

Changes in reproductive behavior of the Czech population after 1990 and their causes

Abstract

The aim of this work is to record and assess changes in the demographic behavior of the Czech population since 1990 and then try to discover their causes. The Second Demographic Transition theory is used to compare these changes with the course of those that took place in Western countries represented in this work by the Netherlands. The analytical part documents the development of fertility, abortion, marriage and divorce behavior in the Czech Republic and the Netherlands since 1950. Part of this work, which is aimed at identifying causes of changes, deals with changes in the value orientations of Czech and Dutch population between 1991 and 2008. The results of the European Values Study were used. The attention is focused on the change of values and attitudes relating to marriage and parenthood. Based on the results, we conclude that the changes taking place in the Czech Republic are similar in nature to those, which are typical for Western European countries. The causes of these dramatic changes were found in the combined influence of structural and cultural factors.

Keywords: Second Demographic Transition, values, fertility, abortion, marriage, divorce, demographic behaviour