

2. AREA AND CLIMATE

The Czech Republic is a land-locked country lying in the central part of Europe in the middle of the Northern Temperate Zone of the Northern Hemisphere. Its area of 78 870 km², population of 10 578 820, and population density of 134 inhabitants per 1 km² rank the country 15th, 11th, and 8th among 28 countries of the European Union, respectively (as at 1 January 2017). The country borders make vicinity to Germany (818.9 km), Poland (795.8 km), Austria (460.3 km), and Slovakia (251.8 km). The values come from the latest measurements and are valid as at 31 December 2016.

Since 1 January 2000, the Czech Republic has had a new territorial structure. The former administrative districts have been grouped to make 14 administrative regions, including the Capital City of Praha, which forms a separate Hl. m. Praha Region. Activities of the former 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 to function on 1 January 2003.

The main European watershed separating the basins of the North Sea, Baltic Sea, and the Black Sea passes through the territory of the Czech Republic. The divide node of the three seas is the mountain Klepáč (altitude 1 144 m) located in the massif of Králický Sněžník. The major rivers are the Labe River (369 km) and the Vltava River (433 km) in Bohemia, the Morava River (246 km) and the Dyje River (306 km) in Moravia, and the Odra River (135 km) and the Opava River (131 km) in Silesia and northern Moravia.

Geographically the Czech Republic lies on the boundary of two mountain systems, which differ in age and geological and geomorphological evolution. The western and middle areas 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 its current appearance in the Tertiary Period (the mountain range of Beskydy), projects into the eastern part of the country. The boundary in between the two mountain systems is filled with a belt of valleys.

The climate in 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 climate is strongly influenced by the country altitude and geographical relief: 52 817 km² (66.97%) of the country territory is located at an altitude of up to 500 m, 25 222 km² (31.98%) lies at an altitude in between 500 and 1 000 m, and only 827 km² (1.05%) is 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 intersection of principal directions, in which wild fauna and flora species spread across Europe. Forests, mostly coniferous, cover approximately 34% of the country area.

The soil mantle also features considerable variability in terms of both soil texture composition and occurrence of respective soil types. Brown soils (cambisols) are the most prevalent soil type in the Czech Republic.

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Further data 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:

- <http://portal.chmi.cz/?l=en> – Czech Hydrometeorological Institute
- www.vugtk.cz/en/ – Research Institute of Geodesy, Topography and Cartography (VUGTK)

Zeměpisné zajímavosti České republiky v roce 2016
Geographic features of the Czech Republic in 2016

Zeměpisná zajímavost / Geographic feature		Hodnota/Size	Lokalita/Locality
Největší obec <i>Largest municipality</i>	Praha	1 280 508 obyvatel <i>inhabitants</i>	hlavní město <i>Capital City</i>
Nejmenší obec <i>Smallest municipality</i>	Vysoká Lhota	15 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>
Nejniže 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>
Nejniže položený bod <i>Lowest point</i>	výtok Labe u Hřenska <i>Discharge of the Labe River at 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>	473,5 m ¹⁾	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	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>	433 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	Čechy <i>Bohemia</i>
Největší jezero <i>Largest natural lake</i>	Černé jezero <i>Lake Černé</i>	18,4 ha	pohoří Šumava <i>Šumava Mountains</i>
max. hloubka / <i>maximum depth</i>		39,8 m	
Největší rybník <i>Largest manmade lake</i>	rybník Rožmberk <i>Lake Rožmberk</i>	489 ha	okres Jindřichův Hradec <i>Jindřichův Hradec District</i>
max. hloubka / <i>maximum depth</i>		6,2 m	
Největší přehradní nádrž <i>Largest dam reservoir</i>	přehradní nádrž Lipno <i>Lipno Dam Lake</i>	4 870 ha	pohoří Šumava <i>Šumava Mountains</i>
max. hloubka / <i>maximum depth</i>		20 m	
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>	Brod nad Dyjí, 11. 7. 2016	36,8 °C	okres Břeclav <i>Břeclav District</i>
Nejnižší denní minimální teplota vzduchu <i>Lowest daily minimum air temperature</i>	Rokytská slaf, 22. 1. 2016 <i>Rokytská Peat Bog</i>	-35,3 °C	okres Klatovy <i>Klatovy District</i>
Nejvyšší denní úhrn srážek <i>Highest daily precipitation</i>	Město Albrechtice, Žáry, 31. 5. 2016	145,8 mm	okres Bruntál <i>Bruntál District</i>
Nejvyšší výška sněhové pokrývky <i>Deepest snow cover</i>	Labská bouda, 9. 3. 2016 <i>Labská Chalet</i>	120 cm	okres Trutnov <i>Trutnov District</i>

¹⁾ dosud největší potvrzená hloubka k 27. 9. 2016

¹⁾ The deepest point recorded so far as at 27 September 2016.