

Journal Contents

SEARCH

Current Volume

Volumes

Articles

Special Collections

General Information

About the Journal

Information for Authors

Copyright Information

Register for e-mail alerts

Submit a Paper

## Czech Republic: A rapid transformation of fertility and family behaviour after the collapse of state socialism

Tomáš Sobotka  
Anna Št'astná  
Kryštof Zeman  
Dana Hamplová  
Vladimíra Kantorová

VOLUME 19 - ARTICLE 14

PAGES 403 - 454

Date Received: 8 Apr 2006

Date Published: 1 Jul 2008

<http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol19/14/>

- ▶ [Bookmark this page](#)
- ▶ [Send this article to a friend](#)



Click the icon to view and/or download the PDF file. Once you are in the PDF file, use your browser back button to return to this page.

### Abstract

Following the swift demise of the state-socialist regime in 1989, a profound transformation of family and fertility patterns has taken place in the Czech Republic. Family formation has been postponed and period fertility rates have fallen to very low levels, especially among young adults. Unmarried cohabitation has become relatively widespread and marriages have been progressively delayed or even foregone. These rapid shifts in family-related behaviour were primarily driven by a period change and resulted in a sharp discontinuity in cohort patterns of union formation and childbearing. We argue that the rapid change in family-related behaviour after 1990 was driven by a fundamental shift in the constraints and incentives for childbearing, which was conducive to later and more carefully planned family formation. The rapidity of observed changes can be explained as the outcome of a simultaneous occurrence of several factors, especially the expansion of higher education, the emergence of new opportunities competing with family life, increasing job competition, rising economic uncertainty in young adulthood, and changing partnership behaviour.

### Author's affiliation

[Tomáš Sobotka](#)

Vienna Institute of Demography, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria

[Anna Št'astná](#)

Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, Czech Republic

[Kryštof Zeman](#)

Czech Statistical Office, Czech Republic

[Dana Hamplová](#)

Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic

[Vladimíra Kantorová](#)

United Nations, United States of America

### Keywords

childbearing, Czech Republic, Europe, family, fertility, state socialism

### Related links








You will find all publications in this Special Collection "Childbearing Trends and Policies in Europe" at <http://www.demographic-research.org/special/7/>

Other Articles by the same author/authors (in *Demographic Research*)

-  [19-12] Austria: Persistent low fertility since the mid-1980s
-  [19-9] Overview Chapter 7: The rising importance of migrants for childbearing in Europe
-  [19-8] Overview Chapter 6: The diverse faces of the Second Demographic Transition in Europe
-  [19-6] Overview Chapter 4: Changing family and partnership behaviour: Common trends and persistent diversity across Europe
-  [19-3] Overview Chapter 1: Fertility in Europe: Diverse, delayed and below replacement
-  [19-2] Summary and general conclusions: Childbearing Trends and Policies in Europe
-  [8-6] Tempo-quantum and period-cohort interplay in fertility changes in Europe: Evidence from the Czech Republic, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden
-  [S3-10] Education and Entry into Motherhood: The Czech Republic during State Socialism and the Transition Period (1970-1997)

Most recent Similar Articles (in *Demographic Research*)

-  [19-29] Ukraine: On the border between old and new in uncertain times (fertility, childbearing)
-  [19-28] Sweden: Combining childbearing and gender equality (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-27] Spain: Short on children and short on family policies (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-26] Slovenia: Generous family policy without evidence of any fertility impact (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-25] Slovakia: Fertility between tradition and modernity (fertility, childbearing)

[ [Back to previous page](#) ]