

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION

The Olomoucký Region is located in the central part of Moravia and extends also to its northern part. As for the territory administration, it forms the cohesion region called Střední Morava (NUTS 2) together with the Zlínský Region. It consists of five Districts (the Jeseník District, the Olomouc District, the Prostějov District, the Přerov District, and the Šumperk District). On 1 January 2005, 3 municipalities from the Moravskoslezský Region were attached to the Olomoucký Region. In the territory of the Olomoucký Region, the following were established: 13 administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers and 20 administrative districts of municipalities with authorised municipal authority. The Olomoucký Region borders in the north with Poland, in the east it borders with the Moravskoslezský Region, in the south with the Zlínský Region and the Jihomoravský Region and in the west with the Pardubický Region.

As for geography, the Region is divided to the northern mountainous part (the Jeseníky Mountains with the highest peak Praděd, altitude 1 491 m), while the southern part of the Region consists of the Haná lowland. The Morava River flows through the Region's territory; on its water level near to the town of Kojetín in the Přerov District, the lowest point of the Region lies (altitude 190 m). The Olomoucký Region offers a great variety of natural points of interest. Many tourists visit the Protected Landscape Area of the Jeseníky Mountains with the largest Moravian peatbog Rejvíz and the High Waterfall (Vysoký vodopád), which is 45 m high, a water reservoir and the Dlouhé Stráně power plant on the top of a hill, and other scenic places. Interesting are also bottomland forests in the Litovelské Pomoraví Protected Landscape Area with many endangered plant and animal species. There are also many caves in the Olomoucký Region: Javoříčko Caves (Javoříčské jeskyně), Mladeč Caves (Mladečské jeskyně) and Zbrašov Aragonite Caves (Zbrašovské jeskyně).

As at 31 December 2021, the total area of the Region amounted to 5 271.55 square kilometres (i.e. 6.7% of the total area of the Czech Republic (CR)). The share of arable land is decreasing every year (38.5%) and that of non-agricultural land is increasing (47.5%).

The population of the Olomoucký Region lives in 402 municipalities of which 31 have the status of town. 56.1% of the population is urban population. The statutory town of Olomouc is the Region's capital; it had a population of 99 496 as at 31 December 2021. Most of the Region's population is supplied with water from public water supply systems (95.6%) and live in houses connected to the public sewerage systems (86.3% of the population). Specific emission values of main air pollutants do not reach the average values for the CR; therefore, the Region's environment can be considered to be less damaged. Mountain areas and foothills have excellent air quality and are important sources of drinking water.

The population of the Olomoucký Region totalled 622 930 people as at 31 December 2021. With its population density (118.2 persons per square kilometre) the Region is close to the national average (133.3 persons per square kilometre). There are, of course, differences within the Region: the lowest population density is in the Jeseník District (51.1 persons per square kilometre) and the Šumperk District (90.2 persons per square kilometre). In 2021, less children were born than persons died in the Region (there were 6 394 live born children and 8 562 deaths). The share of children aged 0–14 years is low (15.8% of the total population as at 31 December 2021) and the share of the population aged 65+ years is increasing (21.5%); therefore, the average age of the population is increasing (43.3 years as at 31 December 2021). The share of children born outside marriage is stagnating (50.9% in 2021). The number of interruptions decreased, year-on-year (918 in 2021). The number of marriages (2 795 in 2021) and the number of divorces decreased (1 237 in 2021); diseases of the circulatory system remain the most often cause of death (36.2% of deaths in 2021).

The Czech Statistical Office has been carrying out labour force sample surveys in the households of respondents already for many years. According to this survey, the Olomoucký Region had 304.8 thousand economically active population aged 15+ years in 2021, of whom 296.8 thousand were employed and 8.0 thousand were unemployed. Namely due to the different survey methodology, the general unemployment rate (ILO) was 2.6%. It was lower than the share of unemployed persons as at 31 December 2021, which reached 3.4% according to the register of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. In the end of 2021, 14 382 applicants kept in the labour office register were seeking a job in the Region.

The total expenditure on state social support benefits reached CZK 2 553 million in the Region in 2021 (5.7% of the total amount drawn from accounts of the state social support benefits for the whole CR). 175 678 people were receiving pensions in December 2021; of them, 147 774 were recipients of old-age pensions with the average monthly pension of CZK 15 017 (a single pension). In the Olomoucký Region, 235 683 persons were sickness-insured in 2021 and CZK 2 607.5 million was paid at sickness insurance benefits. 145 638 of new cases of incapacity for work were reported. In the Olomoucký Region in 2021, patients were provided treatment in 9 hospitals, 10 specialised therapeutic institutions, and other health establishments by 3 287 physicians and 7 825 paramedical workers. Care of patients of the top quality level is provided mostly in the teaching hospital in the city of Olomouc, which is equipped with the most modern medical technology and has a large scientific and training background. Health care is provided also in many spa establishments that are scattered around

the entire Region; well-known are, for example, spas in the town of Jeseník, in the municipalities of Velké Losiny, Teplice nad Bečvou, Slatinice, Skalka, etc.

The network of school establishments consists of 388 nursery schools, 298 basic schools, 19 grammar schools, 74 programmes of vocational training at secondary schools, 8 higher professional schools, and 1 conservatoire. The second oldest university in the Czech Republic - the Palacký University in Olomouc (Univerzita Palackého) is a centre of education. 22 000 students study at its faculties as follows: Faculty of Science, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law, Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology, Faculty of Physical Culture, and Faculty of Health Sciences.

As for economy, the Olomoucký Region is an industrial area with developed services. Economy of the Districts of Haná is more stable and diverse enough; however, the Jeseník District and northern part of the Šumperk District due to their position, transport accessibility, and disturbance of social and economic life after the Second World War (displacement of German population) belong to economically weaker areas. The gross domestic product of the Olomoucký Region only amounted to 4.7% of the total GDP of the CR in 2021, which is just 79.4% of the national average per capita. The average gross monthly wage of employees in businesses that have their registered office in the Region reached CZK 34 586 (per full-time equivalent (FTE), in 2021).

Southern and central parts of the Region belong to areas with the most fertile land. Average yields of grown crops - spring barley, winter wheat, and industrial sugar beet - reach the highest amounts of the whole CR.

Many traditional industrial enterprises are doing their business in the Olomoucký Region. Agricultural production is followed by many food enterprises. As for other industries, the following ones are developed there: manufacture of machinery and equipment, manufacture of electrical and optical products, manufacture of fabricated metal products, manufacture of transport equipment, and many others. In 2021, 143 industrial enterprises with 100+ employees had their registered office (seat) in the Olomoucký Region. These enterprises employed 44 168 employees with the average gross monthly wage of CZK 35 060 and their sales from the sale of own goods and services incidental to industry reached CZK 144 508 million.

In 2021, 22 construction enterprises with 50+ employees had their seat in the Olomoucký Region; they employed 2 719 employees with the average gross monthly wage of CZK 36 854. Performance value of these enterprises from basic construction activity reached CZK 6 363 million. In 2021, construction of 1 690 new dwellings (flats) was started and construction of 1 916 dwellings (flats) was completed. The planning and building control authorities recorded in 2021 the total of 4 756 building permits granted.

In the end of 2021, 147 212 businesses, organisations, and entrepreneurs were registered in the Statistical Business Register. Most of them were private entrepreneurs registered under the Trade Act (72.8%) and business companies and partnerships (12.4%).

Transport accessibility of the Region is provided by 621 km of railways and 3 600 km of roads, of which 140 km are motorways. Important rail junctions are in the city of Olomouc and in the town of Přerov; a dense railway network is spread equally all over the Region's territory. Road network is denser in the southern flat part of the Region. Near to the city of Olomouc, there is an airport for small airliners, which obtained the status of an international airport.

In the Region, 7 802 criminal offences were committed, of which 4 601 were solved. In 2021, there were 5 327 road accidents, in which 41 people died and 1 182 were injured; 6 people died and 63 people were injured in 900 fires.

The Olomoucký Region belongs to Regions with the smallest number of accommodation establishments. In 2021, accommodation services were provided by 576 collective accommodation establishments, which are placed primarily in the Jeseník District and the Šumperk District that are visited by tourists. The Region offers many establishments to entertain tourists. In addition to many natural beauties, there is also a lot of historical monuments such as castles (Bouzov, Helfštýn, Šternberk), chateaux (Úsov, Tovačov, Velké Losiny, Jánský Vrch, Náměšť na Hané), and tens of museums and galleries. Especially the regional city of Olomouc with the second largest urban conservation area (which preserves a large set of buildings that are important for their historical, architectonic, or artistic value and are located on a preserved medieval pattern of the town) is visited. The most important monument in Olomouc is a baroque Column of the Holy Trinity on the central square, which was inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2000. Olomouc has also many churches; in its large parks, flower and plant exhibitions take place (Flora Olomouc international flower exhibition). Near to the city of Olomouc, there is a well-known Pilgrimage Church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary (Basilica Minor) on Svatý Kopeček (the Holy Hill) and a zoological garden not far from it. Tens of ethnographic and dance groups take care of preservation of folkways at Haná; folklore shows and festivals are organised in Náměšť na Hané, Prostějov, Kojetín, and other places of the Region. There are also many opportunities to go in for sports in the Olomoucký Region. Already 2 700 km of cycle tracks were marked out; for water sports many modern swimming pools and natural open-air pools can be used. In the towns of Prostějov and Přerov one can find well-known tennis centres. Many visitors are attracted to hill-climb races at Ecce Homo in Šternberk.



Football and ice hockey matches can be watched at well-equipped playgrounds and ice arenas all over the Region. For winter sports, many downhill and cross-country courses are prepared in the Jeseníky Mountains in the following well-known areas: Červenohorské sedlo, Petříkov, Ostružná, Ramzová, and many others.

The Olomoucký Region is a region with rich history, varied and colourful nature, many cultural, sports, and recreational opportunities. The Region's economy focuses on traditional agriculture, processing industry, and services. Conditions for further development of the Region lie in its strategic position, transport accessibility, developed infrastructure, enough qualified labour force, as well as an entry of foreign investors. Many long-term strategic plans being realised, the economic situation of the Olomoucký Region gradually improves and the growing tendency is to continue also in the following years.