



# SITUACE UPRCHLÍKŮ Z UKRAJINY

Ministerstvo práce a sociálních věcí

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## Summary

In June 2022, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications conducted an investigation among Ukrainians who came to the Czech Republic after February 24, 2022. The results of the survey are presented in this study enriched with findings from administrative data.

As a result of Russian aggression in Ukraine, the largest mass of refugees since World War II has been set in motion. The Czech Republic has accepted an enormous number of refugees in a short time: 390,000 so far. It is thus the 3rd most frequent destination of Ukrainians fleeing the country from the EU countries, and at the same time it is the country with **the largest number of Ukrainian refugees per 100,000 inhabitants**. Who is it about? How do they live here, work, what do they need?

**The refugees are young and educated.** Among the new arrivals, **44% are women and 36% are children**, with the situation being stable in the long term. In terms of age,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of adult refugees are under 45, with 28% of the total number of adults even under 30. University students are represented twice as much as the Czech population.

This structure brings considerable development potential to the Czech Republic.

**The most common type of household is a mother with one child.** The second most common is a household of an adult living alone, followed by a woman with two children. A significant proportion of households have **very young children**: 43% of households have children under 5 years of age. Many of them need help finding kindergarten.

**Respondents most often live in solidarity households (44%).** Another 24% live in a rental or sublet. **However, 15% of refugees live in hostels**, which corresponds to roughly 58,000 people. Over 70% of solidarity households are Czech and 28% Ukrainian. Half of the refugee households have accommodation provided completely free of charge. The vast majority of refugees accommodated by the Czech Republic live in an apartment or part of a house that they reserve for themselves. **Over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of refugees are satisfied with their accommodation.** 39% have secured accommodation for 6 months or more. Only 6% of refugees have accommodation for less than 2 months.

**Accommodation is therefore relatively stable** and there is currently no threat of a massive migration of refugees within the Czech Republic, although they are relatively willing to move for work. Overall, we can assess the issue of housing as successfully managed. Solidarity households have a great deal to do with this.

**What refugees need above all is help with teaching Czech.** The need applies regardless of the life situation, but it most urgently concerns the economically active (employees and entrepreneurs). Refugees' language skills in Czech and English are generally low, however, almost  $\frac{1}{3}$  of refugees have a partial command of Czech.

**More than half of the refugees are economically active,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them perceive their work as permanent.** Big part of them work for employers with more than 205 employees. **However, most of them work in low-skilled professions (80%).** Therefore, it is not possible to use their professional potential too much. According to the survey by the Ministry of the Interior, the proportion of unemployed is significantly higher than what could be inferred on the basis of it administrative data. The vast majority of refugees who claim to be unemployed do not register with the Labor Office as job seekers.

The financial situation is serious: approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the refugees are in a very unsatisfactory or even critical financial situation.

**At the same time, the absolute minimum** (less than 0.5%) are well insured. **The worst is the financial situation of refugees who live in hostels.** At the same time, at the moment when households, which until now have accommodation completely free, would have to start paying for housing, they would have a very stressful financial situation under the current situation. And **now half of those who have free accommodation can't handle it and urgently need help.**

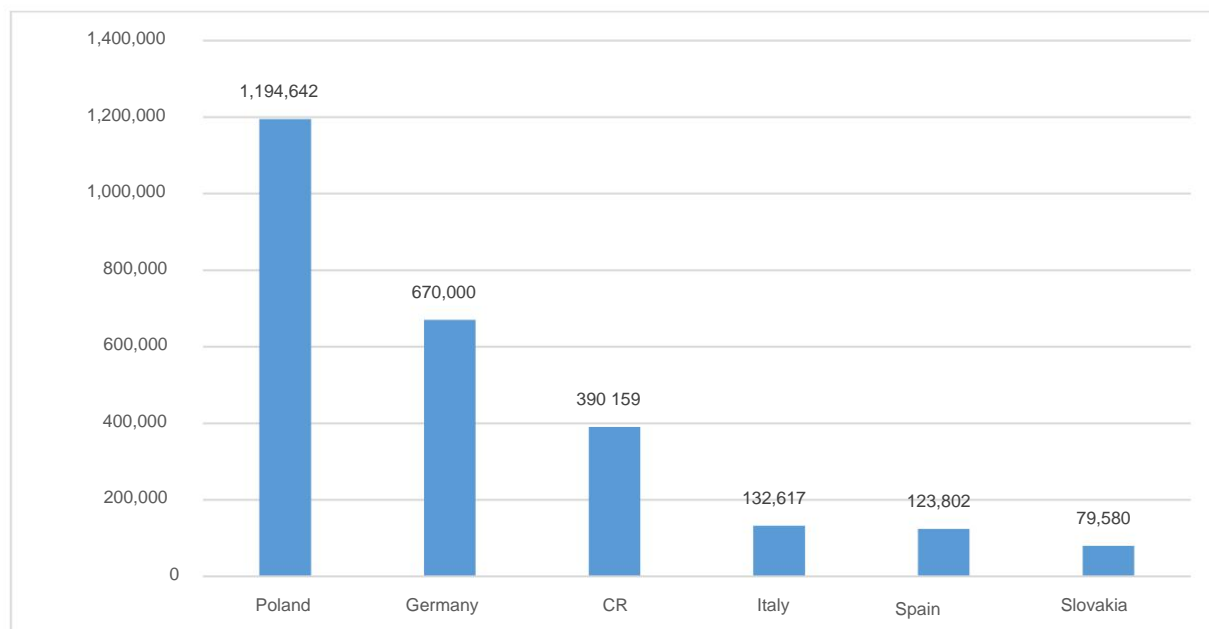
## Introduction

As a result of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, an unprecedented wave of migration arose, during which since 24/02/2022 approximately 6.5 million refugees have left the country.<sup>1</sup> Most Ukrainians fled to the surrounding areas countries, especially to Poland, where almost 1.2 million received temporary protection. The biggest rush of refugees was at the beginning of March, when hundreds of thousands of people arrived in European countries every day. At the beginning of July 2022, we have over **390,000 persons granted temporary protection** in the **Czech Republic** (hereafter referred to as the CR).

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The Czechia is the 3rd most frequent destination of Ukrainians fleeing the country among the EU states. The strong diaspora that was in the Czech Republic before the war also has an influence on this.

Chart 1: Refugees granted temporary protection - most common destinations



Source: UNHCR, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine> (July 9, 2022).

The number of persons in the Czech Republic is updated according to the data of the Aliens Information System as of 7/8/2022.

For comparison, during the war in Yugoslavia, approximately 2 million people fled Bosnia in the 1990s, 0.5 million from Croatia, 100,000 from Serbia, and 30,000 from Slovenia. 700,000 Kosovo Albanians and Serbs fled. 3

The war in Syria caused approximately 6.6 million Syrians to leave the country. <sup>4</sup> To Europe, dominantly then to Germany, about 700,000 of them came. Since the Second World War, Europe has not experienced such an extensive wave of refugees.

If we recalculate the number of refugees to the size of the population of the destination countries, the **Czech Republic is the country with the largest number of refugees per 100,000 inhabitants.** This is an unprecedented situation that we have not experienced before.

<sup>1</sup> Frontex data as of 07/07/2022. To supplement the data, UNHCR gives a lower number as of 06/29/2022, namely 5.5 million, [Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/situations/ukraine) (9/7/2022).

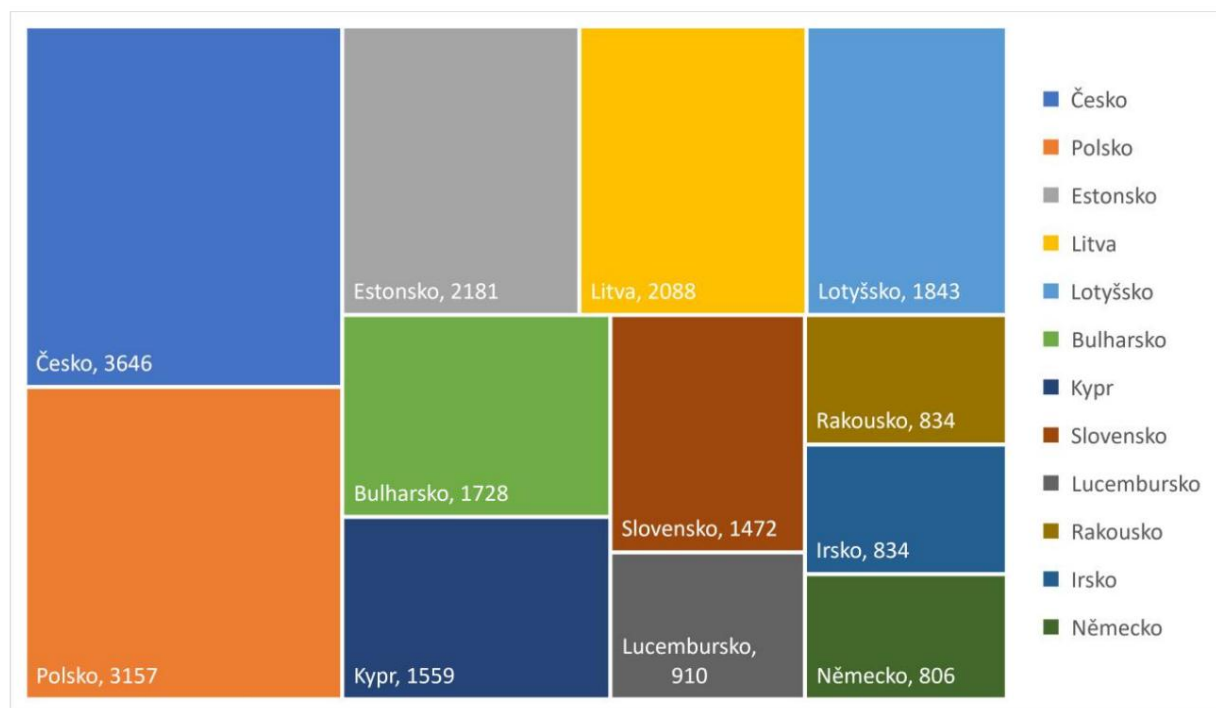
<sup>2</sup> Data from the Aliens Information System as of 7/8/2022.

<sup>3</sup> See more [Wars drive two-thirds of the country's population from their homes. In Ukraine, a quarter of them already had to flee](#)  
iROZHLAS - reliable news.

<sup>4</sup> The war in Syria has caused the internal displacement of 6.7 million people. Another 6.6 million fled the country entirely. Of these, a full 5.6 million were accepted by neighboring countries, especially Turkey. For more see [UNHCR - Syria emergency](#).



Chart 2: Number of refugees from Ukraine per 100,000 population (states that accepted the most refugees)



Source: Own calculation of MPSV5

In order to manage such a large-scale migration crisis, it is essential to know the refugees as best as possible, their social and economic situation both before leaving Ukraine and after arriving in the Czech Republic, their motivations, attitudes and behavior. Precise knowledge of the situation has the potential to help set up aid as efficiently as possible and at the same time use the influx of refugees as an opportunity for development.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs) currently has several areas of administrative data from which basic information can be extracted. This mainly concerns data on recipients of humanitarian benefit (hereinafter also referred to as HuD), employment and unemployment of refugees and support for those who accommodate refugees. Other relevant data are then held by other ministries, especially the Ministry of the Interior (primarily data on granted temporary protection from the Foreigners Information System).

However, currently available administrative data are not able to provide a sufficient insight into the refugee situation. These data do not and often cannot provide, for example, information on the composition of refugee households, their housing conditions or daily needs. For that reason, the **Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications organized a questionnaire survey among refugees in June, the results of which are presented in this study.**

<sup>5</sup> Population numbers according to WWW: <https://europa.eu/webtools/rest/charts/export/html/>, numbers of refugees according to WWW: [Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/situation-ukraine-refugee-situation) (both 9/7/2022).

## Methodology

One thousand 65,145 refugees who applied for a humanitarian allowance<sup>6</sup> were contacted by email in a questionnaire survey, asking them to fill out an online questionnaire about themselves and other members of their household.

During June, the **Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications collected data on 50,236 refugees**, of which 29,012 were adults and 21,224 were children. The return rate was 27.4%, which is a successful result for a survey of this kind.

Since the file is not complete or strictly speaking representative and therefore naturally has a certain deviation, we tested the informative value of the file after transportation based on data on the place of residence obtained from the Foreigners Information System of the Ministry of the Interior. However, the results were virtually unchanged when reweighted: the differences were so small that we would not achieve a more faithful representation of the data

the entire refugee population in the Czech Republic.

The data therefore fully correspond to what the respondents communicated. Due to the fact that the survey was conducted online, it can be assumed that the set of respondents has a higher representation of more educated people and probably also a higher representation of refugees who live in Prague. On the contrary, it can be assumed that this survey did not reach sufficiently the socially weaker and more vulnerable groups of refugees (e.g. those who do not even have access to the Internet) and will therefore probably not be sufficiently represented. Nevertheless, even thanks to the testing of weights according to the regional distribution, which did not deviate the set in any way, the data can be considered as not representative, but as a **highly informative dataset about the 50,000 refugee population**.

Given that the investigation was not strictly speaking anonymous, as the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications would theoretically be able to identify the owner of the email used (although it absolutely does not), it was not for methodological reasons it is possible to ask sensitive questions. Therefore, this research is followed by a panel investigation of the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, which will be able to go into greater depth.

In addition to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications survey, data from the Labor Office on humanitarian benefit applicants, of which there were 310,000 as of 7/8/2022, data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications on the employment of foreign workers, data from the Foreign Information System, Frontex and other publicly available data are used.

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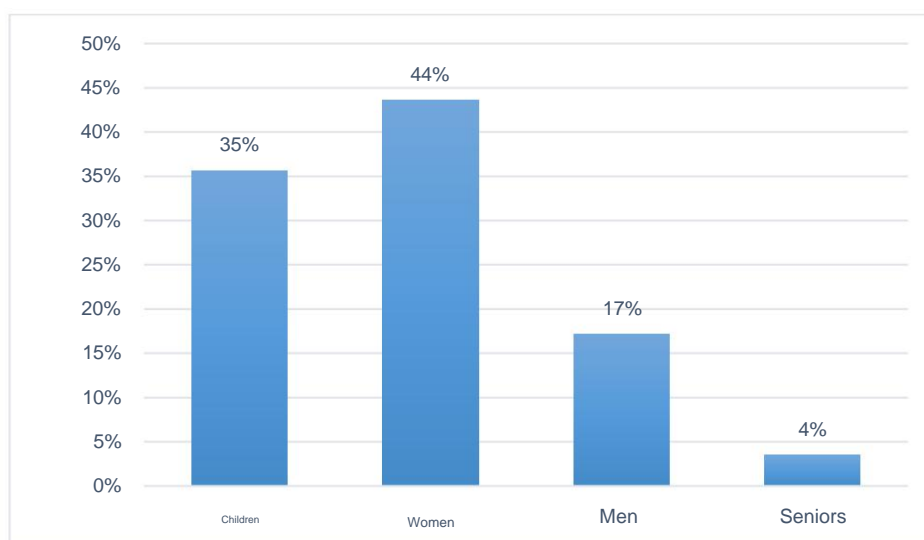
<sup>6</sup> All refugees who provided an email address in their application were contacted. The basic indicators are following: Total Questionnaires Sent: 65,145, Total Opened: 33,959, Completed: 17,846, Disqualified: 1,971, Return: 53%, Total Return: 27.39%. Total number of requests for humanitarian benefits: 306,494 (at the date of data collection).

## Basic indicators

According to the administrative data of the Ministry of the Interior<sup>7</sup>, the Czech Republic granted temporary protection to **390,159 refugees from Ukraine** from 25 February to 9 July 2022. At the beginning of July, there were over 245,000 active Ukrainian SIM cards in the Czech Republic.<sup>8</sup>

The largest group of arrivals is women and children: approximately **44% are women and 35% are children**. The following graph shows the proportion of children, adult women, adult men and seniors. At the same time, we know from the data that the **ratios are relatively stable in the long term**, only the proportion of men has increased slightly and the proportion of children has decreased (from approx. 11 to 17% for men and from 44 to 35% for children). It should be borne in mind that these figures are not completely accurate due to the free movement of people within the EU.

Chart 3: Share of persons with temporary protection in the Czech Republic



Source: Foreigner Information System

**Ukrainians who came to the Czech Republic are generally young.** In addition to the high number of children, almost 1/3 of adults are under 30 and another 46% are under 45. Only 4% of arrivals are over 65 years of age.

Data on the age structure can also be drawn from humanitarian benefit applications. Children are more represented in it (40% compared to 35% from the Aliens Information System), yet it is useful to see the age distribution, where ¼ of adult refugees are under 35 and another 21% under 50. We know that most adults are women, and as Figure 5 shows, almost half of them are under 35 years old.

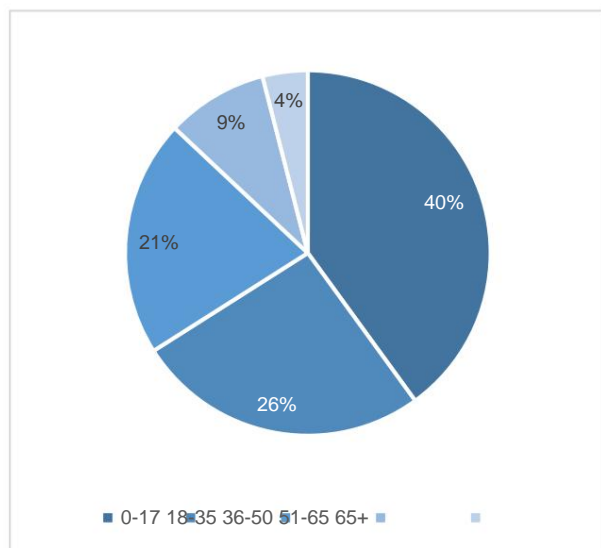
<sup>7</sup> We draw data from the Aliens Information System.

<sup>8</sup> Since the free movement of persons does not allow the exact number of refugees to be determined, the data from the operators may give a slightly more accurate estimate of the actual number. However, SIM cards also do not give the whole picture.

At the same time, not only adults have them, but also some children under 18 years of age.

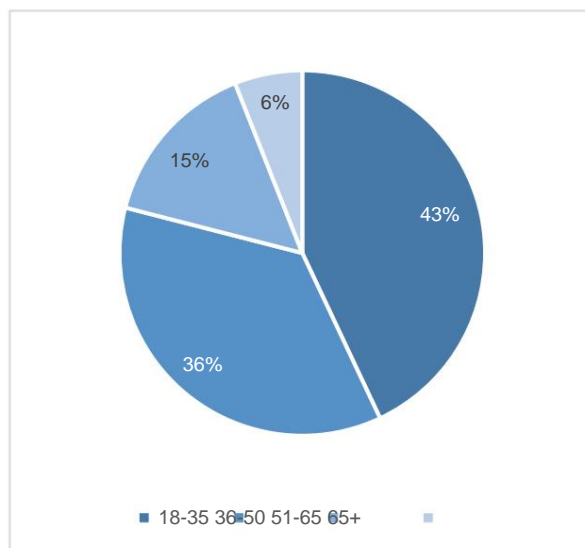
Estimates say that 15-20% of refugees who received temporary protection in the Czech Republic are no longer in the Czech Republic. Some returned to Ukraine, some continued to other countries. This information is also confirmed by the control monitoring carried out by the Ministry of the Interior in 4 selected municipalities with extended scope, where approx. 80% of persons were traced and approx. 15-20% of persons were not traced. It is estimated that some of them moved within the Czech Republic, some returned to Ukraine, and some continued to other countries. Prague was not represented in the control set.

Chart 4: Age of refugees



Source: Data on humanitarian benefit recipients

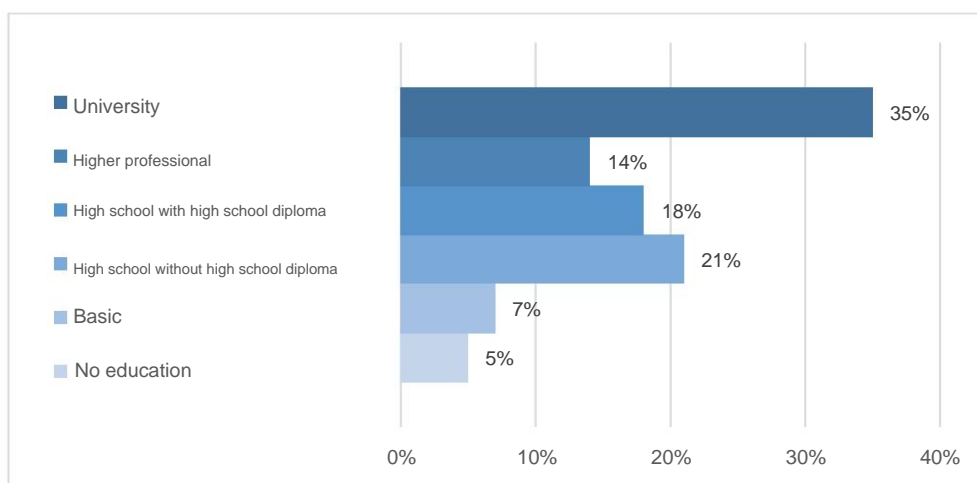
Chart 5: Age of adult women



Source: Data on humanitarian benefit recipients

The character of the Ukrainians who came to the Czech Republic is also reflected in the information on the highest level of education achieved. From graph 6, it is clear that the majority of incoming refugees are **university students**.<sup>9</sup> They are among the refugees at the same time, university students pay twice as much as the Czech population. According to the 2021 Census, 17.6 % of the Czechs are university-educated.<sup>10</sup> However, it should be added that the proportion of university students is very high in Ukraine,<sup>11</sup> which is due, among other things, to the different education system, education also includes the entry two-year "professional junior high school" or university<sup>12</sup>

Chart 6: Highest educational attainment



Source: Data on humanitarian benefit recipients

<sup>9</sup> In the investigation by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, more people are represented, on the contrary, fewer people with secondary and elementary education responded education, as well as persons without education.

<sup>10</sup> For more, see [Education | Census 2021 \(czso.cz\)](https://www.czso.cz/) (11 July 2022).

<sup>11</sup> E.g. 65% of women under the age of 35 had a university education in 2019, see [European Neighborhood Policy - East - education statistics - Statistics Explained \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&code=sdg_4.6.2) (12/07/2022).

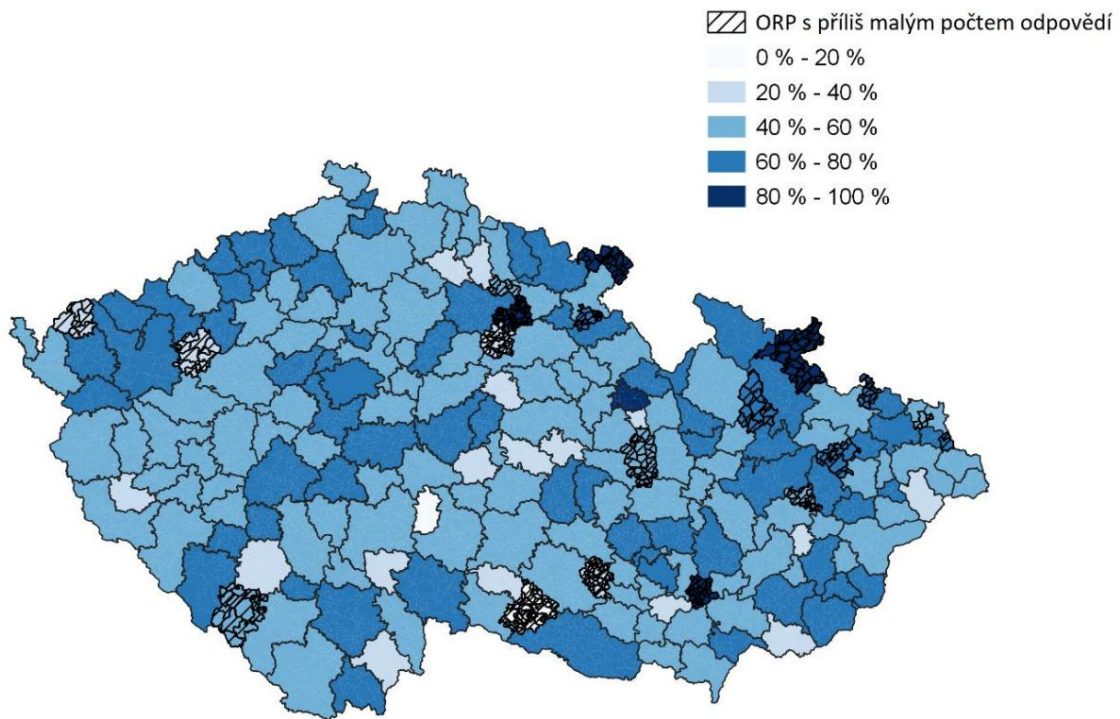
<sup>12</sup> Details about the Ukrainian education system can be found here, for example: [Basic information for comparison of the Czech and Ukrainian educational system - edu.cz](https://www.mmt.cz/ua_vs_vzdelavaci_system_v1.pdf) and in the table clearly here: [UA\\_VS\\_vzdelavaci\\_system\\_v1.pdf \(msmt.cz\)](https://www.mmt.cz/ua_vs_vzdelavaci_system_v1.pdf) (10/07/2022).



Less clear is the "no education" category, which was reported by 5% of HuD recipients. At the number of 310 thousand it would be about 15.5 thousand persons, which rather indicates inaccuracy in the answers. The reason may be either a potentially difficult transition for the respondents to the Czech education system, which the Ukrainian one does not fully correspond to, or a reluctance to classify themselves in another category.

When looking at the regional distribution of education, it is worth paying attention to how they are distributed across the territory of the Czech Republic university students. It is obvious that they are not concentrated in Prague, which has an average share of them.

Map 1: Higher education according to ORP



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

## Households

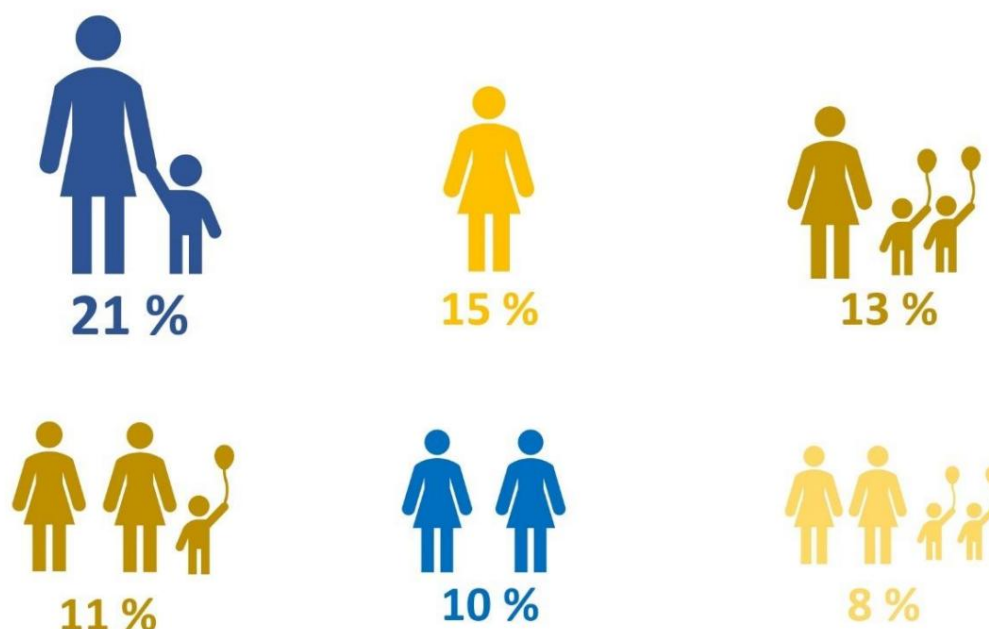
The structure of refugee households is an insufficiently mapped area. At the same time, it plays a key role in connection with needs in the area of housing, pre-school care or in understanding behavior on the labor market.

In the questionnaire survey, we understood as a household relatives or otherwise close persons who came to the Czech Republic from Ukraine from February 2022 (i.e. as a result of the war conflict) and who live and farm together here.<sup>13</sup> We used the household defined in this way to obtain information about other household members as well. According to the results, in absolute terms, the **most common type of household is a mother with one child**, followed by a household of a single adult and a woman with two children. Other household types are significantly less represented among refugee households.

The most frequently represented types of households are the following (number and share of households):

1. Adult with one child (3623, 21%)
2. Adult living alone (2480, 15%)
3. Adult with two children (2267, 13%)
4. Two adults with one child (1912, 11%)
5. Two adults (no children) (1641, 10%)
6. Two adults with two children (1309, 8%)

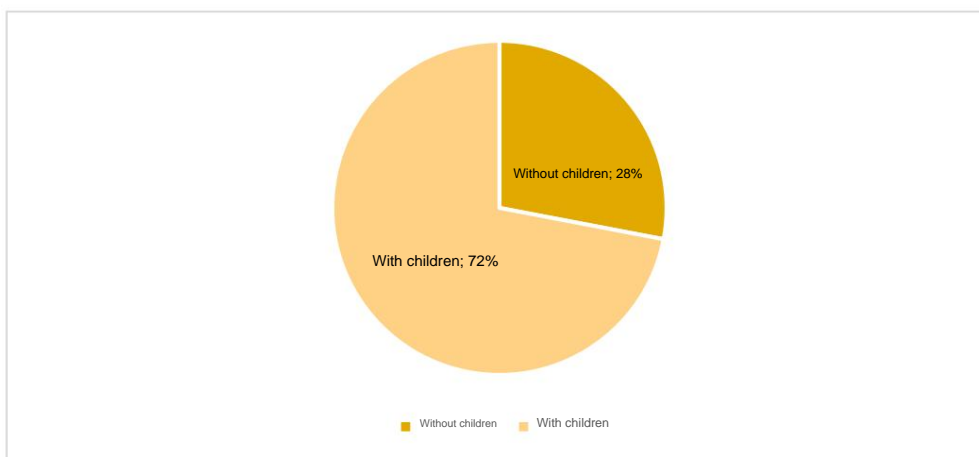
Chart 7: The most frequently represented household types



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

<sup>13</sup> We also included children in the household who came from Ukraine and the respondent took care of them in the Czech Republic, although it was not necessarily his own child.

Chart 8: Households with and without children

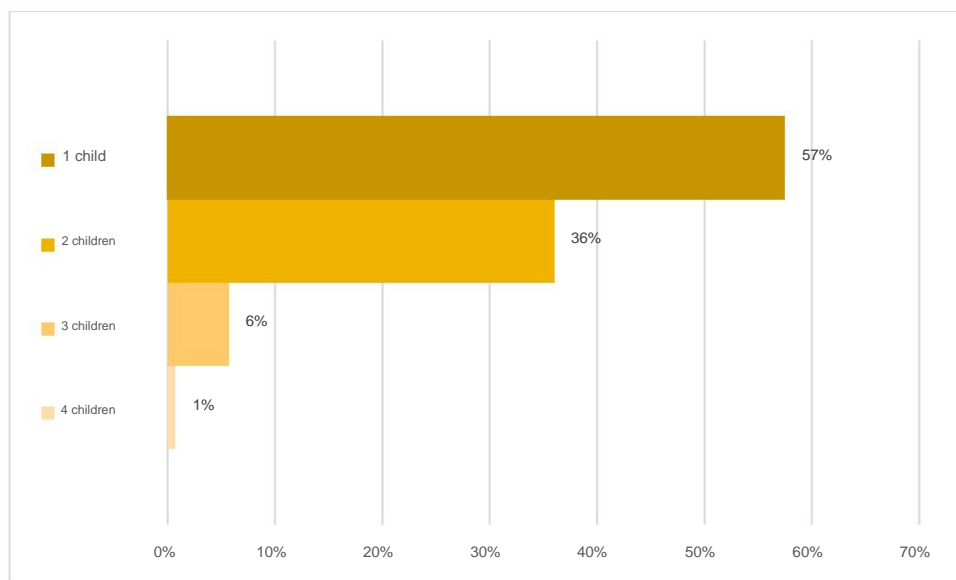


Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

A total of 28% of respondents are households without children. In half of them only one adult lives (53%) and in another third two adults (35%).

We also know from the Czech population that households of solo parents are more vulnerable, because only one parent pulls everything together. Therefore, it is advisable to take a closer look at the structure of a **household with children**, where there is only one adult: **Most often it is a mother with one child** (21%) and a mother with two children (13%). Only 14% of households with a single adult have three children at home, and only less than 5% live with more children.

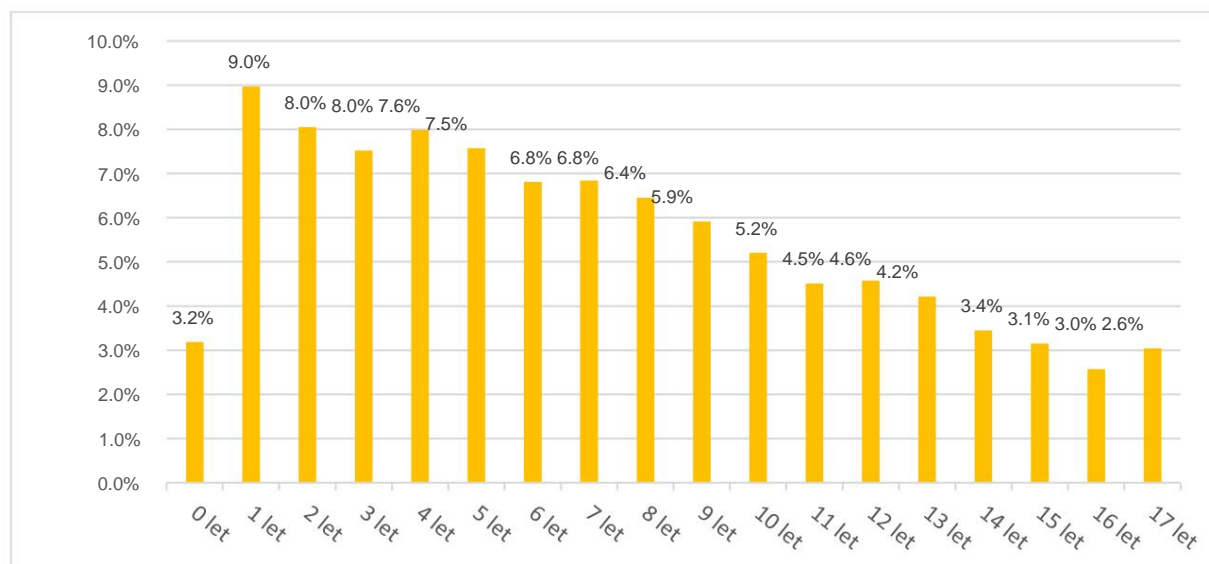
Chart 9: Households with children by number of children



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

**A significant proportion of households have very young children: 43% of households have children under 5 years of age** (ie the youngest child is under 5). Details of the age distribution of children are shown in the following chart. We see, for example, that only 16% of households have children over 13 years of age.

Chart 10: Share of households with children by age of the youngest child



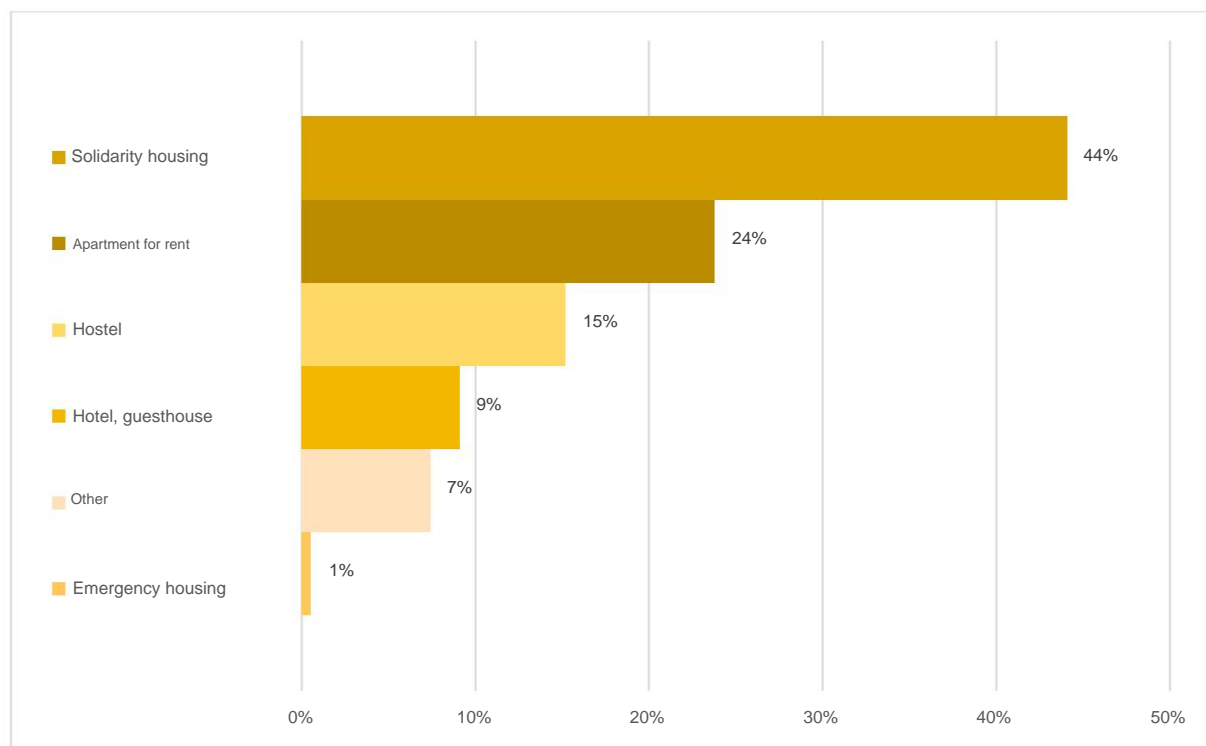
Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

## Housing

The administrative data do not provide accurate information about the actual place of residence. A pilot verification by the Ministry of the Interior in four municipalities with extended jurisdiction showed that approximately 20% of refugees do not stay where they applied for temporary protection. There is an assumption that the greater part of them already lives permanently abroad, especially back in Ukraine, however, a certain percentage probably continued on to Western Europe and a part moved within the Czech Republic. In any case, we know that a higher proportion of refugees live in Prague, Brno or in the Karlovy Vary, Pilsen and Central Bohemia regions.

The perspective on households is unique when it comes to housing. **Most often, refugees live in solidarity households (44%).** Another 24% live in a rental or sublet. Rather alarming is the fact that **15% of refugees live in hostels, which corresponds to roughly 58,000 people.** At the same time, the housing structure is practically the same even if we look only at economically active refugees - the representation of individual types of accommodation changes only by small percentages and the share remains the same. Among the respondents, there was a minimum of those who would live in emergency housing, i.e. in temporary accommodation in public buildings or tent cities. So their situation is represented a little less than in reality.

Chart 11: Current accommodation according to basic housing types

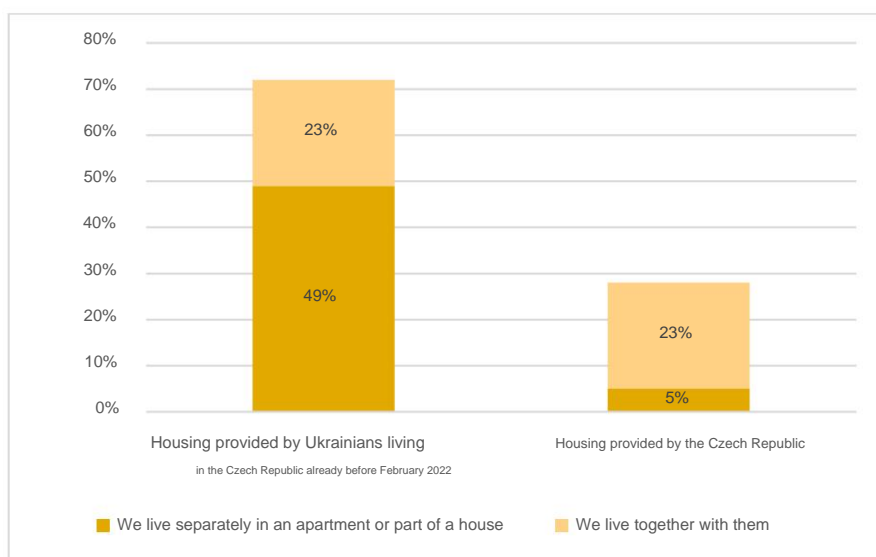


Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

The perspective on solidarity households is also interesting. **Over 70% of solidarity households are Czech** and approximately 28% of applicants for solidarity household allowance are Ukrainians who lived in the Czech Republic before the start of the war. Within the framework of solidarity households, **¾ of refugees live with the Czechs**, with the **vast majority of them living in an apartment or part of the house that they have reserved for themselves** - among those who are provided accommodation by Czech solidarity households, this is even more than 70%. Czech Ukrainians do not have the kind of property to allow refugees to live independently, so they predominantly live together with them.



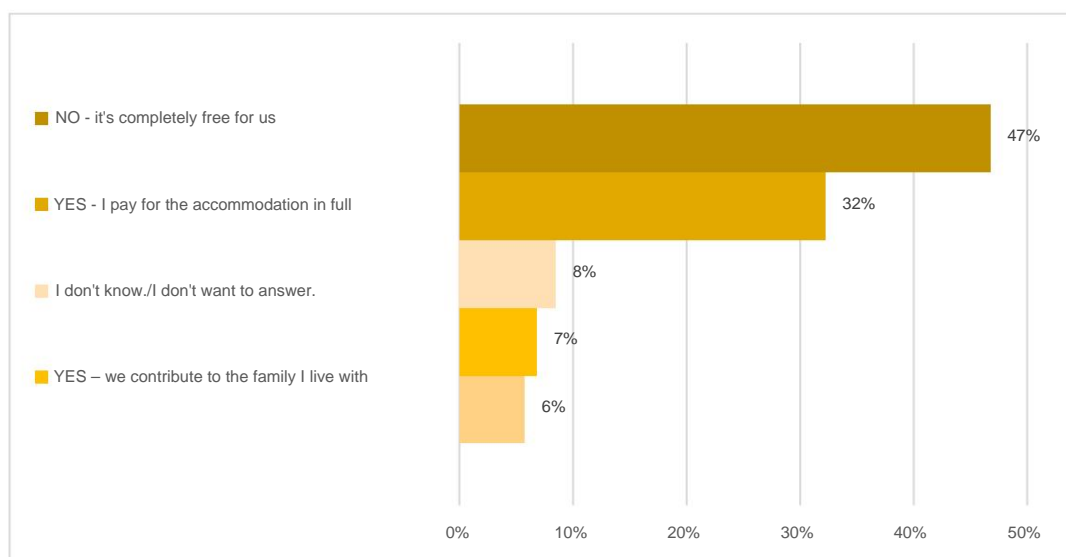
Chart 12: Share of solidarity households



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Almost **half of the refugee households have accommodation provided free of charge**, so they do not have to contribute to it. This fact, together with the feeling of safety and other factors, can influence the fact that the vast majority of refugees are satisfied with their accommodation and do not intend to change it. Only a third pay for housing in full, and another 7% contribute to the family with whom they live jointly.

Graph 13: Payments for accommodation



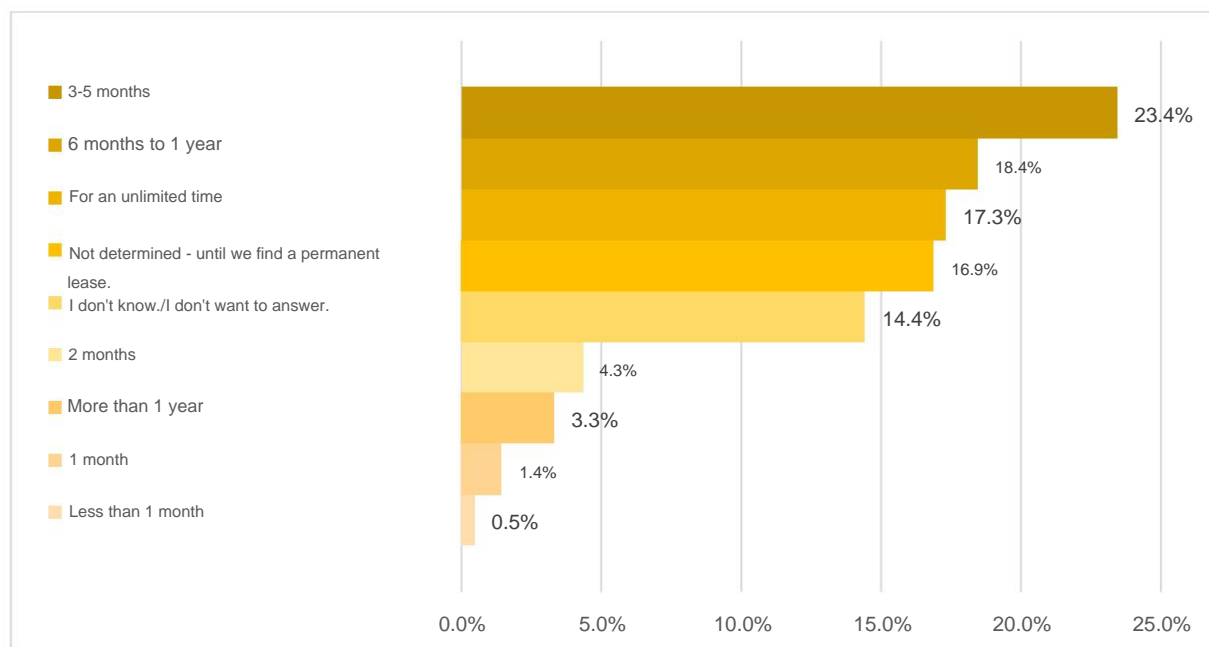
Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

**At the same time, the existing accommodation is relatively stable. 39% have secured accommodation for 6 months or more,** another 17% are currently living without restrictions, with the assumption that they will find a permanent rental in the future.

**Only 6% of refugees have accommodation with a perspective of less than 2 months.** <sup>14</sup> This stability probably will result in a significant proportion of refugees remaining in the place where they currently live. Although certain changes due to work or school can be expected, **there is currently no threat of a more massive spontaneous migration of refugees within the Czech Republic.**

<sup>14</sup> The 14% of respondents who did not answer are worthy of attention, this is a relatively large group of people who we don't know what their situation is.

Graph 14: Period of certainty of current accommodation

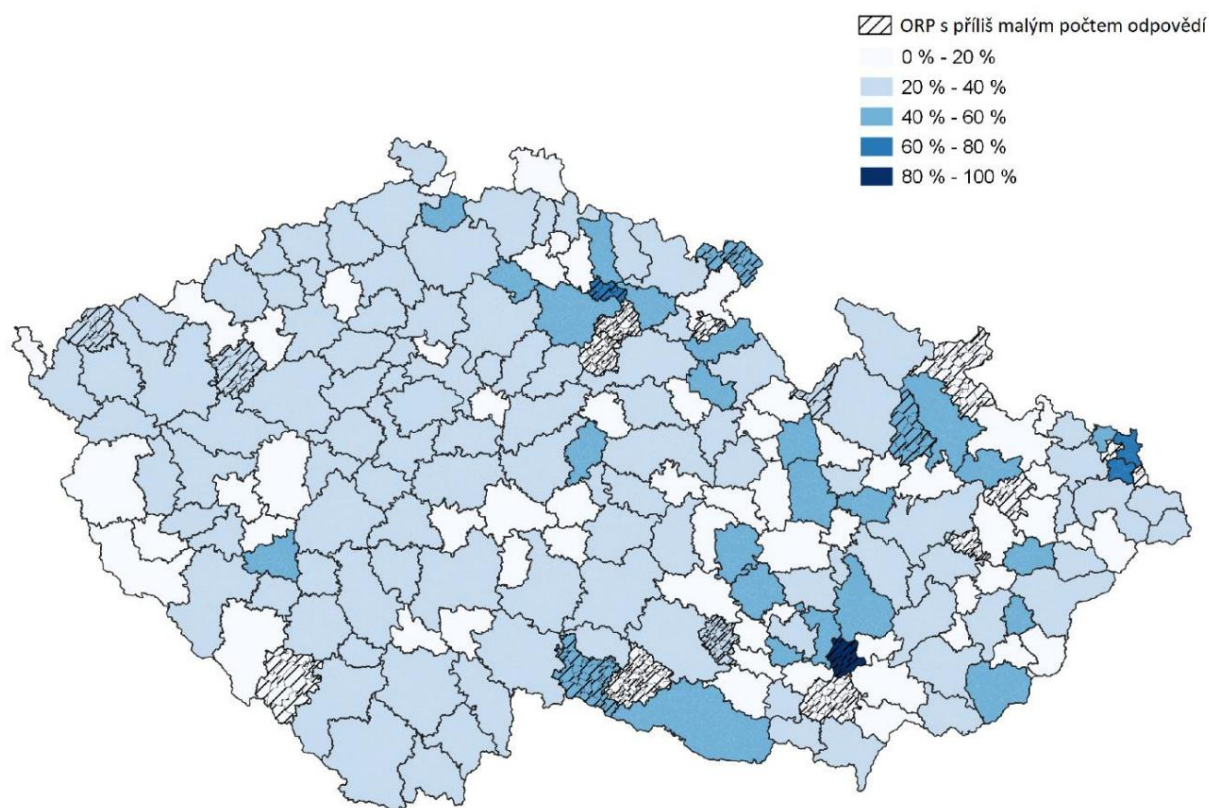


Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

However, the potential movements of refugees around the Czech Republic are indicated by the regional distribution of households with short-term accommodation (Map 2). Shorter-term accommodation appears more in the eastern part of the republic, especially in the Hradec Králové region (especially ORP Broumov, Dvůr Králové nad Labem and Nová Paka), in Vysočina (mainly Náměšň nad Oslavou) and in the South Moravian region (Slavkov u Brna).

Uncertainty in accommodation is also more common in Lanškroun, Havířov and Karviná.

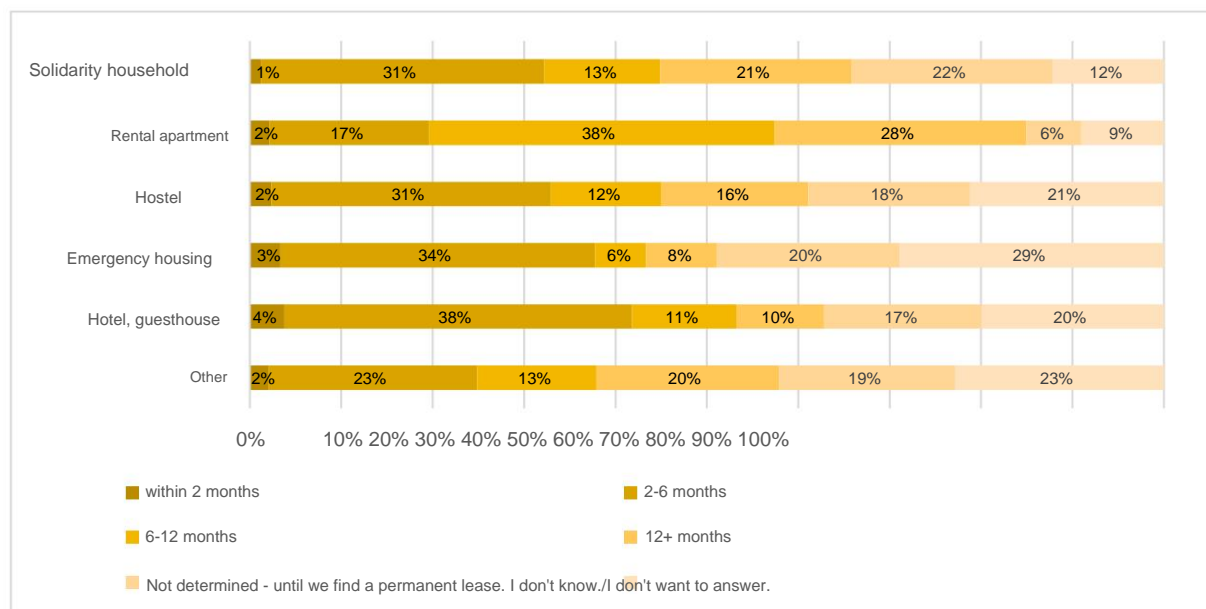
Map 2: Share of respondents who have secured accommodation for less than 6 months (according to ORP)



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Looking at graph 15, we see that the shortest perspective is unsurprisingly living in a hotel or boarding house (in 42% the longest is up to six months), followed by emergency housing (37%). Only a little less, however, can stay in the dormitory and in solidarity housing, where they are currently. Here, a fairly significant space opens up: **if the accommodation is not extended, we can solve the need for housing for a very high proportion of refugees in six months at the latest.** Refugees found the most stable housing in rent, sublet and municipal apartments (min. 28% over 12 months), according to the respondents, there is also a decent perspective in solidarity households.

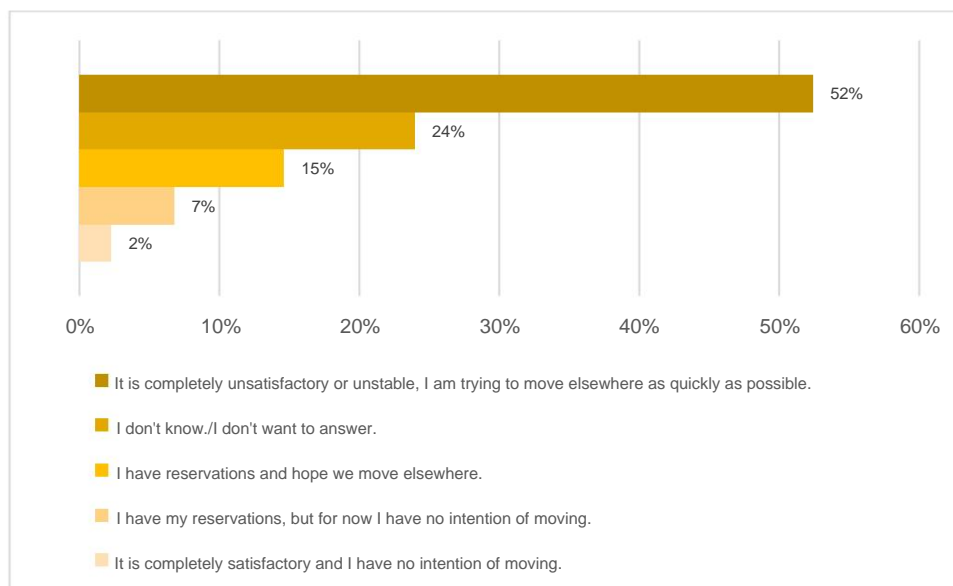
Chart 15: Length of accommodation by housing type



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Despite the mentioned risks, **the area of housing can currently be considered well managed, largely thanks to the solidarity of Czechs and local Ukrainians**, who accommodated a large part of the mass of arrivals. As the next graph shows, **over 75% of refugees are satisfied with their accommodation** and do not plan to move elsewhere. With such an enormous number of people that the Czech Republic had to accommodate in a short time, one can speak of success. More than half of the respondents even consider their accommodation to be "completely satisfactory".

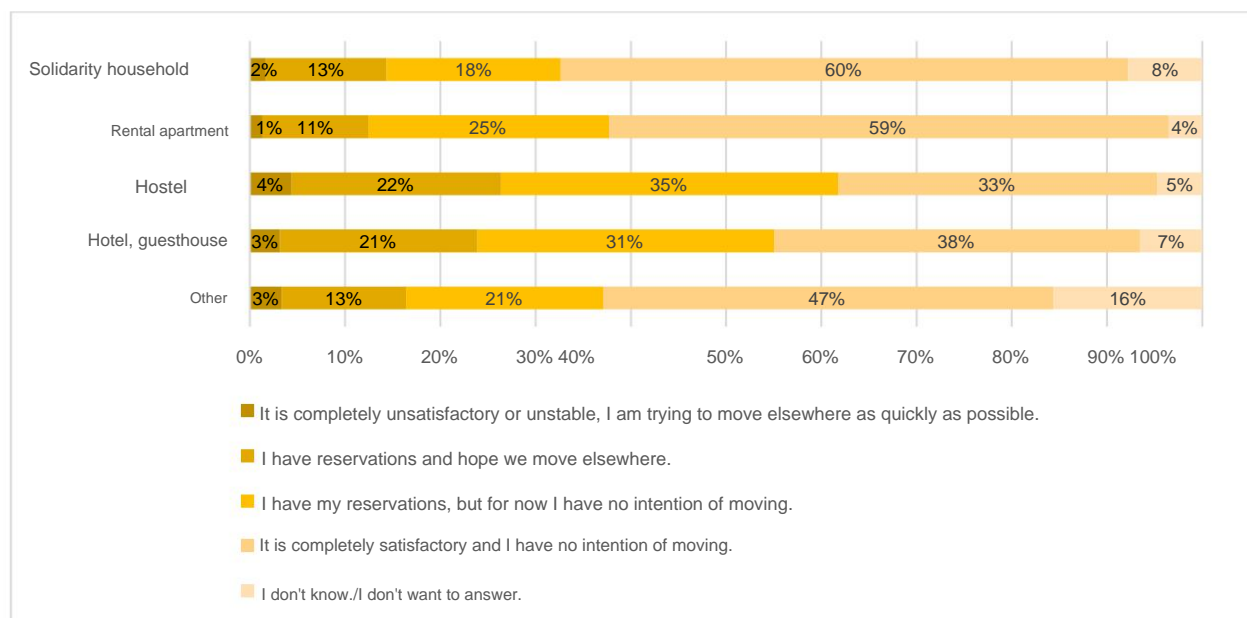
Chart 16: Satisfaction with housing



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Those refugees who live in solidarity households and rent are especially satisfied. The lowest level of satisfaction is then among those who live in a dormitory. Those who live in a hotel or boarding house are also planning to move.

Chart 17: Satisfaction with housing by type of accommodation



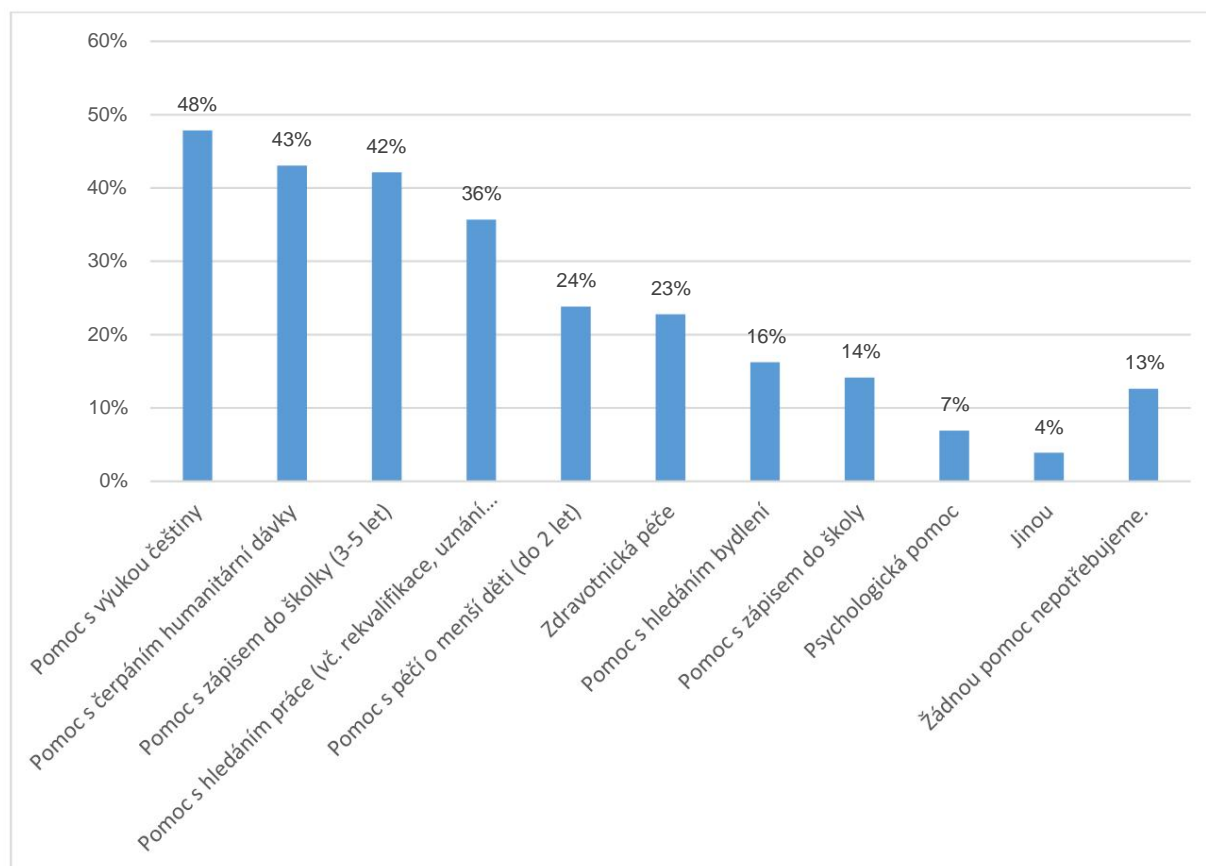
Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications



## Needs

Knowing their needs is essential for setting up aid to refugees. What the respondents most often states that they need, in<sup>15</sup> almost half of the cases, **support in teaching the Czech language. This is a dominant need and at the same time the main barrier when looking for a job.**

Chart 18: What respondents in the Czech Republic need

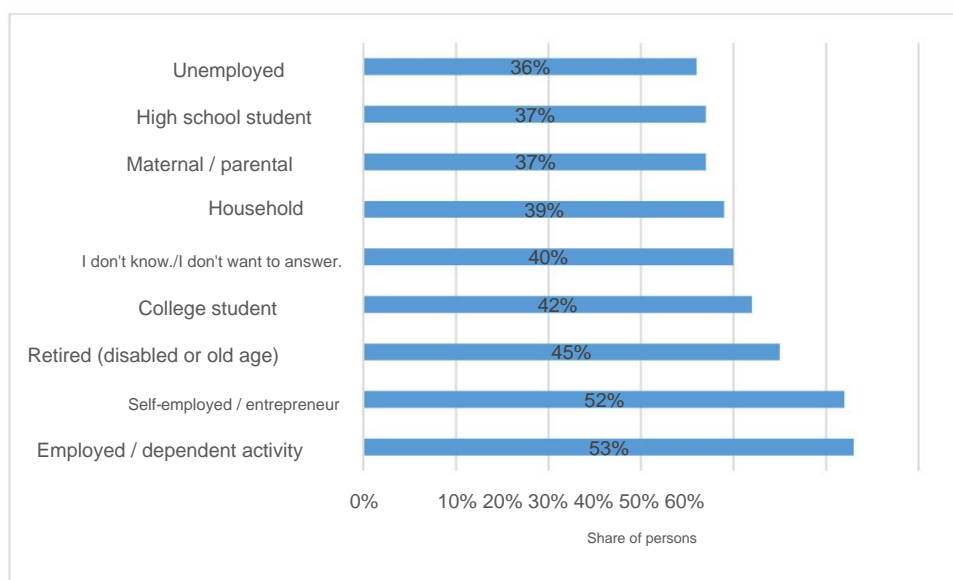


Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Taking a closer look at the respondents who want help with Czech, we see that the need is **relatively stable across the economic situation, however, the most urgent need concerns workers (employees and entrepreneurs)**. On the contrary, the least need is felt by the unemployed, high school students and mothers on maternity or parental leave.

<sup>15</sup> The question was "Do you or someone in your household need help or information in connection with some of the of the following?".

Chart 18: Need for help with teaching Czech according to economic activity

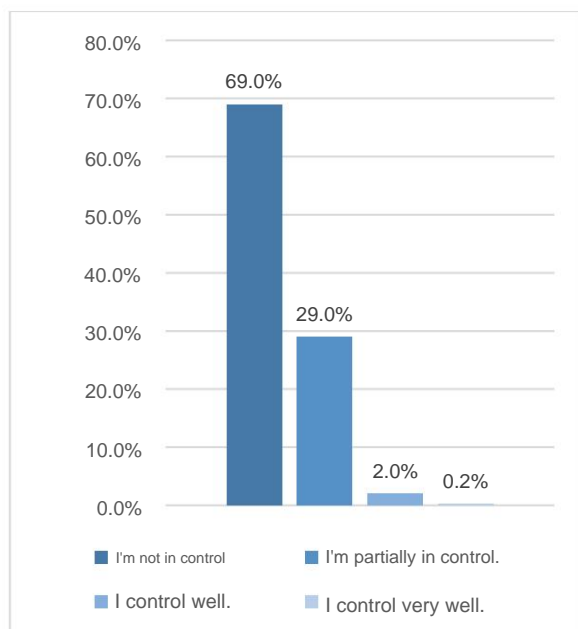


Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

We also know the level of language competence from humanitarian benefit applications. **As of July 4, 2022, 69% of recipients do not know Czech, but 29% know it partially and only 2% know it well.** The same applies to the level of English, which copies the knowledge of Czech. The slight difference is only that the knowledge of "good" and "excellent" is slightly higher. **The refugees' language skills in Czech and English are therefore low.**

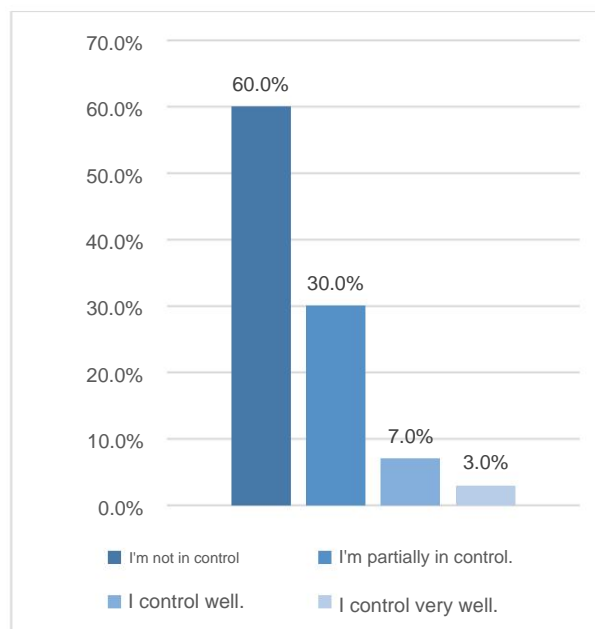
16

Graph 19: Knowledge of the Czech language according to HuD



Source: Data on humanitarian benefit recipients

Chart 20: Knowledge of the English language according to HuD



Source: Data on humanitarian benefit recipients

The second most common area with which respondents need help is processing a request for a humanitarian benefit. This need was most often articulated by high school students, unemployed and retired people, where

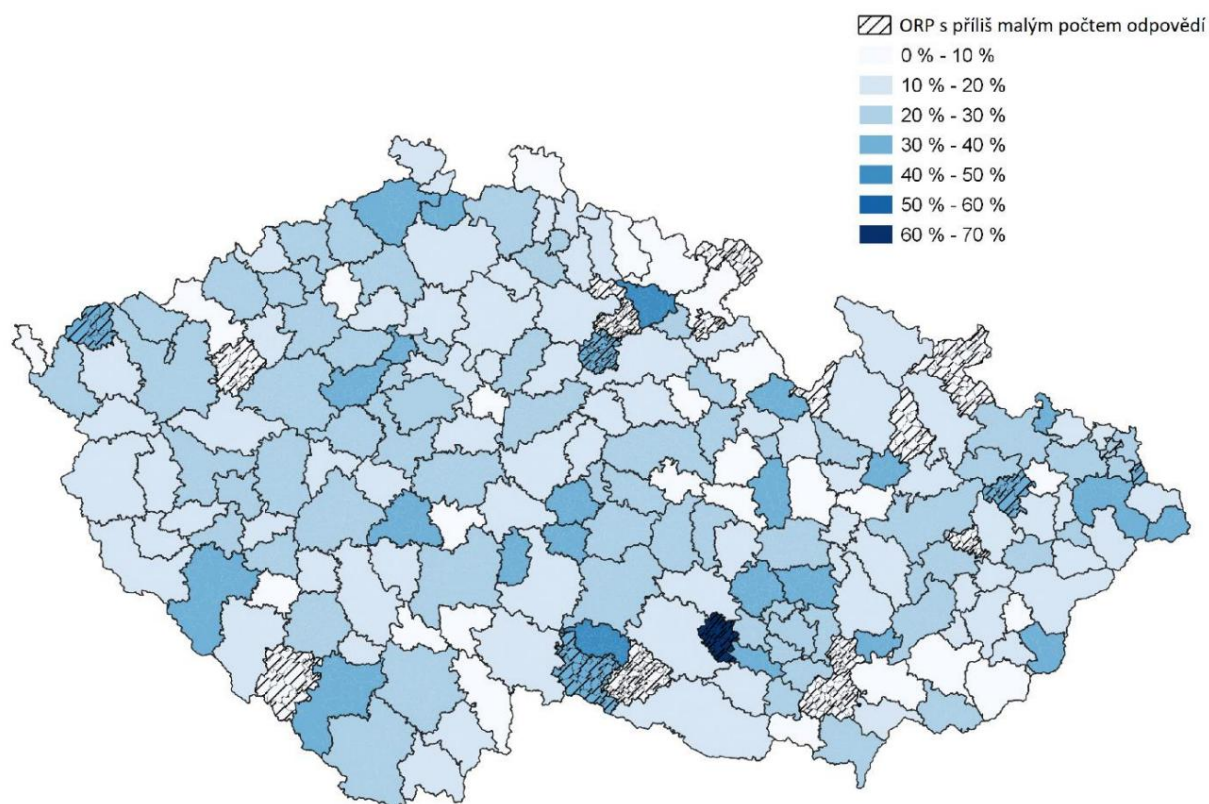
<sup>16</sup> A certain level of knowledge of Russian can be expected, but the form for the humanitarian benefit did not track data about it.

the problem concerned more than half of the respondents from the given group. It will be appropriate to pay more attention to this, because the fact that respondents who have already received a humanitarian benefit in the past (and thus successfully passed the application process once) and at the same time knowing that we have an almost high proportion of university-educated people in the group say feedback that needs to be addressed.

In the area of assistance with providing kindergarten (42%), school (14%) and care for children under 2 years of age (24%), the answers are recalculated only for those households with children. Above all, almost half of the affected **households need help with the provision of a kindergarten**.

Since the beginning of the war, there has been talk about how to provide basic services for refugees. Healthcare is also one of the most important. 23% of respondents indicate its need. Considering the sensitivity of health questions, it was not possible to ask in more detail, so the given category can cover both help with finding a general practitioner and specific health care. When deciding how to cover care, it is also appropriate to use the regional point of view. As shown in map 3, the deficit is larger in certain areas, especially in Telč, Dvůr Králové nad Labem and several others.

Map 3: Health care needs by region



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Another area is psychological help. The need articulated by the respondents is the same across age and education, the differences between the categories are minimal.

## Economic activity

### Employment rate and economic activity

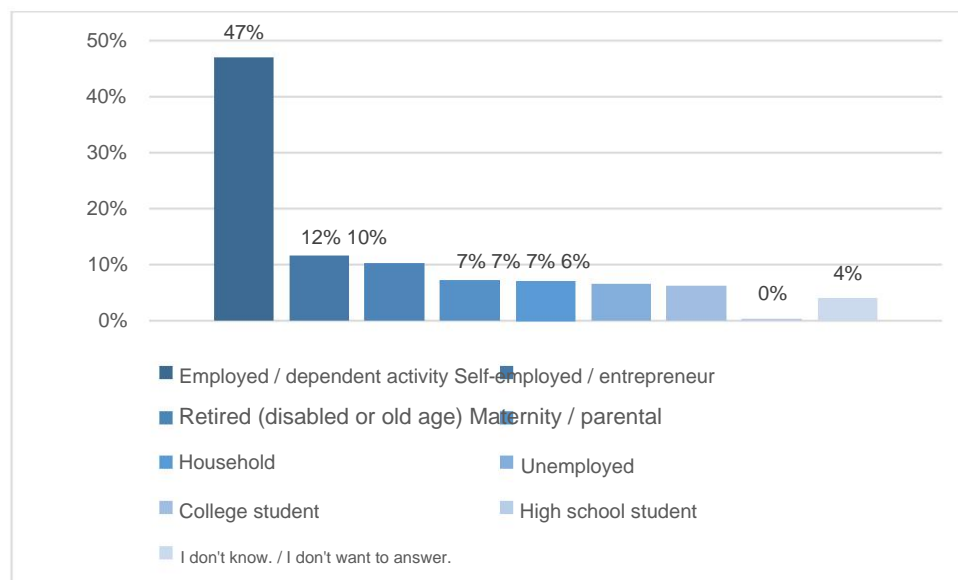
From abroad, we know from previous waves of refugees that for successful integration, it is most effective to involve newcomers in the labor market as soon as possible and to make maximum use of their professional potential. This means allowing them to work in the same or a related field that they worked in in their original homeland.<sup>17</sup>

Among the incoming refugees, 61% are of economically active age. This corresponds to more than 237 thousand. At the same time, their potential for employment on the Czech labor market is considerable, especially thanks to education.<sup>18</sup> We draw information about it from the education statistics of adult refugees who applied for a humanitarian benefit. Among them, one in three is university educated (Chart 6). Among the survey respondents, the share of university students is even higher (one in two).

However, in order to utilize the work potential of refugees, it is necessary to set suitable conditions for work on the part of the public administration and employers. For example, 6,289,000 refugee women of economically active age take care of a child under the age of 18 as the only adult. Creating prerequisites for reconciling family and work life is thus one of the necessary conditions.

The responses of the refugees in the questionnaire survey show that **more than half of people of economically active age are employed** or self-employed, while the shares of unemployed or individual groups of economically inactive refugees amount to ten percent or less of refugees of economically active age (Chart 21).

Chart 21: Economic activity of persons aged 18–65



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

<sup>17</sup> For more, see e.g. the Czech Priorities study and PAQ Research *Integration of Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic 2022+*, available from [Studie\\_Integrace\\_Uprchlíku.pdf - Google Drive](#) (9/7/2022).

<sup>18</sup> Although the level of education is high, it is good to remember that the Ukrainian education system is different and they count a degree that is even before our bachelor's degree as a university degree. So the level is rather lower.

At the same time, the share of employed people according to the records of the Labor Office and subsequent internal calculations (41%) is 12% lower than the share of employed people according to the questionnaire survey (47%). This difference may indicate the extent of so-called illegal work, but also a certain unrepresentativeness of the questionnaire survey given the conditions of data collection.

The share of the unemployed according to the questionnaire survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications is significantly higher than what could be inferred on the basis of administrative data. **The vast majority of refugees who claim to be unemployed do not register with the Labor Office as job seekers.** This may have a number of negative consequences in the future, for example in relation to the obligation to pay health insurance premiums. The other groups from Chart 21 are not captured in any way in the administrative data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and the questionnaire survey is, according to our knowledge, an essential source of the number of these groups.

The questionnaire survey shows that **employed refugees** work both for employers in the Czech Republic and remotely for employers in Ukraine. Although the share of employees **working for Czech employers is significantly predominant (81%)**, according to the survey, a significant part of refugees works **remotely for employers in Ukraine (19%)**.

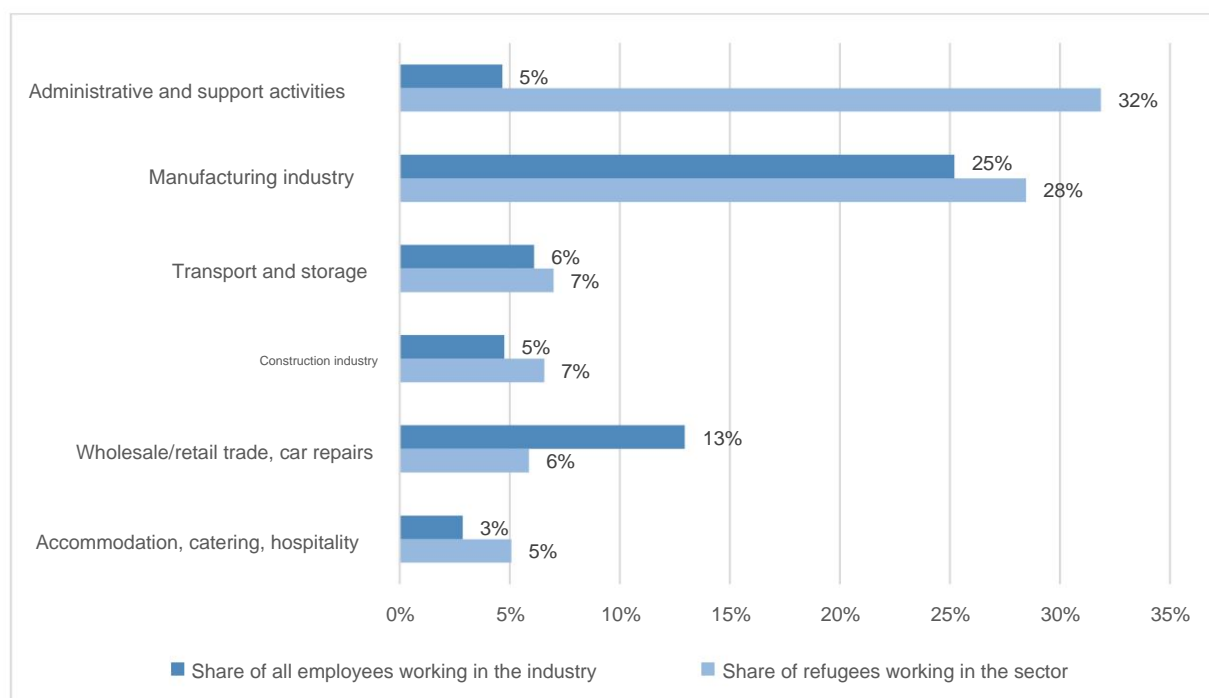
The administrative data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications show that women and persons from younger age groups significantly predominate among refugees employed by Czech employers. Seven out of ten employed refugees are women (70% of employed refugees). Four out of ten employed refugees are between the ages of 18 and 35 and 35 and 50 (44% and 40% of employed refugees, respectively). Conversely, a significant minority of employed refugees are men (30%) and refugees over the age of 50 (16%). The age structure of employed refugees and the structure of employed refugees by gender roughly correspond to the structure of all refugees from Ukraine who came to the Czech Republic. The data do not show that men or women, or any of the age groups, have relatively significantly higher problems with employment as such.

**The vast majority of these employees (85%) work for employers in six sectors** (Chart 22).

Among all employees on the labor market, that is, between Czechs and other foreigners, only 56% of employees work in these six sectors. There is a significant difference in the number of employees in administrative and support activities (Chart 22).



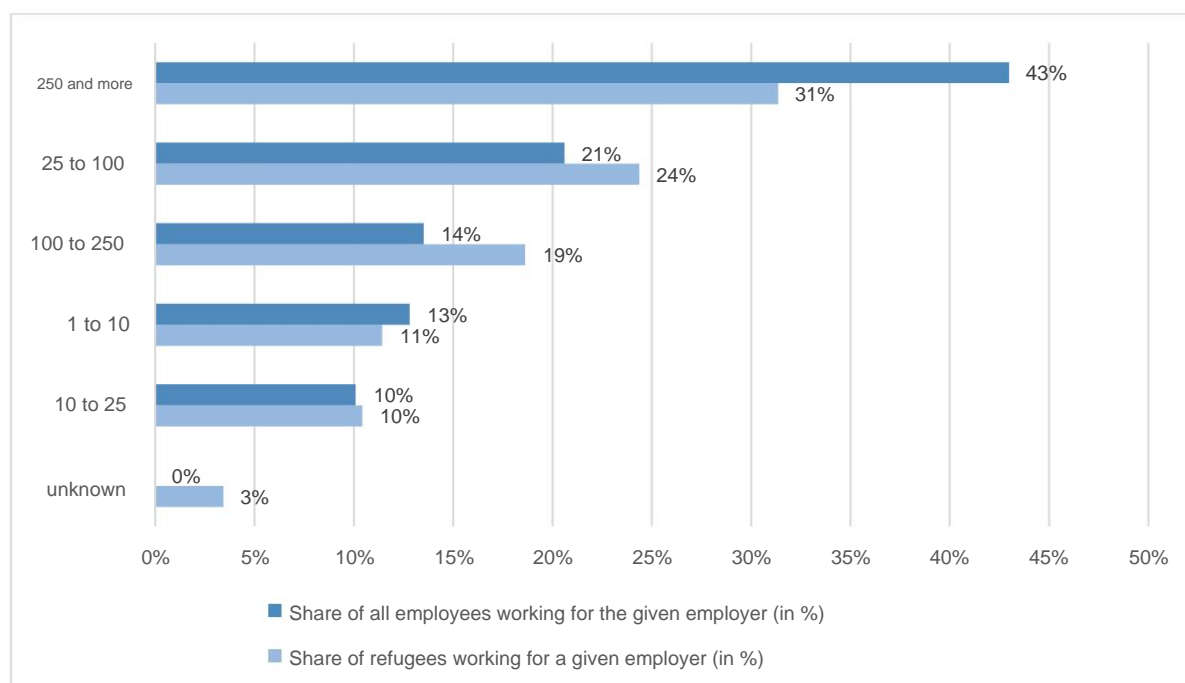
Chart 22: Share of employed refugees in selected sectors of the economy



Source: Register of economic entities and Register of foreign employees

From the point of view of the size of the employer, the order of employers according to their size is the same for refugees and the total population (Chart 23). **The largest number of refugees** and employees in total **work for larger employers** with more than 250 employees, yet the share is smaller compared to the total population. According to administrative data from the Labor Office and the Czech Social Security Administration, only 31% of refugees are employed in these, but 43% of all employees (Chart 23). On the contrary, the fewest refugees work for the smallest employers (with up to 10 or 25 employees, respectively).

Chart 23: Share of employed refugees by employer size (measured by number of employees)



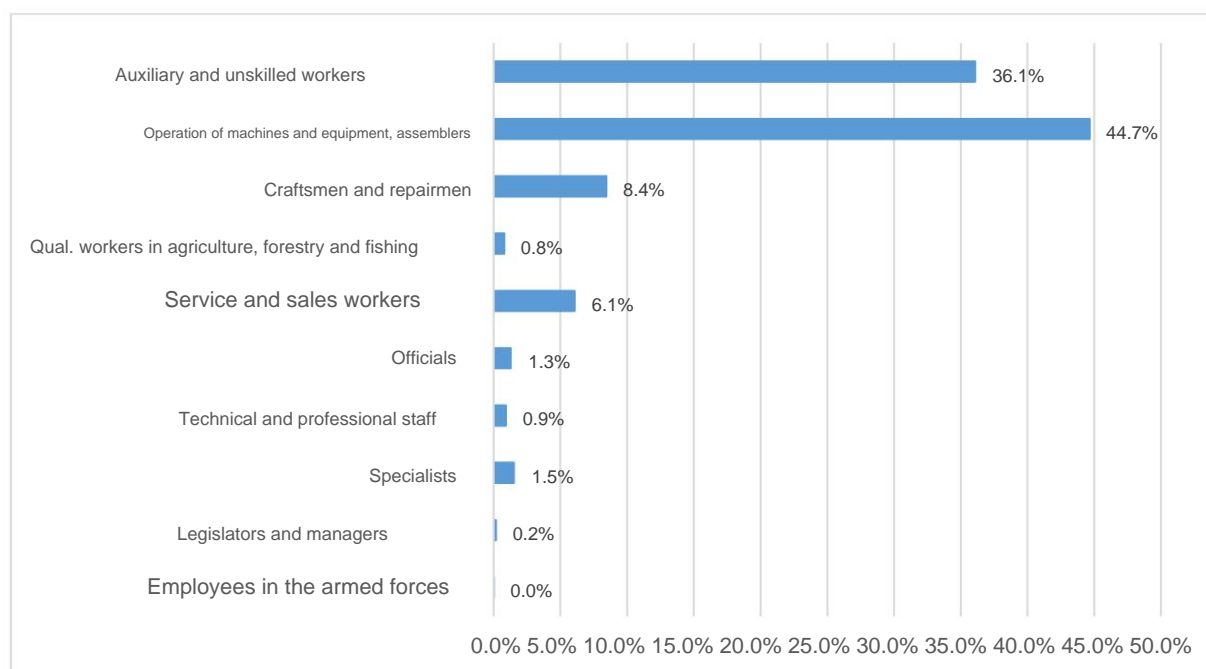
Source: Register of economic entities, Register of foreign employees and CSSS

However, the fundamental finding about the use of the potential of refugees on the labor market does not indicate the distribution of refugees between individual employers, but the structure of positions held by refugees at these employers.

Chart 24 shows that **44% of positions are in the field of "machine and equipment operators, fitters" and another 36% are in the field of auxiliary and unskilled workers**. In total, therefore, these two professions qualify for **80%** of all positions for which refugees are hired by Czech employees.

Such a concentration of refugees **in the least qualified professions** can be caused by several factors: (i) qualified work requires knowledge of the Czech language, which the refugee does not yet have, (ii) the job is perceived as temporary, (iii) the stay is perceived as temporary, (iv) for personal reasons there is no interest in psychologically more demanding work, (v) there are problems with the recognition of qualifications, or next. Regardless of the real reason, however, it shows that the potential of refugees is not being used.

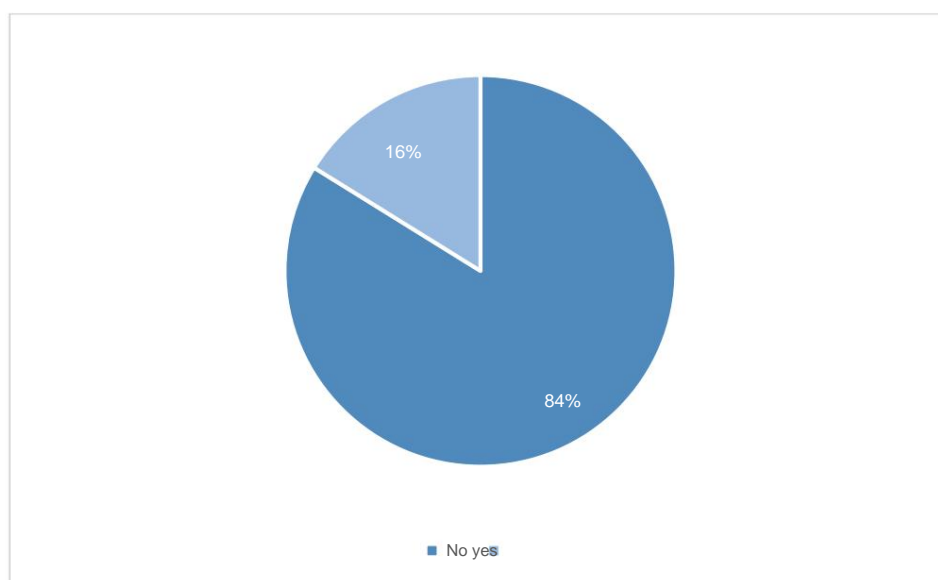
Chart 24: Share of employed refugees by profession (main classes of the ISCO classification)



Source: Register of economic entities and Register of foreign employees

At the same time, other administrative data and data from a questionnaire survey also confirm the lack of use of the refugees' work potential. In a questionnaire survey, only 16% of working refugees state that they managed to find a position in the same field in which they worked in Ukraine. The remaining **84% of working refugees work in a field other than their original field**. This again points to the underutilization of refugees' potential, because in other fields refugees tend not to use a combination of specific skills.

Chart 25: Work in the same field as in Ukraine

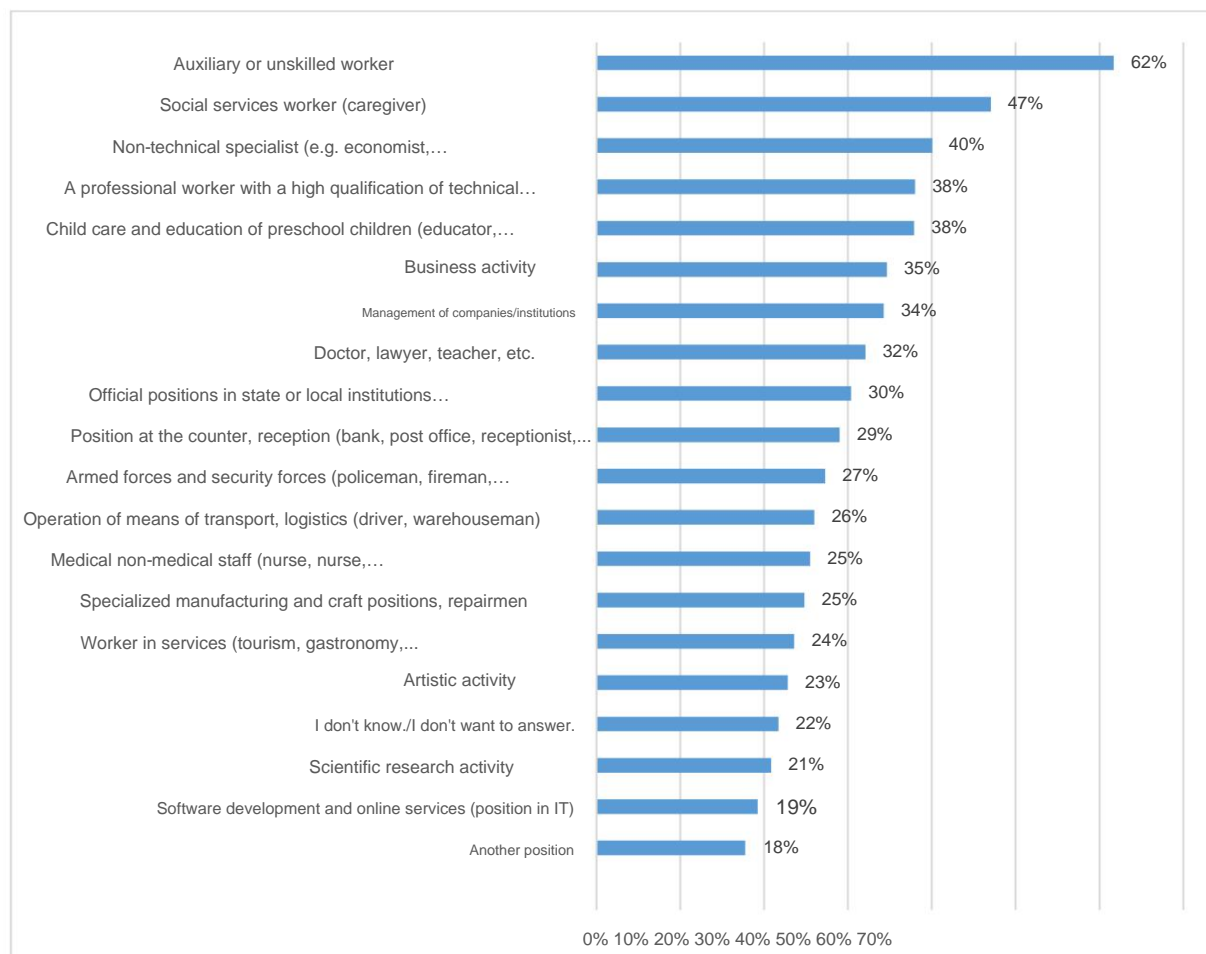


Data source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

At the same time, according to a survey by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, it is true that those refugees who were already working in Ukraine in low-skilled professions managed to get a foothold in the Czech labor market in the same profession in which they worked before leaving Ukraine. The largest share of those who work with us also in their previous

profession, so the category includes auxiliary or unskilled worker, manufacturing professions and craftsmen, and medical non-medical personnel. The share of those who work in the Czech Republic as an unskilled laborer then oscillates depending on the profession performed before leaving Ukraine, approximately between 20 and 60%, as the results in Chart 26 show.

Chart 26: Share of the number of refugees working in the Czech Republic as auxiliary or unskilled workers to the number of refugees working in selected professions before leaving Ukraine

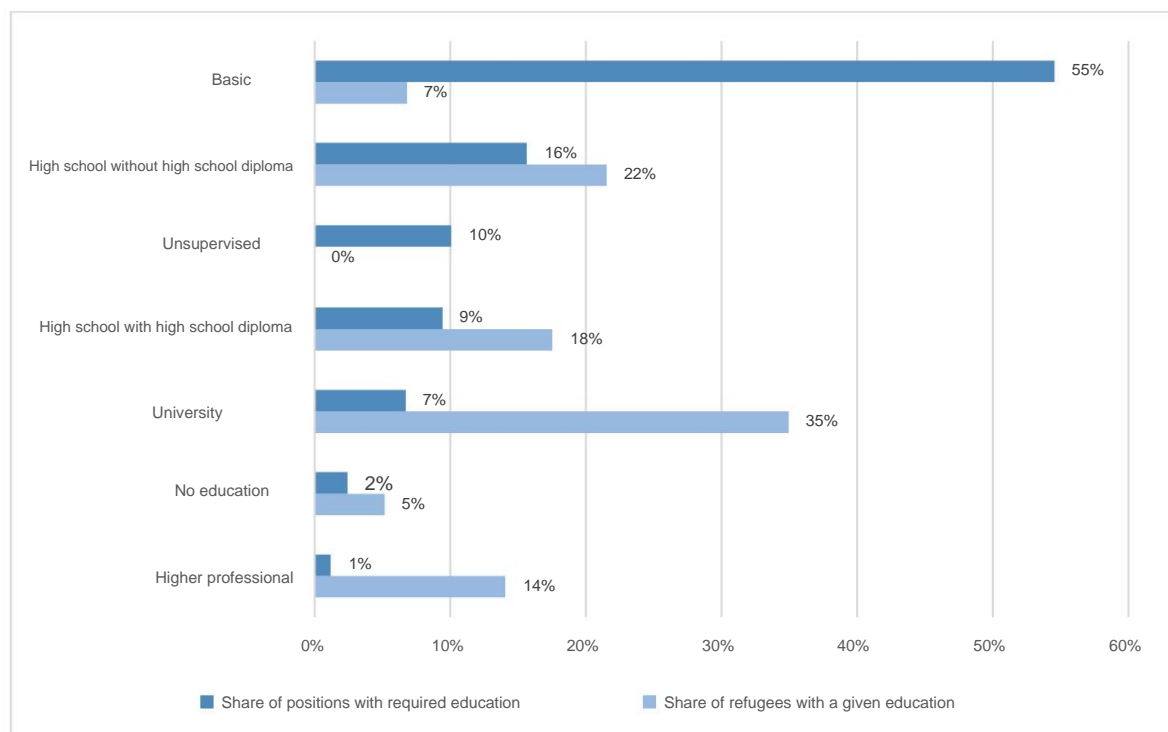


Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

**The underutilization of refugees' work potential** is also indicated by the share of positions filled by refugees for which the employer required basic or no education (57% of positions): even though employers may intentionally state that the required education is lower so that it does not need to be proven when hiring a new worker, such a significant share of positions with required basic education, together with the above-mentioned evidence on the share of refugees working in manual professions (Chart 24) and the share of refugees working outside their field, respectively in the position of auxiliary unskilled workers (Charts 25 and 26), rather confirm the lack of use of the potential of refugees on the labor market.

On the contrary, employers only required a university education for less than 7% of positions occupied by refugees (Chart 27).

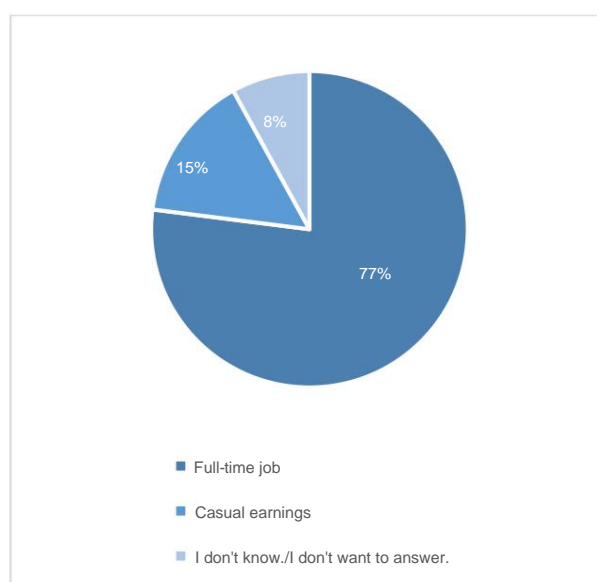
Chart 27: Required education for positions occupied by refugees



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

If the questionnaire survey indicates significant gaps in the use of specific skills of refugees due to their employment outside their previous field, then on the other hand, the survey indicates **a relatively high stability of employment of refugees**. Three out of four working refugees (**77%**) stated that they see their work as **permanent**. On the other hand, only 15% of working refugees described their work as an occasional extra income.

Chart 28: Stability of employment

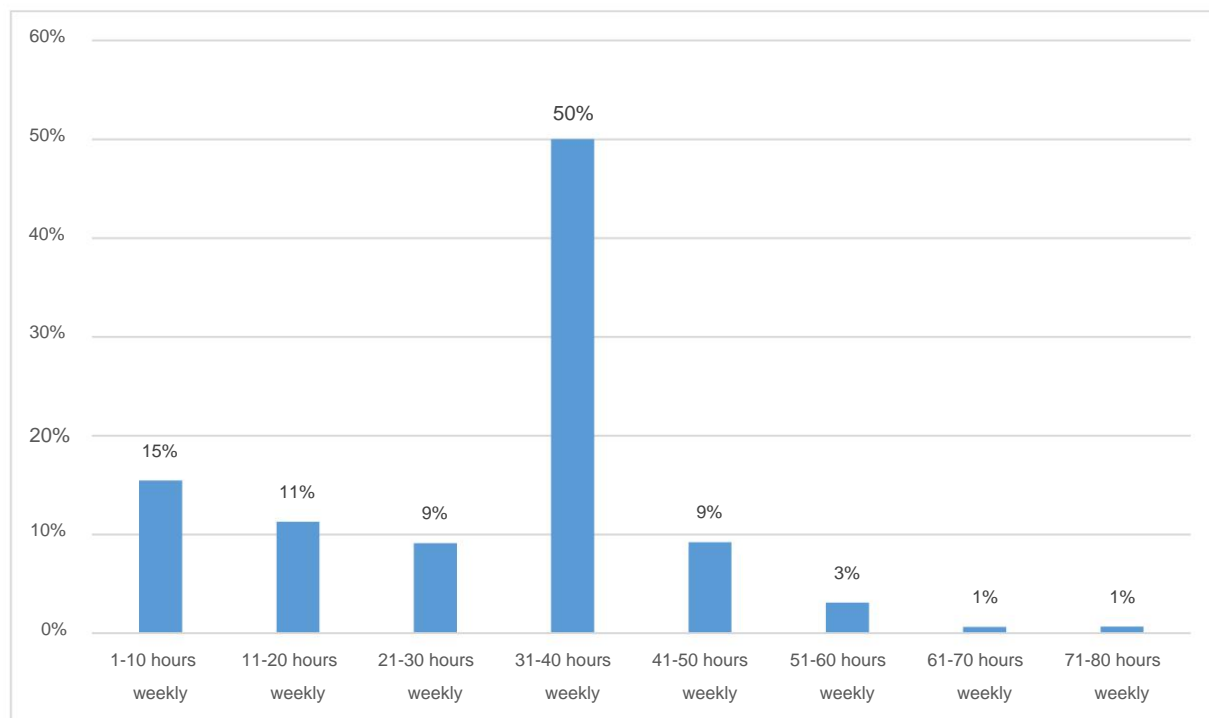


Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications



The nature of permanent employment is also indicated by the fact that **half of the respondents spend up to 40 hours** a week at work, i.e. the standard **time equivalent to a full-time job**.

Graph 29: Number of hours per week spent at work



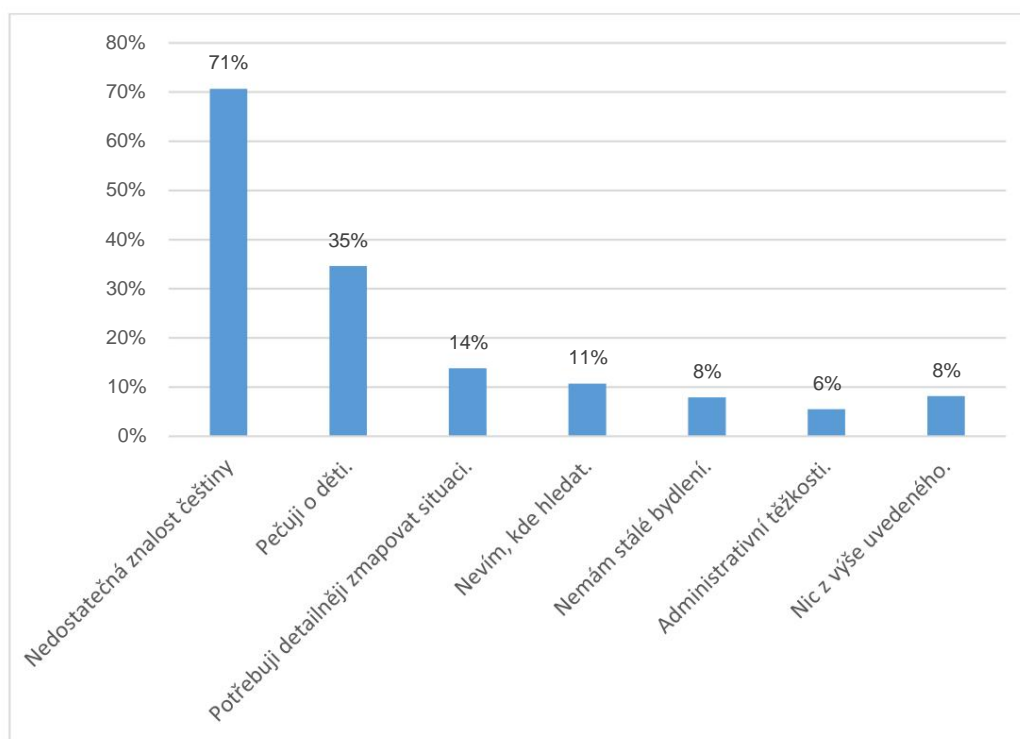
Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

## Unemployment and inactivity and their reasons

Unemployment and economic inactivity reported by refugees in the questionnaire survey is relatively low. Only a minority of unemployed refugees then applied to the Labor Office as job applicants or job seekers (ÚP as of 27/06/2022, the ÚP registered 5,903 applicants and job seekers from among refugees (at the same time, applicants made up 3.7% of refugees registered by the Labor Office, the rest were interested parties).

Among the **main reasons for unemployment, refugees include insufficient knowledge of the Czech language (71%)**, childcare is also a significant influence (35%). A positive finding is that, according to the responses of the refugees, administrative obstacles are a very minor reason and therefore do not cause a fundamental barrier to entering the Czech labor market.

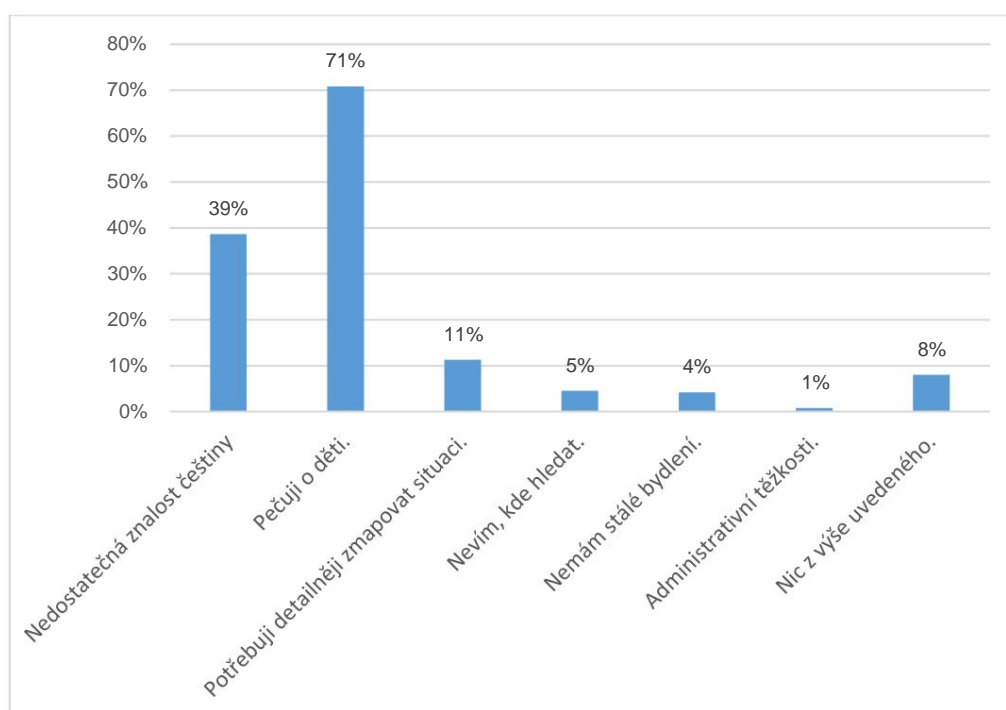
Chart 30: Problems in finding work - only those who are not employed and looking for work



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Looking at the **economically inactive** group of refugees, the **reason** for those who have not even looked for work yet is **child care in 71%**. This fully corresponds to the structure of refugees, where the most numerous type of family is a mother with small children. For those who were not even looking for work, insufficient knowledge of the Czech language is the second most common reason for inactivity, cited by 39% of respondents.

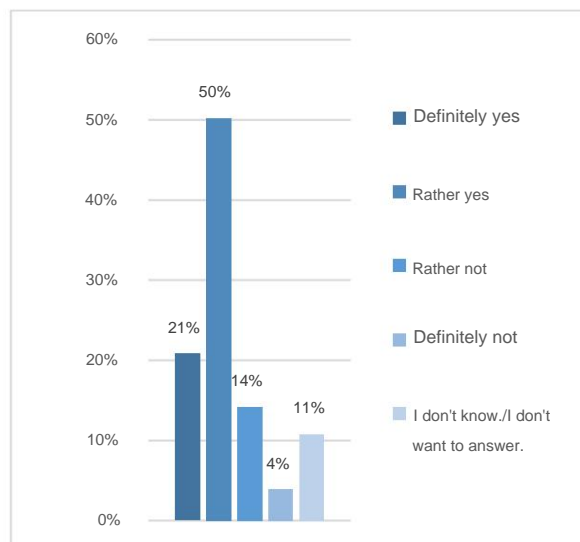
Chart 31: Reasons for not looking for work in the Czech Republic - only those who are not employed and not looking for work



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

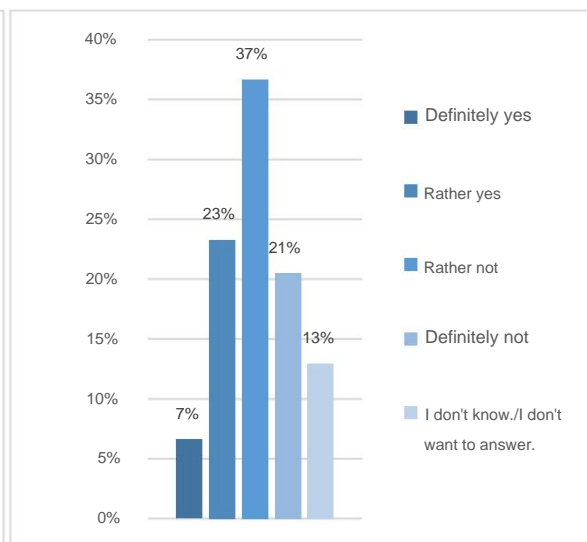
**The willingness to retrain is high among respondents who are not currently working in the Czech Republic : it exceeds 70% (Chart 32).** This, together with a partial willingness to move (Chart 32), indicates an effort to adapt to the situation on the Czech labor market. However, the willingness to move is lower, which is probably related to the refugees' satisfaction with housing. A larger part does not want to move (57%, compared to 30% who would be willing).

Chart 32: Willingness to retrain



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

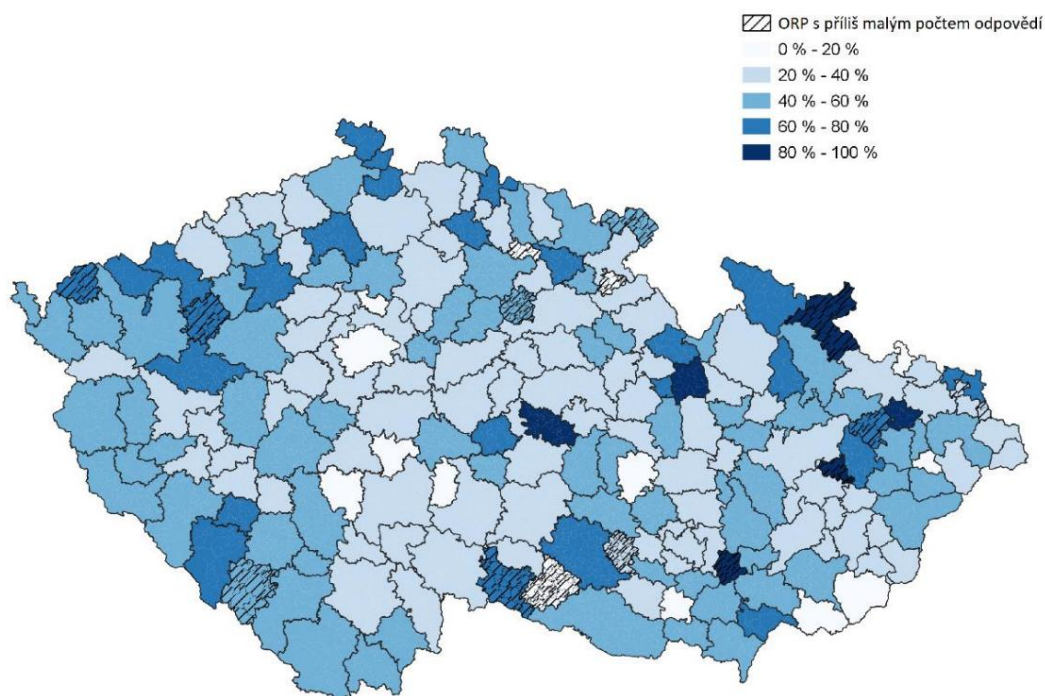
Chart 33: Willingness to move for work



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

The structure of unemployed or inactive refugees who are willing to move for work then shows the potential movements of refugees across municipalities with an extended scope.

Map 4: Share of inactive and unemployed refugees who are willing to move for work in a given municipality with extended scope

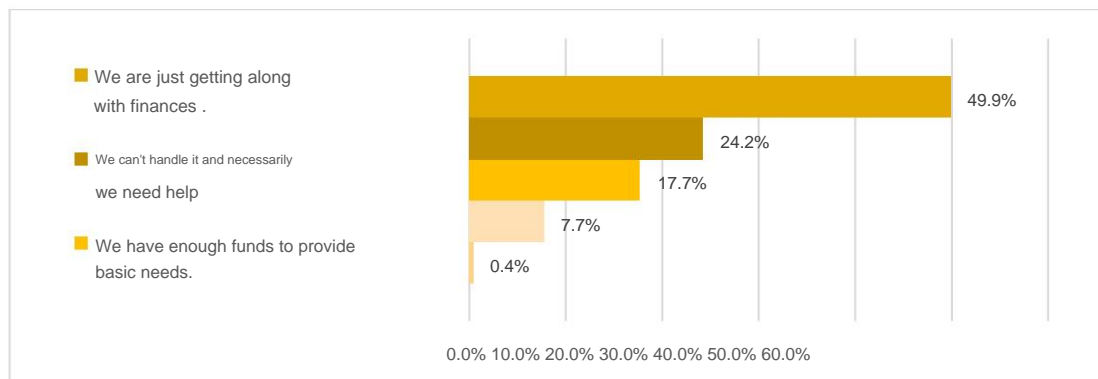


Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

## The financial situation

The perception of the financial situation is an area that cannot be covered from administrative data. The information from the investigation by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications therefore brings unique and rather warning data. This is a subjective assessment of it, based on income and savings to ensure basic needs. Half of the refugees are barely managing the situation, a quarter cannot even manage it and are in dire need of help. It means that approximately **¾ of the refugees are in a very unsatisfactory or even critical situation financially.**

Chart 34: Financial situation of refugees

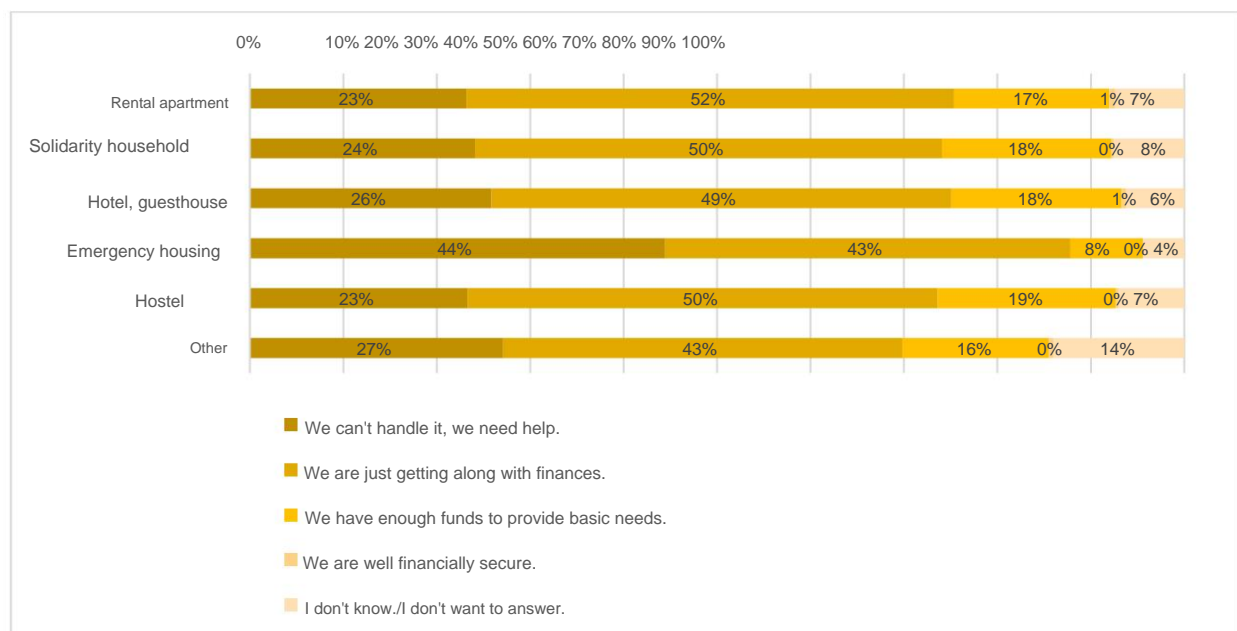


Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

**At the same time, the absolute minimum** (less than 0.5%) are well insured. And that is a high proportion of university students among the respondents, and the survey probably did not capture the most endangered cases due to its nature (online form). **The worst is the financial situation of refugees who live in emergency accommodation.** <sup>19</sup>

A full 44% of them cannot manage financially and absolutely need help, and the other 43% are barely making ends meet. So it seems that socially weaker groups of refugees accumulate in emergency accommodation. However, the situation is bad in all types of housing.

Chart 35: Financial situation by housing type



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

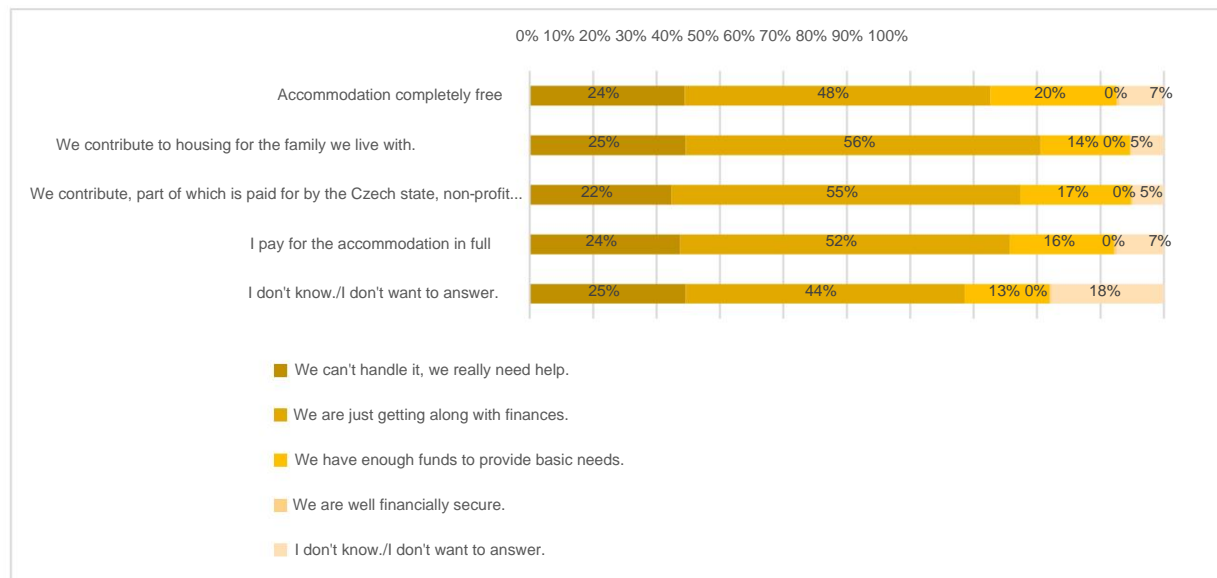
<sup>19</sup> Emergency accommodation means temporary accommodation in public buildings, tent cities, etc.

From a financial point of view, those who have free accommodation are in the best position.

At the same time, however, the data show that those who are financially secure - although they are extremely few - most often pay for accommodation entirely themselves. We know that half of refugees with finances get out "just like that". Almost half of them have free accommodation, a third pay for it in full.

In general, it can be assumed that **at the moment when households, which until now have accommodation completely free, would have to start paying for housing, they would face a very difficult financial situation under the current situation** and the group of critically endangered people would grow significantly. And **now half of those who have free accommodation can't handle it and urgently need help.**

Chart 36: Financial situation according to whether you pay for housing

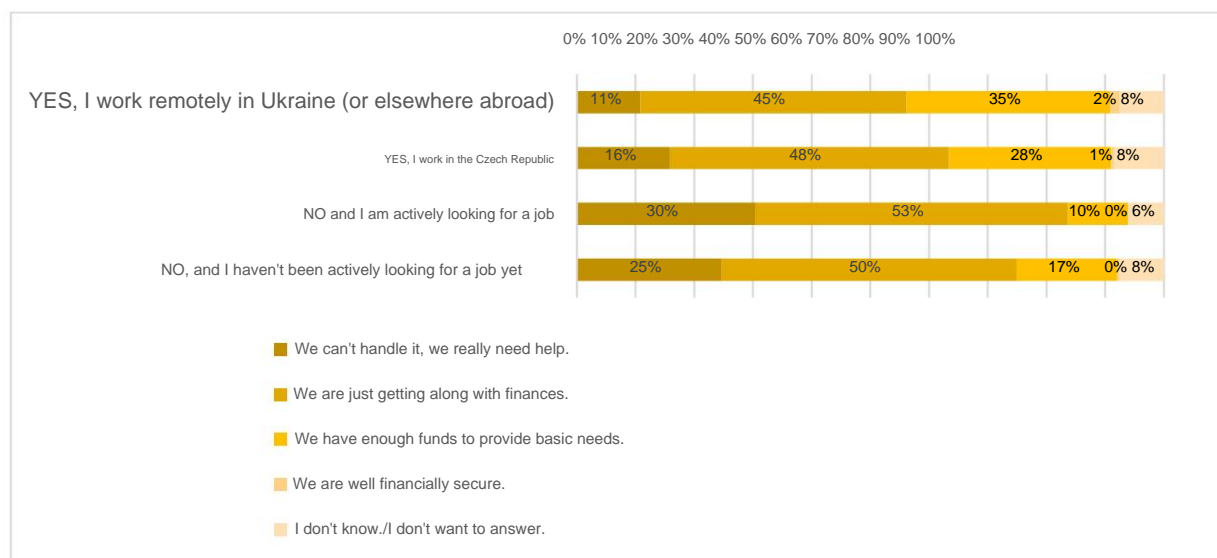


Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

The following graph then shows that those who do not work but are actively looking for work are the worst off financially.

The economic situation therefore leads refugees to seek paid work.

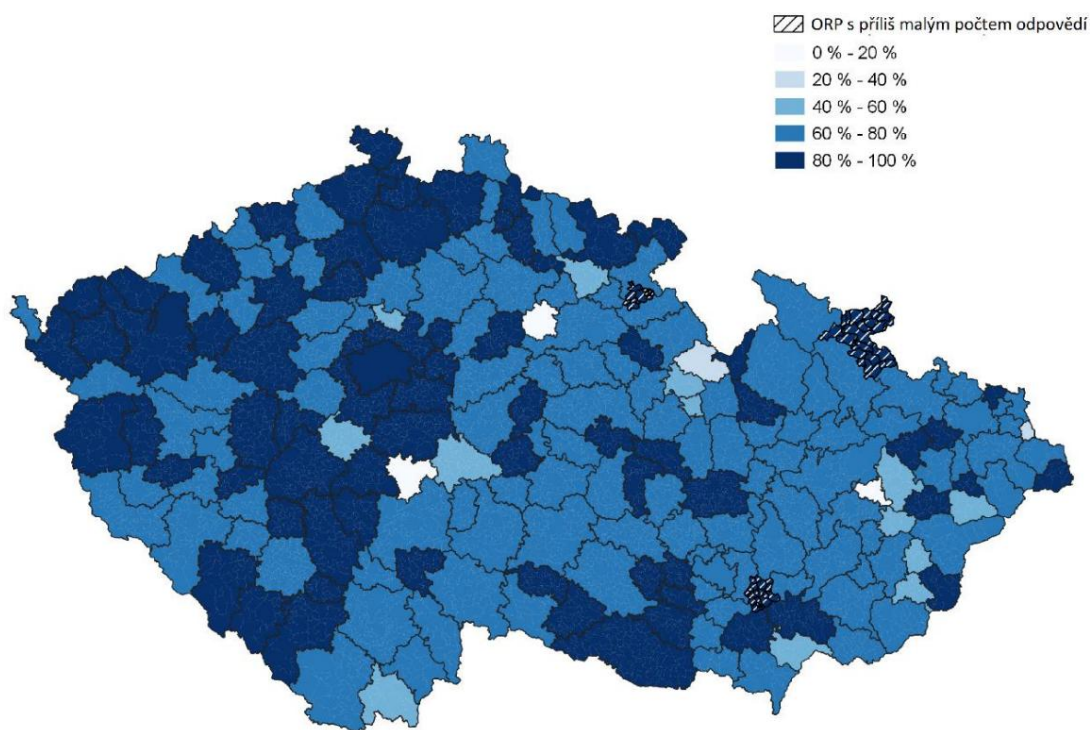
Chart 37: Financial situation by economic activity



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

The following map shows the share of refugees whose financial situation corresponds to the fact that they are "just getting by" or "they can't manage and urgently need help". Generally, they are concentrated in areas where there are generally more fleas, such as Prague, western Bohemia and the Central Bohemian Region, but in addition, a number of other regions such as southwestern and northern Bohemia or Znojmo and the surrounding area appear as a warning.

Map 5: Poor financial situation by region



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications



## Probability of staying in the Czech Republic

Part of the Ukrainians who fled from Russian aggression are returning to the country. According to UNHCR, around 30,000 returned to Ukraine during April.<sup>20</sup> However, as the conflict continues to develop and Russia attacks new targets incl. of the capital city of Kyiv, a stable trend cannot be inferred. The following table shows border crossings, however, we know from individual cases that people can migrate here and there more often (e.g. they go to Ukraine to handle administrative tasks) and the data must therefore be taken with a certain margin.

Table 1: Total numbers of refugees and returnees (border crossings)

The number of people who fled Ukraine from 24/02/2022 (total)	6,576,474
The number of people who returned to Ukraine from 24/02/2022 (total)	3,687,763

Source: Frontex, data as of 7/7/2022

It would certainly be interesting to ask about the probability of staying in the Czech Republic as part of a survey by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, however, given that the nature of the matter was that the questionnaire was not anonymous (the ministry de facto knows the identity of the recipients of the humanitarian benefit, even though it did not use it), to more sensitive questions - such as is just a planned return - it is not possible to inquire in this type of investigation.

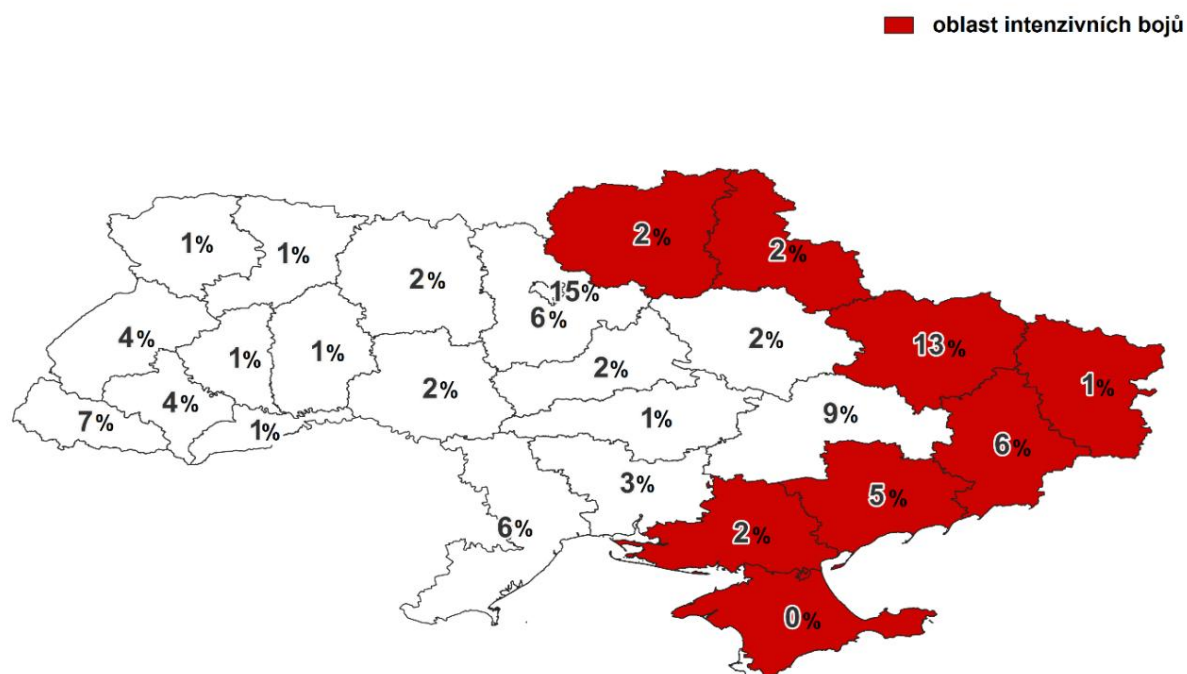
Nevertheless, the probability of staying in the Czech Republic can be indirectly inferred to a certain extent based on a combination of related information. According to Eurostat data, the main reasons for staying are family and work.<sup>21</sup> Furthermore, the place of residence in Ukraine will play a significant role - that is, whether the refugee comes from an area where fighting took place or is still going on. The long-term presence of a member of the extended family in the Czech Republic also co-determines the probability of return (for example, a spouse already working in the Czech Republic before the invasion). Another indicator can be answers to questions indicating the probability of the refugee's successful integration into Czech society, especially stable work (especially in the field) or placement of children in schools and quality housing.

**For the time being, 31% of respondents** who are now in the Czech Republic have left the parts of Ukraine fundamentally affected by the war or under Russian rule (see Map 6), which would correspond to approx. 120,000 refugees incl. children. Due to the higher threat, there is also a higher probability that they will either not return to Ukraine, or will return much later. If we were to include Kyiv as well, we would already be at 46% of respondents.

<sup>20</sup> See more [30,000 Ukrainians returning home every day, say relief agencies](#) | UN News.

<sup>21</sup> For more, see [Statistical data on migration to Europe](#) | European Commission (europa.eu)

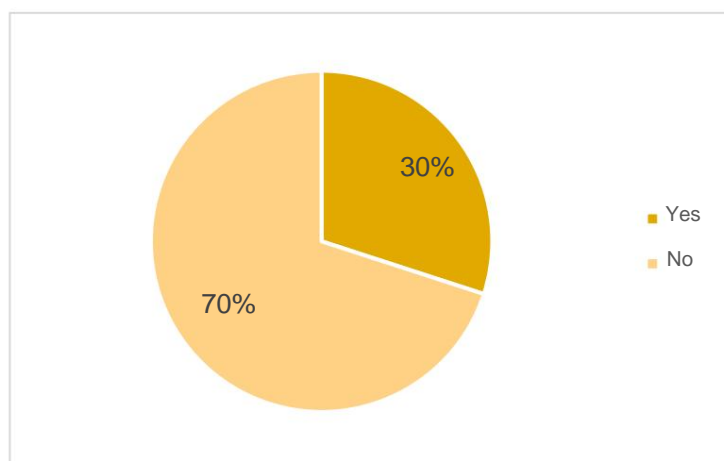
Map 6: Region of Ukraine by origin of respondents



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

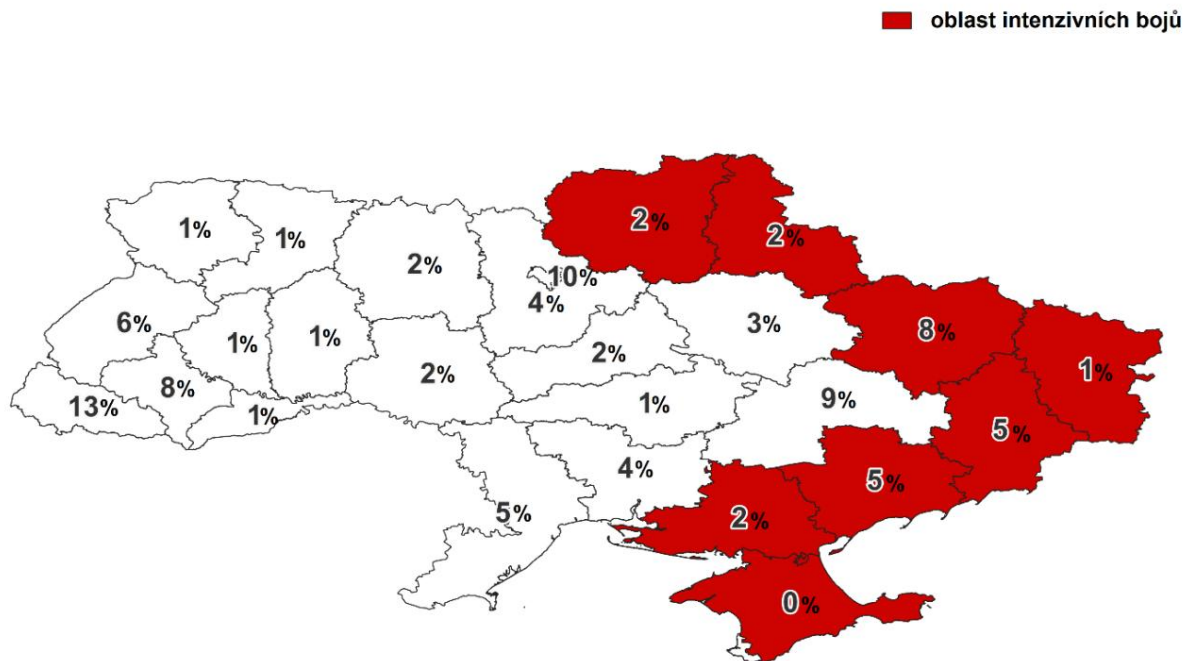
The probability also increases if the refugees already had relatives in the Czech Republic before the conflict (e.g. parents, child, partner). According to the questionnaire survey, there are 30% of them, and their regional distribution is shown by the absolute numbers shown in the following map (Map 7).

Chart 38: Family member in the Czech Republic before the war



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Map 7: Number of refugees who had relatives in the Czech Republic before the war, by region of Ukraine



Source: Survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Respondents from Zakarpattia Ukraine (13%) and Kyiv (10%) had the most family members.

**From the areas where the risk of fighting is currently the highest, a quarter of the refugees already had a family member here before the war, which would amount to less than 100,000 when calculated for the entire group. persons.**

## Conclusion

As a result of Russian aggression in Ukraine, the largest mass of refugees since World War II has been set in motion. The Czech Republic has received 390,000 refugees so far, making it the 3rd most common destination for Ukrainians from EU countries and at the same time the country with **the largest number of Ukrainian refugees per 100,000 inhabitants**. In order to manage such a large-scale migration crisis, it is essential to know as well as possible the detailed situation of refugees both before leaving Ukraine and after their arrival in the Czech Republic, their motivations, attitudes and behavior. Only with such knowledge is it possible to effectively set up aid for refugees and at the same time use the influx of refugees as an opportunity for development.

Therefore, in June 2022, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications conducted a massive investigation among tens of thousands of Ukrainians who came to the Czech Republic after February 24, 2022. This analysis summarizes the basic results of the survey enriched with information from the administrative data of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

**The refugees are young and educated.** Among the arrivals, 44% are women and 36% are children. Three out of four adult refugees are under 45, 28% are even under 30. The representation of university students among refugees is double that of the Czech population. This in itself brings significant development potential to the Czech Republic.

**The most common refugee household consists of a mother with one child.** The second most numerous is the household of a single adult, followed by a woman with two children. Among households with children, households with **very young children make up a significant share**: 43% of households have children under 5 years of age. This shapes the requirements for public infrastructure and services, the fulfillment of which is a condition for the successful integration of refugees and the use of their potential. For example, four out of ten households with children between the ages of 3 and 5 ask for help enrolling in kindergarten.

**Refugee households mostly live in solidarity households (44%).** On the contrary, 15% of refugees live in hostels, which would correspond to roughly 58,000 people. Accommodation is not yet a financial burden for most refugees: Half of refugee households have accommodation provided completely free of charge. At the same time, **accommodation is now relatively stable**: 39% have secured accommodation for 6 months or more.

Only 6% of refugees have accommodation for less than 2 months. Overall, **more than ¾ of refugees are satisfied with their accommodation.**

**The participation of refugees in the labor market is relatively high, but does not take advantage of the skills and education of refugees. More than half of the refugees are economically active, ¾ of them perceive their work as permanent. However, most of them work in low-skilled professions (80%),** regardless of their higher education and previous experience. Therefore, it is not possible to use their professional potential too much. According to the survey by the Ministry of the Interior, the proportion of unemployed is significantly higher than what could be inferred on the basis of administrative data.

The vast majority of refugees who claim to be unemployed do not register with the Labor Office as job seekers.

**From the point of view of the form of assistance, refugees most need help with teaching Czech.** They need this form of help more often than help with finding a job, schools and kindergartens, help with drawing benefits. The need for help with the Czech language applies regardless of the life situation, but it most urgently concerns the economically active (employees and entrepreneurs). Refugees' language skills in Czech and English are generally low, however, almost 1/3 of refugees have a partial command of Czech.

The financial situation is serious: approximately ¾ of the refugees are in a very unsatisfactory or critical financial position. **At the same time, the absolute minimum (less than 0.5%) are well insured. The worst is the financial situation of refugees who live in hostels.** At the same time, at the moment when households, which until now have accommodation completely free, would have to start paying for housing, they would have a very stressful financial situation under the current situation. And **now half of those who have free accommodation can't handle it and desperately need it Help.**

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