a number of colleagues for helpful comments on working versions of the calculations and text. Any remaining errors are the authors' own.

This study was created within the project "Mapping the effects of the economic crisis and optimizing the systems of taxes, benefits, executions and insolvencies to mitigate its adverse effects" (No. TLO4000332), which was co-financed by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic. The study was also supported by the Czech Academy of Sciences as a part of Strategy AV21.

- Our analysis shows that the Czech social system targets people at risk of poverty well. 94% of households at risk of poverty in the SEL and 73% living in the general population are entitled to at least one social benefit. Of the households in the general population and in the SEL that are not at risk of poverty, just under a quarter of households are entitled to some social benefit. These are primarily sickness and family benefits, which do not target poverty reduction, but are either compulsory insurance benefits or benefits aimed to support families.
- While in the general population, the median household is above the poverty line even based on only their own net market income, in SEL households overall, average median income falls below the poverty line even when all social income received by households is included in calculations. The median SEL household would only move above the poverty line if it were receiving all of the social benefits to which it is entitled.
- The share of households below the poverty line in SELs when social benefits are not included in the calculation is 56.5%. Thanks to the receipt of social benefits, this percentage falls to less than 52%. If households received all the social benefits to which they are entitled, SEL households at risk of poverty would be reduced to 45.6%. Some households have such low incomes that even full benefits do not lift them above the poverty line, but do bring them significantly closer to it. Although some social benefits are ineffective at reducing the risk of poverty, they can significantly reduce the so-called poverty gap, i.e., the degree to which their income falls below the poverty line.
- Low take-up of benefits by eligible households is a problem in both the general population and in SELs. The largest gap between eligibility and receipt exists for housing benefits, which has the greatest potential to reduce the at-risk-of-poverty rate. In SELs, about half of households should be eligible for housing benefits, but only 12% of households report receiving it. Large differences between receipt and entitlement also exist for assistance in material need benefits and child benefits.
- Clarifying and addressing the reasons some available social benefits are underused and thus fail to play their potential role in reducing poverty among low-income households should be a social policy priority. However, studies on this topic are still lacking in the Czech Republic.

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2023

What the Data Says about Generations X and Y: When Our Parents Were as Young as We Are.

Authors: Eva Peňázová, Michal Šoltés, May 2023 [▶](#)

(Not) Increasing Social Benefits in 2012–2023: An Overview.

Authors: Petr Janský, Daniel Kolář, April 2023 [▶](#)

Would Real House Prices Risen More Slowly if More New Housing Had Been Built in 2013–2021? Probably Not.

Authors: Roman Šustek, Lucie Zapletalová, March 2023 [▶](#)

Evolution in Czech Public Attitudes towards War Refugees from Ukraine.

Authors: Daniel Münich, Tomáš Protivínský, February 2023 [▶](#)

Pandemics and Parental Beliefs about Returns to Education.

Author: Václav Korběl, February 2023 [▶](#)

Czech Women's Heads and Hands Remain Unused.

Authors: Jakub Grossmann, Daniel Münich, January 2023 [▶](#)

2022

What Effects did the Parental Allowance Increase Have on Women's Participation in the Labour Market.

Authors: Jakub Grossmann, Filip Pertold, Michal Šoltés, Matěj Šarboch, Lucie Zapletalová, November 2022 [▶](#)

Rising Energy Prices and the Increase in Housing Benefits: Did it Help?

Authors: Filip Pertold, Petr Pleticha, September 2022 [▶](#)

Teacher Salaries in 2021: Peak Reached so What Next?

Authors: Daniel Münich, Vladimír Smolka, August 2022 [▶](#)

The Publication Performance of the Czech Science Foundation Panel Members (2019–2021).

Author: Matěj Bajgar, September 2022 [▶](#)

Income Loss Compensation during the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Winners and the Losers.

Authors: Klára Kalíšková, Lucie Zapletalová, August 2022 [▶](#)

Differences in the Strictness of Grading and its Impact on Student Educational Aspirations.

Authors: Daniel Münich, Tomáš Protivínský, June 2022 [▶](#)

Poverty and Social Benefits in Socially Excluded Localities.

Authors: Miroslava Federičová, Klára Kalíšková, Lucie Zapletalová, June 2022 [▶](#)

The Long-term Legacy of the Liberation of the Sudetenland by the Red and US Armies.

Jakub Grossmann, Štěpán Jurajda, May 2022 [▶](#)

Teacher Turnover in Europe. Authors: Miroslava Federičová, Filip Pertold, March 2022 [▶](#)

The intensity of teachers' use of teaching methods and its impact on learning outcomes.

Václav Korběl, March 2022 [▶](#)

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We've done math: Here's what the abolition of super-gross wages, reductions in social security contributions and the introduction of tax holidays will really mean.

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