

Press Release

The Czech public's views of ethnic groups living in the Czech Republic – March 2017

- ⊙ Czechs consider Slovaks the most likeable – four-fifths of respondents say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' likeable.
- ⊙ Czechs like the Roma and Arabs the least – three-quarters of respondents say they are 'somewhat' or 'very unlikeable'.
- ⊙ With the exception of Arabs, how much Czechs like or dislike individual ethnic groups has not changed much over time. The dislike of Arabs grew between 2014 and 2016, but the increase stopped in 2017.

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In March 2017 the Czech public's view of ethnic groups living in the Czech Republic was examined in one of the regular Czech Society surveys. The survey presented respondents with 17 ethnic groups living in the Czech Republic, including Czechs, who in this case serve as the reference group for the others. Respondents expressed their like or dislike of each group on a five-point scale, where 1 meant 'like very much', 2 'like somewhat', 3 'neither like nor dislike', 4 'dislike somewhat', and 5 'dislike very much'.

Czechs understandably express the strongest liking for Czechs (82% selected 'like very much' or 'like somewhat' as a response and only 3% indicated 'dislike somewhat or very much') and for Slovaks (80% like / 3% dislike). Next, after a slight gap, are Poles, whom almost one-half of the public claim to like (48%) as opposed to 15% who express a dislike. The following ethnic groups are more liked than disliked: Greeks (37% like / 16% dislike), Jews (28% / 17%), Hungarians (29% / 18%), Germans (34% / 23%), Vietnamese (32% / 26%), and Bulgarians (26% / 19%). By contrast, the following set of groups are more disliked than liked, although the largest share of responses to question were 'neither like nor dislike': Russians (21 % like / 33 % dislike), Serbs (18% / 29 %), Ukrainians (19% / 40%), and Chinese (17% / 34%). In the case of Romanians (11% / 45%), Albanians (6% / 54%), Arabs (4% / 75%), and Roma (4% / 76%) the majority of respondents dislike these groups, and in the case of the last three groups an absolute majority dislike these groups. Czech citizens traditionally declare the strongest dislike for the Roma, whom 43% of respondents claim to 'dislike very much', which was by far the most common response for this ethnic group. Arabs came close to being just as disliked as they were in last year's survey, and this attitude was confirmed in this year's survey: 'dislike very much' was the response selected most often for this group and there is no statistically significant difference from the level of dislike for the Roma (41%). Compared to 2014, extreme feelings of dislike for Arabs increased by 18 percentage points, with an increase of more than ten percentage points occurring between 2015 and 2016.

A time comparison confirmed that the level of like and dislike for the ethnic groups listed above has remained relatively stable throughout the observed period. It is worth noting that the significant increase in dislike for Arabs has currently halted and attitudes towards Arabs remain at the same level as last year. Perhaps in connection with the dislike for Arabs there has been a slight decrease in the level of dislike for the Roma.

Table 1. The Czech public's attitudes towards ethnic groups living in the CR (%)¹

	Like very much (1)	Like somewhat (2)	Neither like nor dislike (3)	Dislike somewhat (4)	Dislike very much (5)	Don't know	Average
Czechs	44	38	15	2	1	0	1.75
Slovaks	35	45	17	2	1	0	1.91
Poles	10	38	35	12	3	2	2.59
Greeks	7	30	37	11	5	10	2.74
Jews	6	22	44	11	6	11	2.86
Hungarians	6	23	44	14	4	9	2.86
Germans	6	28	41	17	6	2	2.89
Bulgarians	5	21	46	15	4	9	2.93
Vietnamese	5	27	41	19	7	1	2.97
Russians	5	16	43	25	8	3	3.16
Serbs	3	15	40	19	10	13	3.20
Chinese	4	13	41	22	12	8	3.27
Ukrainians	3	16	39	28	12	2	3.30
Romanians	2	9	34	32	13	10	3.52
Albanians	2	4	28	30	24	12	3.80
Roma	1	3	19	33	43	1	4.15
Arabs	1	3	16	34	41	5	4.19

Note: The order of ethnic groups compared in the table is based on the average popularity score.

Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology CAS (CVVM SOÚ AV ČR, v.v.i.), Czech Society (Naše společnost) 6–19 March 2017, 1045 respondents aged 15 and over, face-to-face interviews.

Table 2: Attitudes towards ethnic groups living in the CR – a time comparison (%)

	III/2013	III/2014	II/2015	III/2016	III/2017
Czechs	1.69	1.58	1.59	1.66	1.75
Slovaks	1.79	1.72	1.76	1.88	1.91
Poles	2.47	2.40	2.47	2.61	2.59
Greeks	2.72	2.58	2.72	2.88	2.74
Jews	2.80	2.67	2.83	2.91	2.86
Hungarians	2.96	2.80	2.88	2.93	2.86
Germans	2.87	2.83	2.82	2.87	2.89
Bulgarians	2.98	2.88	2.95	2.98	2.93
Vietnamese	3.26	3.09	3.11	2.96	2.97
Russians	3.11	3.27	3.31	3.18	3.16
Serbs	3.16	3.07	3.19	3.21	3.20
Chinese	3.35	3.28	3.25	3.27	3.27
Ukrainians	3.57	3.36	3.44	3.26	3.30
Romanians	3.60	3.56	3.55	3.59	3.52
Albanians	3.66	3.65	3.74	3.86	3.80
Roma	4.24	4.21	4.30	4.26	4.15
Arabs	-	3.79	4.02	4.20	4.19

Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology CAS (CVVM SOÚ AV ČR, v.v.i.), Czech Society (Naše společnost).

¹ The question read: 'Using this scale, how would you describe your attitude towards population groups living in the Czech Republic? a) Slovaks, b) Poles, c) Russians, d) Germans, e) Roma, f) Ukrainians, g) Hungarians, h) Czechs, i) Bulgarians, j) Vietnamese, k) Romanians, l) Greeks, m) Jews, n) Serbs, o) Albanians, p) Chinese, q) Arabs.'

Response options: 1 = like very much, 2 = like somewhat, 3 = neither like nor dislike, 4 = dislike somewhat, 5 = dislike very much

A closer analysis of the attitudes of (dis)like towards Arabs shows that these attitudes correlate most with attitudes towards the Roma (correlation coefficient 0.50), Albanians (0.60), and Romanians (0.50) (see also the factor analysis below). Attitudes towards Arabs are influenced by declared standard of living (41% of those who claimed to have a good standard of living selected the response 'dislike very much', while 55% of those who claimed to have a poor standard of living chose that response) and education (36% of people with university education indicated 'dislike very much' and 47% of those with vocational education chose this response). Opinions are similarly conditioned in the case of the Roma.

Factor analysis revealed three (mutually independent) factors that account for 56% of the variance in responses to the battery of questions.

The 1st factor is formed by the Roma, Ukrainians, Arabs, Albanians, Romanians, Russians, Bulgarians (evidently a dislike associated around migration, employment, illegal residence, crime, etc.).

The 2nd factor is formed by Jews, Greeks, Serbs, Vietnamese, and Chinese (probably a liking associated around integration into majority society and a dislike associated around difference or otherness).

The 3rd factor is formed by Slovaks, Poles, Czechs, Germans, and Hungarians (the factor of the Central European space, a history of being neighbouring states or being part of the same state).

Some ethnic groups are part of two factors, which means that some of the respondents seem them as similar to one factor category while other respondents see them as similar to the other factor category.

These are Russians and Bulgarians, who 'score' on both the first factor and the third factor (probably their Slavic connection), while Arabs, Albanians, and Romanians scored on the first and second factors.

Technical parameters of the survey

Survey:	<i>Czech Society, v17-03</i>
Survey by:	<i>Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences</i>
Project:	<i>Czech Society – Continuous Public Opinion Research Project of the Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences</i>
Field survey dates:	<i>6–19 March 2017</i>
Sampling method:	<i>Quota sampling</i>
Quotas:	<i>Region (NUTS 3 Regions), size of place of residence, sex, age, education</i>
Data source for quota sampling:	<i>Czech Statistical Office</i>
Representativeness:	<i>Population of the Czech Republic over the age of 15</i>
Number of respondents:	<i>1045</i>
Number of interviewers:	<i>259</i>
Data collection method:	<i>Face-to-face interviews conducted by interviewers with respondents - combined CAPI and PAPI questioning</i>
Research instrument:	<i>Standardised questionnaire</i>
Questions:	<i>OV.11</i>
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Glossary of terms:

A quota sample replicates the structure of the basic population of the study (in this case the population of the Czech Republic over the age of 15) by setting quotas for different parameters. In other words, a quota sample is based on the same proportion of persons with the selected characteristics. We used data from the Czech Statistical Office to create the quotas. In our surveys quotas are set for sex, age, education, region, and community size. The sample is thus selected so that the percentage of men and women in the sample corresponds to the share of men and women in each region of the CR. Similarly the sample reflects the corresponding shares of the population in individual regions in the CR, citizens in different age groups, people with different levels of education, and people in different sizes of communities.

A representative sample is a sample from the total population whose characteristics can be validly inferred to apply as the characteristics of the population overall. In our case this means that respondents were selected with a view to generalising the collected data as applicable to the population of the Czech Republic over the age of 15.

The Public Opinion Research Centre (CVVM) is a research department of the Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences. Its history dates back to 1946, when the Czechoslovak Institute for Public Opinion Research began operating as part of the Ministry of Information. The current CVVM emerged in 2001 when its predecessor (IVVM) was transferred from the Czech Statistical Office to the Institute of Sociology. Its incorporation within an academic institution provides a guarantee of high professional standards and quality, and as part of an academic environment the CVVM is required to fulfil criteria that ensure it meets the highest professional standards. The CVVM's work is centred on the Czech Society research project, in the frame of which it examines public opinion by conducting ten surveys annually on a representative sample of the population over the age of 15, with approximately 1000 respondents participating in each survey. The questionnaire's omnibus format makes it possible to cover a wide array of topics. Political, economic, and other generally social topics are regularly added to the survey. The surveys include both repeat questions, whereby it is possible to observe phenomena over time, and new topics that reflect current events. The long-term and continuous nature of this project focused on surveying public opinion is unique in the Czech Republic.

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