

Press Release

The Czech Public's Opinion on Food Self-Provisioning and Gardening – Food 2021

- Three-fifths (59%) of people at least sometimes prepare preserves at home and around one-third (35%) of people at least sometimes bake their own bread at home.
- Almost one-half (49%) of people grow food in their garden, and 6% do so in their flat or on their balcony.
- The main reasons people give for growing and producing their own food are to obtain fresh food (26%), because it's a hobby (19%), and to save money (17%).
- Approximately two-thirds (67%) of people give some of the food that they grow or produce in their household to someone else or trade food with others.
- People who do not grow or produce any food themselves very often receive home-grown or home-produced from close family members (46%) and from friends (44%).
- An average of almost two-fifths (39%) of people dispose of kitchen waste with the rest of their mixed waste, 21% compost it, 15% dispose of it in an organic-waste bin, 13% feed it to animals, and 12% give it to someone else.
- One-half (50%) of people regularly work, i.e. at least once a month, in a garden or allotment (in season), 29% forage for mushrooms, wild berries, or herbs, and 19% raise livestock.
- More than two-fifths (42%) of respondents believe that there has been no change in their household's food self-provisioning in the present compared to ten years ago.

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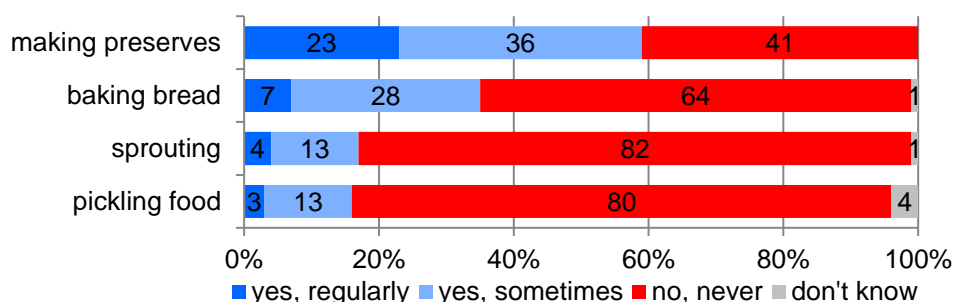


A large part of the special 'Food 2021' survey focused on the topic of food self-provisioning and growing food in the garden. We specifically wanted to learn whether people engage in various activities that are connected with food self-provisioning and producing their own food (e.g. baking bread, pickling food, beekeeping, raising livestock, foraging for mushrooms, wild berries, or herbs), whether they produce their own food (fruit, vegetables, eggs, meat, etc.), and if they do, then where and why, and whether people who grow or produce any food in their household give these products to anyone else or exchange them with others, and if they do, then with how many people. We were also interested in the perspective from the other side, which is whether people receive food from other people who grow or produce it at home. Finally, we also looked at the issue of kitchen waste disposal and a comparison of current food self-provisioning with the situation ten years ago.

This block of questions was prepared in collaboration with: Barbora Duží (Institute of Geonics, Czech Academy of Sciences, Department of Environmental Geography), Jan Vávra (Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Department of Local and Regional Studies), Petr Jehlička (Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Department of Ecological Anthropology), and Petr Daněk (Masaryk University, Faculty of Sciences, Institute of Geography).

We opened the survey by asking respondents whether in their household they engaged in any activities connected with producing their own food and if so, how often.¹ Almost three-fifths (59%) of people said they at least sometimes prepare preserves and around one-third (35%) said they at least sometimes bake their own bread at home. Two other activities – sprouting and pickling – are not common practices in Czech households, as just less than one-fifth of respondents (17% and 16%, respectively) said they at least sometimes do these activities and around four-fifths of people said they never ferment food (80%) or grow sprouts (82%) at home.

Figure 1: Do you do any of these activities in household? (in %)



Note: Items are listed in order according to the highest sum of 'yes, regularly' + 'yes, sometimes' responses.

Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, 'Food 2021', 10–26 July 2021, 884 respondents over the age of 15, face-to-face interviews.

A more detailed analysis revealed that making preserves is an activity that is most often done by women, people over the age of 30, respondents with a secondary school education, people who assess their household standard of living as good or 'neither good nor bad', and people who live in smaller communities with up to 5,000 people. Baking bread at home is something more often done by women, people between the ages of 30 and 44, people with a university education, people who assess their household standard of living as good or 'neither good nor bad', and people who often buy organic food.

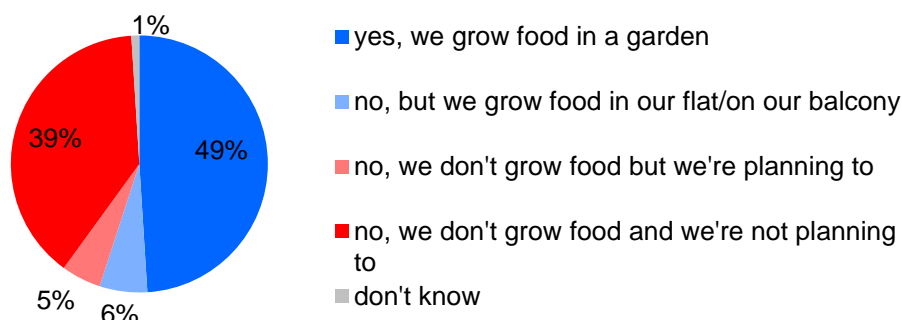
When it comes to people producing their own food (fruit, vegetables, eggs, meat, etc.), we first asked respondents whether they own or have use of a garden, field, or orchard for food production.² We can see in Figure 2 that almost one-half (49%) of respondents own or have use of a garden for producing food. Approximately one-twentieth (6%) of respondents indicated that they do not own or have use of a garden, field, or orchard, but they do grow some food in their flat or on the balcony. More than two-fifths (44%) of respondents indicated that they do not produce any food, but 5% of them said that they plan to start doing so. The remaining 1% of respondents said they 'don't know'.

With respect to the size of the community in which people live, people who live in small communities with up to 5,000 inhabitants grow food in the garden much more than others, while in larger communities the share of people who grow food in their garden or in their flat/on the balcony significantly decreases. Generally, however, people who live in smaller communities of up to 5,000 inhabitants grow food in the garden or in the flat/on the balcony much more often than people who live in communities with more inhabitants. When we look at this by the country's regions, we find that the people who grow food in their garden most are the populations in the Central Bohemian, South Moravian, and Liberec regions, while those who do so least are in the Karlovy Vary region.

¹ Question wording: 'In your household do you do any of the following activities? a) making preserves, b) baking bread, c) pickling food, d) sprouting.' Response options: yes, regularly; yes, sometimes; no, never.

² Question wording: 'Does your household own a garden, field, or orchard or have access to one (at home or at some other location) in which to grow food (fruit, vegetables, eggs, meat, etc.)?' Response options: yes, we grow food in the garden; no, but we grow food in our flat/on our balcony; no, we don't grow anything but we're planning to; no, we don't grow anything and we're not planning to do so.

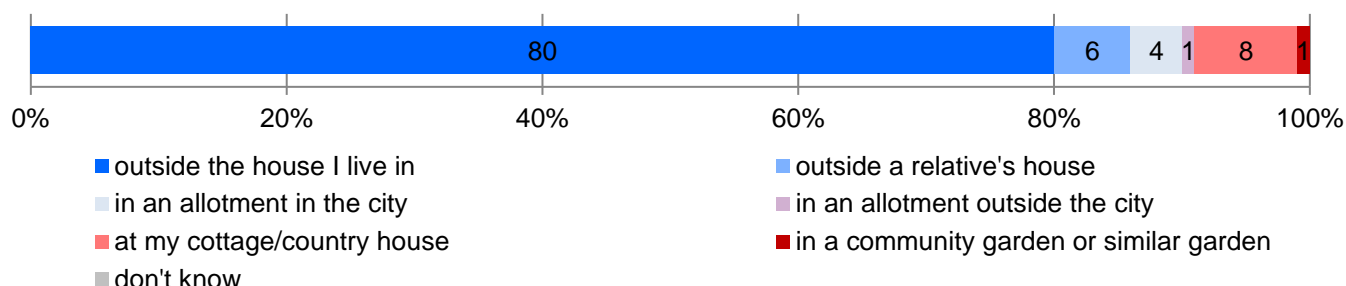
Figure 2: Do you own a garden, field, or orchard in which to grow food or have access to one? (in %)



Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, 'Food 2021', 10–26 July 2021, 884 respondents over the age of 15, face-to-face interviews.

We asked those respondents who said that they do grow food in a garden an additional question about where the plot of land or garden in which they grow their food is located.³ Four-fifths (80%) of respondents said that they grow food on land or in a garden that is located outside the home they live in. Just under one-tenth said they grow food on a plot of land or in a garden outside their cottage or country house (8%) or outside the home of a relative (6%). The other options are less common, as specifically 4% of people said they grow food in an allotment in the city, 1% in an allotment outside the city, and 1% in a community or similar public garden.

Figure 3: Where is the plot land on which you grow your food located? (in %, only those respondents who grow food in a garden)



Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, 'Food 2021', 10–26 July 2021, 884 respondents over the age of 15, face-to-face interviews.

People may have various reasons for producing their own food (fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs). Therefore, we were interested in the reasons Czech respondents gave for growing their own food.⁴ The most important reasons respondents gave for growing their own food were to obtain fresh food (26 %), because it's a hobby (19%), and to save money (17%). The next most common reason was that they grow their own food so that they can have organic food (14%). Other reasons, such as applying their skills and knowledge, continuing a family tradition, or fulfilling a family obligation are not important reasons for the respondents (these reasons were cited by around one-twentieth of the respondents asked).

³ Question wording: 'Where is this plot of land located? If you use more than one plot of land, please select the most important one in your response.' Response options: outside the home I live in, outside the home of a relative, in an allotment in the city, in an allotment outside the city, outside my cottage or country home, in a community garden or other public garden, somewhere else.

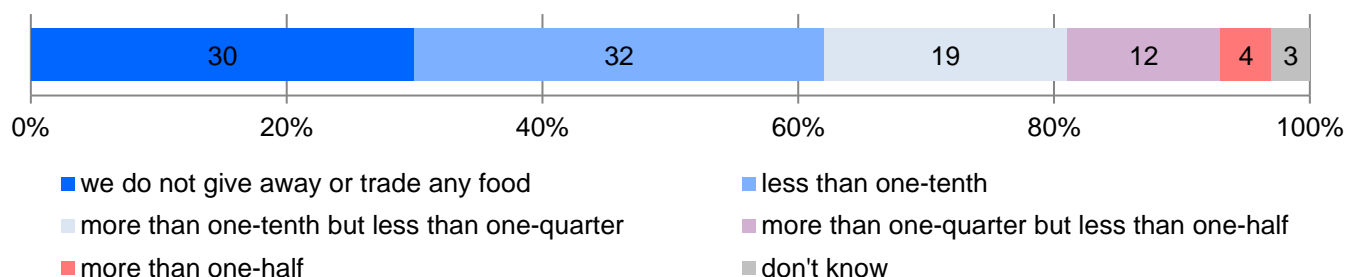
⁴ Question wording: 'People may have various reasons for producing their own food (fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs). From the following list, please select the three reasons that are for you personally the most important ones, and list them in order of their importance. Assign a 1 to the most important reason, 2 to the second most important one, and 3 to the third most important one.' The response options are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Reasons why people produce their own food

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
To get fresh food	369	26
It's my hobby	276	19
To save money	247	17
To obtain organic food	206	14
To apply my skills and knowledge	89	6
I'm continuing a family tradition	87	6
I can get types of food not available in the market	61	4
I'm fulfilling a family obligation (helping relatives)	52	4
Producing food with a small impact on the environment helps protect it	50	3
Don't know	7	1

Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, 'Food 2021', 10–26 July 2021, 884 respondents over the age of 15, face-to-face interviews.

We also asked respondents whether they give any of the food they grow or produce to anyone else or trade it with others.⁵ Three-tenths (30%) of people indicated that they do not give any of the food they grow or produce to anyone or trade it with others. Around one-third (32%) of people give away or trade with others less than one-tenth of the food they grow or produce and just under one-twentieth (19%) estimated that they give away or trade more than one-tenth but less than one-quarter of the food they produce. Just over one-tenth (12%) of respondents said they give away or trade more than one-quarter but less than one-half of what they grow or produce, and just under one-twentieth (4%) of people said that they give away or trade more than one-half of what they grow or produce at home.

Figure 4: How much of the food that you grow or produce do you give away or trade with others? (in %)

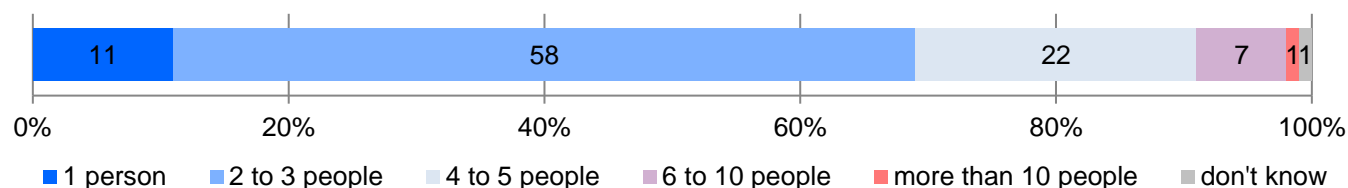
Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, 'Food 2021', 10–26 July 2021, 884 respondents over the age of 15, face-to-face interviews.

We asked those respondents who said that they give away or trade some of the food they grow or produce how many people they give the food to or trade it with, counting only people who do not live in their household.⁶ Almost three-fifths (58%) of respondents said that they give away or trade some of their home-grown and home-produced food with two or three people. More than one-fifth (22%) of people said they give away or trade food with four or five people, 7% give away or trade food with between six and ten people, and 1% with more than ten people. Slightly more than one-tenth (11%) of people said they give away or trade food grown or produced at home with just one person.

⁵ Question wording: 'How much of the food that you grow or produce at home do you give to or trade with others?' Response options: We do not give away or trade any food; less than one-tenth; more than one-tenth but less than one-quarter; more than one-quarter but less than one-half; more than one-half.

⁶ Question wording: 'How many people do you give the food you've grown or produced at home to or do you trade with? Count only people who do not live in your household.' Response options: one person, 2 to 3 people, 4 to 5 people, 6 to 10 people, more than 10 people.

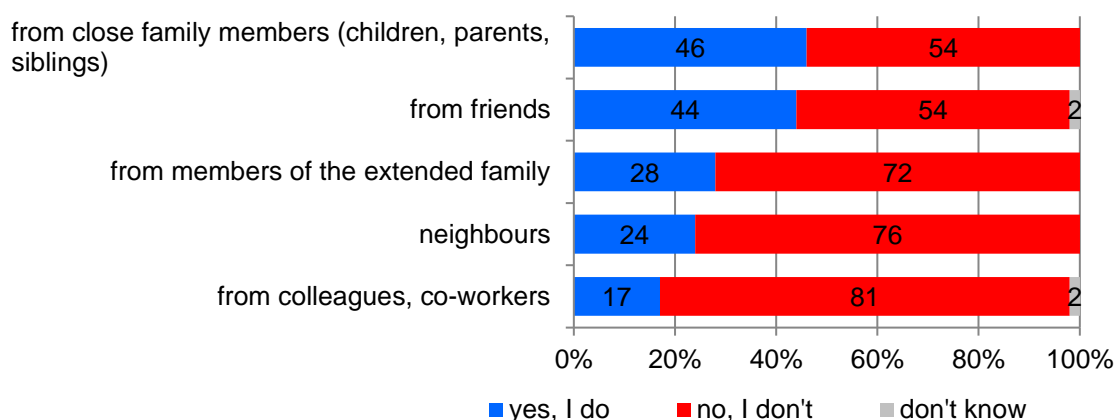
Figure 5: How many people do you give the food you've grown or produced at home to or do you trade with? (in %)



Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, 'Food 2021', 10–26 July 2021, 325 respondents over the age of 15 who said that they grow their own food in a garden or in their flat/on their balcony and said that they give at least some of the food they grow or produce to someone else or trade it with others, face-to-face interviews.

The research also included a question from the opposite viewpoint, which is whether people who do not grow or produce any food themselves receive such food from others.⁷ As we can see in Figure 6, more than two-fifths of people receive home-grown or home-produced food from other members of their close family (46%) or from friends (44%). Around one-quarter receive home-grown or home-produced food from members of their wider circle of relatives (28%) or from neighbours (24%). Just under one-fifth (17%) of people indicated that they receive home-grown or home-produced food from their colleagues and co-workers.

Figure 6: Do you receive food grown or produced at home from other people? (in %, only those who do not grow or produce any food)



Note: Items are listed in order according to the share of responses 'yes, I do'.

Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, 'Food 2021', 10–26 July 2021, 389 respondents over the age of 15 who do not grow or produce any food themselves, face-to-face interviews.

We asked all the respondents what they do with kitchen waste in their household (cooking scraps, uneaten food, etc.). We presented them with five response options and asked them to indicate what share of the time they use these methods to dispose of kitchen waste, with the sum of all the percentages then amounting to 100%.⁸ When we average the values for each of the options, the results indicate (see Table 2) that most respondents, almost two-fifths (39%), throw kitchen waste out in their regular mixed-waste bin. The second most common way of disposing kitchen waste is composting (21%). The other three disposal methods were used on average each by one-sixth of respondents – 15%

⁷ Question wording: 'Do you receive any food grown or produced at home from others? a) from close family members (children, parents, siblings, etc.), b) from members of the extended family, c) from neighbours, d) from friends, e) from colleagues, co-workers, f) from someone else.' Response options: yes, I do; no, I don't.

⁸ Question wording: 'What do you do with kitchen waste (cooking scraps, uneaten food, etc.)? For each response option please indicate what share of the time you use that method so that the total sum amounts to 100%.' Response options: Composting; Feed what can be used to animals; Give it to someone else (for animals, compost); Throw it out in an organic-waste bin; Throw it out in the mixed-waste bin.

of people dispose of kitchen waste in an organic waste bin, 13% feed kitchen waste to animals, and 12% give it to someone else.

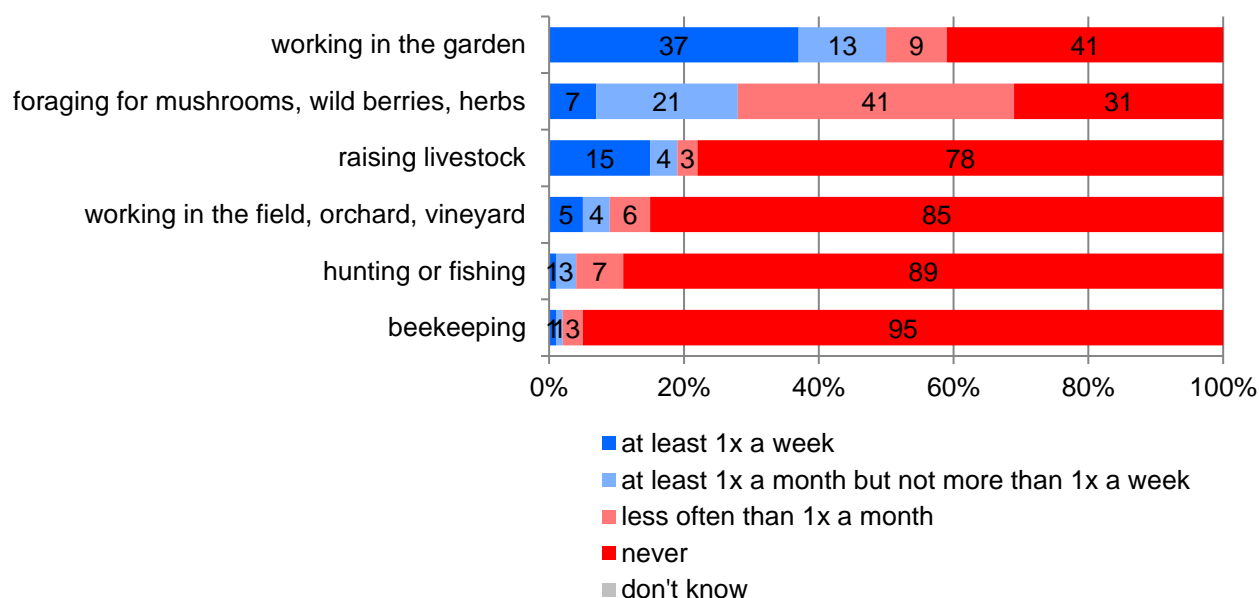
Table 2: Methods of disposing kitchen waste

	Percentage (%)
Throw it out in the mixed-waste bin	39
Composting	21
Throw it out in an organic-waste bin	15
Feed it to animals	13
Give it to someone else (for animals, for compost)	12
TOTAL	100

Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, 'Food 2021', 10–26 July 2021, 1,437 responses, 490 respondents over the age of 15 who indicated that they grow food in a garden or in their flat/on the balcony, face-to-face interviews.

Gardening and self-provisioning are associated with certain activities that people can engage in seasonally. In the survey we therefore also asked respondents about some of these activities and we were interested in learning whether and how often they engage in any of them.⁹ One-half (50%) of respondents regularly work in their garden or allotment when they are seasonally able to, and of them 37% said they do so 'at least once a week' and 13% 'at least once a month but not more than once a week'. Just under three-tenths (28%) of people seasonally forage for mushrooms, wild berries, or herbs (7% 'at least once a week', 21% 'at least once a month but no more than once a week'). Almost one-twentieth (19%) of respondents said that in season they regularly raise livestock. Respondents much less often indicated doing the other activities (for more see Figure 7).

Figure 7: How often people engage in other activities connected to food self-provisioning (in %)



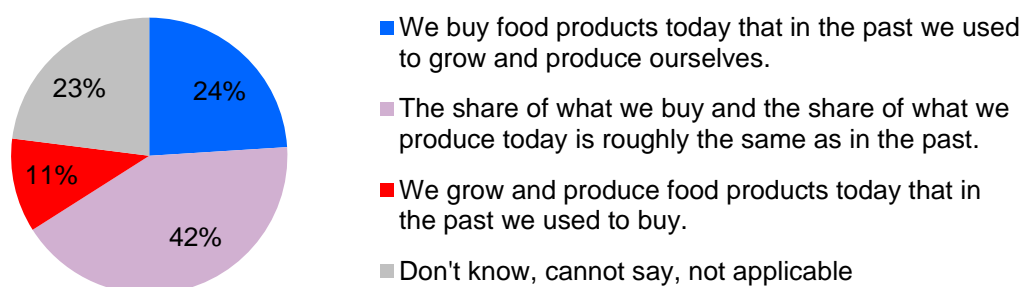
Note: Items are listed in order according to the sum of responses 'at least once a week' + 'at least once a month but not more than once a week'.

Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, 'Food 2021', 10–26 July 2021, 884 respondents over the age of 15, face-to-face interviews.

⁹ Question wording: 'How often, if ever, do you seasonally engage in the following activities: a) working in the garden; b) working in a field, orchard, vineyard, etc.; c) raising livestock; d) foraging for mushrooms, wild berries, herbs; e) hunting or fishing; f) beekeeping.' Response options: at least once a week, at least once a month but not more than once a week; less often than once a month; never.

To conclude the survey, we asked respondents whether, in their opinion, their household's food self-provisioning has or has not changed when they compare the present with the situation ten years ago.¹⁰ More than two-fifths (42%) of respondents believe that the situation with food self-provisioning in their household has not changed in the past ten years and they selected the response: 'The share of food we buy and the share we produce ourselves is roughly the same today as in the past'. More than one-third of people conversely think that food self-provisioning in their household has undergone some changes in the past decade. Specifically, just under one-quarter (24%) of respondents said that 'we buy food products today that in the past we used to grow or produce ourselves' and, conversely, around one-tenth (11%) said that 'we grow or produce food products today that in the past we used to buy'. A relatively large share of respondents, almost one-quarter (23%), were unable to provide a clear answer to this question because they did not know, could not judge, or the question did not apply to them.

Figure 8: A comparison of food self-provisioning in the household today and ten years ago (in %)



Source: Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, 'Food 2021', 10–26 July 2021, 884 respondents over the age of 15, face-to-face interviews.

An analysis revealed that the responses to this question were influenced by sex and age. Women more often than men have the opinion that the share of what the household buys and produces is roughly the same today as it was ten years ago, or that today their household grows and produces food that it used to buy, while men more often have the view that today their household buys food that in the past it used to grow and produce itself, and men were also more likely to select the response 'don't know, cannot say, not applicable to me'. In the case of age, the differences are understandable, as young people up to the age of 29 were much more likely than people in other age groups to select the response 'don't know, cannot say, doesn't apply to me'. People over the age of 60 more often selected the response 'we buy food products today that in the past we used to grow or make ourselves'.

¹⁰ Question wording: 'Compare food self-provisioning in your household today and ten years ago. Select the response that best reflects your situation.' Response options: Today we buy food products that in the past we used to grow and make ourselves; The share of food we buy and the share we produce ourselves is roughly the same today as it was in the past; We grow and produce food products today that in the past we used to buy; Don't know, cannot say, not applicable.

Technical parameters of the survey

Survey:	Food 2021
Implementer:	Public Opinion Research Centre, Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences
Project:	Strategy AV21 'Food for the Future'
Survey fielding dates:	10 July – 26 July 2021
Selection of the respondents:	Quota sampling
Quotas:	Region (NUTS 3 regions), size of place of residence, sex, age, education
Data weighting:	Education X NUTS 2, age X NUTS 2, sex X region, size of place of residence X age, education X age
Source data for quota sampling and data weighting:	Czech Statistical Office
Representativeness:	Population of the Czech Republic aged 15 and over
Number of respondents:	884
Number of interviewers:	161
Data collection method:	Face-to-face interviews with respondents conducted by interviewers – combined CAPI and PAPI techniques
Survey instrument:	Standardised questionnaire
Questions:	PL.89, PL.111, PL.112, PL.113, PL.114, PL.115, PL.116, PL.117, PL.118, PL.119
Report Code:	or211130
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Glossary:

Quota sampling: This sampling method replicates the structure of the basic survey population (in this case the population of the Czech Republic over the age of 15) by determining the size of selected sample parameters, i.e. 'quotas'. In other words, in quota sampling the same percentages of selected characteristics in the population are reproduced in the sample. To create quotas, we use data from the Czech Statistical Office. In our surveys we set quotas for sex, age, education, region, and size of the place of residence. The sample is therefore created to ensure that the percentage shares of men and women, for example, correspond to the percentage shares of men and women in each region of the Czech Republic. Similarly, the sample reflects the different percentages of the population living in the country's different regions, and the percentage of citizens in different age categories, with different levels of education, and in different community sizes.

A representative sample is a sample of the total population whose characteristics can be validly inferred to be the characteristics of the total population. In our case this means that respondents are selected in a way that allows us to ensure that the data we obtain on them can be generalised to apply to the population of the Czech Republic over the age of 15.

Data weighting: A technique used to increase a sample's representativeness for selected population characteristics by assigning weights to each respondent. The weights are created using the method of iterative proportional fitting/weighting and are always within the range of 0.333 and 3.

The Public Opinion Research Centre (CVVM) is a research department at the Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences. It has a history that extends back to 1946, when the Czechoslovak Institute for Public Opinion Research began operating as part of the Ministry of Information. The current centre was founded in 2001 when its predecessor (the IVVM) was transferred from the Czech Statistical Office to the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. As part of a research institution the centre has a high-quality professional work environment at its disposal and is part of an institution with a reputation of excellence. As part of an academic setting the Public Opinion Research Centre must fulfil all the requirements for and maintain the highest professional standards. The main part of the centre's work is devoted to the "Our Society" research project, which conducts ten surveys each year. This public opinion research is conducted on a representative sample of the Czech population aged 15 and over and approximately 1,000 respondents take part in each survey. The omnibus form of the questionnaire means that the survey can cover a large range of subjects, which therefore regularly includes political, economic, and other generally socially topics. The survey includes both repeat questions, which can be used to observe the development of certain phenomena over time, and questions on new topics in response to current events. The long-term continuous nature of this public opinion research project makes this scientific project unique in the Czech Republic.

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