

THE SMALL TRADES AND HANDICRAFTS IN PRAGUE  
IN THE LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY*Peter Heumos*

In the period under survey, the occupational-industrial structure of Prague and Bohemia was marked by the predominance of small-trades enterprises. The small trades — in Prague above all shoemakers, tailors, glovers, joiners and locksmiths — were only partly still conducted along handicraft lines and were, generally, closer to the capitalist form of goods production. Signs of this were the relatively high extent of endowment with machines, the dominance of cottage industry as the enterprise organizational form, the high degree of division of labor, and piece-work. The economic development of the small trades in this period appears, in general, to have been satisfactory. Around 1900 a third of the small-trades working force still lived with masters, but the disintegration of this patriarchal form was proceeding apace.