

CHARACTERISTIC OF THE PARDUBICKÝ REGION

The Pardubický Region is located in the East of Bohemia. The position of the Region is further determined by the neighbouring Regions: Středočeský, Královéhradecký, Olomoucký, Jihomoravský and Vysočina. The Královéhradecký, Liberecký and Pardubický Regions together form a NUTS 2 territory – The Northeast. A part of the northeast border of the Region is also the national border between the Czech Republic and Poland. The borders of the Region are further formed by southern parts of Orlické hory (the Eagle Mountains) and westernmost parts of the Hrubý Jeseník Mountain Range. The highland parts of Železné hory (the Iron Mountains) together with Žďárské vrchy (the Žďár Hills) line the south and southeast, while the the Labe lowland is situated in the central and western parts. Orlické hory, Žďárské vrchy, and Železné hory are protected landscape areas.

The **area** of 4,519 km² (5.7% of the CR's area) ranks the Region fifth smallest among the Regions of the CR. Agricultural land makes 60.3% and arable land makes 44.0% of the total area. Forest land covers 29.6% of the Region's area. The highest point of the Region is the Králický Sněžník Mount (1424m above sea level), which is part of the third highest mountain range in the CR. The central and the top part of the Králický Sněžník mountain range, involving remains of original vegetation and moorland, has been declared a national nature reserve. The lowest point of the Region is the surface of the Labe River at Kojice (201m above sea level), near the western border of the Region.

The quality of the **environment** varies throughout the Region, owing to a great diversity in natural conditions, settlement, industrial and agricultural activities. The foothill and upland areas (lacking any rather large settlements) of central and northern parts of the Ústí nad Orlicí District and southern parts of the Chrudim District suffer from the impact of human activities in the least degree. The greatest degree of that impact is seen in the area of concentrated industrial activities, settlement and traffic – the Pardubice area. Here, the environmental damage, resulting particularly from chemical and power industry (the Paramo and Synthesia chemical works, the Opatovice and Chvaletice power plants), has grown to involve the most serious environmental problems within the whole CR.

Regarding **water management**, the Pardubický Region is an extraordinary important area with excessive water supplies, the significance of which reaches beyond the regional level, of ground water as well as surface water drawn from watercourses. The Region involves many headstreams, without any inflow pollution from other catchment areas. A rather low degree of wastewater pollution is seen in middle and upper parts of watercourses, except for the Labe River and the upper course of the Svitava River. The three largest water surface areas are the Seč Reservoir (on the Chrudimka River), the Bohdaneč Pond (on the Opatovice River Channel) and the Pastviny Dam (on the Divoká Orlice River). Some parts of the Region are under large-scale protection measures, i.e. they involve water protection zones, or natural water accumulation protected areas (CHOPAV). The ground water supplies are connected particularly with the Ústí nad Orlicí and the Vysoké Mýto syncline of the Czech Cretaceous Basin (the Ústí nad Orlicí District and the Svitavy District) and with the Labe quaternary sediments (the Pardubice District).

The Pardubický Region comprises four **Districts** (Chrudim, Pardubice, Svitavy, and Ústí nad Orlicí), and 451 municipalities as at 31 December 2009, which is the sixth highest number of municipalities among the 14 Regions in the CR). The average cadastral area of municipality 10.0 km² is the third smallest in the CR and the average mean number of population 1,145 inhabitants per municipality ranks the Region tenth in the CR. Of the Region's population, 13.5% live in municipalities under 500 inhabitants. There is seen a gradual increase in the share of inhabitants living in municipalities of the population between 500 – 1,999, which now makes 24.9%. The percentage of population living in municipalities of 2,000 – 9,999 inhabitants is 19.9% in the Region. The percentage of population living in municipalities of over 10,000 inhabitants decreased in the last year and made 41.7% as at 31 December 2009. In the Region's capital Pardubice, there live 17.4% of the population of the Region.

The Region's **population** was 516,329 as at 31 December 2009, which is 4.9% of the CR's total population. In comparison with 2008 there was an increase of the Region's population by 0.2%. The Pardubice District is the most populated, followed by Ústí nad Orlicí, Svitavy and Chrudim Districts, respectively. The following towns rank among the most populated: Pardubice, Chrudim and Svitavy. Regarding the distribution of the population by age in 2009 when compared to 2008, there was a decrease in the 15-64 age group (by 0.3%), while an increase was observed in the 65+ age group (by 2.7%). In 2009 the ratio of children under 15 increased for the first time since 1991. The ratio of 65+ population to that under 15 (the dependency ratio) amounted to 106.2 in 2009 (in 2008 it was 103.7). The dependency ratio for females in 2009 was 130.6, while for males it was only 83.2. This big difference is caused mainly by lower age of males at death but also by higher share of boys born.

One of the fundamental requirements to reverse the disadvantageous demographic development is the activation of **housing construction**. In 2009 the Pardubický Region ranked third in terms of the number of started dwellings per 1,000 inhabitants. In comparison with the previous year, the number of started

dwelling was by one fifth higher in the Region this year. However, the total number of completed dwellings decreased by 13 % in the Region and the number of completed dwellings per 1,000 inhabitants was the sixth lowest among regions in 2009. The highest number of dwellings within the Region was completed in the District of Pardubice (710 dwellings); on the contrary, the lowest number of completed dwellings in 2009 was in the District of Svitavy (only 219 dwellings).

The 2009 average registered **number of employees** was 157,3 thousand F/T equivalent persons. The **average monthly gross wage** in the Pardubický Region amounted to CZK 19,536 in 2009 (headcount), which makes 86.3% of the national average (it is the third lowest wage after the Karlovarský, Zlínský and the Olomoucký Region). Regarding industrial breakdown in an inter-region comparison, as for average gross wages of the employed in industry the Region was the second lowest and in construction the Region was the sixth highest in 2008 (workplace method; incl. enterprises with less than 20 employees).

The registered **unemployment rate** was 9.58% as at 31 December 2009 (the sixth lowest among the Regions) and was by 3.63 percentage point higher than in 2008. The highest unemployment rate is reported in the Svitavy District (12.31%). The registered number of the unemployed amounts to 26,817 persons and makes 5.0% of the unemployed in the whole CR. Among registered job applicants, 42.4% in the Region are those in the under 34 age group. Females make less than half (46.5%) of the unemployed; handicapped persons make 15.2% of the total number of the unemployed. Regarding educational attainment, most of the job applicants are observed among persons with secondary vocational education (45.1%) and basic education (24.6%). There were 14.8 job applicants per vacancy in the Region (which is three times more than in 2008); regarding work positions for handicapped persons, there were 33.2 job applicants per vacancy.

In 2009, the purchasing power standard **gross domestic product (GDP)** per inhabitant was 66.6% of the EU27 average (by 0.1 percentage point less than in 2008). Services play a decisive role in the Region's GDP, comprising 53.3% of the Region's gross value added. Fundamental is also the manufacturing industry, the share of which in gross value added of the Region in 2009 was 29.5%. The share of construction amounted to 7.8%.

The favourable position of the Pardubický Region is a promise for its further development from the **transport** point of view. The Region has 542 km of rail tracks, the most important rail crossing stations are towns Pardubice and Česká Třebová that are part of the international rail highway Berlin, Prague, Brno and Vienna. In Pardubice, tracks of national relevance link to the main track, providing the connection to Liberec, and to Havlíčkův Brod via Chrudim and Hlinsko. The current road network comprises the total of 3,604 km, of which highways measure 9 km, roads classified into class I 462 km and roads classified into class II 912 km. The most important transit flow goes through the Region via the road No. I/35 leading from southeast to northwest via Moravská Třebová, Svitavy, Litomyšl, Vysoké Mýto and Holice towards Hradec Králové. The also important route is the road No. I/37 coming from the north via Pardubice and Chrudim towards Ždírec nad Doubravou. In Chrudim, it meets the road No. I/17 leading from Čáslav, via Heřmanův Městec, Hrochův Týnec to Zámorsk. There are 9 km of the D 11 motorway on the territory of the region; the motorway's link to I/37 road near Opatovice nad Labem was put into operation in 2009. As for the air transport, the international airport in Pardubice plays the principal role, providing military and civil air traffic operation. In terms of water transport, only a short navigable part of the Labe River to Chvaletice is in use, opening a waterway to the regional capital has been postponed. One of the biggest seasonal tourist attractions is the river transport of persons operating on the route Kunětické – Pardubice – Přelouč.

Regarding **education**, there was reported in 2009 the total of 307 nursery schools in the Pardubický Region, with 16,629 children enrolled in 691 classes. Other educational establishments comprise: 252 basic schools with 41,266 pupils, 21 grammar schools with 6,910 pupils, 59 secondary schools (including secondary vocational schools) with 18,249 students of initial study (follow-up courses not included), and 11 higher professional schools with 1,038 students of initial study. University education in the Region is provided at the University of Pardubice comprising seven faculties.

As for **health care**, the Pardubický Region involved the following establishments in 2009: 10 hospitals (2,682 beds), 7 specialised therapeutic institutions (1,296 beds), in that 2 therapeutic institutions for long-term patients (186 beds) and 138 pharmacies including detached workplaces. Besides the establishments mentioned above, there are 937 independent surgeries of GPs and specialists and number of other various independent health establishments in the Region (e.g. establishments run by a person with non-medical university education, independent laboratories, etc.). The 2009 F/T equivalent number of physicians was 1,962 (1,925 physicians at non-government establishments). There were 263 inhabitants per physician.

The Pardubický Region has a great potential for the development of **tourism**. One can find there lowland as well as mountainous landscape, agreeable climate as well as many places fit for bathing, water sports, hiking, cycling tourism and winter sports. Areas attractive for tourists are especially northern and eastern part of the Ústí nad Orlicí District – foothills of the Orlické hory mountains, ski resort in Buková hora-Suchý vrch,

and the area of Králický Sněžník. In the Chrudim District, mainly in its southern and southwestern part, there are also many tourist centres – the most visited are: the area around the Seč dam, areas at Horní Bradlo, Bojanov and Křižanovice in the Železné hory mountains. Agrotourism is winning popularity throughout the whole Region (in the foothill areas, in particular), especially the estates devoted to traditional horse breeding play a primary role. In 2009, there was the total of 359 collective tourist accommodation establishments with 20,544 beds in the Pardubický Region, providing service to 321 thousand guests with the average number of overnight stays amounting to 3.0. The number of collective accommodation establishments, beds in them and number of guests in the Pardubický Region belong to the lowest in the inter-region comparison.

Cultural establishments and activities in the Region are concentrated mostly in towns. Among the most important we can mention Muzeum loutkářských kultur (the Puppet Museum) in the Chrudim District, state chateau in Slatiňany with its horse museum, open-air (folk) museum (a set of folk constructions in Vysočina area at Veselý Kopec hill and adjacent localities of Hlinsko area). In the Pardubice District, visitors are attracted especially by the Castle of Pardubice, where one can see the exhibits of the Východočeské muzeum (Museum of East Bohemia) and the Východočeská galerie (Gallery of East Bohemia). Interesting for them is also late-Gothic castle at Kunětická hora mountain and Africké muzeum (Museum of Africa) in the town of Holice, which is devoted to Dr. Emil Holub, who was a famous traveller born in Holice. Every year, more and more visitors are coming also to the National Stud Farm in Kladruby nad Labem, which besides regular sightseeing tours organizes various actions for horse lovers, too. In the Svitavy District, tourists are attracted by the Svojanov castle or the area of the Litomyšl chateau, which was added to the UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage List in 1999. In the Ústí nad Orlicí District, well-known are ruins of the following castles: Lanšperk, Litice, Žampach and historical centres of towns. Music in the Region is usually connected with famous Komorní filharmonie (the Pardubice Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra) but also Smetanova Litomyšl (Smetana's Litomyšl), the festival of classical music, or other music festivals held in Polička (the birthplace of composer Bohuslav Martinů), which have their tradition. As for theatre, the most famous is Východočeské divadlo (the Theatre of East Bohemia) in Pardubice, which also holds a festival of comedies (Festival smíchu) from the theatres all over the Czech Republic since 2001. Already since 1995, Přelouč has hosted the awarding ceremony of Cena Františka Filipovského (the Prize of František Filipovský) for dubbing.

Regarding **sports** activities, the Pardubice Horserace Course, where the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase is held, is the best known. Motor sports fans are certain to recall the speedway race Zlatá přilba České republiky (the Golden Helmet of the Czech Republic). Moreover, the Pardubický Region ranks on the top in connection with other sports, too. It is the ice hockey with the Pardubice extra league team breeding players of international quality; it is the tennis courts frequently remembered by almost every Czech famous tennis player, because the Championship of the Czech Republic for young competitors opens professional career for the talented youth.

In the end, here are several points, for which the Pardubický Region was unique in 2009:

- the lowest number of deaths per 1,000 population;
- the lowest number of induced abortions per 100 births;
- the lowest average monthly gross wage of science and engineering professionals;
- the lowest number of students at private universities per 1,000 population;
- the highest share of foreigners registered by labour offices;
- the lowest share of employed foreigners holding valid trade licence;
- the highest number of eggs laid per hen;

- the second highest number of calves born per 100 cows;
- the second highest turnout in elections to the local councils in 2010;
- the second highest share of households with great difficulty to make ends meet;
- the second lowest number of hospitalized patients per 1,000 population;
- the second lowest number of fires per 1,000 population;
- the second lowest number of marriages per 1,000 population;

- the third highest number of started dwellings per 1,000 population;
- the third highest share agricultural land in total area of the Region;
- the third highest share of households with personal computer;
- the third highest turnout in election to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR in 2010;
- the third lowest generation of municipal waste per capita;
- the third lowest labour productivity in construction work;
- the third lowest net money income per household member;
- the third lowest share of population living in houses connected to public sewerage systems;
- the third lowest number of crimes per 1,000 population;
- the third lowest number of prosecuted/investigated persons per 1,000 population;

- *the third highest share of population living in municipalities under 1,000 inhabitants;*
- *the fourth lowest average monthly amount of full old-age pensions;*
- *the fourth highest size of living floor area per completed dwelling;*
- *the fourth highest share of machinery and transport equipment in export from the region;*
- *the fourth highest share of cattle per 100 ha of agricultural land;*
- *the fourth highest specific emissions of nitrogen oxides (tonnes/km²; REZZO 1-4);*
- *the fourth highest number of traffic accidents per 1,000 population;*
- *the fourth lowest average gross monthly wage;*
- *the fourth lowest number of collective accommodation establishments;*
- *the fourth highest share of agricultural holdings with the area of agricultural land under 5 ha;*
- *the fourth highest share of households with broadband Internet access*