

6. Technical Annex

Characteristics of households and families

The sample was proposed in order to collect information about a representative sample of women at fertile age from the whole Czech Republic. The survey covered 7,611 households in the territory of the Czech Republic with the exception of districts of Tachov, Rychnov nad Knežnou, Jeseník and Vyškov. Out of this number, in 4,038 cases only a short questionnaire for the household was filled in: a woman at fertile age either was not a part of the given household or refused to fill in the questionnaire. The woman questionnaire was filled in in 1,735 cases and the man questionnaire in 721 cases. Despite repeated visit, no one was reached in 564 households, 515 households refused to participate in the survey at all, and in 759 cases the houses in question did not exist - contrary to background materials. There are no questionnaires for the last mentioned three categories of survey results, only result materials of field survey of the agency Sofres Factum contained more detailed information.

The sample of 1,735 women for whom the data were collected is thus lower than originally expected. It is a consequence of deteriorating conditions for carrying out field works on which surveys of this type depend. The Czech Statistical Office (CSO) had a similar negative experience in the last 1997 Micro-census. The result also differs from public attitudes towards the previous Reproduction and Women Health Survey, which took place in 1993. At that time, less than five per cent of women refused to take part in the survey, four per cent were not reached and three per cent refused the enquirers. In comparison with the previous survey, these numbers in the 1997 Family and Fertility Survey almost doubled.

From the territorial point of view, all regions were represented at the 1997 Family and Fertility Survey. The survey was most successful – i.e. the number of visited households was relatively the highest – in Moravian districts, on the other hand, it was less successful in Central Bohemia. In North and West Bohemia, there are districts with good results of field works (e.g. in Chomutov and Decín) but also districts with worse results (North Plzen and Klatovy). The numbers of non-existing households appeared to be more or less equal in the whole Czech Republic, higher concentration of districts with higher rate of these households were in Klatovy, three Plzen districts – Tachov, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, and Nymburk in Central Bohemia. The causes of not found households are probably related to decrease in dwelling stock. Although municipal authorities were sent individual selected addresses and asked to verify them and fill in changes in the dwelling stock, the results probably correspond to the effort the municipal authorities made in this respect.

Higher rate of households refusing to participate in the survey and households not reached despite repeated visits¹ appeared in districts of Central and North Bohemia, such as Mladá Boleslav, Jablonec nad Nisou, Teplice, and in North Moravia – districts of Frýdek-Místek, Vsetín and Opava. It is obviously difficult to explain why the Survey was more successful in one region than in another one.

¹ Households which were not reached even when visited three or more times. These households may be included in the category of households refusing to participate in the survey.

Despite these problems it may be stated that the representative feature of the sample was not affected. The survey data may be compared with the 1991 census data. From the point of view of age structure, representation of women aged up to 19 and over 35 was underestimated. On the other hand, representation of women aged between 30 and 34 was overestimated. However, in no age category the difference exceeded the limit of five per cent. There are slightly more women with completed secondary education. Similarly, women with elementary and university education are in minority. However, the differences do not exceed the limit of five per cent.²

Even better results were attained when comparing the marital status of women. The structure of women according to marital status is practically identical – with a slightly higher proportion of divorced women and slightly lower proportion of all other categories. However, these differences are minimal. As for the number of live-born children, the situation is also favorable. The number of women having one child is significantly overestimated (3.2 %), the number of women having another number of children correspond to the census results.³

A detailed analysis of the sample – age of women and men according to their marital status, education and religious belief – implies more or less equal representation of individual age (five-year) groups. Married women over 20 are most often represented, divorced are represented from the age of 25. In the sample, there are only 10 widowed women. Women having only elementary education are not over 19 in half of the cases. Women having only secondary education are equally distributed over all age groups, one third of the total number of university graduate women are between 30 and 34. Three quarters of the total number of women stated they had no religious belief, one fifth of them were Catholics. Representation of both these groups is equal from the point of view of age. Representation of women of another religion occurred only in a minimal rate. That is why this degree of classification shall be not analyzed in detail in the following part.

One question concerned cohabitation of partners. Only unmarried women were asked this question. 173 women out of 625 unmarried women stated that they lived in cohabitation with a partner; most were aged between 20 and 30.

As for men, these descriptive characteristics from the point of view of age do not significantly differ from previous data. Single men are more often than women aged over 20 and there is relatively less men having elementary education. As the sample of men (i.e. the women's partners) is only half-sized when compared to the sample of women, their representation in border groups is minimum.

In the household questionnaire (5,773 interviewed households in total), the number of families, persons and women aged between 15 and 44 living in the given dwelling was object of the survey, too. The same information could obviously be obtained also from the sample of interviewed women (1,735). In both samples, one-family households considerably predominate and this predomination is obvious in all size categories of the place of permanent residence. In less than one half of cases

² In the 1991 Census, 1 per cent of women did not reveal their degree of education.

³ 1.6 % of women did not indicate the number of live-born children in the census.

families lived in their own dwellings (including family houses). Co-operative-owned houses were reported in one fifth of cases.

From the point of view of number of persons living in a household, they are two-member households that prevail (less than one third of the sample), there are also lots of one-member households, three- and four-member households – they are families with one child or two children. When determining the size of samples it was necessary to respect the distribution of the number of women aged between 15 and 44 living in households in the 1991 census. The survey results correspond to it. In the sample of 5,773 visited households, at least one woman of fertile age appeared in less than one half of cases. The most often (in 36 per cent) there was just one woman aged between 15 and 44 in the household. In such a case it was not necessary to define a third random degree of the sample.

Economic Characteristics of Samples

The sample consisted mainly of employed women. While in the age group of 20-24 less than a half of the total number of 1,735 women were employed, in the age group of over 40, four women out of five were employed. In the age group of 20-24, thirty per cent of women were on maternity leave, and in the age group of 25-29, they were forty per cent. Employed women represented a majority in all groups according to marital status with the exception of single women where the number of employed and studying women equaled.

From the point of view of the size of the group of the place of residence the rate of employed women and women on maternity leave has not changed much. The same applies to religious belief of women. However, sensible differences were registered in the area of education of women. Women having elementary education were employed in 28 per cent of cases and in 45 per cent stated they were studying (i.e. at the time of the survey). This phenomenon is obviously due to their age. In other education groups the share of employed women was stable – it exceeded 60 per cent. As for men, the situation was always clear – the share of employed men always oscillated around 80 per cent and more – regardless of detailed socio-economic characteristics. It is interesting to note that there were two married men on maternity leave. One of them had a university degree.

The last occupation was classified into occupational classes.⁴ Most often, women stated that they were administrative staff, quite often they were qualified workwomen in agriculture, forestry and related industries (i.e. Class 6). The share of women in these two classes covered approximately one half of the total number of women – regardless of the size group of the place of residence, women's age, their marital status, religious belief or the total number of children. A slight variation of the last occupation appears with older women.

Women with elementary education or secondary education without GCSE often belonged to Class 7 (skilled workmen and qualified producers), Class 8 (machine and equipment operators) and Class 9 (auxiliary manpower and unqualified

⁴ The extended Occupation Classification issued by the CSO in 1996 was used in the survey.

workers). Women with a university degree stated in more than a half of cases they belonged to Class 3 (technical workers, health service workers, teachers and related industries). As a form of their last occupation, they stated in nine cases out of ten that they were employed – regardless of their place of residence, education, age, marital status, religious belief or the total number of children.

In addition to questions related to the last occupation and the form of it, the survey determined also reasons for termination of the first occupation. In more than forty per cent the reasons were pregnancy and childbirth – it depended on the woman's age. This reason was mentioned by almost half of the women aged between 25 and 34. Further specification is difficult as the remaining part of women indicated mostly “another reason” for termination of their employment. The current prescribed scale of reasons for terminating the first occupation respecting the international project was thus not satisfying.

The descriptive economic characteristics of the sample of men do not differ considerably from the previous data. The men often indicated Class 7 (skilled workmen and qualified producers, manufacturers, repairmen) as their last occupation with the exception of those having a university degree. As a form of their last occupation they mostly indicated employment – however not to such an extent as was the case of the sample of women. In Prague, every man in ten stated that they were employers or self-employed. These characteristics apply mostly to men having a university degree. Business and the related business risk do not correspond to the number of children in families. Similarly, the survey did not manage to determine the reasons why men had terminated their first occupation.

Education of Men and Women

Education of men and women was determined by means of a ten-degree scale⁵ in accordance with the international project which was, for the needs of this analysis, summarized into commonly used four groups: elementary education, secondary education without GCSE, secondary education with GCSE, and university education. When evaluating education of two partners, the correlation, established already in the past, between the education of men and women was confirmed: in approximately half of the cases, the partners have the same level of education, this rule applies more often to partners having secondary education than those having a university degree.

In the sample of women, women with secondary education represented more than 80 per cent of the sample. Women with secondary education were mostly represented in villages and towns while in cities of more than one hundred thousand inhabitants, women with a university degree represented more than 10 per cent of the sample. From the point of view of age (i.e. completed education over the age of 25), marital status, religious belief and number of children the differences are not so obvious.

⁵ First degree of the international classification ISCED.

As for the sample of men, the situation is similar – they were mostly men with secondary education who participated in the survey. In large cities of more than one hundred thousand inhabitants, men with a university degree represent even greater share than women in the sample of women.