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ABSTRACT

Title	Sources of migration statistics and estimations of remittances in the Czech Republic
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Session	Improvements in use of administrative data for migration statistics (27-28 October)

The Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) – Department of Labour Force, Migration and Equal Opportunities - obtains migration data mostly from various administrative sources. The main data source is the register of Foreign Police Service (called Foreigners' Information System) which provides data on legally residing foreigners on the territory of the Czech Republic. The reason, why the CZSO does not use data from households surveys (e.g. from LFS) in the field of migration statistics, is an undervaluation of the numbers of foreigners in the sample. The household surveys are realized only in permanently inhabited houses and individual households – the dormitories, where many foreigners in the Czech Republic are accommodated in, are not included in the surveys. That is why the sample fails to cover the foreign population.

Recently, we have not seen any substantial year-on-year decrease in the statistics on legally residing foreigners in the country, despite the covid-19 pandemic. However, the situation is different when we look at the data on migration flows.

Department of Demographic Statistics is responsible for the data concerning the migration flows. Looking at the data for 2020, we find a substantial annual decrease in numbers of immigrants (almost of 10 thousand, i.e. 15 per cent). On the other hand, the numbers of emigrants increased visibly in 2020, as compared with 2019, namely by 7 thousand, (i.e. 35 per cent). The biggest migration gain was registered among the nationals of the Ukraine. Estimates on remittances are under the responsibility of the Department of National Accounts. Remittances are important item of primary and secondary income between residents of one economy to residents of other economies. According to IMF methodology¹, remittances are defined as the sum of two items in the structure of the Balance of Payments – compensation of employees and personal transfers. Statistics of remittances is based on the combination of data sources and statistical surveys on the number of foreign workers and their financial behaviour.

The data on remittances sent abroad from the Czech Republic in 2020 indicates a moderate annual decline, to 75 200 million CZK (i.e. by 2.9 per cent less). The decline concerned primarily the remittances sent to other EU-member countries. On the other hand, remittances sent outside EU slightly increased between 2019 and 2020. An opposite development is seen in case of the remittances directed to the Czech Republic. In comparison with 2019, in 2020 the total amount of remittances went up substantially, reaching the value of 97 500 million CZK (i.e. by 9.4 per cent more in comparison with previous year).

¹ International transactions in remittances: guide for compilers and users. Washington D.C.: International Monetary Fund 2009.