

## **ABSTRACT**

The thesis analyzes Czech income and pay statistics and focuses especially on the regional aspects of socio-economic differentiation. Before the empirical evidence is being explored, we discuss theoretical concepts of inequality, methods useful for its research and available data sources in Czechia. The most of the geographically oriented authors interpret inequality as the variability in regional mean incomes (either weighted or un-weighted). On the other hand, sociological research typically leave out regional differences and identify inequality only with social stratification. These concepts can effectively reveal the general tendencies in regional/social development but we do not know if the observed inequality is growing due to high within-region inequality or due to differences between regions. The main objective of this thesis is to combine both geographical and sociological approaches and carry out the „alternative“ concept evaluating the proportion of inequality explained by disparities in weighted regional means. In this respect the Theil's entropy index is the most useful statistical method. The ratio between the between-region component and overall inequality measured by Theil's index corresponded to 8 % of the overall Czech household income inequality in 2002. While the other factors under the analysis such as educational or occupational disparities are perhaps more important determinants of socio-economic inequality, the relative extent of between-regional differences has been considerably increasing in the post-communist period.