Social and economic points of the rural development

Společenské a hospodářské otázky rozvoje venkova

F. STŘELEČEK, R. ZDENĚK, J. LOSOSOVÁ, M. JÍLEK

University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Abstract: The article deals with characteristics of local communities and rural regions. Local communities are defined both according to the standards of population density and the number of inhabitants. In the article, there are treated especially the indicators of population development (balance of migration), economic activities of the inhabitants, unemployment rates, structures of the population according to the sector of national economy and the indicators of education. These indicators have been calculated on the basis of data of the Census 2001, municipal and regional statistics and the Department of Employment data concerning the unemployment rate.

Key words: the country, rural region, local community, unemployment, population development, education

Abstrakt: Článek se zabývá charakteristikou venkovských obcí a venkovských regionů. Venkovské obce jsou definovány jak podle kritéria hustoty zalidnění, tak podle počtu obyvatel. V článku jsou zkoumány zejména ukazatele populačního vývoje (saldo migrace), ekonomické aktivity obyvatelstva, míry nezaměstnanosti, struktury obyvatelstva podle odvětví národního hospodářství a ukazatelé vzdělanosti. Tyto ukazatele jsou vypočteny na základě údajů ze Sčítání lidu, domů a bytů 2001, Městské a obecní statistiky a údajů Ministerstva práce a sociálních věcí o míře nezaměstnanosti.

Klíčová slova: venkov, venkovský region, venkovská obec, nezaměstnanost, populační vývoj, vzdělanost

INTRODUCTION

The development of the rural will be the principal point of political reforms in the next period in the countries of the European Union, following the radical reform of Common Agricultural Policy in 2003–2004. The development of the rural is part of the EU – Pillar II priorities, where the European Union shifts on the basis of a modulation, resources of direct payments. The Czech Republic will have in the future the possibility to draw these resources and therefore it is necessary to know the needs of local communities and the ways to their solution. The goal of this article is to contribute to the analysis of local communities following the data of the Census 2001.

The definition of the rural regions is the first condition to their analysis. The European Union has not yet arrived at a unified definition concerning the delimitation of the rural area (European Commission 1997).

For the purposes of international comparison of rural conditions, the OECD has set a definition of rural regions. The definition is set on two hierarchical levels, on the local and territorial level. On the local level, rural region is defined for NUTS 5 (Nomenclature des Unites Teritoriales Statistiques) – local communities where the population density is less than 150 inhabitants per 1 km^2. Regional level is issued from NUTS 3 for which the OECD sorts larger functional or administrative units according to the rural degree. This all is expressed by the percentage of inhabitants living in local communities to total number of inhabitants in the region.

According to the number of inhabitants in local communities, three types of regions have been set:
1. Prevailing rural regions. In this type of regions, more than 50% of inhabitants live in local communities.
2. Significantly rural regions. In the local communities, there live 15–50% inhabitants.
3. Prevailing urban regions. In these regions less than 15% of inhabitants live in the local communities.

The Eurostat defines the rural area according to the degree of urbanization. The European area is following the Eurostat procedure divided into three groups:
1. Densely populated zones. A densely populated zone is formed by a group of geographically connected communities where the population density is more than 500 inhabitants per 1 km^2 and where more than 50 000 inhabitants live.
2. Middle zones. These are formed by groups of communities where the population density is more than 100 inhabitants per 1 km^2 in each community and they do not belong to the densely populated zones. In middle zone, the total number of population must be less than 50 000.
3. Remote rural areas. The population density in these areas is low, the population is growing old and is very dependant on employment in agriculture. The incomes of the inhabitants are often low. Sufficient services are not provided in this area. Mountain ranges or the dis-

Table 1. Number of communities, inhabitants and the surface of rural regions.
Criterium: the population density < 100 inhabitants per 1 km^2

Region	Number of communities	Number of local communities	Number of inhabitants	Numner of inhabitants in l.c.	Area (ha)	Area of local communities	Percentage		
							Local communities	Rural inhabitants	Area of local communities
ČR	6 254	4 954	10 206 436	2 309 137	7 886 508	5 917 399	79.2	22.6	75.0
Praha	1	0	1 160 118	0	49 589	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Jihomoravský	647	438	1 124 493	211 764	706 566	423 140	67.7	18.8	59.9
Blansko	130	100	107 612	30 586	94 251	58 876	76.9	28.4	62.5
Brno-město	1	0	373 272	0	23 018	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Brno-venkov	137	62	160 017	29 218	110 807	51 023	45.3	18.3	46.0
Břeclav	69	48	123 825	49 956	117 292	75 249	69.6	40.3	64.2
Hodonín	81	37	159 296	20 829	108 649	36 469	45.7	13.1	33.6
Vyškov	81	56	86 448	24 716	88 866	60 678	69.1	28.6	68.3
Znojmo	148	135	114 023	56 459	163 682	140 845	91.2	49.5	86.0
Vysočina	729	682	518 315	217 353	692 540	569 791	93.6	41.9	82.3
Havlíčkův Brod	120	113	94 919	40 079	126 497	101 365	94.2	42.2	80.1
Jihlava	121	110	108 261	33 044	118 007	92 771	90.9	30.5	78.6
Pelhřimov	120	116	72 684	35 871	128 987	107 573	96.7	49.4	83.4
Třebíč	173	165	117 310	56 514	151 867	134 795	95.4	48.2	88.8
Žďár nad Sázavou	195	178	125 141	51 845	167 182	133 288	91.3	41.4	79.7
Jihočeský	623	578	624 568	264 167	1 005 652	906 012	92.8	42.3	90.1
České Budějovice	107	89	178 140	54 436	162 547	145 599	83.2	30.6	89.6
Český Krumlov	46	42	59 500	30 178	161 496	151 103	91.3	50.7	93.6
Jindřichův Hradec	106	102	92 754	56 157	194 371	178 015	96.2	60.5	91.6
Písek	76	72	70 436	29 849	113 812	101 930	94.7	42.4	89.6
Prachatice	65	62	51 380	29 962	137 497	124 570	95.4	58.3	90.6
Strakonice	112	107	69 644	28 284	103 207	88 727	95.5	40.6	86.0
Tábor	111	104	102 714	35 301	132 723	116 067	93.7	34.4	87.5
Plzeňský	503	447	549 600	191 303	756 101	657 081	88.9	34.8	86.9
Domažlice	86	78	58 776	32 790	114 011	101 984	90.7	55.8	89.5
Klatovy	95	90	87 991	41 992	193 950	173 301	94.7	47.7	89.4
Plzeň-jih	100	87	68 257	33 703	107 983	89 802	87.0	49.4	83.2
Plzeň-město	1	0	164 336	0	12 475	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Plzeň-sever	102	82	73 241	31 593	132 311	113 471	80.4	43.1	85.8
Rokycany	68	61	45 758	20 326	57 510	50 220	89.7	44.4	87.3
Tachov	51	49	51 241	30 899	137 862	128 303	96.1	60.3	93.1
Moravskoslezský	302	163	1 265 912	130 649	555 438	318 640	54.0	10.3	57.4
Bruntál	71	65	104 810	45 883	165 845	147 750	91.5	43.8	89.1
Frýdek-Místek	77	28	226 612	22 380	127 271	63 068	36.4	9.9	49.6
Karviná	16	1	278 197	1 042	34 727	1 061	6.3	0.4	3.1
Nový Jičín	57	31	159 683	32 469	91 784	46 604	54.4	20.3	50.8
Opava	80	38	181 168	28 875	114 387	60 157	47.5	15.9	52.6
Ostrava-město	1	0	315 442	0	21 423	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Královehradecký	448	377	549 329	153 239	475 824	357 881	84.2	27.9	75.2
Hradec Králové	101	85	159 958	33 537	87 549	62 832	84.2	21.0	71.8
Jičín	111	100	77 524	32 164	88 661	73 564	90.1	41.5	83.0
Náchod	78	63	112 480	27 227	85 155	60 651	80.8	24.2	71.2
Rychnov nad Kněžnou	83	69	78 881	28 257	99 785	75 127	83.1	35.8	75.3
Trutnov	75	60	120 486	32 054	114 674	85 708	80.0	26.6	74.7

Region	Number of communities	Number of local communities	Number of inhabitants	Nummer of inhabitants in l.c.	Area (ha)	Area of local communities	Percentage		
							Local communities	Rural inhabitants	Area of local communities
Liberecký	216	163	427 396	102 163	316 291	238 714	75.5	23.9	75.5
Česká Lípa	60	49	105 885	35 209	113 708	96 983	81.7	33.3	85.3
Jablonec nad Nisou	34	15	87 934	7 259	40 230	20 721	44.1	8.3	51.5
Liberec	57	45	158 351	25 670	92 465	62 678	78.9	16.2	67.8
Semily	65	54	75 226	34 025	69 888	58 332	83.1	45.2	83.5
Pardubický	453	386	507 176	173 515	451 852	357 739	85.2	34.2	79.2
Chrudim	113	92	105 134	40 263	102 967	80 021	81.4	38.3	77.7
Pardubice	115	91	160 770	31 272	88 895	60 869	79.1	19.5	68.5
Svitavy	113	105	102 380	46 444	133 472	113 841	92.9	45.4	85.3
Ústí nad Orlicí	112	98	138 892	55 536	126 518	103 009	87.5	40.0	81.4
Karlovarský	132	100	303 714	72 831	331 434	263 936	75.8	24.0	79.6
Cheb	39	32	88 770	18 450	93 277	67 282	82.1	20.8	72.1
Karlovy Vary	55	45	121 847	33 517	162 800	142 234	81.8	27.5	87.4
Sokolov	38	23	93 097	20 864	75 358	54 420	60.5	22.4	72.2
Ústecký	354	271	819 450	133 765	533 428	376 171	76.6	16.3	70.5
Děčín	52	37	133 703	19 398	90 908	50 922	71.2	14.5	56.0
Chomutov	44	39	124 826	16 704	93 529	75 964	88.6	13.4	81.2
Litoměřice	105	85	114 422	40 433	103 210	83 667	81.0	35.3	81.1
Louny	70	63	85 844	31 875	111 706	92 922	90.0	37.1	83.2
Most	26	18	117 000	8 089	46 718	28 943	69.2	6.9	62.0
Teplice	34	14	126 130	6 648	46 912	17 878	41.2	5.3	38.1
Ústí nad Labem	23	15	117 525	10 618	40 445	25 875	65.2	9.0	64.0
Středočeský	1 148	892	1 123 931	352 241	1 101 447	854 128	77.7	31.3	77.5
Benešov	115	105	93 082	46 286	152 347	133 084	91.3	49.7	87.4
Beroun	86	60	75 855	25 007	66 186	48 998	69.8	33.0	74.0
Kladno	100	63	149 988	19 672	69 147	40 036	63.0	13.1	57.9
Kolín	100	72	95 576	27 401	84 622	58 180	72.0	28.7	68.8
Kutná Hora	88	79	73 374	28 678	91 684	77 677	89.8	39.1	84.7
Mělník	70	54	94 722	25 102	71 239	53 080	77.1	26.5	74.5
Mladá Boleslav	123	110	114 127	40 324	105 778	87 479	89.4	35.3	82.7
Nymburk	90	74	84 323	32 295	87 604	68 191	82.2	38.3	77.8
Praha-východ	91	53	96 752	19 225	58 399	30 014	58.2	19.9	51.4
Praha-západ	80	34	84 572	13 419	58 614	25 806	42.5	15.9	44.0
Příbram	120	107	107 474	43 819	162 797	142 989	89.2	40.8	87.8
Rakovník	85	81	54 086	31 013	93 031	88 593	95.3	57.3	95.2
Olomoucký	394	266	638 374	166 999	513 953	360 136	67.5	26.2	70.1
Jeseník	24	20	42 399	24 783	71 881	64 339	83.3	58.5	89.5
Olomouc	92	57	224 535	42 173	145 152	91 637	62.0	18.8	63.1
Prostějov	96	63	109 773	28 261	76 967	48 513	65.6	25.7	63.0
Přerov	104	72	135 375	31 576	88 396	53 740	69.2	23.3	60.8
Šumperk	78	54	126 292	40 206	131 557	101 907	69.2	31.8	77.5
Zlínský	304	191	594 060	139 148	396 393	234 030	62.8	23.4	59.0
Kroměříž	80	58	108 039	30 241	79 928	53 120	72.5	28.0	66.5
Uherské Hradiště	78	39	144 314	28 749	99 143	48 504	50.0	19.9	48.9
Vsetín	59	41	146 687	49 104	114 307	81 666	69.5	33.5	71.4
Zlín	87	53	195 020	31 054	103 015	50 740	60.9	15.9	49.3

Source: Census 2001, Municipal and regional statistics 2002

tance often causes the remoteness of these areas from transportation network.

To achieve unity in OECD and Eurostat criteria, the limits of population density for assessment of local communities have been adjusted to 100 inhabitants per 1 km^2 in the OECD procedure as well.

The last definition is issued from the number of inhabitants in the community and local communities are considered those with less than 2 000 inhabitants.

According to the degree of integration of the rural area in the national economy, the local communities can be discerned between:
1. Integrated rural areas with an increasing development of population. The population is employed in secondary and terciary branch.
2. Direct rural areas, relatively distant from urban centers. The primary and secondary branch is interchangeable. In many countries, agriculture is the base of employment in these areas.
3. Remote rural areas. The population density in these areas is low, the population is aging and very dependant on employment in agriculture, the incomes of the inhabitants are often low. Sufficient services are not provided in this area. Mountain ranges or the distance often causes the remoteness of these areas from transportation network (Council Regulation No. 199).

THE DEFINITION OF RURAL AREAS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

To define the inhabitants of rural areas, two criteria have been used:

– the density of population lower than 100 inhabitants per 1 km^2;
– the number of inhabitants to 2 000. The base of observation has been separate community in the Czech Republic.

Table 1 indicates basic characteristics of the areas. The criterium for assessment of the local communities was the population density lower than 100 inhabitants per 1 km^2.

The average population density in the Czech Republic is 129.4 inhabitants per 1 km^2. In comparison with 1999, it has dropped by 1.2 inhabitants that is by 0.9 %. Table 2 represents the basic definition of local communities.

In the Czech Republic, there are 4 954 communities where the population density is less than 100 inhabitants per km^2 and 5 628 communities where the number of inhabitants is less than 2 000. The number of local communities represents 79–90% from the total number of communities in the Czech Republic. From the total area of the Czech Republic, the local communities occupy 73.72–75%. It is evident that the principal charge of working the tilth depends on the local communities. On the total number of inhabitants the local communities participate by 26% maximum. The delimitation and occupancy of the local communities is quite stable which a small range in comparison with 1998 presents. Compared with this year, the total number of communities has increased by 12, while the number of local communities has decreased by 42.

Table 3 represents the division of rural regions according to the population density in local communities and Table 4 represents the division of rural regions according to the size of local communities.

Table 2. The definition of local communities following the population density and the number of inhabitants.

Criterium	Number of communities		Number of inhabitants		Area in ha		Average density
	absolutely	%	absolutely	%	absolutely	%	
Density < 100	4 954	79.2	2 309 137	22.6	5 917 399	75.0	39.0
Number of inhabitants < 2 000	5 628	89.9	2 667 436	26.1	5 814 220	73.7	45.9
Totally in the Czech Republic	6 254		10 206 436		7 886 508		129.4

Source: Census 2001

Table 3. Division of rural regions
Criterium: population density < 100 inhabitants per km^2

Type of region	Number of communities		Area of communities		Number of inhabitants		Average population density per km^2
	totally	%	in km^2	%	totally	%	
Prevailing rural	463	7.4	9 101	11.5	410 136	4.0	45.1
Significant rural	5 300	84.7	61 713	78.3	6 261 921	61.4	101.5
Total number of rural regions	**5 763**	**92.1**	**70 815**	**89.8**	**6 672 057**	**65.4**	**94.2**
Prevailing urban	491	7.9	8 050	10.2	3 534 379	34.6	439.0
Total number in the Czech Republic	6 254		78 865		10 206 436		129.4

Source: Municipal and regional statistics 2002

Table 4. Division of rural regions
Criterium: number of inhabitants of local communities < 2 000

Type of region	Number of communities		Area of communities		Number of inhabitants		Average population density per km²
	totally	%	in km²	%	totally	%	
Prevailing rural	882	14.1	8 796	11.2	681 270	6.7	77.4
Significant rural	5 225	83.5	66 380	84.2	6 748 320	66.1	101.7
Total number of rural regions	**6 107**	**97.6**	**75 177**	**95.3**	**7 429 590**	**72.8**	**98.8**
Prevailing urban	147	2.4	3 688	4.7	2 776 846	27.2	752.9
Total number in the Czech Republic	6 254		78 865		10 206 436		129.4

Source: Municipal and regional statistics 2002

Table 5. Division of districts following the share of rural inhabitants

The share of rural inhabitants in a district	Number of districts
20–30%	18
30–40%	13
40–50%	25
50–60%	8*

Source: Census 2001

*Znojmo, Žďár nad Sázavou, Domažlice, Plzeň-sever, Beroun, Kolín, Praha-západ, Rakovník)

For the regional strategy from the point of view of the districts, the percentage of rural inhabitants in separate districts is relevant (Figure 1). Following the share of rural inhabitants, the districts can be divided into groups as shown in Table 5.

It is evident that the high share of rural inhabitants should be taken in account in regional functional programes of separate regions. It is, however, necessary to state that the areas with a high share of rural inhabitants are not treated with sufficient care.

The population development of rural population

If we compare the development of particular indicators, then these dissimilarities in the development in the Czech
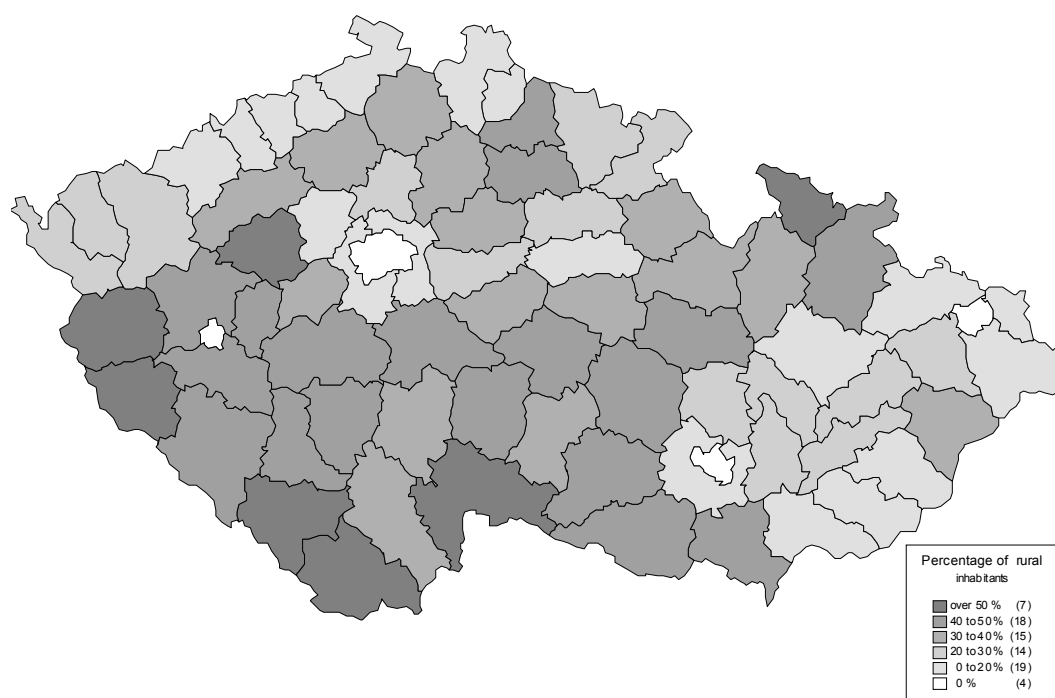
Figure 1. The share of rural inhabitants
Criterium – density of inhabitants < 100 inhabitants per km²

Source: Census 2001

Republic and the rural areas can be found. The natural decrease of population is higher in local communities than the average decrease in the Czech Republic (0.15% – the Czech Republic, 0.22% rural areas). Probably it is given by the higher rate of aged persons in the local communities. On the contrary, the balance of migration is positive in the rural regions (Czech Republic 0.12%, rural regions 0.66%). In average, there will be an increase of one inhabitant per 200 inhabitants of local communities. The number of person moved into the state of rural population is by 0.65 point higher than 2.37% of the removed. This positive development of migration is caused especially by the positive balance of migration of local com-

munities near towns. A higher balance of migration of the rural population over 1% is in the districts Brno-country, Česká Lípa, České Budějovice, Karlovy Vary, Liberec, Litoměřice, Pardubice, Plzeň-jih, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Sokolov, Teplice, Ústí nad Labem. Totally they are 14 districts. 289 communities have the balance of migration over 5%. A negative balance of migration is in local communities in five districts. Extreme rates of balance of migration are presented in Table 6. The cause is a frequent problem with transportation and the loss of employment. From this point of view, it is probably not difficult to keep a favorable development of population in the suburban communities with sufficient employment possibilities in the conurbation. The problem of migration, emigration respectively, concerns especially the remote communities.

The index of vitality represents the relation of inhabitants in the age of 59–64 years to the age group 15–19 years of age. This vital index expresses how the young generation is capable to substitute the retiring generation. The average vital index in the Czech Republic is 0.698, in local communities 0.682. In this context, it is useful to bring in the average age of the population. In the Czech Republic, the average age is 37.98, in the local communities 37.84. Regarding the fact that the share of rural population in the total population in the Czech Republic is 26%, then it is evident that the rural population in relation to the urban one does not grow old. This by the way is confirmed by the index of vitality.

There is a problem with the age and the index of vitality in the lay-out of these indexes across the individual local communities. The index of vitality higher than one is in 1 034 communities, that means 18.4% of all local communities. More than 30 % of communities manifest this unfavourable index of vitality in the districts: Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov a Plzeň-jih. A relatively important correlation exits between the unfavourable rate of

Table 6. Extreme rates of migration balance

District	Number of local communities	Balance of migration (%)
Klatovy	89	–0.16
Bruntál	63	–0.16
Žďár nad Sázavou	190	–0.12
Chrudim	104	–0.04
Strakonice	108	–0.04
Třebíč	167	–0.04
Sokolov	28	1.52
Česká Lípa	51	1.57
Karlovy Vary	47	1.80
Liberec	48	1.80
České Budějovice	96	2.05
Ústí nad Labem	18	2.44
Praha-východ	84	2.88
Praha-západ	67	2.96

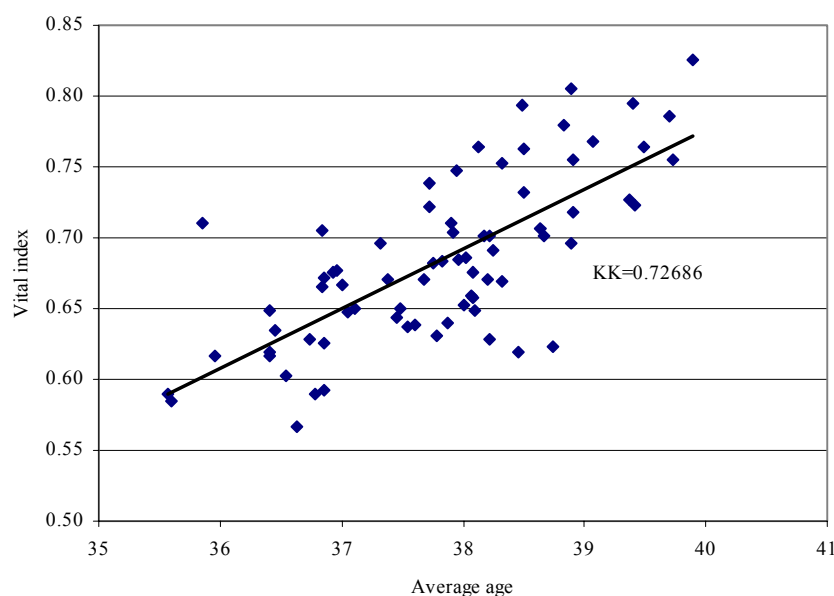Source: Municipal and regional statistics 2002

Figure 2. Dependence between the average age and the vital index

vital index and the average age in the communities represented in Figure 2.

Economic activity of the rural population

The economic activity of the population is one of the important factors to ensure the pensionary stabilization of the regions. The quotient of economically active population in the Czech Republic reaches the value 51.4%. In the rural areas, this share is lower by 2.1 points. It is necessary to state, with a certain rate of inaccuracy, however, that the rate of economic activity in the Czech Republic and in the rural regions does not differ considerably. A low economic activity from 20% to 40%

is manifested in 280 communities, that is 5% of the total number of local communities. Some of these are especially 13 communities in the district Blansko, 13 communities in the district Havlíčkův Brod, 10 communities in the district Jihlava, 16 communities in the district Pelhřimov, 11 communities in the district Strakonice, 17 communities in the district Třebíč and 36 communities in the district Žďár nad Sázavou.

The rate of unemployment

The rate of unemployment in the local communities follows the same tendency as in the whole Czech Republic (Figure 3). The average rate of unemployment in the
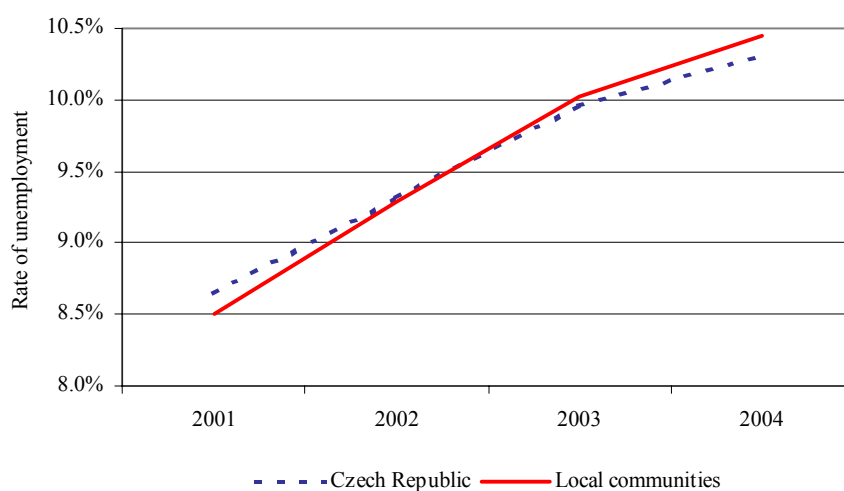
Figure 3. The development of the rate of unemployment in 2001–2004

2004 – data of the months January to July
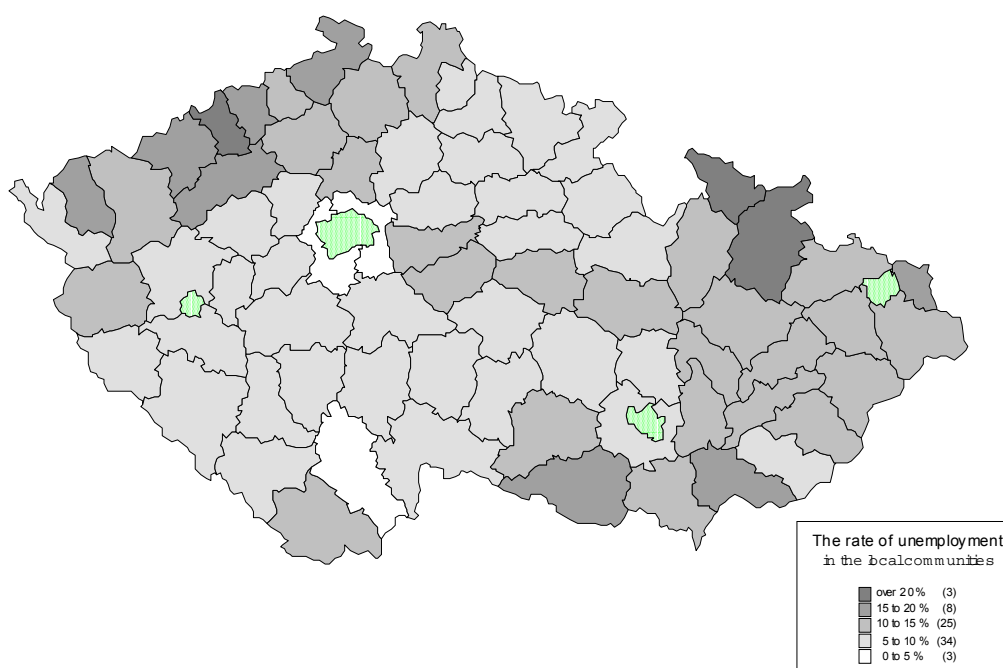
Figure 4. The rate of unemployment in the local communities in January–July 2004

Source: Census 2001

Table 7. Extreme rates of unemployment

Rate of unemployment in the local communities	Districts
15–20%	Děčín, Hodonín, Chomutov, Karviná, Louny, Znojmo, Sokolov, Teplice
Over 20%	Bruntál, Jeseník, Most

Source Department of employment

Table 8. Areas with an important number of persons commuting to work

First area	Náchod, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Pardubice, Svitavy, Žďár nad Sázavou, Brno-venkov
Second area	Uherské Hradiště, Zlín, Vsetín
Third area	Jindřichův Hradec, Tábor, Pelhřimov, Benešov, České Budějovice

Source: Census 2001

Table 9. Target areas of the commuting population (%)

Commuters	Czech Republic	Local communities
within the community	38.8	16.6
within the district	20.3	44.2
within the region	13.1	9.1
to a different region	6.1	8.1

Source: Census 2001

local communities in separate districts for the period January–July 2004 represents Figure 4.

The high rate of unemployment in the rural regions of separate districts is alarming. Table 7 represents districts, where the rate of unemployment in the local communities reaches over 15%.

These high rates of unemployment result from high rates of unemployment in conurbations in the given districts (Figure 5) and they are even accelerated in the rural areas. To solve the unemployment of the rural population in these districts means to solve the unemployment of the district as a whole, especially of its conurbation.

The commuters

The high number of workers commuting to work is characteristic of the whole Czech Republic as well as for the local communities. From the total number of economically active population in the Czech Republic, 81.6% commute, in the local communities 81.5%.

More than 80% of commuters live in 3 496 local communities, that is 62.1% of the total number of local communities. From 60% to 80% of commuter live by 2 074 local communities, that is 36.8%. In summary, in 98.9% of communities more than 60% of economically active inhabitants commute to work.

The most significant commutation, more than 80 % of inhabitants, involves the areas shown in Table 8.

Besides these areas, the districts Domažlice, Plzeň-jih, Beroun, Mladá Boleslav belong here. The division of
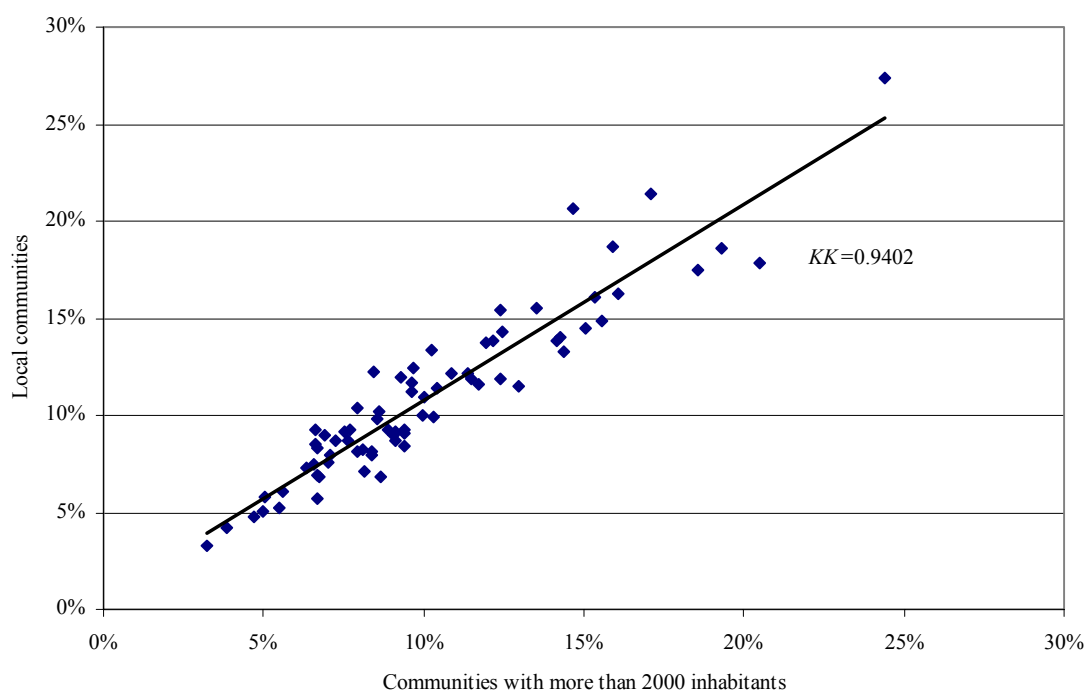

Figure 5. Dependence of unemployment in the local communities and the unemployment in the towns in 2004

commuters following their target destination in Table 9 is interesting.

It is characteristic for the inhabitants of local communities that almost a half of them commute within the district. For the sake of rising the employment, it is necessary to form new employment not only within separate communities but also within districts. There is a danger, however, that the second generation will prefer to live within the reach of their employment and so the emigration from local communities will rise up. This danger ought to be faced by a better transportation service.

Commuting to a different region concerns specially the local communities of Center Bohemia, oriented to Prague. This problem is unimportant, because migration around big towns has a long-time tradition in our country and it is conform with the tendency of living in the country in the neighborhood of big towns. The same tendency concerns the agglomerations of Brno and Plzeň.

Structure of rural population following the different sectors of national economy

The structure of rural population following the employment of economically active population can be measured in relation to the most important sectors of national economy, industry, civil engineering, agriculture and transportation.

Industry is the most important one among the monitored sectors of the national economy, both on the level of the Czech Republic as on the level of local communities. To point out the importance of this sector it is useful to use two classificatory levels-the number of industry employees to the number of economically active population. In the Czech Republic, 29% of economically active population are employed in industry. In local communities, it is by 3.7 of percentage point more. Table 10 and Figure 6 represent the importance of this sector in local communities.

More than 20% of population is employed in industry, that is more than one fifth of rural population.

More than 40% of economically active population is employed in industry in districts Sokolov, Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Blansko, Šumperk, Uherské Hradiště a Karviná. Less than 20% of population is employed in industry in the district Praha-západ.

10% of economically active population is employed in civil engineering. In the Czech Republic, the number of civil engineering employees is 8.7%. Up to 5% of rural population is employed in civil engineering in 636 communities, over 15% of economically active population is employed in civil engineering in 616 communities. Fig-

Table 10. Division of local communities following the number of persons employed in industry

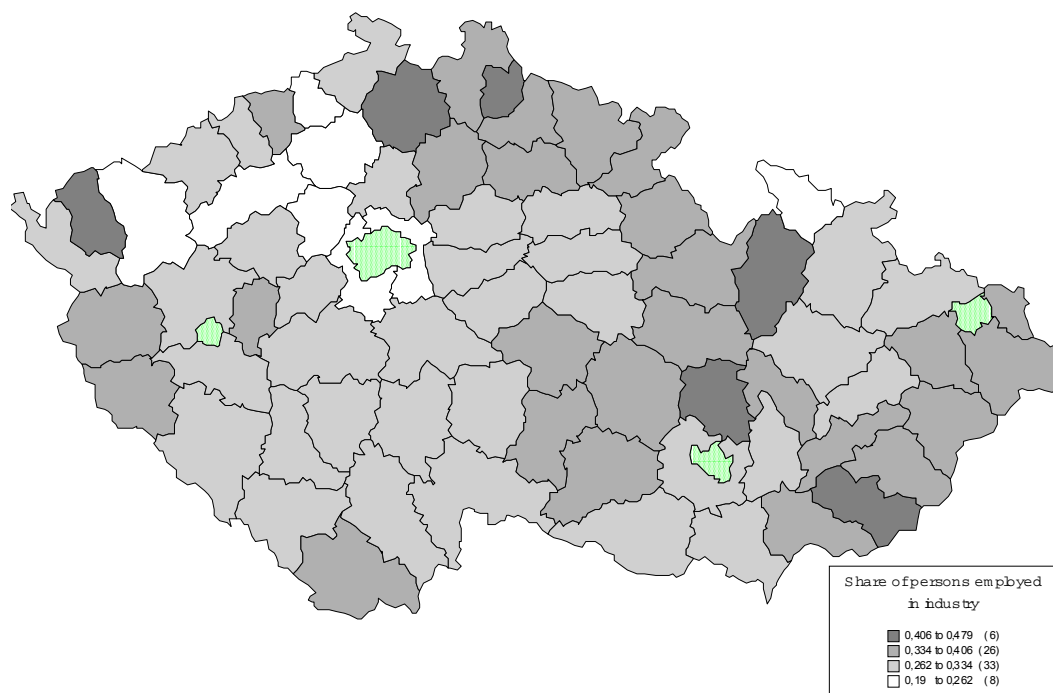| Share of persons employed in industry to economically active population	The number of local communities	Share of local communities (%)
0–20%	597	10.6
20–40%	3 936	69.6
40–60%	1 077	19.1
Over 60%	24	0.4

Source: Census 2001

Figure 6. The share of persons in local communities employed in industry to economically active population
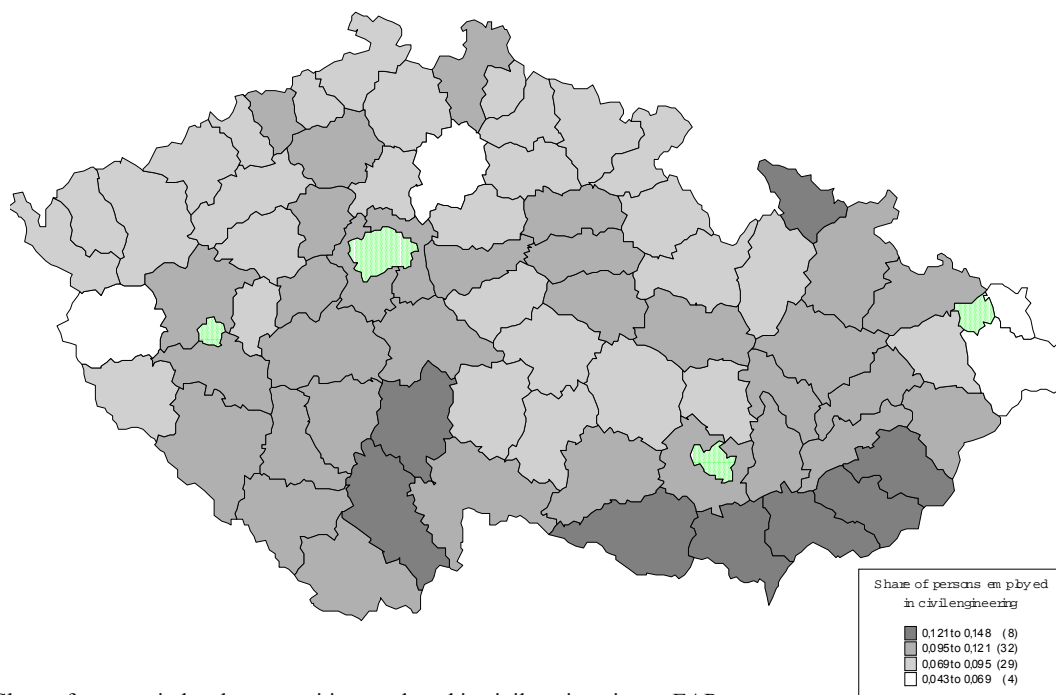
Source: Census 2001

Figure 7. Share of persons in local communities employed in civil engineering to EAP

Source: Census 2001

ure 7 represents the share of rural population employed in civil engineering to economically active population following the districts.

Second most important sector in local communities from the point of view of employment is agriculture, forestry and fishery. In the Czech Republic, 4.7% persons

work in agriculture, in local communities it is 11.1%. The division of employment in agriculture following separate regions is summarized in Table 11.

The districts where the share of agriculture is low in local communities (up to 5%) are: Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Sokolov, Ústí nad Labem, Jablonec nad Nisou,
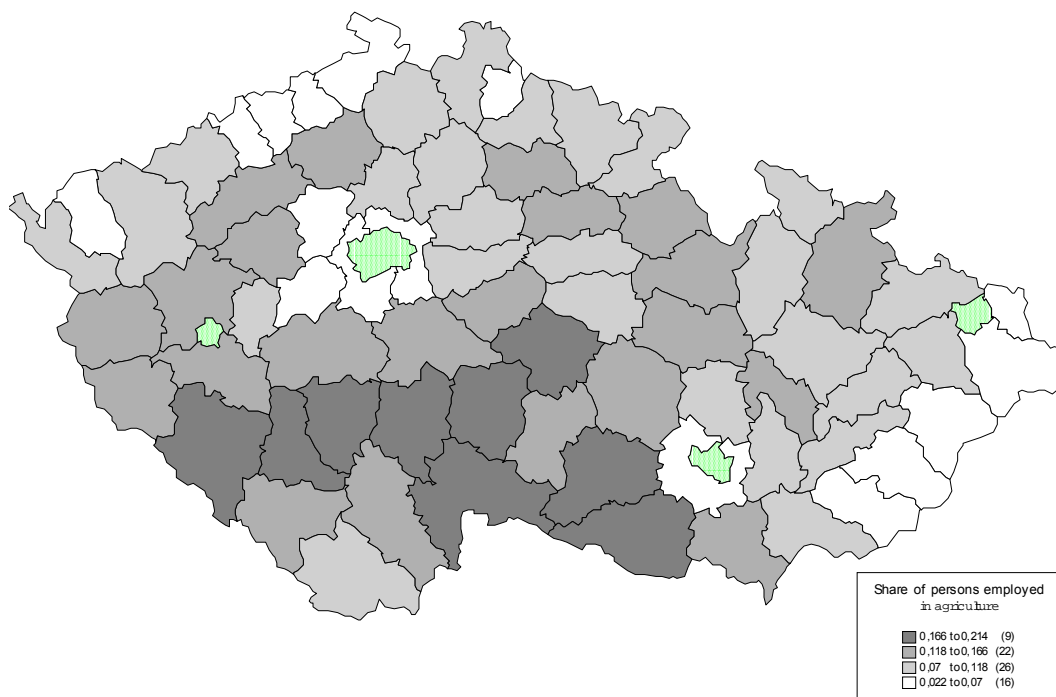
Figure 8. Share of persons in local communities employed in agriculture to EAP

Source: Census 2001

Table 11. The division of local communities following the share of persons employed in agriculture

Share of persons employed in agriculture to economically active population	The number of local communities	Share of local communities (%)
0–10%	2 214	39.3
10–15%	1 206	21.4
15–20%	923	16.4
Over 20%	1 291	22.9

Source: Census 2001

Table 12. Division of local communities following the share of persons employed in business

Share of persons employed in business to EAP	Number of local communities	Share of local communities (%)
0–5%	983	17.4
5–10%	2 989	53.1
10–15%	1 356	24.1
Over 15%	306	5.4

Source: Census 2001

Karviná. On the contrary, a high proportion of agriculture in local communities (over 20) is in districts Jindřichův Hradec, Havlíčkův Brod, Pelhřimov.

It results from this comparison that industry and agriculture, forestry and fishery are the most frequent employments of rural population; industry, nevertheless, is the most important sector. Further activities are less important and their part on employment of EAP is lower than 10%.

In the sectors business and reparation of motor vehicles, rural population is less involved. (Czech Republic 10.6 %, rural population 8.9 %).

Over 15% employed in business in local communities is only in the district Mladá Boleslav. In other districts, the share of employed in business in local communities is relatively uniform. The division of local communities following the quotient of persons employed in business and reparation of motor vehicles to EAP is represented in Table 12.

The share of persons working in transportation, post, and telecommunications is 6.7% in the Czech Republic, 6.4% in local communities.

Share of persons working in public service, defence and social security is 6.1% in the Czech Republic, 5.1% in local communities. Share of persons working in educational system, health and community service is 10.9% in the Czech Republic, 7.9% in local communities.

Education of rural population

The structure of employment opportunities marks the education of rural population. Almost one half of rural population from 15 year of age is skilled workers (43.7%). The average in the Czech Republic is 38%. There is 20% of skilled workers in 0.1% of local communities, more than
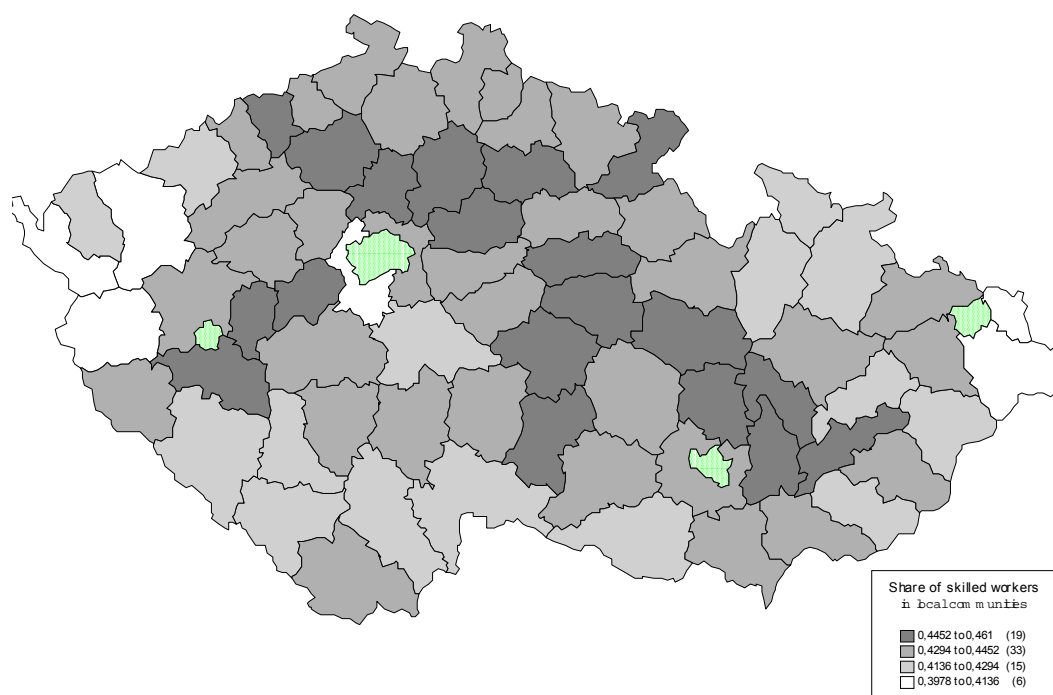

Figure 9. Share of skilled workers in population over 15 years of age
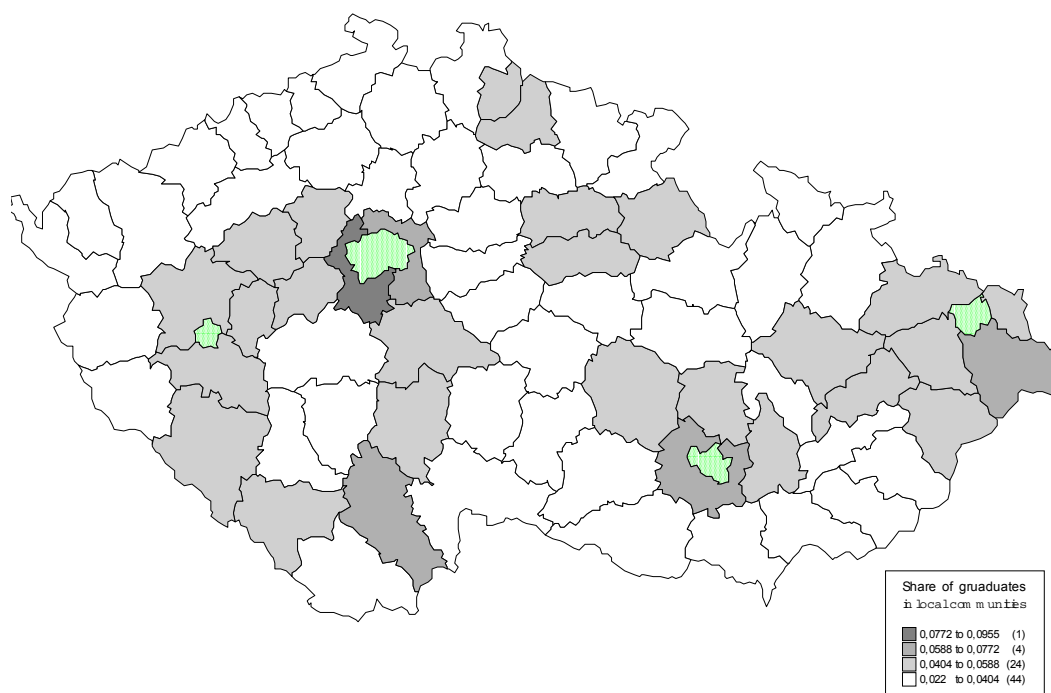
Source: Census 2001

Figure 10. Share of graduates in population over 15 years of age

Source: Census 2001

40% of skilled workers is in 81.1% of communities. It results from the given outline that skilled workers are the prevailing form of qualification in local communities. Figure 9 presents the share of skilled workers among population over 15 years of age.

The share of graduates among population over 15 years of age is, compared with the Czech Republic, almost the half (Czech Republic 8.9%, local communities 4.2%). A higher level of education (over 5%) is in local communities in districts Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Blansko, Brno-venkov, Olomouc and Frýdek-Místek. A very low share of graduates is in local communities in districts Děčín, Most and Teplice. In Figure10 the share of graduates to population of local communities over 15 years of age is presented.

The share of persons over 15 years of age with high school graduates is significantly below the average in the country (Czech Republic 24.9%, rural regions 19.9%). A share of persons with high school graduates lower than 15% is only in local communities in districts Sokolov and Most.

CONCLUSION

1. In the course of the past years, local communities have proved their vitality as an environment, which is, from the point of view of living conditions, acceptable for a number of inhabitants. This is proved by a relatively congruent development of a series of demographic indicators: above-average balance of migration (0.66%) and almost congruent development of indicators of vital index, average age of the population, rate of un- employment and some others. It has been proved, however, that the important differences in regional structure of rural population are decisive.

2. High correlation in separate districts between unemployment of urban and rural population proves, that the unemployment of rural population is not an isolated phenomenon, but that it depends on the total employment in the district, its urban part respectively. The dependence of the employment of the rural population on the employment in urban areas is supported by the fact that an important part of rural population commutes to work within the district. The solution of employment of rural population is therefore dependant on the employment policy of the whole district or region.

3. It is necessary to count with the fact that a great number of rural populations will be commuting to work. The commutation is caused by the professional structure of workers, which cannot be ensured in local communities. An important improvement of transportation service and an organization of a good rural infrastructure could keep the able to work population in the country.

4. Industry, civil engineering and agriculture are key areas of employment of rural population. However, a different strategy to these sectors must be realized.

5. The high employment in industry is connected with a high number of commuting rural population. To support employment in this sector, the maintenance and development of industrial enterprises in urban areas is decisive. It should be supplied by small-scale enterprises in local communities. These activities ought to be supplied by a suitable and effective transportation

infrastructure. A similar recommendation fits for transport and civil engineering.

6. Agriculture is a characteristic sector of the country. It has been stagnating in the last years and the volume of production has been decreasing. Low incomes of the rural population and low productivity of work in comparison with advanced countries affects the insufficient profitability of agricultural enterprises. The proportion of agriculture is for the future connected with the demand of care of the landscape and of sustainable development of the country. To maintain this sector in the extent necessary to work the landscape, to ensure the pensions for not commuting part of the rural population, requires not only a direct subsidy within the range of the country development, but it requires a diversification of the production objective capable to maintain the necessary extent with a good pensionnary level.

7. The summit in Goteborg stated, that the unemployment has become a global problem but also that the global methods of directing the unemployment have been unsuccessful and it stressed the solution of this problem on lower levels and an intensive support of cooperation of municipal, business and intellectual spheres. The support of this activity must be an important increase of the number of secondary school graduates.

8. Strategic decisions concerning the development of the country should become an integral part of development programmes of the individual regions.

REFERENCES

Dočkal V. (2004): Central approaches of EU regional politics. Central european political studies (6) 1; http://www.iips.cz/seps/.

European Commission (1997): Situation and Outlook Rural Development (Working Document), July.

European Union the Council (1999): Council Regulation (EC) No. 199 of on Community support for the free-accession measures for agriculture and rural development in the applicant countries of CEEC in the pre-accession period Brusel.

Hrabánková M. (2004): Disposition of Czech regions to the accesion to the EU, regional development programmes: Proceedings of articles from the international congress South Bohemia-Central Europe Region of the Future. 26.–28. 4. : 114–117.

Střeleček F., Skálová J. (2000): The definition of rural regions following the OECD and Eurostat procedure. Agricultural Economics, *46* (11): 506–514.

Czech Government Decree from 12th July 2000 (2000). Number 682 on Czech Republic Regional Development Strategy.

Arrived on 17th September 2004

Contact address:

Prof. Ing. František Střeleček, CSc., Ing. Jana Lososová, Ing. Radek Zdeněk, Ing. Milan Jílek, PhD., Jihočeská univerzita v Českých Budějovicích, Studentská 13, 370 05 České Budějovice, Česká republika
e-mail: strelec@jcu.cz, lososova@zf.jcu.cz, zdenek@zf.jcu.cz, jilek@zf.jcu.cz