

2. AREA AND CLIMATE

The Czech Republic is a land-locked country lying in the central part of Europe, in the middle of the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere. Its area of 78 866 km², the population of 10 251 079 and the population density of 130 inhabitants per 1 km² rank the country 21st, 12th and 13th among European countries, respectively. The country borders on Poland (761.8 km), Germany (810.3 km), Austria (466.3 km) and Slovakia (251.8 km).

Since 1 January 2000, the Czech Republic has had a new territorial structure. The administrative districts have been grouped to make 14 administrative regions, including the Hl. m. Praha Region.

On 1 January 2005, 28 municipalities came under other regions and districts:

a) The administrative borders of the Vysočina and Jihomoravský Regions changed as follows: municipalities Borač, Borovník, Černvír, Dolní Loučky, Doubravník, Drahonín, Horní Loučky, Kaly, Katov, Křižínkov, Kuřimská Nová Ves, Kuřimské Jestřabí, Lubné, Nedvědice, Níhov, Olší, Pernštejnské Jestřabí, Rojetín, Řikonín, Skryje, Tišnovská Nová Ves, Újezd u Tišnova, Vratislávka, Žďárec (all in Žďár nad Sázavou District) and Senorady (Třebíč District) belong no longer to the Vysočina Region but to the Jihomoravský Region (Brno-venkov District).

b) The administrative borders of the Moravskoslezský and Olomoucký Regions changed as follows: municipalities Huzová, Norberčany and Moravský Beroun (all Bruntál District) belong no longer to the Moravskoslezský Region but to the Olomoucký Region (Olomouc District).

Activities of the district offices were terminated at the end of 2002, and a significant portion of their powers was delegated to 205 municipalities with extended powers, which began their activities on 1 January 2003. On 1 January 2005, 38 municipalities came under other administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers. The changes were in administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers Česká Lípa and Liberec in the Liberecký Region, Dobruška, Hořice, Hradec Králové, Jičín, Trutnov and Vrchlabí in the Královéhradecký Region, Bystřice nad Pernštejnem, Náměšť nad Oslavou and Velké Meziříčí in the Vysočina Region, Ivančice and Tišnov in the Jihomoravský Region, Šternberk in the Olomoucký Region, Bílovec, Bruntál, Český Těšín, Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, Frýdlant nad Ostravicí, Nový Jičín, Odry, Opava, Rýmařov and Třinec in the Moravskoslezský Region.

Passing through the territory of the Czech Republic is a major European watershed to separate the basins of the North, Baltic and Black Seas. The divide node of the three seas is the mountain Králický Sněžník (1 423 m above sea level). The major rivers are the Labe (370 km) and the Vltava (433 km) in Bohemia, the Morava (246 km) and the Dyje (306 km) in Moravia, and the Odra (135 km) and the Opava (131 km) in Silesia and northern Moravia.

Geographically, the Czech Republic lies on the borderline of two mountain systems, which differ in age and geological and geomorphologic evolution. The uplands Česká vysočina in the western and middle parts of the Czech Republic were basically created at the end of the Palaeozoic era. For the most part they are hilly and of Mesozoic era nature (the mountain ranges Šumava, Český les, Krušné hory, Krkonoše, Orlické hory, Jeseníky). The Západní Karpaty mountains, which gained today's appearance in the Tertiary era (the Beskydy mountain range), spread into the eastern part of the country. There is a belt of valleys between the two mountain systems.

The climate in the Czech Republic is influenced by mutual penetration and mingling of ocean and continental effects. It is characterized by prevailing westerly winds, intensive cyclonic activities causing frequent alternating of air masses, and comparatively ample precipitation. Maritime effects are mainly felt in Bohemia, whereas Moravia and Silesia are more affected by continental climate. The Czech Republic's climate is also influenced to a large extent by the altitude and geographical relief: 52 817 km² of the country's whole territory (66.97%) can be found at an altitude of up to 500 m, 25 222 km² (31.98%) between 500 to 1 000 m, and only 827 km² (1.05%) above 1 000 m. The average altitude of the Czech Republic is 430 m.

Fauna and flora in the Czech Republic also testify to the mutual penetration of principal directions in which fauna and flora propagated in Europe. Forests, mostly coniferous, cover 33% of the total area.

The soil cover is varied in terms of both soil grain size composition and occurrence of individual soil types. Brown soils (cambisols) are the most prevalent soil type in the Czech Republic.

The data in this Chapter are comparable to the data published in the statistical yearbooks of previous years.

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More detailed information is available in the following CZSO publications brought out in accordance with the CZSO Catalogue of Publications 2006 (thematic group 1 – COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION, subgroup 13 – Information on regions, towns and municipalities):

- "Population of Municipalities of the Czech Republic, 1 January 2006" (Czech-English) – August 2006
- "Small Lexicon of CR Municipalities 2006" (Czech-English) – 4th quarter of 2006
- "Districts of the Czech Republic 2005" (Czech-English) – 4th quarter of 2006
- "Kraje České republiky 2005" – 4th quarter of 2006

Further data are published on the following web pages of the Czech Statistical Office:

http://www.czso.cz/eng/redakce.nsf/i/regions_towns

or of other institutions:

<http://www.chmi.cz/indexe.html> – Czech Hydrometeorological Institute

http://www.vugtk.cz/e_index.html – Research Institute of Geodesy, Topography and Cartography (VUGTK)

Česká republika v roce 2005

Czech Republic in 2005

Největší obec <i>Largest municipality</i>	Praha	1 181 610 obyvatel <i>inhabitants</i>	hlavní město <i>Capital City</i>
Nejmenší obec <i>Smallest municipality</i>	Vlkov	19 obyvatel <i>inhabitants</i>	okres České Budějovice <i>České Budějovice District</i>
Nejvýše položené sídlo <i>Settlement placed highest</i>	Filipova Huť	1 093 m n. m. <i>a.s.l.</i>	okres Klatovy <i>Klatovy District</i>
Nejnižší položené sídlo <i>Settlement placed lowest</i>	Hřensko	130 m n. m. <i>a.s.l.</i>	okres Děčín <i>Děčín District</i>
Nejvýše položený bod <i>Highest point</i>	Sněžka	1 602 m n. m. <i>a. s. l.</i>	pohoří Krkonoše <i>Krkonoše Mountain range</i>
Nejnižší položený bod <i>Lowest point</i>	výtok Labe u Hřenska <i>Discharge of the Labe river at Hřensko</i>	115 m n. m. <i>a. s. l.</i>	okres Děčín <i>Děčín District</i>
Nejhlubší propast <i>Deepest chasm</i>	Hranická propast	¹⁾ 274,5 m	okres Přerov <i>Přerov District</i>
Největší národní park <i>Largest national park</i>	Šumava	685,2 km ²	pohoří Šumava <i>Šumava Mountain range</i>
Největší chráněná krajinná oblast <i>Largest landscape area protected</i>	Beskydy	1 160 km ²	pohoří Beskydy <i>Beskydy Mountain range</i>
Nejdelší řeka <i>Longest river</i>	Vltava	433 km	Čechy <i>Bohemia</i>
Největší plocha povodí <i>Largest catchment area</i>	Labe	51 103,9 km ²	Čechy <i>Bohemia</i>
Největší jezero <i>Largest lake</i>	Černé jezero	18,4 ha	pohoří Šumava <i>Šumava Mountain range</i>
max. hloubka / <i>depth</i>		39,8 m	
Největší rybník <i>Largest pond</i>	Rožmberk	489 ha	okres Jindřichův Hradec <i>Jindřichův Hradec District</i>
max. hloubka / <i>depth</i>		6,2 m	
Největší přehradní nádrž <i>Largest dam reservoir</i>	Lipno	4 870 ha	pohoří Šumava <i>Šumava Mountain range</i>
max. hloubka / <i>depth</i>		20 m	
Nejteplejší minerální pramen <i>Hottest thermal spring</i>	Vřídlo	72 °C	Karlovy Vary
Nejvyšší denní maximální teplota vzduchu <i>Highest daily maximum air temperature</i>	Plzeň, Mikulka 29. 7. 2005	38,3 °C	Plzeň
Nejnižší denní minimální teplota vzduchu <i>Lowest daily minimum air temperature</i>	Horská Kvilda 2. 3. 2005	-31,2 °C	pohoří Šumava <i>Šumava Mountain range</i>
Nejvyšší denní úhrn srážek <i>Highest daily precipitation</i>	Rychnov nad Kněžnou 23. 5. 2005	121,4 mm	okres Rychnov nad Kněžnou <i>Rychnov nad Kněžnou District</i>
Nejvyšší výška sněhové pokrývky <i>Deepest snow cover</i>	Labská bouda 15. 3. 2005	345 cm	pohoří Krkonoše <i>Krkonoše Mountain range</i>

¹⁾ dosud největší potvrzená hloubka

¹⁾ The greatest depth recorded to date