



The trend of increasing the number of small schools (up to 150 pupils) is not as dynamic as in previous years; their growth has slowed down, but their number has moderately increased and accounts for 53.26% of the total number of schools. Mostly they are schools in small villages and they usually have only the elementary level or one or more classes attended by children of different ages.

The largest proportion of small schools was in the Vysocina Region (65.3%), the Hradec Kralove and Olomouc Regions (61.2%) and the Pardubice Region (60.7%). Large basic schools prevailed in Prague (73.3%) and in the Usti Region (61.1%).

When compared with the group of basic schools the number of secondary schools providing lower-secondary education has not changed. As regards the provision of education for gifted pupils the number of basic schools of music and arts has moderately increased.

The strategy for supporting schools in small municipalities adopted in the 2007 Long-Term Policy Objectives affected the capacity of the network. The support was provided through regional normative funding (per capita funding).

The CSI found that in the schools visited available capacity was used at 61.4%.

Table 11

Utilisation of capacities of basic schools – comparisons of enrolled pupils with a permitted capacity recorded in the Register of Schools and School Facilities

Regions above the average of the Czech Rep.	Capacity utilisation (%)	Regions below the average of the Czech Rep.	Capacity utilisation (%)
Pardubice	66.8	Olomouc	59.2
Moravian–Silesian	66.7	Prague	58.4
Central Bohemian	65.5	Liberec	57.7
South Bohemian	65.4	Zlin	57.3
South Moravian	65.0	Pilsen	56.0
Usti	62.3	Vysocina	55.8
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>61.4</b>	Hradec Karlove	54.7
		Karlovy Vary	51.5

Table 11 indicates that the capacity of schools providing basic education is more or less stable and sufficient and regions manage to compensate for a respective surplus of demand through increasing capacities of private and church schools. In a number of cases an excessive capacity of schools is used by founders for pre-school education or some other activities.

**Development in the Structure of Basic Education Provision**

According to statistical data of the IIE altogether 836,361 pupils participated in compulsory school attendance, of whom 95% attended BSs and 5% attended SGSs and conservatoires, as in the previous school year. The proportion between pupils attending the elementary level of basic education and children in pre-school education was 1.47. The ratio between pupils of the 2<sup>nd</sup> level (lower-secondary level) of basic education and those who attend elementary level dropped to 0.72.

The number of pupils in basic schools decreased by 2.64% when it is compared with the number of pupils in the previous school year, although the long-term decline was mitigated by the transit of children born in years displaying strong population growth from pre-school education. The number of pupils of the 2<sup>nd</sup> level of basic education dropped by 6.74%; a moderate decline (by 1.63%) was also seen in the lower grades of secondary general schools.

