



Migration in The Czech Republic



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Migration Overview

In the 21st centuries, the Czech Republic has become a destination country for foreign nationals migrating for work and business reasons, who want to settle here on a long-term basis or permanently. Like many other Eastern European countries, the Czech Republic has transformed in the last 15 years from a land of emigration to one of transit and immigration.

International Migration

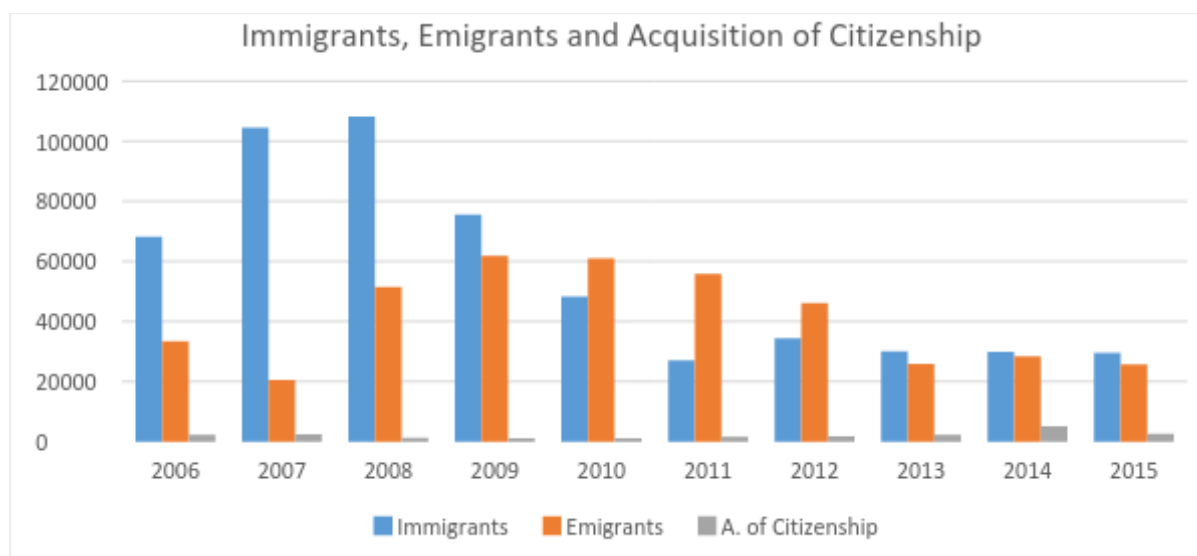
Age Definition: Age reached during the year

Sex: Total

Unit of Measure: Person

Eurostat: [tps00176] [tps00177] [tps00024]

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Immigrants	68.183	104.445	108.267	75.620	48.317	27.114	34.337	30.124	29.897	29.602
Emigrants	33.463	20.500	51.478	61.782	61.069	55.910	46.106	25.894	28.468	25.684
Acquisition of Citizenship	2.346	2.371	1.204	1.149	1.085	1.638	1.753	2.243	5.059	2.619



After joining the EU, the Czech Republic has seen an increase in immigrant inflows until the 2008, reaching the maximum size of inflows just 4 years after the enter in the EU, with 108.267 individuals. From 2009, there is a decrease in immigrant inflow, which attested about 30.000 individuals during the last 4 years taking into consideration.

The number of emigrants from the Czech Republic follow a fluctuating trend, starting from the lowest level reached in 2007 and reaching the higher level in 2009 until stop around about 25.000 individuals who emigrate from the Country in the period 2013/2015.

Despite all kind of flows, the number of the individuals who want acquire the Czech Republic citizenship is very low, about 2.000 acquisition of citizenship, with the lowest level reached in 2010 of 1.085 acquisition of citizenship. One of the highest level reached was in 2014 with 5.059 acquisition of citizenship, after a decrease by 3.000 acquisition of the followed year.

This trend highlights migrants' willingness to not stopping in the country, preferring keep on moving in search of a better welfare state and better economic condition in the labour market.

Immigration by Age group, Sex and Country of birth

Age Group: Less than 15 years old- from 15 to 64 years old- more than 65 years old

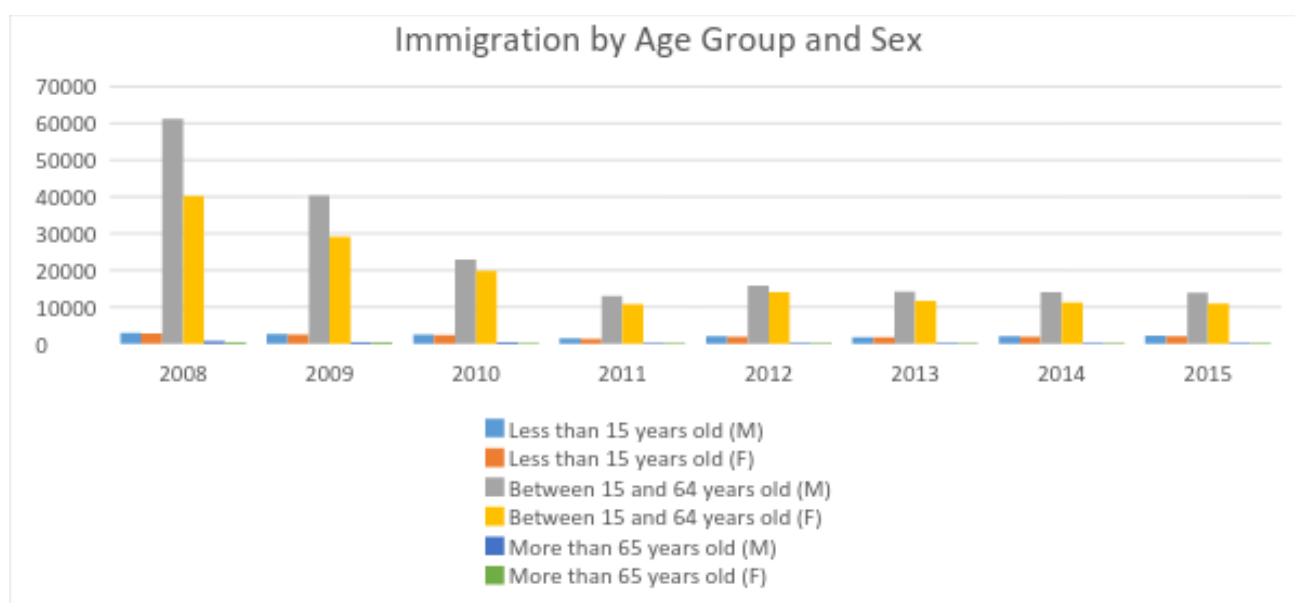
Sex: Males and Females

Country of Birth: Total

Unit of Measure: Person

Eurostat: [migr_imm3ctb]

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Less than 15 years old (M)	2.914	2.638	2.468	1.498	2.078	1.835	2.048	2.178
Less than 15 years old (F)	2.738	2.493	2.358	1.370	1.847	1.775	1.960	1.998
Between 15 and 64 years old (M)	61.197	40.358	22.910	12.941	15.775	14.165	14.043	13.848
Between 15 and 64 years old (F)	40.278	29.193	19.846	10.746	14.082	11.668	11.170	10.977
More than 65 years old (M)	658	506	390	321	302	361	351	298
More than 65 years old (F)	482	432	345	238	253	320	325	303



Migrants have been attracted to the Czech Republic because of its strong labour market and because foreigners are easily able to find jobs.

As the table shows, the male migrants are always more present than women, but both flows follow a decreasing trend from the 2008 to 2015. The age group of migrants more present in the Czech Republic is the one related to the working age in the labour market, from about 15 years old to 65 years old.

The age group of the individuals less than 15 years old is the middle one, the numbers of very young individuals, female and male, is very similar, and they reach their maximum in 2008, starting a decreasing trend after this year. The over 65 years old are fewer than the others and, in recent years, do not overcome the 300 number of individuals.

Immigration by Age group, Sex and Citizenship

Age Group: Total

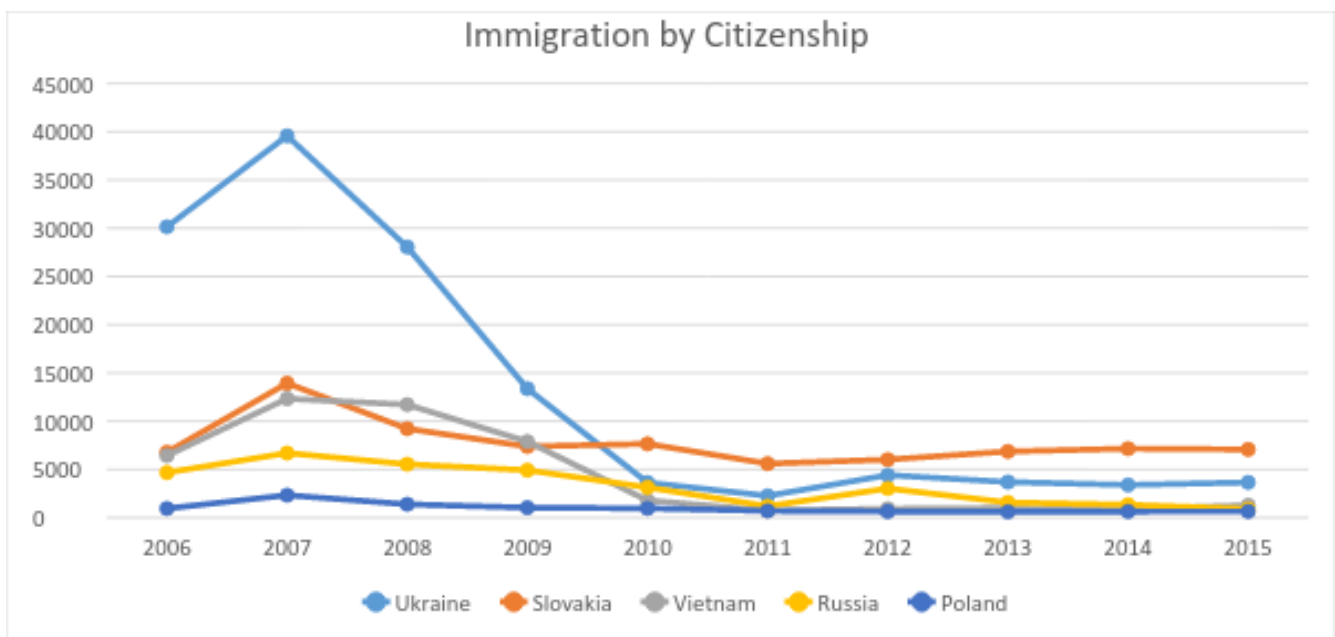
Sex: Total

Country of Citizenship: Ukraine, Slovakia, Vietnam, Russia, Poland

Unit of measure: Person

Eurostat [migr_imm1ctz]

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Ukraine	30.150	39.572	28.056	13.369	3.631	2.264	4.410	3.693	3.387	3.654
Slovakia	6.781	13.931	9.219	7.377	7.648	5.599	6.020	6.861	7.155	7.070
Vietnam	6.433	12.332	11.712	7.887	1.783	737	924	1.012	902	1.275
Russia	4.675	6.695	5.539	4.919	3.139	1.187	3.026	1.573	1.335	896
Poland	949	2.329	1.384	1.036	961	704	633	606	637	648



Of the 254.000 legal immigrants in the Czech Republic in 2004, when it joined the EU, about 60% were economic migrants, meaning they possessed a visa for a stay of over 90 days mainly for the purpose of employment, renewable on a yearly basis. The remaining 40% were those who came because of family reunification or family creation (under the umbrella of permanent residence), or, in the case of EU citizens, simply those who asked for permanent residence.

These categories provide a basic typology of the country's legally registered foreigners. As the graph shows, the main countries of origin of the migrants who enter the Czech Republic are Ukraine, Slovakia, Russia, Germany, Poland and Vietnam.

Until recently, Slovaks, due to a shared history, had specific migration privileges in the Czech Republic. For example, Slovaks did not need work permits; they only had to register their jobs.

As a result, there are more Slovaks in the Czech Republic than are represented in the statistics of legal foreigners. Since the Czech Republic and Slovakia joined the EU in 2004, Slovaks have had the same rights as other European Union citizens to live and work in the country.

The Vietnamese presence in the Czech Republic is the result of a specific form of international aid available to communist countries during the communist era. Within this program, Vietnamese were invited to the Czech Republic as early as the 1970s and 1980s. Since then, new Vietnamese immigrants have arrived via social networks with Vietnamese already established in the country.

Channels of Entrance

First Permits by Reason

Age: Total

Sex: Total

Reasons: Family reasons, Education reasons, Remunerated Activities reason

Unit of Measure: Person

Eurostat [tps00170]

Asylum Applicants- annual aggregated data (rounded)

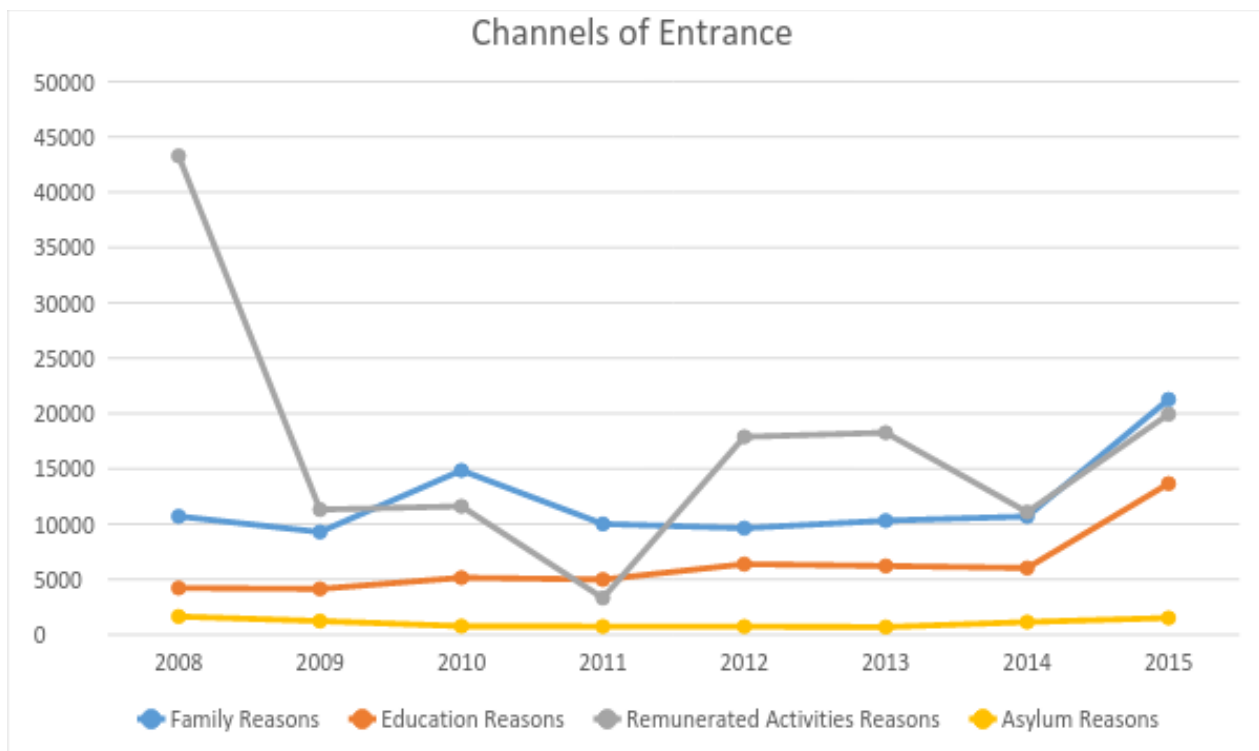
Age: Total

Sex: Total

Unit of Measure: Person

Eurostat [tps00191]

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Family Reasons	10.699	9.283	14.851	10.013	9.630	10.311	10.687	21.265
Education Reasons	4.220	4.142	5.153	4.988	6.381	6.215	6.030	13.658
Remunerated Activities Reasons	43.282	11.312	11.606	3.315	17.888	18.263	11.083	19.931
Asylum Reasons	1.645	1.235	775	750	740	695	1.145	1.515



How the graph shows, during the years preceding the global crisis, the most common channel of entrance was the “*remunerated activities reasons*”. The aftermath has showed a balancing trending of the channels with a sign of shared and constant increasing of the tendency.

From 2008 to 2014 the number of first permits for education reasons remained stable (between 4.000 and 6.000), but increases in 2015, which doubled. The same occurred for migrants for family reasons: from 2008 to 2014, the number of first permits remained around 10.000 and doubled in 2015, until 21.000. The year 2015 registered a peak of migrants for education and for family reasons, but not for remunerated activities reasons.

The number of permits for remunerated activities reasons varies during the years. We can see from the table a peak of migrants in 2008 (43.282), then a significant decrease in 2009 (11.312). In 2015, migrants registered in Czech Republic for labor reasons were 19.931.

Following with the channels of entrance the impact of the tertiary educated migrants has an important effect on the country.

Population by Educational Attainment level, Sex, Age and Citizenship

Age: 15-64 years old

Sex: Males and Females

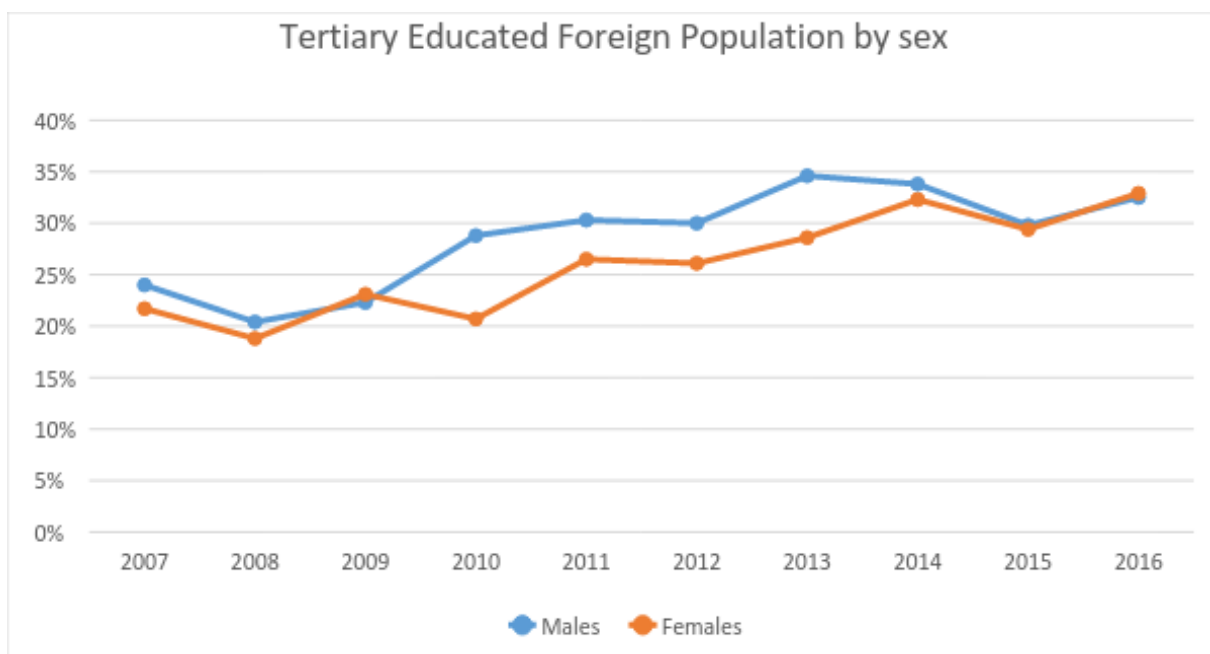
International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011): Tertiary Education (levels 5-8)

Country of Citizenship: Foreign Countries

Unit of Measure: Percentage

Eurostat [edat_lfs_9911]

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Males	24	20,4	22,3	28,8	30,3	30	34,6	33,8	29,8	32,5
Females	21,7	18,8	23,1	20,7	26,5	26,1	28,6	32,3	29,4	32,9



Within the Czech Government's Migration Policy Principles of 13 January 2003, the thesis was adopted that the national migration policy does support immigration, which is beneficial for the state and the society in the long- run.

In accordance with this policy, a pilot project entitled Selection of Qualified Foreign Workers was prepared; the goal of the project is to bring qualified foreign workers to the Czech Republic, who are able to contribute to development of the economy, and to integrate into the Czech society permanently together with their families. Each year the total numbers of foreign students at Czech higher education institutions increase, and so do the numbers of newly enrolled foreign students. The largest numbers of EU students come from Slovakia, followed by students from the United Kingdom, Portugal, Poland, and Germany.

The last channel of entrance that we analyzed concerns the asylum applicants. Since its adhesion to the EU in 2004, the Czech Republic has exhibited a downward trend in the number of applications for international protection. This development corresponds with the number of applications for international protection filed in the territories of most EU Member States. In the course of 2015, the Country recorded 1515 applications for international protection, more than the double if compared with 2013.

In recent years, the increase in asylum applications is due to multilateral and bilateral agreements were signed in favour of the employment of foreigners and asylum seekers. In addition, cooperation with international institutions dealing with migration was established. Furthermore, the introduction of a state integration program for refugees, return migrants, and some other specific categories of migrants was relatively effective and successfully implemented.

Labor Market

Employment rates by Sex, Age and Country of birth

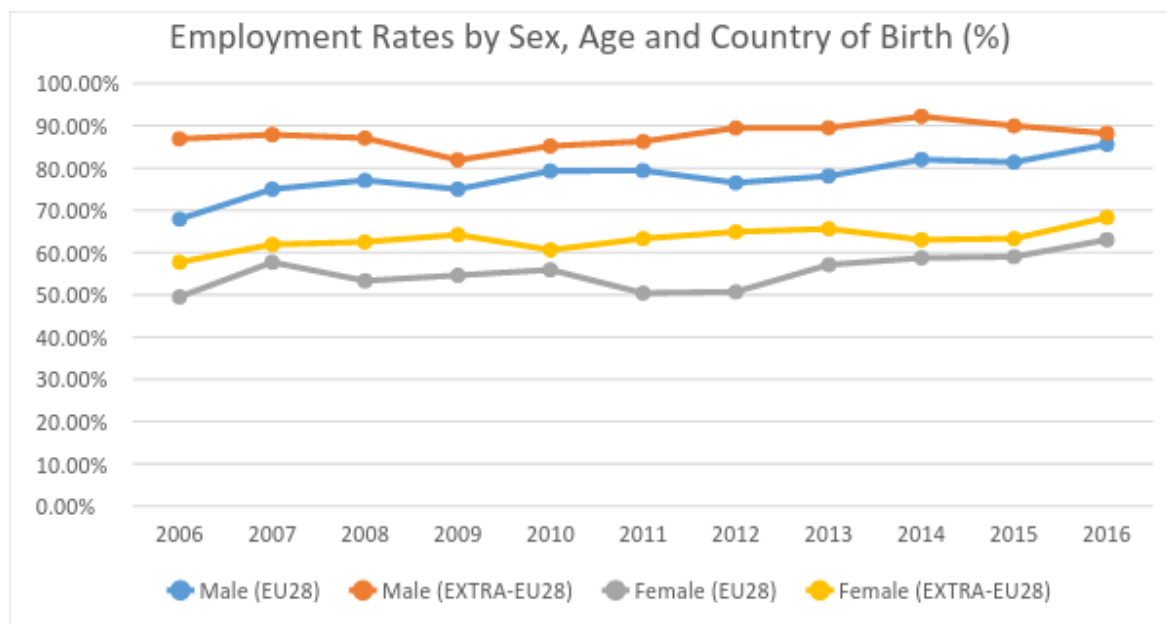
Sex: Males and Females

Age: 15-64 years old

Country of birth: EU and EXTRA-EU

Unit of Measure: Percentage

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Male (EU28)	67,9 %	75%	77,1%	75%	79,3 %	79,4 %	76,5 %	78,1 %	82%	81,4 %	85,6 %
Male (EXTRA-EU28)	86,9 %	87,9 %	87,1%	81,9 %	85,2 %	86,3 %	89,5 %	89,5 %	92,2 %	90%	88,2 %
Female (EU28)	49,5 %	57,7 %	53,3%	54,6 %	55,9 %	50,4 %	50,7 %	57,1 %	58,7 %	59%	63%
Female (EXTRA-EU28)	57,7 %	61,9 %	62,5%	64,2 %	60,6 %	63,3 %	64,9 %	65,6 %	63%	63,3 %	68,3 %



The largest numbers of legally employed persons come to the Czech Republic from the Slovak Republic, Ukraine, and Poland. Most of them are entrepreneurs who invest for their business in the country. The majority of them comes from Vietnam, followed by citizens of Ukraine and Slovakia.

According to the previous table, which shows that the most used channels of entrance are remunerated activities reasons and family reasons, this graph illustrate that Extra-EU 28 Males, followed by EU 28 Males, as a countercheck of this tendency, lead the main employment rate.

Considering the working age (20-64), the employment average between the four variables is about 75%; that means that Czech Republic labour market is able to underpin the demand of migrants workers. Despite the global crisis, this capacity of absorbing foreign labour force can explain why the variable *“remunerated activities reasons”* has the highest rates among the channels of entrance.

Unemployment rates by Sex, Age and Country of birth

Sex: Males and Females

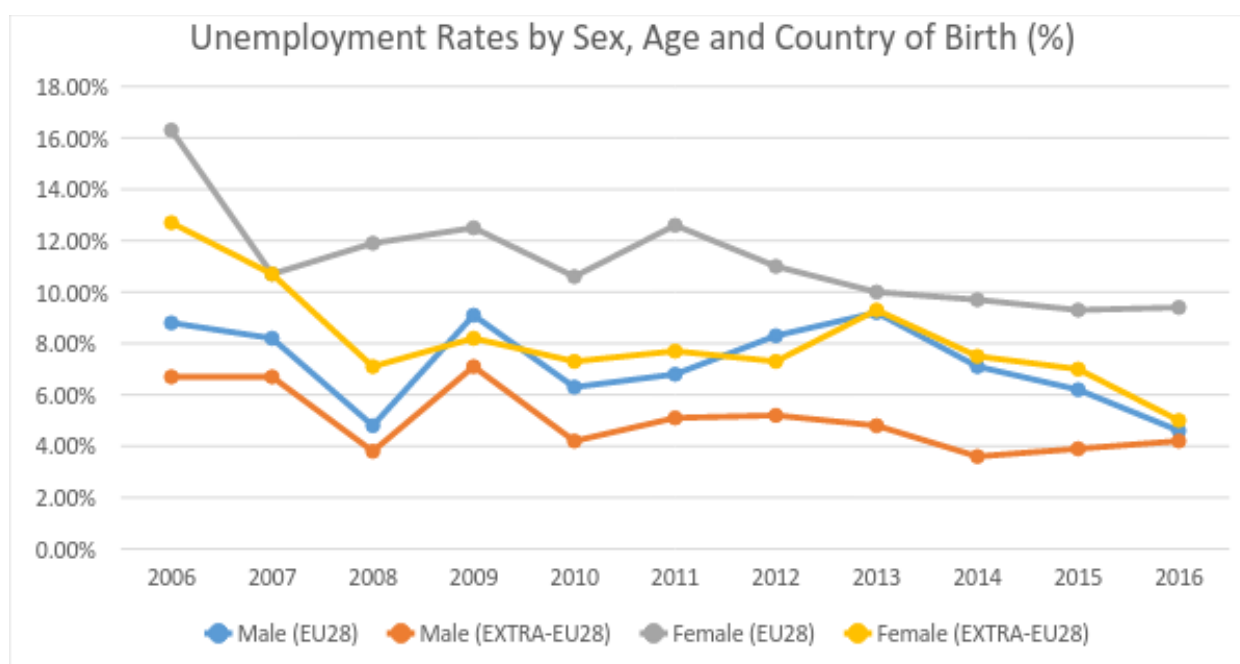
Age: 15-64 years old

Country of birth: EU and EXTRA-EU

Unit of Measure: Percentage

Eurostat [Ifsa_urgacob]

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Male (EU28)	8,8	8,2	4,8	9,1	6,3	6,8	8,3	9,2	7,1	6,2	4,6
Male (EXTRA-EU28)	6,7	6,7	3,8	7,1	4,2	5,1	5,2	4,8	3,6	3,9	4,2
Female (EU28)	16,3	10,7	11,9	12,5	10,6	12,6	11	10	9,7	9,3	9,4
Female (EXTRA-EU28)	12,7	10,7	7,1	8,2	7,3	7,7	7,3	9,3	7,5	7	5



As the table shows, the unemployment rate has been halved between 2006 and 2016. In recent years, the women from EU have a higher rate of unemployment among the migrant population, instead of the other categories that show a similar rate of unemployment stopping between the 4% and the 5%. The most important change is due to the increasing employment and empowerment of the women, who are not only a passive actor, but also their roles, became fundamental in the host labour market.

Employment rate by Sex, Age, Migration status, Citizenship and Educational attainment level

Time: 2014

Age Class: 15-64 years old

Country of Citizenship: Foreign countries

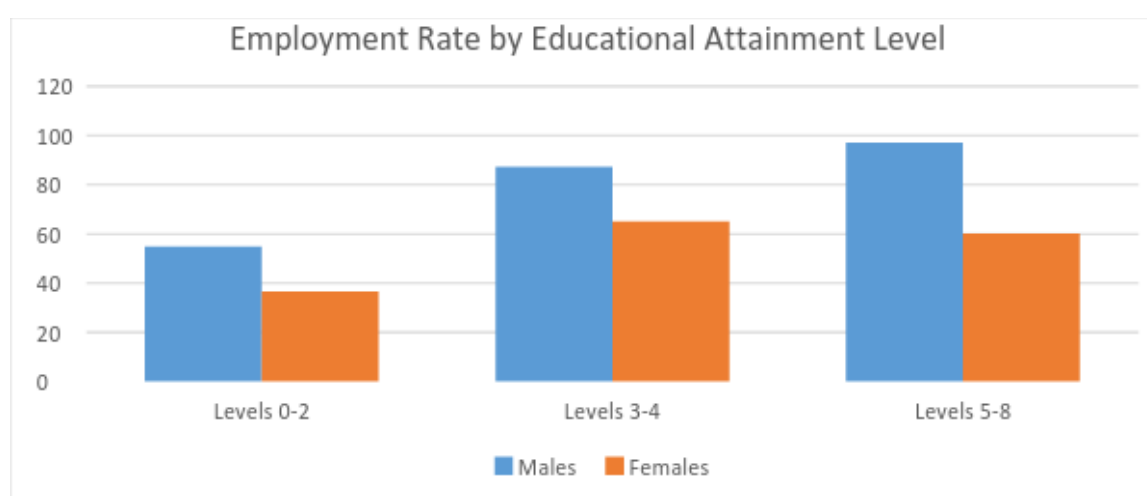
Sex: Males and Females

Unit of Measure: Percentage

Migration Status: Foreign-born (1st generation of immigrants)

Eurostat [lfso_14lempr]

	Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (level 0-2)	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (level 3-4)	Tertiary education (level 5-8)
Males	54,8	87,2	97,1
Females	36,6	65	60,1



The employment rates vary considerably according to the level of educational attainment.

This indicator shows the employment rates of people according to their education level: below upper secondary, upper secondary and tertiary education.

As the table shows, the tertiary educated male migrants are nearly all employed (97%, the highest rate among the EU Member States, *Eurostat*) and this is due to the reform that attract highly qualified migrants and provide support for increasing the accessibility of higher education for different groups. Foreign-born women are less employed than males and the majority has the upper secondary education. Although the data show that more than majority of male migrants less educated has an employ (54, 8%), the rate for the women underline the complexity to find a job by less-educated people (36, 6%).

Employment rate of first generation of immigrants by Sex, Age, Years of residence and Reason for migration

Time: 2014

Sex: Males and Females

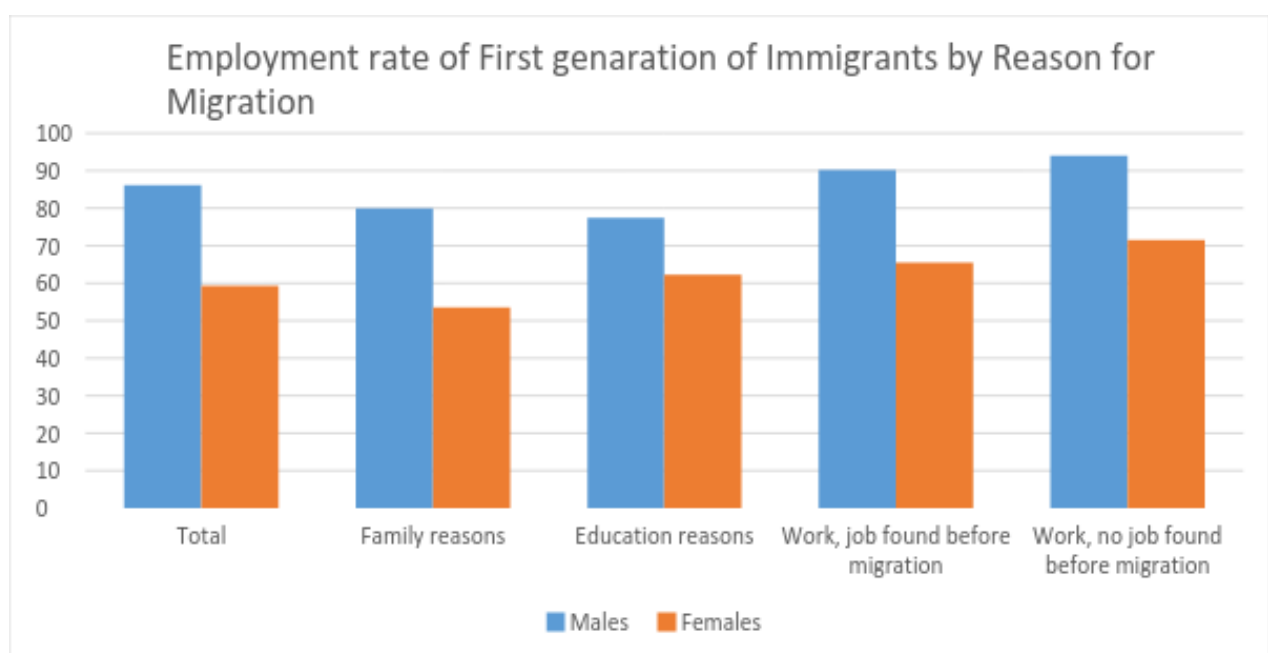
Age Class: 20-64 years old

Duration: Total

Unit of Measure: Percentage

Eurostat [lfso_14l1empr]

	Total	Family reasons	Education reasons	Work, job found before migration	Work, no job found before migration
Males	86,2	79,9	77,4	90,2	94
Females	59,3	53,5	62,3	65,5	71,5



The share of migrants within economic active population in the Czech Republic has been growing continuously since 1990.

The main reasons for migration can be linked to the employment rate of first generation of immigrants to show how many migrants are effectively employed in the host labour market. In the analysis of the employment rate in 2014 in the Czech Republic, the difference between males and females shows how the male migrants have always a higher level of employment, even due to the fact that they are used to migrate more than women in general.

The highest employment rate of both gender is reached in the dimension of the migration for working reason, in particular among the migrants that were not found a job before the migration. It means that migration favours the acquiring of labour force when the individuals are in search of a job. Of course, the migrants who left the origin country to find a job have a high employment rate, over 90% for the males and about 60% for females. The data highlight that the male migrants who left the origin country for family reason have a high employment level around 80%, even if their purpose was not about searching for a job.

Conclusions

The immigrant population in the Czech Republic has grown considerably over the past 15 years, more than doubling since 2000. The 2000s also brought significant changes to the Czech labour market, and to the profile of migrants coming to the country and settling for the long term—not least because of significant institutional and policy changes resulting from accession to the European Union, as well as the arrival of the economic crisis at the end of the decade.

This changing political and economic climate coincides with substantial fluctuations in immigrants' economic outcomes. The years 2008 and 2009 were marked by sharp changes in migration inflows into the Czech Republic. Due to the world economic crisis, the number of newly coming foreigners decreased by 46% inter-annually, which was the biggest drop among all the OECD Countries (OECD 2011).

The majority of migrants residing in the Czech Republic come from Ukraine, Slovakia, Vietnam, and Russian Federation, mainly due to geographical and historical factors. The traditional high numbers of migrants from Ukraine and other former Eastern bloc countries might be explained by

geographical and cultural proximity of these countries.

Geographically, the migrants reside mainly in greater cities with relatively low unemployment rate. The purpose of stay of migrants is issued mainly for family reunification, employment and education; compared to family and labour migrants and students, asylum seekers constituted a numerously negligible group of immigrants.