



Introduction Czech Republic

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Background:

Following the First World War, the closely related Czechs and Slovaks of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire merged to form Czechoslovakia. During the interwar years, the new country's leaders were frequently preoccupied with meeting the demands of other ethnic minorities within the republic, most notably the Sudeten Germans and the Ruthenians (Ukrainians). After World War II, a truncated Czechoslovakia fell within the Soviet sphere of influence. In 1968, an invasion by Warsaw Pact troops ended the efforts of the country's leaders to liberalize Communist party rule and create "socialism with a human face." Anti-Soviet demonstrations the following year ushered in a period of harsh repression. With the collapse of Soviet authority in 1989, Czechoslovakia regained its freedom through a peaceful "Velvet Revolution." On 1 January 1993, the country underwent a "velvet divorce" into its two national components, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Republic joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004.

Geography Czech Republic

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Location:

Central Europe, southeast of Germany

Geographic coordinates:

49 45 N, 15 30 E

Map references:

Europe

Area:

total: 78,866 sq km

land: 77,276 sq km

water: 1,590 sq km

Area - comparative:

slightly smaller than South Carolina

Land boundaries:

total: 2,290.2 km



border countries: Austria 466.3 km, Germany 810.3 km, Poland 761.8 km, Slovakia 251.8 km



Coastline:



0 km (landlocked)



Maritime claims:



none (landlocked)



Climate:  
temperate; cool summers; cold, cloudy, humid winters

Terrain:  
Bohemia in the west consists of rolling plains, hills, and plateaus surrounded by low mountains; Moravia in the east consists of very hilly country



Elevation extremes:  
lowest point: Elbe River 115 m
highest point: Snezka 1,602 m



Natural resources:  
hard coal, soft coal, kaolin, clay, graphite, timber



Land use:  
arable land: 38.82%
permanent crops: 3%
other: 58.18% (2005)

Irrigated land:  
240 sq km (2003)

Natural hazards:  
flooding

Environment - current issues:  
air and water pollution in areas of northwest Bohemia and in northern Moravia around Ostrava present health risks; acid rain damaging forests; efforts to bring industry up to EU code should improve domestic pollution

Environment - international agreements:  
party to: Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air Pollution-Persistent Organic Pollutants, Air Pollution-Sulfur 85, Air Pollution-Sulfur 94, Air Pollution-Volatile Organic Compounds, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands, Whaling
signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Geography - note:  
landlocked; strategically located astride some of oldest and most significant land routes in Europe; Moravian Gate is a traditional military corridor between the North European Plain and the Danube in central Europe

People

Czech Republic

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Population:   
10,235,455 (July 2006 est.)

Age structure:  

0-14 years: 14.4% (male 755,098/female 714,703)
15-64 years: 71.2% (male 3,656,021/female 3,629,036)
65 years and over: 14.5% (male 576,264/female 904,333) (2006 est.)

Median age:  

total: 39.3 years
male: 37.5 years
female: 41.1 years (2006 est.)

Population growth rate:  



-0.06% (2006 est.)

Birth rate:   



9.02 births/1,000 population (2006 est.)

Death rate:   

10.59 deaths/1,000 population (2006 est.)

Net migration rate:  

0.97 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2006 est.)

Sex ratio:  



at birth: 1.06 male(s)/female
under 15 years: 1.06 male(s)/female
15-64 years: 1.01 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.64 male(s)/female
total population: 0.95 male(s)/female (2006 est.)

Infant mortality rate:   




total: 3.89 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 4.24 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 3.52 deaths/1,000 live births (2006 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:   



total population: 76.22 years
male: 72.94 years
female: 79.69 years (2006 est.)

Total fertility rate:   




1.21 children born/woman (2006 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:   

less than 0.1% (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:   

2,500 (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths:   

less than 10 (2001 est.)

Nationality:  

noun: Czech(s)

adjective: Czech

Ethnic groups:  

Czech 90.4%, Moravian 3.7%, Slovak 1.9%, other 4% (2001 census)

Religions:  

Roman Catholic 26.8%, Protestant 2.1%, other 3.3%, unspecified 8.8%, unaffiliated 59% (2001 census)

Languages:  

Czech

Literacy:  

definition: NA

total population: 99%

male: 99%

female: 99% (2003 est.)

Government **Czech Republic**

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Country name:  

conventional long form: Czech Republic



conventional short form: Czech Republic

local long form: Ceska Republika

local short form: Cesko

Government type:  

parliamentary democracy

Capital:  

name: Prague



geographic coordinates: 40 55 N, 21 00 E

time difference: UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)


daylight saving time: +1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

Administrative divisions:  

13 regions (kraje, singular - kraj) and 1 capital city* (hlavni mesto); Jihocesky Kraj, Jihomoravsky Kraj, Karlovarsky Kraj, Kralovehradecky Kraj, Liberecky Kraj, Moravskoslezsky Kraj, Olomoucky Kraj, Pardubicky Kraj, Plzensky Kraj, Praha (Prague)*, Stredocesky Kraj, Ustecky Kraj, Vysocina, Zlinsky Kraj

Independence:  

1 January 1993 (Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia)

National holiday:  

Czech Founding Day, 28 October (1918)

Constitution:  

ratified 16 December 1992, effective 1 January 1993

Legal system:  

civil law system based on Austro-Hungarian codes; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction; legal code modified to bring it in line with Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) obligations and to expunge Marxist-Leninist legal theory

Suffrage:  

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:  



chief of state: President Vaclav KLAUS (since 7 March 2003)

head of government: Prime Minister Mirek TOPOLANEK (since 9 January 2007), Deputy Prime Minister Petr NECAS (since 9 January 2007), Deputy Prime Minister Jiri CUNEK (since 9 January 2007), Deputy Prime Minister Martin BURSIK (since 9 January 2007), and Deputy Prime Minister Alexandr VONDRA (since 9 January 2007)

cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the president on the recommendation of the prime minister

elections: president elected by Parliament for a five-year term (eligible for a second term); last successful election held 28 February 2003 (after earlier elections held 15 and 24 January 2003 were inconclusive; next election to be held January 2008); prime minister appointed by the president

election results: Vaclav KLAUS elected president on 28 February 2003; Vaclav KLAUS 142 votes, Jan SOKOL 124 votes (third round; combined votes of both chambers of parliament)

Legislative branch:  

bicameral Parliament or Parliament consists of the Senate or Senat (81 seats; members are elected by popular vote to serve six-year terms; one-third elected every two years) and the Chamber of Deputies or Poslanecka Snemovna (200 seats; members are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms)

elections: Senate - last held in two rounds 20-21 and 27-28 October 2006 (next to be held October 2008); Chamber of Deputies - last held 2-3 June 2006 (next to be held by June 2010)

election results: Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - ODS 41, CSSD 12, KDU-CSL 10, others 15, independents 2; Chamber of Deputies - percent of vote by party - ODS 35.4%, CSSD 32.3%, KSCM 12.8%, KDU-CSL 7.2%, Greens 6.3%, other 6%; seats by party - ODS 81, CSSD 74, KSCM 26, KDU-CSL 13, Greens 6

Judicial branch:  

Supreme Court; Constitutional Court; chairman and deputy chairmen are appointed by the president for a 10-year term

Political parties and leaders:  

Association of Independent Candidates-European Democrats or SNK-ED [Jana Hybaskova, chairman]; Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party or KDU-CSL [Jiri CUNEK, chairman]; Civic Democratic Alliance or ODA [Jirina NOVAKOVA,

chairwoman]; Civic Democratic Party or ODS [Mirek TOPOLANEK, chairman]; Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia or KSCM [Vojtech FILIP, chairman]; Czech Social Democratic Party or CSSD [Jiri PAROUBEK, chairman]; Freedom Union-Democratic Union or US-DEU [Jan HADRAVA, chairman]; Green Party [Martin BURSIK, chairman]; Independent Democrats (NEZDEM) [Vladimir ZELEZNY, chairman]; Party of Open Society (SOS) [Pavel NOVACEK, chairman]; Path of Change [Jiri LOBKOWITZ, chairman]

Political pressure groups and leaders:



Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions or CMKOS [Milan STECH]

International organization participation:



ACCT (observer), Australia Group, BIS, BSEC (observer), CE, CEI, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, EIB, ESA (cooperating state), EU, FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICCT (signatory), ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITU, ITUC, MIGA, MONUC, NAM (guest), NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OIF (observer), OPCW, OSCE, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNMEE, UNMIL, UNOMIG, UNWTO, UPU, WCL, WCO, WEU (associate), WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in the US:



chief of mission: Ambassador Petr KOLAR

chancery: 3900 Spring of Freedom Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone: [1] (202) 274-9100

FAX: [1] (202) 966-8540

consulate(s) general: Chicago, Los Angeles, New York

Diplomatic representation from the US:



chief of mission: Ambassador Richard W. GRABER

embassy: Trziste 15, 11801 Prague 1

mailing address: use embassy street address

telephone: [420] 257 022 000

FAX: [420] 257 022 809

Flag description:



two equal horizontal bands of white (top) and red with a blue isosceles triangle based on the hoist side (identical to the flag of the former Czechoslovakia)

Economy

Czech Republic































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Economy - overview:



The Czech Republic is one of the most stable and prosperous of the post-Communist states of Central and Eastern Europe. Growth in 2000-05 was supported by exports to the EU, primarily to Germany, and a strong recovery of foreign and domestic investment. Domestic demand is playing an ever more important role in underpinning growth as

interest rates drop and the availability of credit cards and mortgages increases. The current account deficit has declined to around 3% of GDP as demand for Czech products in the European Union has increased. Inflation is under control. Recent accession to the EU gives further impetus and direction to structural reform. In early 2004 the government passed increases in the Value Added Tax (VAT) and tightened eligibility for social benefits with the intention to bring the public finance gap down to 4% of GDP by 2006, but more difficult pension and healthcare reforms will have to wait until after the next elections. Privatization of the state-owned telecommunications firm Cesky Telecom took place in 2005. Intensified restructuring among large enterprises, improvements in the financial sector, and effective use of available EU funds should strengthen output growth.

GDP (purchasing power parity):	  	\$221.4 billion (2006 est.)
GDP (official exchange rate):	 	\$118.9 billion (2006 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:	  	6.2% (2006 est.)
GDP - per capita (PPP):	  	\$21,600 (2006 est.)
GDP - composition by sector:	 	<i>agriculture</i> : 2.8% <i>industry</i> : 37.8% <i>services</i> : 59.4% (2006 est.)
Labor force:	  	5.31 million (2006 est.)
Labor force - by occupation:	 	<i>agriculture</i> : 4.1% <i>industry</i> : 37.6% <i>services</i> : 58.3% (2003)
Unemployment rate:	  	8.4% (2006 est.)
Population below poverty line:	 	NA%
Household income or consumption by percentage share:	 	<i>lowest 10%</i> : 4.3% <i>highest 10%</i> : 22.4% (1996)
Distribution of family income - Gini index:	 	27.3 (2003)
Inflation rate	  	

(consumer prices):	2.7% (2006 est.)
Investment (gross fixed):	   26.2% of GDP (2006 est.)
Budget:	  <i>revenues:</i> \$57.88 billion <i>expenditures:</i> \$62.53 billion; including capital expenditures of \$NA (2006 est.)
Public debt:	   29.1% of GDP (2006 est.)
Agriculture - products:	  wheat, potatoes, sugar beets, hops, fruit; pigs, poultry
Industries:	  metallurgy, machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, glass, armaments
Industrial production growth rate:	   9.5% (2006 est.)
Electricity - production:	   79.14 billion kWh (2004)
Electricity - consumption:	   58.8 billion kWh (2004)
Electricity - exports:	  24.6 billion kWh (2004)
Electricity - imports:	  9.8 billion kWh (2004)
Oil - production:	   15,240 bbl/day (2005)
Oil - consumption:	   203,100 bbl/day (2004 est.)
Oil - exports:	   26,670 bbl/day (2001)
Oil - imports:	   182,000 bbl/day (2004)
Oil - proved reserves:	   17.25 million bbl (1 January 2002)
Natural gas - production:	   216 million cu m (2004 est.)
Natural gas -	  

consumption:	9.6 billion cu m (2004 est.)
Natural gas - exports:	88 million cu m (2004 est.)
Natural gas - imports:	8.815 billion cu m (2004 est.)
Natural gas - proved reserves:	3.964 billion cu m (1 January 2005 est.)
Current account balance:	\$-4.352 billion (2006 est.)
Exports:	\$89.34 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)
Exports - commodities:	machinery and transport equipment 52%, chemicals 5%, raw materials and fuel 9% (2003)
Exports - partners:	Germany 33.5%, Slovakia 8.7%, Austria 5.5%, Poland 5.5%, France 5.3%, UK 4.6%, Italy 4.3% (2005)
Imports:	\$87.7 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)
Imports - commodities:	machinery and transport equipment 46%, raw materials and fuels 15%, chemicals 10% (2003)
Imports - partners:	Germany 30%, Russia 5.7%, Slovakia 5.4%, China 5.1%, Poland 5%, Italy 4.8%, France 4.5%, Netherlands 4% (2005)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:	\$30.99 billion (2006 est.)
Debt - external:	\$50.2 billion (30 June 2006 est.)
Economic aid - recipient:	\$2.4 billion in available EU structural adjustment and cohesion funds (2004-06)
Currency (code):	Czech koruna (CZK)
Exchange rates:	koruny per US dollar - 22.3072 (2006), 23.957 (2005), 25.7 (2004), 28.209 (2003), 32.739 (2002)
Fiscal year:	

Communications Czech Republic**Telephones - main lines in use:**

3,217,300 (2005)

Telephones - mobile cellular:

11.776 million (2005)

Telephone system:

general assessment: privatization and modernization of the Czech telecommunication system got a late start but is advancing steadily; growth in the use of mobile cellular telephones is particularly vigorous
domestic: 86% of exchanges now digital; existing copper subscriber systems now being enhanced with Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) equipment to accommodate Internet and other digital signals; trunk systems include fiber-optic cable and microwave radio relay
international: country code - 420; satellite earth stations - 2 Intersputnik (Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions), 1 Intelsat, 1 Eutelsat, 1 Inmarsat, 1 Globalstar

Radio broadcast stations:

AM 31, FM 304, shortwave 17 (2000)

Television broadcast stations:

150 (plus 1,434 repeaters) (2000)

Internet country code:

.cz

Internet hosts:

1,267,265 (2006)

Internet users:

5.1 million (2005)

Transportation Czech Republic**Airports:**

121 (2006)

Airports - with paved runways:



total: 46
over 3,047 m: 2
2,438 to 3,047 m: 10
1,524 to 2,437 m: 13
914 to 1,523 m: 2
under 914 m: 19 (2006)




Airports - with unpaved runways:




total: 75
1,524 to 2,437 m: 1




914 to 1,523 m: 25
under 914 m: 49 (2006)




Heliports:  
2 (2006)

Pipelines:  
gas 7,010 km; oil 547 km; refined products 94 km (2006)

Railways:   
total: 9,572 km
standard gauge: 9,473 km 1.435-m gauge (2,951 km electrified)
narrow gauge: 99 km 0.760-m gauge (2005)

Roadways:   
total: 127,747 km
paved: 127,747 km (including 518 km of expressways) (2003)

Waterways:   
664 km (principally on Elbe as well as Vltava and Oder rivers) (2005)



Merchant marine:   
registered in other countries: 1 (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 1)
(2006)



Ports and terminals:  
Decin, Prague, Usti nad Labem

Military



Czech Republic


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Military branches:  
Army of the Czech Republic (ACR): Joint Forces Command (includes air forces), Support and Training Forces Command (2006)

Military service age and obligation:  
18-50 years of age for voluntary military service; on-going transformation of military service into a fully professional, all-volunteer force no longer dependent on conscription began in January 2004 and is scheduled to be completed by 2007 (2005)

Manpower available for military service:  
males age 18-49: 2,414,728
females age 18-49: 2,329,412 (2005 est.)

Manpower fit for military service:  
males age 18-49: 1,996,631
females age 18-49: 1,923,508 (2005 est.)

Manpower reaching military service age annually:  
males age 18-49: 66,583
females age 18-49: 63,363 (2005 est.)



Military expenditures -   

percent of GDP: 1.81% FY05

**Transnational
Issues**

Czech Republic

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**Disputes -
international:**  

in February 2005, the ICJ refused to rule on the restitution of Liechtenstein's land and property assets in the Czech Republic confiscated in 1945 as German property; individual Sudeten Germans seek restitution for property confiscated in connection with their expulsion from Czechoslovakia after World War II; Austrian anti-nuclear activists have revived blockades of the Czech-Austrian border to protest operation of the Temelin nuclear power plant in the Czech Republic

Illicit drugs:  

transshipment point for Southwest Asian heroin and minor transit point for Latin American cocaine to Western Europe; producer of synthetic drugs for local and regional markets; susceptible to money laundering related to drug trafficking, organized crime

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