

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 78 865 km², population of 10 467 542 and population density of 133 inhabitants per 1 km² rank the country 15th, 12th and 8th among 27 countries of the European Union, respectively. The country borders on Germany (810.3 km), Poland (761.8 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 are grouped to make 14 administrative regions, including the Hl. m. Praha Region.

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.

Passing through the territory of the Czech Republic is a major European watershed separating 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. In the western and middle parts of the Czech Republic are situated the uplands Česká vysočina, formed basically at the end of the Palaeozoic era and being for the most part of a hilly nature, and mid mountains (the ranges Šumava, Český les, Krušné hory, Krkonoše, Orlické hory, Jeseníky). The Západní Karpaty mountains, which gained today's appearance in the Tertiary period (the Beskydy mountain range), are in 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 activity 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 strongly influenced by altitude and geographical relief: 52 817 km² (66.97%) of the country's territory is at an altitude of up to 500 m, 25 222 km² (31.98%) between 500 and 1 000 m, and only 827 km² (1.05%) above 1 000 m. The average altitude of the Czech Republic is 430 m.

Also fauna and flora in the Czech Republic testify to the mutual penetration of principal directions in which fauna and flora spread over Europe. Forests, mostly coniferous, cover 34% of the country's area.

The soil cover shows considerable differentiation in terms of both soil grain size composition and occurrence of individual soil types. Brown soils are the most prevalent soil type in the Czech Republic.

* * *

More detailed information is available in other CZSO publications published in accordance with the Catalogue of Publications 2010 in thematic group 1 – COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION, subgroup 13 – Information on regions, towns and municipalities:

- 1301-10 "Population of Municipalities of the Czech Republic, 1 January 2010" (Czech-English) – May 2010
- 1302-10 "Small Lexicon of Municipalities of the Czech Republic 2010" (Czech-English) – December 2010

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

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

or of other institutions at:

- <http://portal.chmi.cz/portal/dt?action=content&provider=JSPTabContainer> – *Czech Hydrometeorological Institute*
- http://www.vugtk.cz/e_index.html – *Research Institute of Geodesy, Topography and Cartography (VUGTK)*

Česká republika v roce 2009
Czech Republic in 2009

Největší obec (k 31. 12.) <i>Largest municipality (31 December)</i>	Praha	1 249 026 obyvatel <i>inhabitants</i>	hlavní město <i>Capital City</i>
Nejmenší obec (k 31. 12.) <i>Smallest municipality (31 December)</i>	Vlkov	18 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>
Nejnižše 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>
Nejnižše 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	274,5 m ¹⁾	okres Přerov <i>Přerov District</i>
Největší národní park <i>Largest national park</i>	Šumava	690,3 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>	Dobřichovice a Libice nad Doubravou 23. 7. 2009	37,0°C	okres Praha-západ a Havlíčkův Brod <i>Praha-západ and Havlíčkův Brod Districts</i>
Nejnižší denní minimální teplota vzduchu <i>Lowest daily minimum air temperature</i>	Adršpach 7. 1. 2009	-28,2°C	okres Náchod <i>Náchod District</i>
Nejvyšší denní úhrn srážek <i>Highest daily precipitation</i>	Běloutín 24. 6. 2009	123,8 mm	okres Přerov <i>Přerov District</i>
Nejvyšší výška sněhové pokrývky <i>Deepest snow cover</i>	Lysá hora 25.–28. 3. 2009	271 cm	okres Frýdek-Místek <i>Frýdek-Místek District</i>

¹⁾ dosud největší potvrzená hloubka

¹⁾ *The deepest chasm recorded*