

# Czech Republic

## Geography

Location: Central Europe, southeast of Germany

Area:

total area: 78,703 sq km

land area: 78,645 sq km

Land boundaries: total 1,880 km, Austria 362 km, Germany 646 km, Poland 658 km, Slovakia 214 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims: none; landlocked

Climate: temperate; cool summers; cold, cloudy, humid winters

Terrain: two main regions: Bohemia in the west, consisting of rolling plains, hills, and plateaus surrounded by low mountains; and Moravia in the east, consisting of very hilly country

Natural resources: hard coal, soft coal, kaolin, clay, graphite

Note: landlocked; strategically located astride some of oldest and most significant land routes in Europe; Moravian Gate is a traditional military corridor between the North European Plain and the Danube in central Europe

## People

Population: 10,432,774 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 19% (female 981,918; male 1,030,003)

15-64 years: 68% (female 3,529,411; male 3,530,112)

65 years and over: 13% (female 848,599; male 512,731) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.26% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 13.46 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 10.85 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 8.9 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 73.54 years

male: 69.87 years

female: 77.41 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.84 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Czech(s)

adjective: Czech

note: 300,000 Slovaks declared themselves Czech citizens in 1994

Ethnic divisions: Czech 94.4%, Slovak 3%, Polish 0.6%, German 0.5%, Gypsy 0.3%, Hungarian 0.2%, other 1%

Religions: atheist 39.8%, Roman Catholic 39.2%, Protestant 4.6%, Orthodox 3%, other 13.4%

Languages: Czech, Slovak

Literacy: can read and write  
total population: 99%

Labor force: 5.389 million  
by occupation: industry 37.9%, agriculture 8.1%, construction 8.8%,  
communications and other 45.2% (1990)

## Government

Names:

conventional long form: Czech Republic

conventional short form: Czech Republic

local long form: Ceska Republika

local short form: Cechy

Capital: Prague

Independence: 1 January 1993 (from Czechoslovakia)

National holiday: National Liberation Day, 9 May; Founding of the Republic, 28 October

Constitution: ratified 16 December 1992; effective 1 January 1993

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: two equal horizontal bands of white (top) and red with a blue isosceles triangle based on the hoist side (almost identical to the flag of the former Czechoslovakia)

## Economy

Industries: fuels, ferrous metallurgy, machinery and equipment, coal, motor vehicles, glass, armaments

Agriculture: largely self-sufficient in food production; diversified crop and livestock production, including grains, potatoes, sugar beets, hops, fruit, hogs, cattle, and poultry; exporter of forest products

Illicit drugs: transshipment point for Southwest Asian heroin and Latin American cocaine to Western Europe

## Transportation

### Railroads:

total: 9,434 km

### Highways:

total: 55,890 km (1988)

Pipelines: natural gas 5,400 km

Ports: Decin, Prague, Usti nad Labem

### Airports:

total: 116

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Air and Air Defence Forces, Civil Defence,  
Railroad Units