

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION

The Pardubický Region is located in the eastern part of Bohemia; however, it includes also a northwestern part of the historical territory of Moravia. The position of the Region is further determined by the neighbouring Regions: the Středočeský Region, the Královéhradecký Region, the Olomoucký Region, the Jihomoravský Region, and the Vysočina Region. The Královéhradecký Region, the Liberecký Region, and the Pardubický Region form together the NUTS 2 cohesion region – Severovýchod. 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, respectively, while the fertile 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. The agricultural land makes 59.8% and the arable land makes 43.1% of the total area. The forest land covers 29.8% of the Region's area. The highest point of the Region is the Králícký Sněžník Mount (altitude 1 424 m), which is part of the third highest mountain range in the CR (named also Kralický Sněžník). The central and the top part of the Králícký Sněžník Mountain Range, involving remains of original vegetation and high moor, has been declared a national nature reserve. The lowest point of the Region is the surface of the Labe River at Kojice (altitude 201 m) 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 settlement) 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 highest degree of that impact is seen in the area of concentrated industrial activities, settlement, and traffic. In the area around the city of Pardubice, the environmental damage resulting particularly from chemical and power industry (the Paramo and Synthesia chemical works, the Opatovice power plant and the Chvaletice power plant) is one of the heaviest within the whole CR.

Regarding **water management**, the Pardubický Region is an exceptionally 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 Chrudimka River between Chrudim and Pardubice and the upper course of the Svitava River. The three largest bodies of water 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. The groundwater reservoirs 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); it had 451 municipalities as at 31 December 2017 (it is the sixth highest number of municipalities among the 14 Regions of the CR). The average cadastral area of a municipality (10.0 km²) is the third smallest in the CR; the average mean number of population (1 149 inhabitants per municipality) ranks the Region third lowest in the CR. Of the Region's population, 13.6% live in municipalities under 500 inhabitants. The percentage of population living in municipalities of 500 – 1 999 inhabitants now makes 24.6%. The percentage of population living in municipalities of 2 000 – 9 999 inhabitants is 22.7% in the Region. The percentage of population living in municipalities of over 10 000 inhabitants decreased in the last years and made 39.1% as at 31 December 2017. In the Region's capital Pardubice, 17.4% of the population of the Region live. There are 38 towns in the Pardubický Region, in which 61.7% of the Region's population live. The following towns rank among the most populated: Pardubice, Chrudim, and Svitavy.

The Region's **population** was 518 337 as at 31 December 2017, which is 4.9% of the CR's total population. The Pardubice District is the most populated of the Region, followed by the Ústí nad Orlicí District, the Svitavy District, and the Chrudim District. Regarding the distribution of the population by age in 2017 when compared to 2016, there was a decrease in the 15–64 years age group (-0.7%), while an increase was observed in the 65+ years age group (+2.9%). The number of children under 15 years of age was the highest within the last fifteen years. The ratio of the 65+ years population to that under 15 years of age (the ageing index) amounted to 124.9 in 2017 (in 2016 it was 122.5). The ageing index for females in 2017 was 147.9, while for males it was only 103.2. This difference is caused mainly by a lower mean age of males at death.

The 2017 average registered **number of employees** was 178.1 thousand full-time equivalent (FTE) persons. The **average gross monthly wage** of FTE employees with a workplace in the Pardubický Region amounted

to CZK 26 586 in 2017; it makes 90.1% of the national average (it is the fifth lowest wage behind the Karlovarský Region, the Zlínský Region, the Olomoucký Region and the Jihočeský Region). Regarding the breakdown by economic activity in an inter-regional comparison, the average gross monthly wage of the employed in industry was the fourth lowest in 2016.

The share of the **unemployed persons** (the share of available job applicants aged 15–64 years in the whole population of the same age) was 2.83% as at 31 December 2017 (the fourth lowest among the Regions); it was by 1.21 percentage point lower than in 2016. The highest unemployment rate is reported in the Svitavy District (3.84%). The number of job applicants amounted to 10 152 persons and made 3.6% of the unemployed in the whole CR. The number of available job applicants was 9 485 as at 31 December 2017. Among registered job applicants in the Region, 12.5% are in the age group under 25 years. Females make less than half (48.0%) of the unemployed; handicapped persons make 19.6% of the total number of the unemployed. Regarding educational attainment, most of the job applicants are observed among persons with secondary vocational education (39.5%) and primary education (23.1%). There were 1 job applicant per 2 vacancies in the Region; regarding work positions for handicapped persons, there were 4 job applicants per vacancy.

In 2017, the **gross domestic product** (GDP) per inhabitant was 81.4% of the CR average (by 0.1 percentage point less than in 2016). Services play a decisive role in the Region's GDP, comprising 51.9% of the Region's gross value added. Fundamental is also the industry, the share of which in gross value added of the Region in 2017 was 38.6%. The share of construction amounted to 5.7%.

One of fundamental impacts of the disadvantageous economic development in the Region during the past years was a decline of **housing construction** in 2012–2015. However, in 2017, there was the highest number of started dwellings per 1 000 population in the Pardubický Region within the last eight years. In comparison with the previous year, the number of started dwellings was by 245 dwellings higher in the Region in 2017. The total number of completed dwellings increased by 7.2% in the Region compared to 2016 and the number of completed dwellings per 1 000 population was the seventh highest among the Regions in 2017. The highest number of dwellings within the Region was completed in the Pardubice District (558 dwellings); the lowest number of completed dwellings was in the Svitavy District (150 dwellings).

A favourable position of the Pardubický Region in terms of **transport** is beneficial for its further development. The Region has 539 km of railway tracks; the most important rail nodes are in the city of Pardubice and in the town of Česká Třebová that are part of an international arterial railway connecting 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 has 3 579 km in total, class I roads measure 459 km, and class II roads 913 km. The most important transit flow goes through the Region via the road No I/35 leading from the southeast to the northwest via Moravská Třebová, Svitavy, Litomyšl, Vysoké Mýto, and Holice towards Hradec Králové. The road No I/37 from the north via Pardubice and Chrudim towards Ždírec nad Doubravou is also important. In Chrudim, it meets the road No I/17 leading from Čáslav, via Heřmanův Městec, Hrochův Týnec to Zámrska. There are 9.2 km of the D 11 motorway and 4.2 km of the class II D 35 motorway on the territory of the Region. As for the air transport, an international airport in Pardubice plays a key role providing military and civil air traffic. In terms of water (river) transport, only a short navigable part of the Labe River to Chvaletice is in use; opening of a waterway to the regional capital Pardubice has been postponed. One of the biggest seasonal tourist attractions is a passenger water (river) transport via the Labe River on the route Kunětická – Pardubice – Srnojedy.

Regarding **education**, there were 316 nursery schools in the Pardubický Region in 2017 with 18 387 children enrolled in 774 classes. Other educational establishments comprise: 252 basic schools with 45 746 pupils, 20 grammar schools with 5 944 pupils, 61 secondary schools (including secondary vocational schools) with 14 340 pupils in full-time studies (excluding follow-up courses), and 9 higher professional schools with 673 students in full-time studies. University education in the Region is provided by the University of Pardubice comprising seven faculties. The number of students exceeded ten thousand in the school year 2009/2010. In 2012, the number of students stopped growing and it decreased below 7,5 thousand in 2017.

As for **health care**, the following establishments were in the Pardubický Region in 2017: 8 hospitals (with 2 524 beds), 7 specialised therapeutic institutions (with 1 259 beds), in that 2 therapeutic institutions for long-term patients (with 205 beds) and 145 pharmacies (including detached workplaces of dispensaries of medical aids). Besides the establishments mentioned above, there are 990 independent surgeries of general practitioners (GPs) and specialists and many other independent health establishments in the Region (e.g. establishments run by a person with non-medical university education, independent laboratories, etc.). In 2017, the full-time equivalent number of physicians was 2 104; it was 246 population per physician.

The Pardubický Region has a great potential for the development of **tourism**. One can find there lowlands as well as mountainous landscape, agreeable climate as well as many places suitable for swimming, water sports, hiking, cycling tourism, and winter sports. Especially the following areas are attractive for tourists: northern and eastern part of the Ústí nad Orlicí District – foothills of the Orlické hory mountains, mainly resorts of Buková

hora and Dolní Morava. 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. Partly in the Ústí nad Orlicí District and the Svitavy District there is a favourite tourist spot of Toulouvcovy maštale (a system of sandstone formations and narrow valleys). In 2017, there were 349 collective tourist accommodation establishments with 19 535 beds in the Pardubický Region providing service to 468 thousand guests with the average number of overnight stays amounting to 2.8. The number of collective accommodation establishments, beds in them, and the number of guests in the Pardubický Region belong for a long-term 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) and Muzeum barokních soch (the Museum of Baroque Statues) in the Chrudim District, the State chateau in Slatiňany with its horse museum, the Open-Air Museum Vysočina - museum of folk architecture in Veselý Kopec and adjacent localities of an area around the town of Hlinsko. In the Pardubice District, visitors are attracted especially by the Castle of Pardubice, where one can see exhibits of Východočeské muzeum (the Museum of East Bohemia) and Východočeská galerie (the Gallery of East Bohemia). Interesting for them is also a late Gothic castle at Mount Kunětická, the Baroque Chateau in Choltice and Africké muzeum (the Museum of Africa) in the town of Holic, which is devoted to Dr. Emil Holub, who was a famous traveller born in Holic. Every year, many visitors are coming also to the National Stud Farm in Kladruby nad Labem, which underwent in 2014 and 2015 an expensive reconstruction contributed to by the EU funds. In the Svitavy District, tourists are attracted by the Svojanov Castle or the Litomyšl Chateau (and its grounds), which was inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1999. Its attractiveness was enhanced by revitalization of the whole chateau complex including the "Church of the Discovery of the Holy Cross" and a Regional Museum. The revitalization ranked first in the Gloria Musaealis National Museum Competition in 2014 in the category of "Museum Activity of the Year". In the Ústí nad Orlicí District, ruins of the following castles are well-known: Lanšperk, Litice, and Žampach. In Letohrad, tourists are interested in Muzeum řemesel (the Museum of Crafts), the Chateau, and a newly reconstructed fortress "Orlice". Renovated premises of the Chateau in Nové Hradky near the town of Vysoké Mýto are becoming a tourist landmark. Since 2014, the Museum of Car Bodywork has been located in Vysoké Mýto. Music in the Region is usually connected with famous Komorní filharmonie (the Pardubice Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra) but also Smetanova Litomyšl (the Smetana's Litomyšl festival), the festival of classical (opera) 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 has been holding, besides others, the GRAND Festival of comedies (GRAND Festival smíchu) from 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 Racecourse, where the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase is held, is the best known. Motor sports fans are certain to recall the Golden Helmet Motorcycle Speedway Race (Zlatá přilba České republiky). Moreover, the Pardubický Region ranks on the top regarding other sports, too. As for ice hockey, the extra league team in the city of Pardubice is breeding players of international quality. Basketball teams of the city of Pardubice and the town of Svitavy rank among the best in the Czech National Basketball League. Local tennis courts are frequently recalled by almost every Czech famous tennis player, because the Championship of the Czech Republic, which takes place in Pardubice, is a junior tennis tournament, which opens professional career for the talented youth.

In the end, the following are several facts that made the Pardubický Region unique in comparison to other regions of the CR in 2017:

- the lowest share of long-term unemployed persons (12+ months) in the population aged 15–64 years;
- the lowest share of households with great easy to make ends meet;
- the lowest average gross monthly wage of plant and machine operators and assemblers;
- the highest volume of agricultural output per ha of utilised agricultural area;
- the highest number of born and reared calves per 100 cows;
- the highest average live weight of cattle for slaughter;
- the highest yield of eggs for consumption;
- the highest beef meat production;
- the highest consumption of organic fertilisers per ha of utilised agricultural area;
- the highest share of electricity produced in steam power plants;
- the lowest number of collective accommodation establishments;
- the lowest number of beds in collective accommodation establishments;
- the lowest number of non-residents accommodated in collective accommodation establishments;

- *the second lowest average price per 1 m³ of invoiced water from public water supply systems;*
- *the second lowest average gross monthly wage in industrial enterprises with 100+ employees focusing on manufacture of electrical equipment;*
- *the second highest livestock density of pigs per 100 ha of the arable land;*
- *the second highest production of poultry for slaughter;*
- *the second lowest death loss of calves from born calves;*
- *the second highest share of steam power plants in installed capacity of power plants in the Region;*
- *the second lowest share of non-residents in the number of guests of collective accommodation establishments;*
- *the second lowest number of cases of hospitalised patients per 1 000 population;*
- *the second lowest number of registered criminal offences per 1 000 population;*

- *the third lowest number of induced abortions per 100 births;*
- *the third lowest housing costs per month;*
- *the third highest average price per 1 m³ of discharged wastewater;*
- *the third lowest death loss of piglets from born piglets;*
- *the third highest sales of goods and services incidental to industry per employee*
- *the third highest share of households in net consumption of electricity in the Region;*
- *the third lowest number of residents accommodated in collective accommodation establishments;*
- *the third lowest share of population living in houses connected to public sewerage systems;*
- *the third highest share of the employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing of the total employed (in 2016);*
- *the third lowest number of fires per 1 000 population;*

- *the fourth highest share of arable land in the total area of the Region;*
- *the fourth highest specific emissions of nitrogen oxides (tonnes/km²; REZZO 1–4; in 2016);*
- *the fourth lowest number of abortions per 100 births;*
- *the fourth highest share of households with great difficulty to make ends meet;*
- *the fourth lowest average gross monthly wage of professionals;*
- *the fourth lowest average gross monthly wage of craft and related trades workers;*
- *the fourth highest livestock density of cattle per 100 ha of agricultural area;*
- *the fourth highest consumption of barnyard manure per ha of utilised agricultural area;*
- *the fourth highest share of direct export sales per total sales to industry;*
- *the fourth highest share of electricity produced in hydroelectric power plants;*
- *the fourth lowest percentage of the unemployed persons;*
- *the fourth lowest average amount of old-age pensions of males (without widower's pensions paid simultaneously).*