

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Annual Report on Asylum and Migration Statistics for the Czech Republic 2006

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1 INTRODUCTION

Current report provides analysis of statistical data concerning international migration and asylum in the Czech Republic. Report was produced by the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior, which is the Czech National Contact Point of the European Migration Network.

1.1 Methodology

Data used in the report were in most cases supplied by Eurostat. When other sources are used or data are corrected or supplemented, it is indicated below relevant table or figure. Data on immigrants and asylum seekers in the Czech Republic are collected by different institutions:

- Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) – data concerning population and migration flows,
- Directorate of Alien Police Service (DAPS) – data on illegal migration, refused aliens, apprehended aliens, removed aliens, number of issued residence permits,
- Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (OAMP) of the Ministry of the Interior – data concerning applicants for international protection, asylum status holders and data on asylum procedure.

Report itself and also data used in it are compiled in accordance with EMN instructions. However some data are not available or are available in different format. Whenever this occurs, it is clearly stated in a commentary or notes.

2 ASYLUM

The number of asylum applicants has downward trend since year 2001, when it reached its peak. The development of total number of asylum applicants in the Czech Republic corresponds to the situation in other EU countries.

Data concerning asylum were obtained from the Department for Asylum and Migration policy of the Ministry of the Interior. With regard to law valid in 2006 it was not possible to distinguish between first and repeated asylum application. These data are available since 2007, when new Amendment of Act on Asylum came to power.

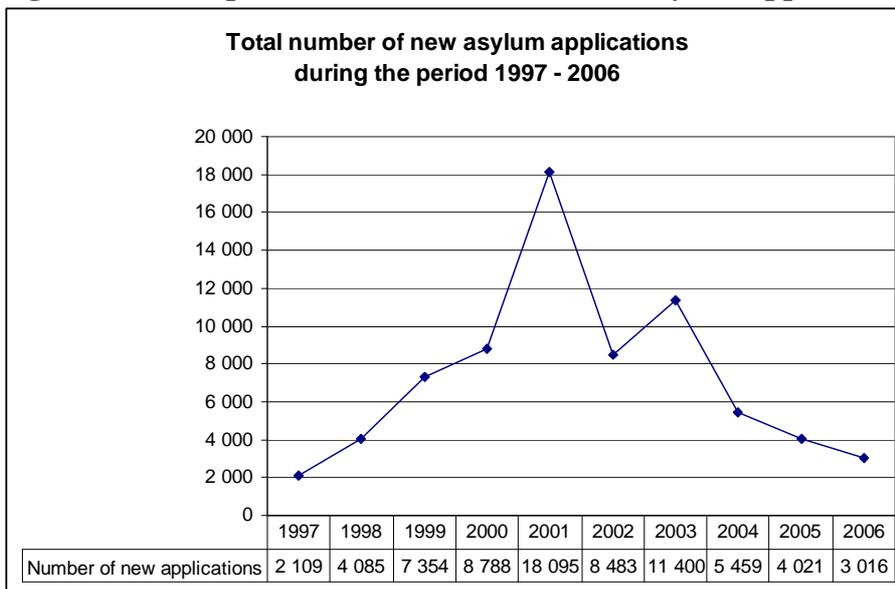
2.1 Analysis and interpretation of asylum statistics

2.1.1 Trends in first-time asylum applications in 2006 compared to the previous year

Total number of 3 016 asylum applications was submitted in the Czech Republic in 2006. It means decline of 25 per cents in comparison with previous year.

The highest number of asylum applicants was recorded in 2001 when 18,094 applications were registered. In the years following after the adoption of the amended Act on Asylum gradual decline can be observed, with exception of the year 2003, when annual increase of 34 per cents was recorded. This was primarily caused by influx of Russian citizens from Chechnya.

Figure 1: Development of total number of new asylum applications



Source: OAMP, Ministry of the Interior, 2008.

The most frequent country of origin among asylum seekers in 2006, as well as in previous years, was Ukraine. Ukraine is seen as a traditional source country of asylum seekers in the Czech Republic. In 2006, 571 new applications by Ukrainian citizens were submitted, which represent annual decline of 42 percent, similarly to previous year, when number dropped by 38 per cents. Share of Ukrainians in the total number of new asylum applications is also going down. In 2004, Ukrainian citizens counted for 29 per cents of all new asylum applications in the Czech Republic. In 2006 their share on total decreased to 19 per cents.

Besides the lasting decrease trend in total number of applications, two waves of applicants from Egypt and Kazakhstan occurred in 2006. During few months number of their applications multiplied. Especially in case of Egyptian nationals, who were motivated economically and they were misusing asylum procedure. After introducing airport visa, figures returned to normal.

Citizens of Belarus, Russia, Viet Nam and China are, besides Ukrainians, the most frequent asylum seekers in the Czech Republic. Figures for all of them are decreasing over the last years.

Figure 2: Top ten nationalities with the highest number of asylum applications, 2004-2006

| 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| TOTAL | 5 459 | TOTAL | 4 021 | TOTAL | 3 016 |
| Ukraine | 1 600 | Ukraine | 987 | Ukraine | 571 |
| Russian | 1 498 | Slovakia | 711 | Egypt | 422 |
| Viet Nam | 385 | India | 342 | Kazakhstan | 236 |
| China | 324 | China | 287 | Belarus | 174 |
| Belarus | 226 | Russia | 260 | Russia | 171 |
| Georgia | 201 | Belarus | 216 | Viet Nam | 124 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 138 | Viet Nam | 208 | China | 114 |
| Slovakia | 137 | Mongolia | 119 | Nigeria | 96 |
| Mongolia | 123 | Nigeria | 78 | Mongolia | 95 |
| Moldova | 94 | Stateless | 73 | Kyrgyzstan | 85 |
| Others | 733 | Others | 740 | Others | 928 |

Source: OAMP, Ministry of the Interior, 2008.

In comparison to previous years, share of males on total number of applications increased to 75 per cents in 2006. The highest share of males was in age group 18 – 35. In age group 60+, proportion of males and females was even.

The majority of applications, 66 per cents, were submitted by persons 18 to 35 years old. Applicants older than 60 years constitute the smallest age group representing only 0.4 per cent of all applications.

Figure 3: Asylum applications by age and sex, 2006

| Age groups | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Total | 2 257 | 759 | 3 016 |
| 0-17 | 230 | 178 | 408 |
| 18-35 | 1 592 | 398 | 1 990 |
| 36-59 | 429 | 177 | 606 |
| 60+ | 6 | 6 | 12 |

Source: OAMP, Ministry of the Interior, 2008.

The number of unaccompanied minors is relatively stable over last few years. The majority of unaccompanied minors were 16 and 17 years old. The third largest group, representing 20 per cents, were minors 13 years old and younger. In comparison to previous year it represents increase of 15 percentage points.

Figure 4: Unoccupied minors by age and sex, 2006

| Age groups | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total | 61 | 20 | 81 |
| 0-13 | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| 14 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 15 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 16 | 21 | 6 | 27 |
| 17 | 26 | 6 | 32 |
| Age unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Source: OAMP, Ministry of the Interior, 2008.

2.1.2 Total number of first and final positive decisions in 2006, disaggregated by the citizenship of the person

Total number of decisions refers to the numbers of decisions of the first instance. Appeals to the regional court and cessations are not included in the total number of decisions as they are decisions on legality; they are not decisions on asylum.

In 2006 the Ministry of the Interior has rendered decision in 3 021 cases, out of which 364 decisions were positive. Number of positive decisions increased by 11 per cents in comparison with the year 2005.

Figure 5: Number of decisions by type, 2004-2006

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total | 7 879 | 4 376 | 3 021 |
| Positive decisions | 184 | 330 | 364 |
| Negative decisions | 4 633 | 2 636 | 2 195 |
| Other non-status decisions | 3 063 | 1 410 | 446 |

Source: OAMP, Ministry of the Interior, 2008.

The position of top five nationalities, who have obtained the international protection status in the Czech Republic, remains stable in last years. Citizens of Russia, who were on the first position in 2004 and 2005, were replaced by Belarusian citizens. Other top five positions were also occupied by former Soviet states.

Figure 6: Top five nationalities with granted statuses of international protection, 2004-2006

| | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 |
|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| TOTAL | 184 | TOTAL | 330 | TOTAL | 364 |
| Russia | 46 | Russia | 119 | Belarus | 115 |
| Belarus | 33 | Belarus | 48 | Russia | 54 |
| Kazakhstan | 13 | Uzbekistan | 25 | Kazakhstan | 31 |
| Armenia | 11 | Armenia | 20 | Ukraine | 31 |
| Stateless | 10 | Kazakhstan | 18 | Stateless | 29 |
| Others | 71 | Others | 100 | Others | 104 |

Source: OAMP, Ministry of the Interior, 2008.

Out of the total number of 364 positive decisions, Ministry of the Interior has granted asylum status to 268 persons. The highest number of persons granted asylum was from Belarus (66) and Russian Federation (51).

Czech legislation has wider definition of asylum status. According to the Czech Asylum Act, asylum (refugee status) can be granted not only to reasons defined by the Geneva Convention but also for humanitarian reasons and for the purpose of family reunification. Geneva Convention reasons were applied in 40 per cents of granted asylum statuses, family reunification in 43 per cents and humanitarian reasons in 17 per cents.

In 59 cases obstacles to leave were granted. The most frequent country of origin were Belorussia (27 persons), Cuba (9 persons) and Uzbekistan (8 persons). Since the 1st of September 2006, when the Amendment of Act came into force, the status of subsidiary protection was granted to 37 persons. Again the most frequent nationals were Belorussians (22 persons). The second were citizens of Iraq (5 persons) and third were citizens of Uzbekistan (3 persons).

2.1.3 Changes in the statuses regularly granted to particular citizenship groups

2.2 Contextual interpretations (legal, political and international factors)

2.2.1 New or amended laws effective in 2006

On the 1st of September Amendment of the Act on Asylum¹ came into force. This change was necessary in order to transpose Council Directive 2004/83/EC² on minimum standards for the qualification and status of asylum seekers. The most important modification was the introduction of the term of subsidiary protection to the Czech law system. Previously asylum legislation used term “obstacle to leave”.

According to asylum legislation valid till the 1st of September 2006, applicant who wasn't granted asylum status, but who was unable to return to his country of origin because of serious threats, was granted status of obstacles to leave. Instead, the amendment introduced the term subsidiary protection.

2.2.2 Procedural changes effective in 2006

For both asylum and subsidiary protection there is only one procedure now. Applicant submits only one application and Ministry of the Interior considers whether applicant has fulfilled requirements necessary to obtain status of asylum or subsidiary protection. In the case applicant is entitled to both, asylum is granted as a higher degree of protection.

2.2.3 European / international factors explaining certain changes regarding asylum trends in 2006

The development of number of asylum applications in the Czech Republic corresponds with the global trend. In the Czech Republic as well as in other European countries, the number of individuals requesting refugee or asylum status showed a downward trend.

¹ Amendment of the Asylum Act and other affected law, published under No. 165/2006 Coll.

² Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted.

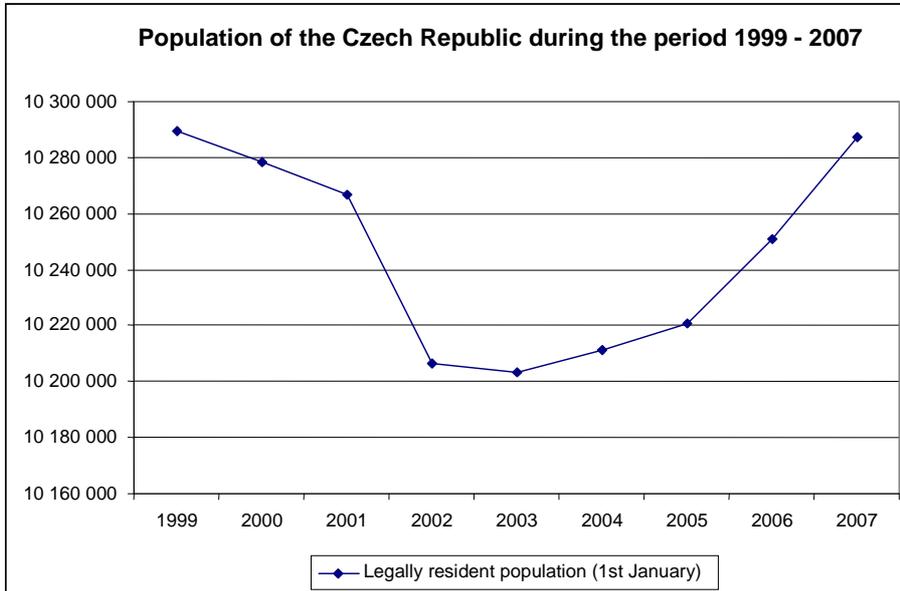
3 MIGRATION

3.1 Analysis and interpretation of migration statistics

3.1.1 Migration Flows

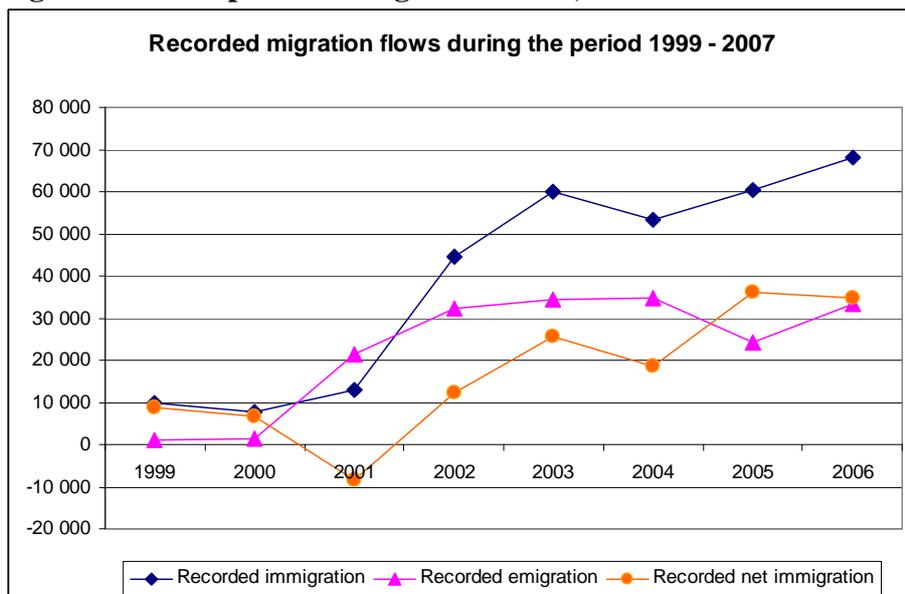
Total number of legally residing population has been showing progressive trend since 2003, when it reached its minimum of 10 203 269 inhabitants. Total number of 10 287 189 persons resided in the Czech Republic legally on the 1st of January 2007.

Figure 7: Development of population of the Czech Republic, 1999-2007



Source: CZSO, 2008.

The main reason for depopulation till year 2003 was natural decrease of population. Economic recovery initiated at the beginning of the millennium, and which resulted in economic boom later on, launched massive immigration to the country.

Figure 8: Development of migration flows, 1999-2006

Source: CZSO, 2008.

3.1.2 Population by Citizenship in 2006

Czech nationals constituted 97.1 percents of population in the Czech Republic on the 1st January 2007. Share of other EU-25 nationals represented 1 per cent. Share of non-EU-25 nationals was almost double in comparison to EU-25 nationals and counted 1.9 per cent.

Composition of the population in the Czech Republic by citizenship is in the long run stable. Sequence of top citizenships is almost constant. The only significant changes were due to the entrance of the Czech Republic to the EU, when citizens of neighbouring countries Slovakia and Poland became EU nationals.

Figure 9: Population by citizenship, 2007

| | 1-01-2007 |
|---|-------------------|
| Total Population | 10 287 189 |
| Nationals | 9 990 953 |
| Other EU25-Nationals (24) | 102 884 |
| of which EU-10 Nationals (9) | 78 494 |
| Total Non-EU25 nationals | 193 352 |
| of which EU-2 (BG, RO) Nationals | 6 982 |
| <i>Most important third country nat.:</i> | |
| Ukraine | 86 739 |
| Vietnam | 38 454 |
| Russian Federation | 17 216 |
| Republic of Moldova | 4 658 |
| Bulgaria | 4 285 |
| China | 3 703 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 3 616 |
| United States of America | 3 430 |
| Belarus | 3 230 |
| Romania | 2 697 |
| Others | 25 324 |

Source: CZSO, 2008.

The most frequent non-EU nationals in the Czech Republic are citizens of Ukraine. At the beginning of 2007 they constituted almost 45 per cents of all non-EU-25 nationals legally present in the country. Size of their population increased by 15 per cents compared to the same period of the previous year. Annual increase in the preceding year was even higher and achieved 48 per cents.

Vietnamese citizens represent the second largest group of non-EU-25 nationals. In 2007 they had 20 per cent share on the non-EU-25 population. Annual growth of their number was 11 per cent at the beginning of 2007 and 20 per cents in the previous year.

The third most frequent non-EU-25 citizens in the Czech Republic were citizens of Russian Federation. Their share on non-EU-25 nationals remained almost the same around 9 percents. Its annual growth was 15 per cents in 2007 and 35 per cents in 2006.

These top three nationalities are coming to the Czech Republic mainly because of economic reasons, especially in connection with recent economic growth. They constitute traditional source of labour power and they also start businesses in the country. All these three groups showed the highest growth. From the beginning of 2001 to the beginning of 2007, the number of Ukrainians had grown by 72 per cents, Vietnamese by 62 per cents and Russian by 30 per cent.

Other nationalities had less than 3 per cents share. Their presence among the top ten non-EU-nationals legally residing in the Czech Republic is also quite stable. These countries were, namely,

Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, China, Serbia and Montenegro, United States of America, Belarus and Romania. Proportion of these nationalities on the total number of non-EU-25-nationals remains relatively stable.

3.1.3 Residence Permits: annual total of first issuing in 2006

There is no data available for number of residence permits issued for the first time. Directorate of Alien Police Service provides only stock data concerning foreigners having residence permits in the Czech Republic.

The number of aliens in the Czech Republic with permanent residence permit has been growing significantly. Annual growth was 26 per cents in 2006. The amount of aliens with permanent residence was growing, besides of other factors, because aliens previously residing in the country were subsequently fulfilling condition of 10 years stay in the country. In addition this condition was shortened to 5 years in 2006. The number of aliens with permanent residence permit increased annually by 8.7 per cent in 2006, similarly to previous year, when annual growth was 8.3 per cent.

Figure 10: Aliens with granted residence permit (31 December)

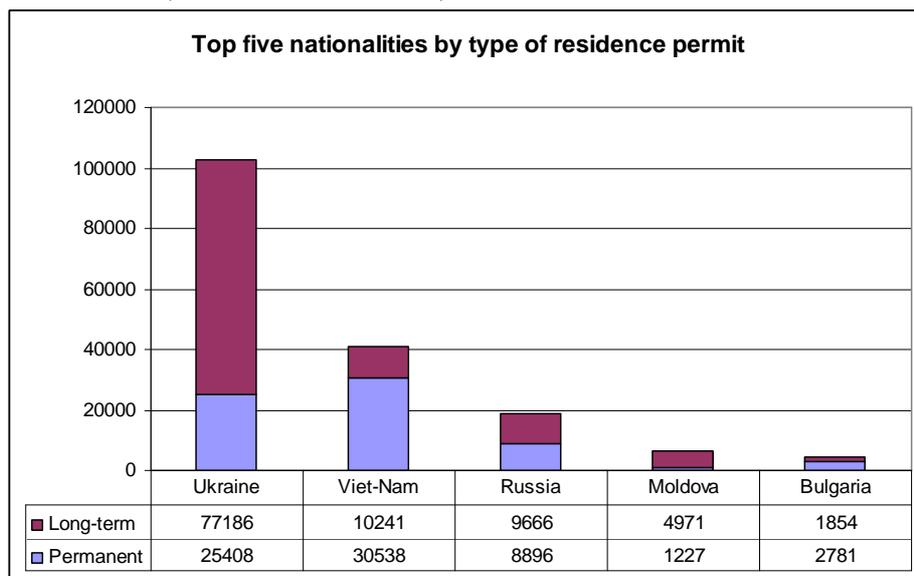
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 254 294 | 278 312 | 321 456 |
| Long-term residence | 154 827 | 167 714 | 182 271 |
| Permanent residence | 99 467 | 110 598 | 139 185 |

Source: DAPS, 2008.

The majority of Ukrainians, 75 per cents, was staying in the Czech Republic on long-term residence permit, and 25 per cent of them were in the country on the basis of permanent residence permit.

On the other hand, Vietnamese nationals had inverse ration between long-term and permanent residence permits. Majority of them (75 per cent) had permanent residence permit and 25 per cents long-term residence permit.

The ratio between long-term and permanent residence permits of the Russian Citizens was rather even. Out of their total number 48 per cents had permanent residence and 52 per cent had long-term residence permit.

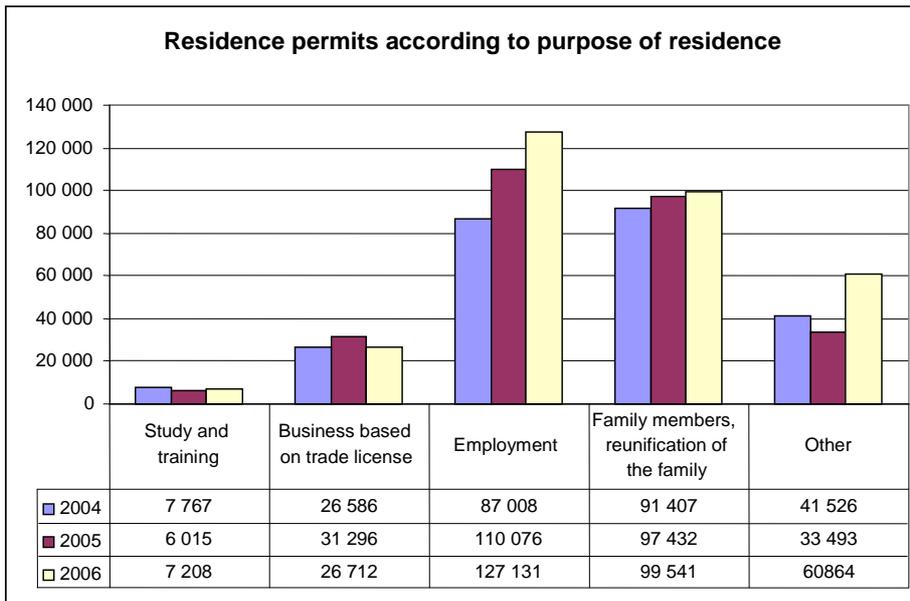
**Figure 11: Top five nationalities by type of residence permit,
(31st December 2006)**

Source: DAPS, 2008.

The total number of foreigners with residence permit increased annually by 15.5 per cents in year 2006. In preceding year annual growth was 9.4 per cent. Number of permits issued for purpose of studies grown annually by 20 per cents in 2006. Amount of permits for purpose of employment increased in the same year by 15.5 percent.

Permits for purpose of employment had the largest share on total number of residence permits. They counted for 39.5 percent. In comparison with previous year, their share on total remained the same. The second most frequent purpose was family reunification. Family reunification counted for 31 per cent of total. The number of residence permits for these purposes is growing modestly. As a result, their share on total is gradually decreasing in last years.

Figure 12: Foreigners with residence permit by the purpose of residence, 2004-2006 (31st December)



Source: DAPS, 2008.

3.2 Contextual interpretations (legal, political and international factors)

3.2.1 Main trends and most important developments in the area of migration policy in the Czech Republic

The Amendment of Alien Act³ extended constituency of family members of EU-citizens. With respect to this amendment, parents of children younger than 21 years are regarded as family members. In connection with this change, significant increase in number of applications for permanent residence by non-EU parents was recorded.

In connection with employment of aliens, two amendments⁴ of Aliens Act and Act on Asylum came into force during the year 2006. These amendments extended the category of aliens who can be employed on the territory irrespective of a situation on the labour market. Thereafter, persons who have applied for an international protection can work, but work permit takes effect twelve months after submission of the application. They obtain permit at local Employment Office.

Another category of aliens, who don't have to apply for a working permit, are persons with status of long-term EC-resident. In this case, employers have only notification duty towards Employment Office.

³ Amendment of the Alien Act and other affected law, published under No. 428/2005 Coll.

⁴ Act No. 161/2006 Coll. And Act No. 165/2006 Coll.

3.2.2 Existing categories of admission or non-admission in 2006

The matters concerning aliens are regulated by the Act⁵ on stay of aliens on the territory of the Czech Republic (Alien Act). Its latest amendment has transposed EU legislation. It divides aliens in two categories: EU-nationals and Non-EU-nationals.

The first group consists of **citizens of the EU and other states of the European Economic Area** (EU-nationals). These nationals have right to free movement and residence in the Czech Republic. They can enter and reside in the country for unlimited period, just bearing travel document including ID card. Even for them, special residence titles were created: confirmation of temporary residence and permanent residence permit. It is right of EU-nationals to apply for these documents, but they are not obliged to do so.

Family **members of EU-nationals, who are non-EU-nationals**, enjoy similar treatment as EU-nationals. They can enter country freely. If they want to stay in the country along with EU-national for period longer than three months, they have to ask police to issue temporary residence permit.

Non-EU-nationals have to apply for permit to enter and to stay on the territory of the Czech Republic. They can obtain **short-time visa up to 90 days**. Citizens of countries, which have signed visa waiver treaty or have been abolished visa by unilateral act of the Czech Government, can enter and stay on the territory for period not exceeding three months. For the stay of a longer period they need to have **visa for more than 90 days** or **long-term residence permit** when it is specified by the law. Non-EU-nationals, who need visa to enter the country, or on the other hand, do not need visa, are determined within single visa policy of the EU. If the purpose of the stay requires longer than one year stay, alien can apply for a **long-term residence**. Thereby new category of residence replaced previous extensions of visas for more than 90 days.

In consequence of transpositions of relevant Council Directives, aliens can now apply for long-term residence permit even without previous stay on visa for more than 90 days. This can be applied for the purpose of family reunification, studies and protection on the territory. Third-country nationals, who are permanent residents in other member state, can apply for a long-term residence of other member state resident.

⁵ Act. No. 326/1999 Coll. and its following amendments

Category of **permanent residence** of third-country national is preserved. Previous condition of 10 year continuous stay on the territory of the Czech Republic was shortened to 5 years.

Other important act concerning entry and stay of third-country nationals is the Act on Asylum⁶. The act determines conditions of admission and stay of persons who manifest their will to ask for the international protection in terms of asylum or subsidiary protection. They will hold a **status of applicants for the international protection** during the procedure and also during appellate procedure in court, if it has suppressive effect.

In accordance with this act, during the asylum procedure it is examine whether applicant is entitled to obtain **asylum status** or not. Applicant, who doesn't fulfil conditions to be granted asylum, but there are obstacles to leave the country, may be granted status of **subsidiary protection**. **Temporary protection**⁷ is an institute covering problems of displaced persons.

Since 1st of May 2004 citizens of EU/EEA countries and Switzerland have, according to the Labour Code, the same legal status as Czech citizens. Third-country-nationals can work in Czech Republic only if they have obtained work permit and residence permit.

Employment Office may issue **work permit** to third-country national for the position, which reported by employer as unoccupied position, which cannot be filed other way and for which employer has a permit to employ workers from abroad.

Work permit with reference to the situation on the labour market can be issued to the third-country-national, who is a seasonal worker for period of six months. Next work permit cannot be issued but after six months after the end of validity of the former work permit.

3.2.3 European / international factors explaining certain changes/continuity regarding migration

⁶ Act No. 325/1999 Coll.

⁷ Specified by the Act No. 221/2002 Coll., on temporary protection of aliens.

4 REFUSALS, APPREHENSIONS AND REMOVALS

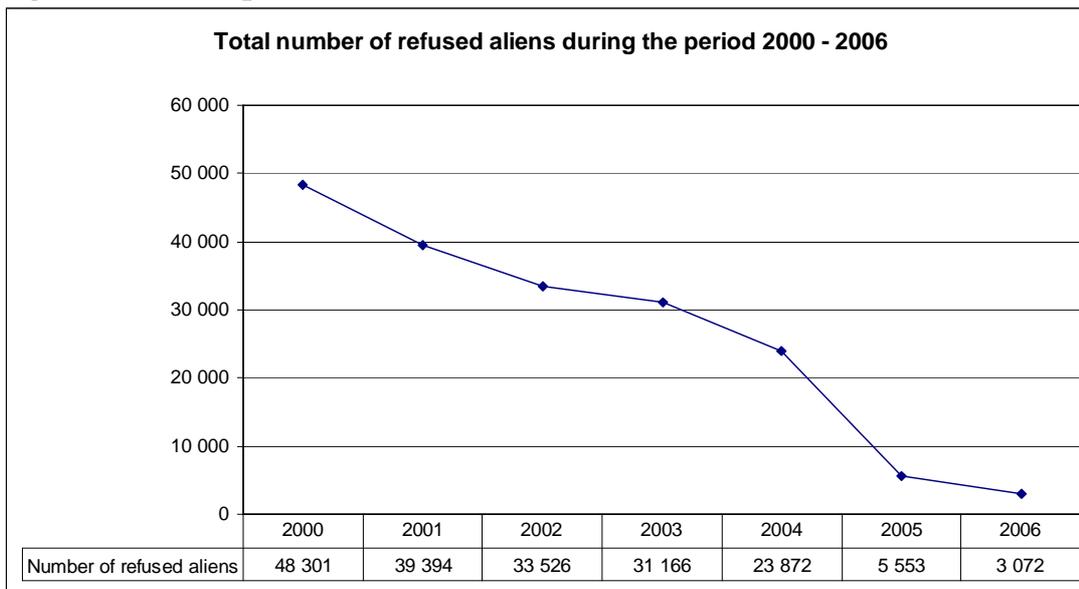
Data on refused, apprehended and removed aliens are collected in accordance CIREFI definitions.

4.1 Analysis and interpretation of statistics

4.1.1 Developments/trends pertaining to the number of refusals in 2006

Number of refused aliens in the Czech Republic is decreasing steadily. In 2000 there were 48 301 aliens refused. By the year 2006 this number has significantly dropped to 3 072 persons. The highest decrease was recorded in the last two years. Annual decrease by 77 per cents in 2005 and by 45 per cent the following year. This significant decrease was caused mainly by Czech Republic entrance to the European Union.

Figure 13: Development of the number of refused aliens, 2000-2006



Source: DAPS, 2008.

With regard to significant decrease of total number of refused aliens, all countries in table below has also shown significant decline in number of their citizens refused on the Czech border. The only exception was Romania whose number of refused citizens has more than doubled (117 percent) between years 2005 and 2006.

Turkey, Ukraine, Russia and some succession states of former Yugoslavia were repeatedly recorded on the top ten list of countries with highest amount of refused citizens on the Czech borders.

Figure 14: Top ten nationalities of refused aliens, 2004-2006

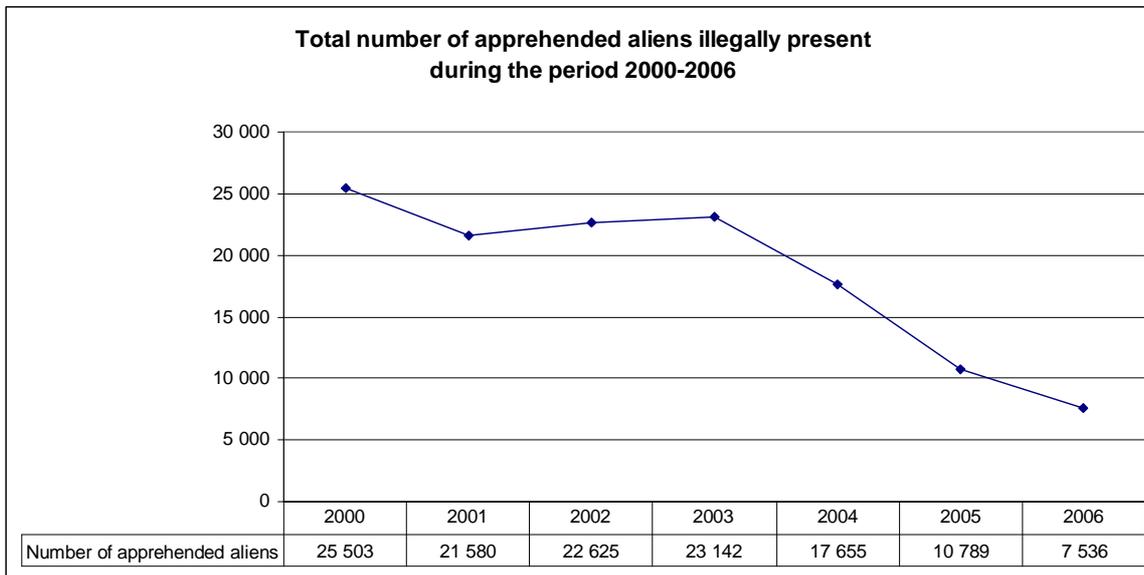
| 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| TOTAL | 23872 | TOTAL | 5 553 | TOTAL | 3 072 |
| Turkey | 3452 | Ukraine | 724 | Turkey | 468 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 2838 | Russia | 695 | Romania | 392 |
| Ukraine | 2176 | Turkey | 657 | Ukraine | 385 |
| Russia | 2126 | Serbia and Montenegro | 463 | Russia | 279 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 1382 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 214 | Serbia and Montenegro | 175 |
| China | 679 | Stateless | 182 | Viet Nam | 129 |
| Stateless | 621 | Romania | 181 | China | 114 |
| Viet Nam | 593 | Belarus | 152 | Bulgaria | 96 |
| Thailand | 525 | Bulgaria | 148 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 73 |
| FYROM | 514 | China | 129 | India | 73 |
| Others | 8966 | Others | 2 008 | Others | 888 |

Source: DAPS, 2008.

4.1.2 Developments/trends pertaining to the number of apprehensions of illegally-resident third-country nationals in 2006

The amount of apprehended aliens is steadily decreasing since 2003. Annual decline between years 2003 and 2004 was 38 per cents. Decline of 35 per cents was recorded in the following year.

Figure 15: Development of the number of apprehended aliens, 2000-2006



Source: DAPS, 2008.

Composition of most frequent nationalities of apprehended aliens remains stable over time. Majority of apprehended aliens were citizens of Ukraine. They constituted over 60 per cents of all apprehended aliens in last three years. This is related to the fact, that they also form one of the largest groups of aliens in the Czech Republic. Ukrainians are mainly detected by police bodies when violating the conditions of stay on the territory of the Czech Republic. Total number of

apprehended aliens, as well as the number of apprehended Ukrainians is showing significant decrease.

Positions of other the most numerous nationalities remain stable. With regard to the position of Ukraine, following countries have marginal shares. Front positions are occupied by citizens of Viet Nam, Russia, China, Belarus and Moldova. Significant decline was recorded in case of all mentioned nationalities. The highest one was recorded for the Russians in 2006 by 64 per cents.

Figure 16: Top ten nationalities of apprehended aliens, 2004-2006

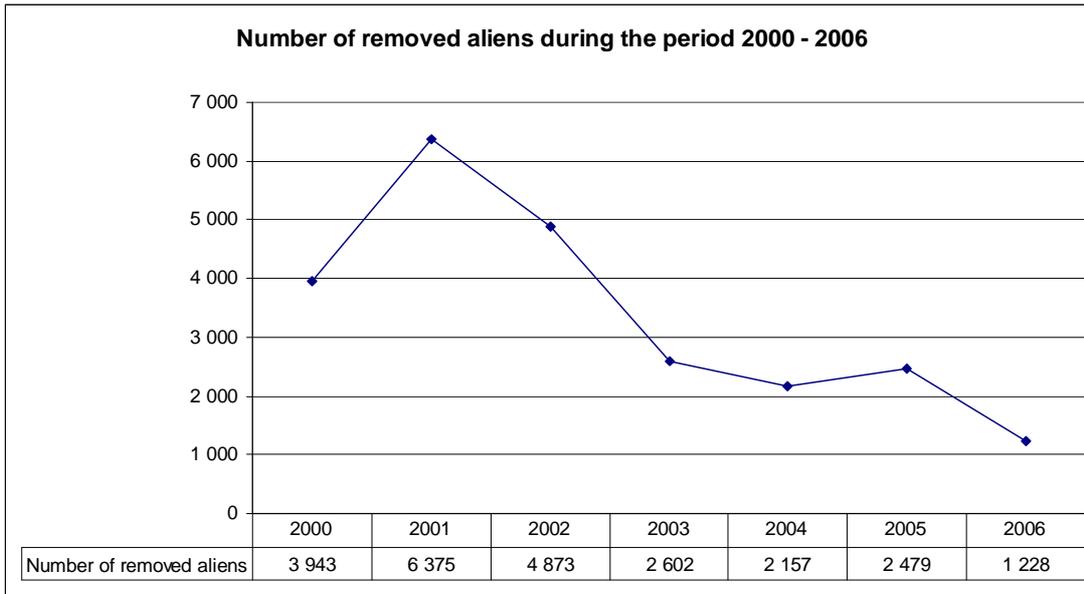
| 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|--------------|-------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| TOTAL | 17655 | TOTAL | 10 789 | TOTAL | 7 536 |
| Ukraine | 12675 | Ukraine | 6 995 | Ukraine | 4 925 |
| Russia | 762 | Russia | 622 | Viet Nam | 529 |
| Viet Nam | 758 | Viet Nam | 608 | Russia | 222 |
| China | 714 | China | 363 | China | 205 |
| Belarus | 515 | Belarus | 308 | Belarus | 199 |
| Moldova | 384 | Moldova | 230 | Moldova | 154 |
| Romania | 230 | India | 198 | Romania | 123 |
| Bulgaria | 153 | Romania | 190 | Mongolia | 117 |
| India | 132 | Unknown | 179 | Unknown | 100 |
| Georgia | 130 | Mongolia | 100 | Bulgaria | 71 |
| Others | 1202 | Others | 996 | Others | 891 |

Source: DAPS, 2008.

4.1.3 Developments/trends pertaining to the number of removals in 2006

Since the year 2001, when the number of removed aliens reached its maximum of 6 375 persons, it has dropped by 81 per cents to 1 228 persons in 2006. With exception of year 2005, when annual growth of 15 per cents was recorded, the amount of aliens removed from the country has been falling significantly since 2001. The most substantial decline was recorded in 2006, when it dropped by 50 per cents annually.

Figure 17: Development of the number of removed aliens, 2000-2006



Source: DAPS, 2008.

Ukrainian citizens form the largest group of removed aliens with 701 persons in 2006. Their position is closely related to previous number of apprehended aliens and both is explained by the size of Ukrainian population in the Czech Republic. Their share on total amount of removed aliens is steadily growing from 50 per cents in 2004 to 57 per cents two years later, while absolute number has fallen by 50 percents in 2006.

Further most numerous nationalities were Vietnamese, Chinese, Moldavian, Russian and Belorussian. Number of removed persons of all these nationalities increased in 2005. The only two exceptions were China and Russia, whose number decreased by 1.9 per cent and 26 per cents respectively that year. Moreover, these two countries have recorded the highest decline by 85 respectively 59 per cents the following year.

Figure 18: Top ten nationalities of removed aliens, 2004-2006

| 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| TOTAL | 2157 | TOTAL | 2 479 | TOTAL | 1 228 |
| Ukraine | 1084 | Ukraine | 1 362 | Ukraine | 701 |
| China | 323 | China | 317 | Viet Nam | 87 |
| Moldova | 161 | Moldova | 199 | Moldova | 51 |
| Russia | 142 | Viet Nam | 109 | China | 47 |
| India | 74 | Russia | 105 | Russia | 43 |
| Viet Nam | 51 | Belarus | 58 | Belarus | 41 |
| Belarus | 46 | Turkey | 52 | Romania | 40 |
| Georgia | 35 | Romania | 39 | Mongolia | 25 |
| Bulgaria | 25 | Mongolia | 35 | Bulgaria | 23 |
| Turkey | 21 | Ecuador | 21 | India | 22 |
| Others | 195 | Others | 182 | Others | 148 |

Source: DAPS, 2008.

4.1.4 In cases of refused, apprehended, and removed migrants in 2006, are these from the same countries in all categories, or are particular citizenship groups more common in a particular category? If possible, explain the underlying causes.

The categories of apprehended and removed aliens are closely interlinked. The most frequent nationalities in the both categories are mostly the same. The largest group of apprehended and removed aliens form the citizens of Ukraine. Ukrainians regard the Czech Republic as a target country of their labour migration. In general, Ukrainians enter the Czech Republic legally on the basis of stay permit, however, when validity of their permits expires, they fail to leave the county and remain there illegally. Other third-country nationals frequently occurring in top ten lists are from Viet Nam and Russia, which are along with Ukrainians top three numerous groups of third-country nationals present in the population of the Czech Republic. Citizens of succession states of former Yugoslavia like Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina have also been recorded in top ten list of refused aliens.

4.2 Contextual interpretations (legal, political and international factors)

4.2.1 New or amended laws influencing illegal immigration in 2006

The amendment transposed Council Regulations⁸ concerning stamping of the passport of third-country nationals on external borders of the EU, issuing visa on borders, etc.

A new act⁹ changing law concerning travel documents came into force in September 2006. It transposes Council Directive¹⁰ which introduces security and biometric elements on the passports and travel documents.

4.2.2 Procedural changes influencing illegal immigration in 2006

4.2.3 European / international factors explaining certain changes/continuity regarding illegal entry in 2006 in the Czech Republic

⁸ Council Regulation No. 2133/2004
Council Regulation No. 415/2003
Council Decision 2004/574

⁹ Act No. 136/2006 Coll.

¹⁰ Council Directive 2004/2252/EC

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