

2 AREA AND CLIMATE

Methodological notes

The Czech Republic is a land-locked country with the area of 78 871 square kilometres lying in the central part of Europe in the middle of the Northern Temperate Zone of the Northern Hemisphere. The country has borders with Germany (818.9 km), Poland (795.8 km), Austria (460.4 km), and Slovakia (251.8 km). The values come from the latest measurements and are valid as at 16 February 2023. With the population of 10 827 529, the Czech Republic ranks 9th among 27 countries of the European Union according to data of Eurostat (as at 1 January 2023).

Since 1 January 2000, the Czech Republic has a new territorial structure; current Districts make up 14 Regions, including the Capital City of Prague, which forms a separate Hl. m. Praha Region. Activities of the former district offices (authorities) were terminated at the end of 2002 and a significant part of their powers was delegated to 205 municipalities with extended powers, which began to function on 1 January 2003.

The Act No 51/2020 Sb, on the Administrative Territorial Structure of the State and amending certain related acts, newly determines that the territory of the Czech Republic is subdivided into administrative districts of Regions, which consist of administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers (except for the Capital City of Prague). Administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers are specified by listing of municipalities and military districts. Districts are also determined by those administrative districts (in the Capital City of Prague, a city district called "obvod" in Czech is on the level of a District (called "okres" in Czech).

Following this Act, the Ministry of the Interior issued decrees, which define administrative districts. In relation to it, the territory of the following Districts changed with effect from 1 January 2021: Nymburk, Kolín, Domažlice, Plzeň-jih, Semily, Jablonec nad Nisou, Vsetín, and Zlín. Territories of the following administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers also changed: Český Brod, Lysá nad Labem, Turnov, Jablonec nad Nisou, Havlíčkův Brod, and Jihlava. Contrarily, on the level of Regions, no changes to their territory occurred.

The main European watershed separating the basins of the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, and the Black Sea passes through the territory of the Czech Republic. The mountain of Klepáč (altitude 1 144 m) located in the massif of Králický Sněžník is the divide node of the three seas. The major rivers are as follows: the Labe River (370 km), the Vltava River (431 km), and the Ohře River (254 km) in Bohemia, mainly the Morava River (269 km) and the Dyje River (194 km) in South Moravia, and the Odra River (135 km) and the Opava River (131 km) in the north of Moravia and in Silesia.

Geographically, the Czech Republic lies on the boundary of two different mountain systems, which differ in their age as well as their geological and geomorphological evolution. The western and the central part of the Czech Republic are covered with the uplands of Česká vysočina, formed basically at the end of the Palaeozoic era and being for the most part of a hilly nature, and with highlands (the mountain ranges of Šumava, Český les, Krušné hory, Krkonoše, Orlické hory, and Jeseníky). The mountains of Západní Karpaty, which gained their current appearance in the Tertiary era (the mountain range of Beskydy), projects into the eastern part of the country. The boundary between the two mountain systems is filled with a belt of valleys.

The climate of the Czech Republic is influenced by mutual penetration and mingling of ocean and continental effects. Prevailing westerly winds, intensive cyclonic activity causing frequent alternating of air masses, and relatively ample precipitation are characteristic for the climate. Maritime effects are mainly felt in Bohemia, whereas Moravia and Silesia are more affected by the continental climate. The Czech Republic's climate is strongly influenced by the country's altitude and its geographical relief: 52 817 km² (66.97%) of the country's territory are located at an altitude of up to 500 m, 25 222 km² (31.98%) lie at an altitude from 500 to 1 000 m, and only 827 km² (1.05%) are at an altitude above 1 000 m. The average altitude of the Czech Republic is 430 m.

Also wild fauna and flora species of the Czech Republic bear evidence of the mutual penetration of principal directions, in which wild fauna and flora species spread across Europe. Forests, mostly coniferous, cover approximately 34% of the total area of the Czech Republic.

The soil mantle also features considerable variability in terms of both – the soil texture composition and the distribution of respective soil types. Brown soils are the most frequent soil type in the Czech Republic.

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Further information can be found on the website of the Czech Statistical Office at:

– www.czso.cz/csu/czso/regions_towns

or on websites of other institutions at:

– www.chmi.cz/?l=en – Czech Hydrometeorological Institute

– www.vugtk.cz/en/ – Research Institute of Geodesy, Topography and Cartography (a public research institution, v.v.i.)

Zeměpisné zajímavosti České republiky v roce 2022
Geographic features of the Czech Republic in 2022

Zeměpisná zajímavost / Geographic feature		Hodnota/Size	Lokalita/Locality
Největší obec <i>Largest municipality</i>	Praha	1 357 326 obyvatel/ <i>inhabitants</i>	hlavní město <i>Capital City</i>
Nejmenší obec <i>Smallest municipality</i>	Vysoká Lhota	16 obyvatel/ <i>inhabitants</i>	okres Pelhřimov <i>Pelhřimov District</i>
Nejvýše položené sídlo <i>Highest settlement</i>	Filipova Huť	1 093 m n. m. <i>altitude 1 093 m</i>	okres Klatovy <i>Klatovy District</i>
Nejnižše položené sídlo <i>Lowest settlement</i>	Hřensko	130 m n. m. <i>altitude 130 m</i>	okres Děčín <i>Děčín District</i>
Nejvýše položený bod <i>Highest point</i>	Sněžka <i>Mount Sněžka</i>	1 602 m n. m. <i>altitude 1 602 m</i>	pohoří Krkonoše <i>Krkonoše Mountains</i>
Nejnižše položený bod <i>Lowest point</i>	výtok Labe u Hřenska <i>Discharge of the Labe River near Hřensko</i>	115 m n. m. <i>altitude 115 m</i>	okres Děčín <i>Děčín District</i>
Nejhlubší propast <i>Deepest chasm</i>	Hranická propast <i>Hranická Abyss</i>	519,5 m ¹⁾ <i>519.5 m¹⁾</i>	okres Přerov <i>Přerov District</i>
Největší národní park <i>Largest national park</i>	Národní park Šumava <i>Šumava National Park</i>	680,6 km ² <i>680.6 km²</i>	pohoří Šumava <i>Šumava Mountains</i>
Největší chráněná krajinná oblast <i>Largest protected landscape area</i>	CHKO Beskydy <i>Beskydy PLA</i>	1 160 km ²	pohoří Beskydy <i>Beskydy Mountains</i>
Nejdelší řeka <i>Longest river</i>	Vltava <i>Vltava River</i>	431 km	Čechy <i>Bohemia</i>
Největší plocha povodí <i>Largest catchment area</i>	povodí Labe <i>Labe River catchment</i>	51 103,9 km ² <i>51 103.9 km²</i>	Čechy <i>Bohemia</i>
Největší jezero <i>Largest natural lake</i> max. hloubka / <i>maximum depth</i>	Černé jezero <i>Lake Černé</i>	18,47 ha <i>18.47 ha</i> 39,8 m / <i>39.8 m</i>	pohoří Šumava <i>Šumava Mountains</i>
Největší rybník <i>Largest manmade lake</i> max. hloubka / <i>maximum depth</i>	rybník Rožmberk <i>Lake Rožmberk</i>	489 ha 10 m	okres Jindřichův Hradec <i>Jindřichův Hradec District</i>
Největší přehradní nádrž <i>Largest dam reservoir</i> max. hloubka / <i>maximum depth</i>	přehradní nádrž Lipno <i>Lipno Dam Lake</i>	4 870 ha 25 m	pohoří Šumava <i>Šumava Mountains</i>
Nejteplejší minerální pramen <i>Hottest thermal spring</i>	Vřídlo <i>Vřídlo Spring</i>	72 °C	Karlovy Vary
Nejvyšší denní maximální teplota vzduchu <i>Highest daily maximum air temperature</i>	Husinec, Řež, 19. 6. 2022 <i>Husinec, Řež, 19 June 2022</i>	39,0 °C <i>39.0 °C</i>	okres Praha-východ <i>Praha-východ District</i>
Nejnižší denní minimální teplota vzduchu <i>Lowest daily minimum air temperature</i>	Kvilda-Perla, 18. 12. 2022 <i>Kvilda-Perla, 18 December 2022</i>	-28,1 °C <i>-28.1 °C</i>	okres Prachatice <i>Prachatice District</i>
Nejvyšší denní úhrn srážek <i>Highest daily precipitation</i>	Katovice, 27. 6. 2022 <i>Katovice, 27 June 2022</i>	187,5 mm <i>187.5 mm</i>	okres Strakonice <i>Strakonice District</i>
Nejvyšší výška sněhové pokrývky <i>Deepest snow cover</i>	Černá Hora, 6. 4. 2022 <i>Černá Hora, 6 April 2022</i>	192 cm	okres Trutnov <i>Trutnov District</i>

¹⁾ dosud největší potvrzená hloubka k 1. 8. 2022

¹⁾ The deepest point recorded so far as at 1 August 2023.