

# Analysis of the Determinants of Fertility Decline in the Czech Republic

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## Abstract

In this paper we study the decline in total fertility rates in the Czech Republic during the transition process. To identify transition-specific features of this decline we use a multiperiod model of birth process and apply it to the family and fertility survey of 1998. In a standard duration analysis setting the model allows for time-dependence of information sets, on which the decision about the next birth is made. It also enables to estimate probabilities of early exit from childbearing. In this work we find that the negative effect of transition on TFR is mostly translated through a sharply increased negative influence of higher education on fertility, and through the apparent lack of adequate childcare facilities.

JEL Classification: J13, J11

## 1 Introduction

Fertility decline in the transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe is a well known phenomenon in contemporary population economics. Fertility rates in most countries of Central and Eastern Europe have declined from close to replacement level (about 2) to levels far below that ensuring that populations in Eastern Europe will shrink considerably in coming decades. Increased mortality in some countries and rising emigration further accelerate this population decline. According to Sobotka (2001) it took just ten years for the post-Soviet countries as a group to move from the region with the highest fertility levels in Europe the one with the lowest fertility levels. A series of research papers attempts to classify this phenomenon and look into its possible sources. Among many others, there are comprehensive surveys by Billari and Kohler (2002) and Sobotka (2001), who present detailed studies of the evolution of a set of fertility indices and establish causal relationship between them and

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