

Performance and Stability of the Network of Schools Providing Pre-school Education

In total 4,826 kindergartens provided pre-school education. When taking into account year-on-year comparisons statistical data report only negligible quantitative changes in the network of schools, although due to the demographic development (higher birth rates) there has been an increased number of parents who showed an interest in placing their children in a kindergarten.

Table 1

Overview of the monitored indicators for evaluating the performance and stability of the network of kindergartens

Monitored parameter Czech Rep. (according to the IIE)	Situation in the school year 2008/2009	Situation in the school year 2009/2010	Year-on-year change in %
Number of children in pre-school education	301,620	314,008	+4.11
Number of rejected applications	19,996	29,632	+48.19
Total number of schools	4,809	4,826	+0.35
Total number of classes	13,035	13,452	+3.20
Proportion of small schools (%)	57.70	55.86	-1.84
Proportion of public-funded schools (%)	97.77	97.43	-0.34
Proportion of private schools (%)	1.71	1.99	+0.28
Proportion of church schools (%)	0.52	0.58	+0.06

It was especially founders of private kindergartens who responded to the increased demand for pre-school education, whereas the number of public-funded schools slightly decreased.

In general, number of small schools went down. Most of the small schools are in the Vysocina Region (76.9%); on the other hand in Prague large schools prevail (88.2%).

School management and school founders increased the capacity up to the maximum permitted number of children in classes, and some entities merged (several kindergartens merged or kindergartens merged with basic schools).

The CSI found that the available capacity of the visited kindergartens was used in the past school year at 89.0%. This is the highest figure among all parts of the education system of the Czech Republic.

Table 2

Use of the capacity of kindergartens according to regions

Regions above the average of the Czech Rep.	Capacity in use (%)	Regions below the average of the Czech Rep.	Capacity in use (%)
Prague	96.6	South Moravian Region	88.8
Central Bohemian Region	96.2	Zlin Region	88.0
Hradec Kralove Region	94.9	Liberec Region	87.9
Pilsen Region	93.9	Usit Region	86.1
Pardubice Region	92.6	Vysocina Region	84.0
Olomouc Region	91.6	South Bohemian Region	76.7
Czech Republic	89.0	Moravian–Silesian Region	75.9
		Karlovy Vary Region	73.7

Even though municipalities are the principal founders of kindergartens, regions can indirectly affect their networks through setting per capita funds (i.e. normative funding)