**Dva texty z Wikipedie (upravené); str. 1 – 10 delší verze; str. 11 – 14 kratší verze**

**Czech Republic**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ethnic groups** (2011[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-4)) | * 63.7% [Czechs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czechs)
* 4.9% [Moravians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravians_%28ethnic_group%29)
* 1.4% [Slovaks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovaks)
* 29.9% [others / unspecified](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_Czech_Republic#Officially_recognized_minorities)
 |
| **Religion** | * 80% Non-declared or non-religious
* 10.3% Roman Catholic
 |
| [**Government**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_the_Czech_Republic) | [Parliamentary republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_republic) |
|  -  | [President](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_Czech_Republic) | [Miloš Zeman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milo%C5%A1_Zeman) |
| **Legislature** | [Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_the_Czech_Republic) |
|  -  | [Upper house](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_house) | [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_the_Parliament_of_the_Czech_Republic) |
|  -  | [Lower house](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_house) | [Chamber of Deputies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chamber_of_Deputies_of_the_Parliament_of_the_Czech_Republic) |
| [**Formation**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Czech_Lands) |
|  -  | [Czechoslovakia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czechoslovakia) | 28 October 1918  |
|  -  | [Czech Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dissolution_of_Czechoslovakia) | 1 January 1993  |
| [**Population**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_Czech_Republic) |
|  -  | Sep 2012 estimate | 10,513,209[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-5) ([81st](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population)) |
| **Currency** | [Czech koruna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_koruna) ([CZK](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_4217)) |
| **Time zone** | [CET](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_European_Time) ([UTC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinated_Universal_Time)+1) |

The **Czech Republic** is a [landlocked](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landlocked) country in Central Europe. The country is bordered by [Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany) to the west, [Austria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria) to the south, [Slovakia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovakia) to the east and [Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland) to the north. Its capital and largest city, with 1.3 million inhabitants, is [Prague](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prague). The Czech Republic includes the historical territories of [Bohemia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemia) and [Moravia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravia) and a small part of [Silesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silesia).

**Etymology**

The name comes from the Slavic tribe (Czechs, [Czech](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_language): *Čechové*) and, according to legend, their leader [Čech](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lech%2C_%C4%8Cech%2C_and_Rus), who brought them to Bohemia, to settle on [Říp Mountain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%98%C3%ADp_Mountain).

Following the dissolution of Czechoslovakia at the end of 1992, the Czech part of the former nation found itself without a common single-word name in English. In 1993, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs suggested the name **Czechia** [/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[ˈtʃɛkiə](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English) (*Česko* Czech pronunciation: [[ˈtʃɛsko]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_Czech_and_Slovak) in Czech) as an official alternative in all situations other than formal official documents and the full names of government institutions; however, this has not become widespread in English.

**Politics[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=7)**]**

The Czech Republic is a pluralist multi-party [parliamentary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system) [representative democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representative_democracy), with the [Prime Minister](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Prime_Ministers_of_the_Czech_Republic) as [head of government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_government). The [Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_the_Czech_Republic) (*Parlament České republiky*) is bicameral, with the [Chamber of Deputies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chamber_of_Deputies_of_the_Czech_Republic) ([Czech](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_language): *Poslanecká sněmovna*) (200 members) and the [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_the_Czech_Republic) ([Czech](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_language): *Senát*) (81 members).

The [President of the Czech Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_Czech_Republic) was being selected by a joint session of the parliament for a five-year term, with no more than two consecutive terms. This system was practised between years 1993–2012. Since 2013 the presidential election is direct. The president is a formal [head of state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_state) with limited specific powers, most importantly to return bills to the parliament, nominate [constitutional court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_court) judges for the Senate's approval and dissolve the parliament under certain special and unusual circumstances. He also appoints the prime minister, as well the other members of the cabinet on a proposal by the prime minister. From 2013 on, the president is elected by the public, not the parliament.[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-36) [Miloš Zeman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milo%C5%A1_Zeman) was the first [directly elected](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two-round_system) Czech President.

The Prime Minister is the head of government and wields considerable powers, including the right to set the agenda for most foreign and domestic policy, mobilize the parliamentary majority and choose government ministers.

The members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected for a four-year term by [proportional representation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proportional_representation), with a 5% [election threshold](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Election_threshold). There are 14 voting districts, identical to the country's administrative regions. The Chamber of Deputies, the successor to the [Czech National Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_National_Council), has the powers and responsibilities of the now defunct federal parliament of the former Czechoslovakia.

The members of the Senate are elected in single-seat [constituencies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constituency) by two-round [runoff voting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two-round_system) for a six-year term, with one-third elected every even year in the autumn. The first election was in 1996, for differing terms. This arrangement is modeled on the [U.S. Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate), but each constituency is roughly the same size and the voting system used is a two-round runoff. The Senate is unpopular among the public and suffers from low election turnout, overall roughly 30% in the first round and 20% in the second.

**Foreign relations[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=8)**]**

Membership in the European Union is central in Czech Republic's foreign policy. The Czech Republic held the [Presidency of the Council of the European Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidency_of_the_Council_of_the_European_Union) for the first half of 2009.

Czech officials have supported dissenters in [Burma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burma), [Belarus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belarus), [Moldova](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moldova) and [Cuba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba).[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-democrats-37)

tanks [T-72](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T-72) (T-72M4CZ).

**Administrative divisions[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=10)**]**

*See also:* [*Regions of the Czech Republic*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions_of_the_Czech_Republic)*and* [*Districts of the Czech Republic*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_the_Czech_Republic)

Since 2000, the Czech Republic is divided into [thirteen regions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_regions_of_the_Czech_Republic) ([Czech](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_language): [*kraje*, singular *kraj*](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/en%3Akraj#Czech)) and the capital city of [Prague](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prague). Each region has its own elected Regional Assembly (*krajské zastupitelstvo*) and *hejtman* (usually translated as [hetman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hetman) or "president"). In Prague, their powers are executed by the city council and the mayor.

## Geography[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=11)]

The Czech Republic lies mostly between latitudes [48°](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/48th_parallel_north) and [51° N](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/51st_parallel_north) (a small area lies north of 51°), and longitudes [12°](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/12th_meridian_east) and [19° E](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/19th_meridian_east).

The Czech landscape is exceedingly varied. Bohemia, to the west, consists of a basin drained by the [Elbe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbe) ([Czech](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_language): *Labe*) and the Vltava (or Moldau) rivers, surrounded by mostly low mountains, such as the [Krkonoše](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krkono%C5%A1e) range of the [Sudetes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudetes). The highest point in the country, [Sněžka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sn%C4%9B%C5%BEka) at 1,602 m (5,256 ft), is located here. [Moravia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravia), the eastern part of the country, is also quite hilly. It is drained mainly by the [Morava River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morava_River), but it also contains the source of the [Oder River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oder_River) ([Czech](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_language): *Odra*).

Water from the landlocked Czech Republic flows to three different seas: the [North Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Sea), [Baltic Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltic_Sea) and [Black Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Sea). The Czech Republic also leases the [Moldauhafen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moldauhafen), a 30,000-square-metre (7.4-acre) [lot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lot_%28real_estate%29) in the middle of the [Hamburg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamburg) Docks, which was awarded to Czechoslovakia by Article 363 of the [Treaty of Versailles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Versailles), to allow the landlocked country a place where goods transported down river could be transferred to seagoing ships. The territory reverts to Germany in 2028.

There are four [national parks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_park) in the Czech Republic. The oldest is [Krkonoše National Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krkono%C5%A1e_National_Park) ([Biosphere Reserve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biosphere_Reserve)), [Šumava National Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%A0umava_National_Park) (Biosphere Reserve), [Podyjí National Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podyj%C3%AD_National_Park), [Bohemian Switzerland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian_Switzerland).

### Climate

The Czech Republic has a temperate [continental climate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_climate), with relatively hot summers and cold, cloudy and snowy winters. The temperature difference between summer and winter is relatively high, due to the landlocked geographical position.[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-39)

At the highest peak of [Sněžka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sn%C4%9B%C5%BEka) (1,602 m or 5,256 ft), the average temperature is only −0.4 °C (31 °F), whereas in the lowlands of the [South Moravian Region](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Moravian_Region), the average temperature is as high as 10 °C (50 °F). The country's capital, [Prague](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prague), has a similar average temperature, although this is influenced by urban factors.

## Economy[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=13)]

The Czech Republic is part of the EU single market and the [Schengen Area](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schengen_Area).

[Škoda Auto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%A0koda_Auto) is one of the largest car manufacturers in Central Europe. In 2012, sold a record number of 949,000 cars and said it aimed to double sales by 2018

The Czech Republic possesses a developed,[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-44) [high-income](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_income_economy)[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-45) economy with a per capita GDP rate that is 80% of the European Union average.[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-46) One of the most stable and prosperous of the post-Communist states, the Czech Republic saw growth of over 6% annually in the three years before the outbreak of the [recent global economic crisis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late-2000s_financial_crisis). Growth has been led by exports to the European Union, especially Germany, and foreign investment, while domestic demand is reviving.

Most of the economy has been privatised, including the banks and telecommunications. A 2009 survey in cooperation with the Czech Economic Association found that the majority of Czech economists favor continued liberalization in most sectors of the economy.[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-47)

Although the country is economically better positioned than other EU Members to adopt the euro, the change is not expected before 2019, due to political reluctance on the matter.[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-49)

### Energy[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=14)]

[Nuclear power](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_power) presently provides about 30 percent of the total power needs, its share is projected to increase to 40 percent. In 2005, 65.4 percent of electricity was produced by steam and combustion power plants (mostly coal); 30 percent by [nuclear plants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_power); and 4.6 percent from renewable sources, including hydropower. The largest Czech power resource is [Temelín Nuclear Power Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temel%C3%ADn_Nuclear_Power_Station), other [nuclear power plant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_power_plant) is in [Dukovany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dukovany_Nuclear_Power_Station).

The Czech Republic is reducing its dependence on highly polluting low-grade [brown coal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lignite) as a source of energy. Natural gas is procured from Russian [Gazprom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gazprom), roughly three-fourths of domestic consumption and from [Norwegian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norway) companies, which make up most of the remaining one-fourth. Russian gas is imported via Ukraine ([Druzhba pipeline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Druzhba_pipeline)), Norwegian gas is transported through Germany. Gas consumption (approx. 100 TWh in 2003–2005) is almost double electricity consumption. South Moravia has small [oil and gas deposits](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_and_gas_deposits_in_the_Czech_Republic).

### Transportation infrastructure[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=15)]

[Václav Havel Airport Prague](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V%C3%A1clav_Havel_Airport_Prague)

[Václav Havel Airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V%C3%A1clav_Havel_Airport_Prague) in Prague is the main international airport in the country. In 2010, it handled 11.6 million passengers, which makes it the [busiest airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_the_busiest_airports_in_Europe) in Central and Eastern Europe. In total, Czech Republic has [46 airports](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_airports_in_the_Czech_Republic) with paved runways, six of which provide international air services in [Brno](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brno), [Karlovy Vary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karlovy_Vary), [Mošnov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mo%C5%A1nov) (near [Ostrava](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostrava)), [Pardubice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pardubice), Prague and [Kunovice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunovice_%28Uhersk%C3%A9_Hradi%C5%A1t%C4%9B_District%29) (near [Uherské Hradiště](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uhersk%C3%A9_Hradi%C5%A1t%C4%9B)).

The road network in the Czech Republic is 55,653 km (34,581.17 mi) long.[[53]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-53) and 738,4 km of motorways and 439,1 km of expressways.[[54]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-54) The [speed limit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speed_limits_by_country) is 50 km/h within towns, 90 km/h outside of towns and 130 km/h on expressways.

### Communications[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=16)]

The Czech Republic ranks in the top 10 countries worldwide with the fastest average internet speed.[[55]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-55) The Czech Republic has the most [Wi-Fi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wi-Fi) subscribers in the European Union.[[56]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-56)[[57]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-57)

[Academy of Sciences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_of_Sciences_of_the_Czech_Republic) building in Prague

The Czech lands have a long and rich scientific tradition. The research based on cooperation between [universities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_universities_in_the_Czech_Republic), [Academy of Sciences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_of_Sciences_of_the_Czech_Republic) and specialised research centers brings new inventions and impulses in this area. Important inventions include the modern [contact lens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contact_lens), the separation of modern [blood types](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_type), and the production of the [Semtex](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semtex) [plastic explosive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plastic_explosive). Prominent scientists who lived and worked in historically Czech lands include:

* [John Amos Comenius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Amos_Comenius) (1592–1670), teacher, educator and the founder of modern education.[[60]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-science1-60)
* [Václav Prokop Diviš](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V%C3%A1clav_Prokop_Divi%C5%A1) (1698–1765), inventor of the first grounded [lightning rod](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lightning_rod).
* [Bernard Bolzano](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_Bolzano) (1781–1848), noted mathematician, logician, philosopher, and pacifist.
* [Jan Evangelista Purkyně](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Evangelista_Purkyn%C4%9B) (1787–1869), anatomist and physiologist responsible for the discovery of [Purkinje cells](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purkinje_cells), [Purkinje fibres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purkinje_fibres) and [sweat glands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweat_gland), as well as [Purkinje images](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purkinje_images) and the [Purkinje shift](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purkinje_effect).
* [Josef Ressel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_Ressel) (1793–1857), inventor of the [screw propeller](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propeller) and [modern compass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compass#Modern_compasses).[[60]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-science1-60)
* [Jakub Kryštof Rad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jakub_Kry%C5%A1tof_Rad) (1799–1871), inventor of the [sugar cubes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugar).
* [Gregor Mendel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregor_Mendel) (1822–1884), often called the "*father of* [*genetics*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetics)", is famed for his research concerning the inheritance of genetic traits.[[60]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-science1-60)
* [Jakub Husník](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jakub_Husn%C3%ADk) (1837–1916), inventor of the improved [photolithography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photolithography).
* [Karel Klíč](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karel_Kl%C3%AD%C4%8D) (1841–1926), painter and photographer, inventor of the [photogravure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photogravure).
* [František Křižík](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franti%C5%A1ek_K%C5%99i%C5%BE%C3%ADk) (1847–1941), electrical engineer, inventor of the [arc lamp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arc_lamp).
* [Jan Janský](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Jansk%C3%BD) (1873–1921), serologist and neurologist, discovered classification of blood into the four types.
* [Bedřich Hrozný](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bed%C5%99ich_Hrozn%C3%BD) (1879–1952), deciphered the [Hittite language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hittite_language).[[60]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-science1-60)
* [Josef Čapek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_%C4%8Capek) (1887–1945) and [Karel Čapek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karel_%C4%8Capek) (1890–1938), brothers who originated the word [robot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robot).
* [František Burian](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Franti%C5%A1ek_Burian&action=edit&redlink=1) and [Arnold Jirásek](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Arnold_Jir%C3%A1sek&action=edit&redlink=1), founded the first [plastic surgery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plastic_surgery) in 1927.[[61]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-61)
* [Jaroslav Heyrovský](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaroslav_Heyrovsk%C3%BD) (1890–1967), inventor of the [polarography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polarography), [electroanalytical chemistry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Analytical_chemistry) and recipient of the Nobel Prize.[[60]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-science1-60)
* [Oldřich Homuta](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Old%C5%99ich_Homuta&action=edit&redlink=1), inventor of [Remoska](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remoska) owen in 1957.
* [Otto Wichterle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_Wichterle) (1913–1998) and [Drahoslav Lím](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drahoslav_L%C3%ADm) (1925–2003), Czech [chemists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemist) responsible for the invention of the modern [contact lens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contact_lens) and silon ([Synthetic fiber](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synthetic_fiber)).[[62]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-62)
* [Stanislav Brebera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanislav_Brebera) (1925–2012), inventor of the [plastic explosive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plastic_explosive) [Semtex](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semtex) in 1966.[[63]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-63)
* [Ladislav Mareš](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ladislav_Mare%C5%A1&action=edit&redlink=1), inventor of the first machine producing [nanofibres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanofiber), "Nanospider".[[64]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-64)
* [Antonín Holý](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton%C3%ADn_Hol%C3%BD) (1936–2012), scientist and chemist, in 2009 was involved in creation of the most effective drug in the treatment of AIDS.[[65]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-65)

A number of other scientists are also connected in some way with the Czech Lands, including astronomers [Johannes Kepler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johannes_Kepler) and [Tycho Brahe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tycho_Brahe), the founder of the [psychoanalytic school](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychoanalytic_school) of psychiatry [Sigmund Freud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigmund_Freud), physicists [Christian Doppler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Doppler), [Ernst Mach](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernst_Mach), [Nikola Tesla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikola_Tesla), [Albert Einstein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Einstein), engineer [Viktor Kaplan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viktor_Kaplan) and logician [Kurt Gödel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurt_G%C3%B6del).

### Tourism[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=18)]

Since [the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutions_of_1989), Prague has become one of the most visited cities in Europe

The Czech economy gets a substantial income from tourism. In 2011, Prague was the sixth most visited city in Europe.[[66]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-66) In 2001, the total earnings from tourism reached 118.13 billion [CZK](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_koruna), making up 5.5% of [GNP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Measures_of_national_income_and_output) and 9.3% of overall export earnings. The industry employs more than 110,000 people – over 1% of the population.[[67]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-67) The country's reputation has suffered with guidebooks and tourists reporting overcharging by taxi drivers and pickpocketing problems mainly in Prague.[[68]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-radio-68)[[69]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-indy-69) Since 2005, Prague's mayor, [Pavel Bém](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pavel_B%C3%A9m), has worked to improve this reputation by cracking down on petty crime[[69]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-indy-69) and, aside from these problems, Prague is a safe city.[[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-70) Also, the Czech Republic as a whole generally has a low crime rate.[[71]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-71) For tourists, the Czech Republic is considered a safe destination to visit. The low crime rate makes most cities and towns safe to walk around even after dark.

There are several centres of tourist activity. The spa towns, such as [Karlovy Vary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karlovy_Vary), [Mariánské Lázně](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mari%C3%A1nsk%C3%A9_L%C3%A1zn%C4%9B) and [Františkovy Lázně](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franti%C5%A1kovy_L%C3%A1zn%C4%9B), are particularly popular relaxing holiday destinations.[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] Architectural heritage is another object of visitor´s interest - it includes many [castles and chateaux](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_castles_in_the_Czech_Republic) from different historical epoques, namely [Karlštejn Castle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl%C5%A1tejn), [Český Krumlov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%8Cesk%C3%BD_Krumlov) and the [Lednice–Valtice area](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lednice%E2%80%93Valtice_Cultural_Landscape). There are 12 [cathedrals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cathedrals_in_the_Czech_Republic) and 15 churches elevated to the rank of [basilica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minor_basilica) by the Pope, calm monasteries, many modern and ancient churches - for example [Pilgrimage Church of Saint John of Nepomuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilgrimage_Church_of_Saint_John_of_Nepomuk) is one of those inscribed on the World Heritage List. Away from the towns, areas such as [Český ráj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian_Paradise), [Šumava](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian_Forest) and the [Krkonoše Mountains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krkono%C5%A1e) attract visitors seeking outdoor pursuits.

The country is also known for its various [museums](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_museums_in_the_Czech_Republic), very popular are [puppetry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puppeteer) and [marionettes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marionette) exhibitions with a number of puppet [festivals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theatre_festival) throughout the country.[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] Aquapalace Praha in [Čestlice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%8Cestlice) near Prague, is the biggest [water park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_park) in central Europe.[[72]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-72)

The Czech Republic has a number of [beer festivals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beer_festival), including: [Czech Beer Festival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Beer_Festival) (the biggest [Czech beer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_beer) festival, it is 17 days long and held every year in May in Prague), [Pilsner Fest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilsner_Fest) (every year in August in [Plzeň](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plze%C5%88)), The "Olomoucký pivní festival" (in [Olomouc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olomouc)) or festival "Slavnosti piva v Českých Budějovicích" (in [České Budějovice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%8Cesk%C3%A9_Bud%C4%9Bjovice)).

Demographics

According to preliminary results of the 2011 census, the majority of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic are [Czechs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czechs) (63.7%), followed by [Moravians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravians_%28ethnic_group%29) (4.9%), [Slovaks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovaks) (1.4%), [Poles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poles) (0.4%), [Germans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germans) (0.2%) and [Silesians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silesians) (0.1%). As the 'nationality' was an optional item, a substantial number of people left this field blank (26.0%).[[76]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-76) According to some estimates, there are about 250,000 [Romani people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romani_people) in the Czech Republic.[[77]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-77)[[78]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-78)

There were 436,116 foreigners residing in the country in October 2009, according to the Czech Interior Ministry,[[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-czso.cz-79) with the largest groups being Ukrainian (132,481), Slovak (75,210), Vietnamese (61,102), Russian (29,976), Polish (19,790), German (14,156), Moldovan (10,315), Bulgarian (6,346), Mongolian (5,924), American (5,803), Chinese (5,314), British (4,461), Belarusian (4,441), Serbian (4,098), Romanian (4,021), Kazakh (3,896), Austrian (3,114), Italian (2,580), Dutch (2,553), French (2,356), Croatian (2,351), Bosnian (2,240), Armenian (2,021), Uzbek (1,969), Macedonian (1,787) and Japanese (1,581).[[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-czso.cz-79)

The [Jewish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_the_Czech_Republic) population of Bohemia and Moravia, 118,000 according to the 1930 census, was virtually annihilated by the Nazi Germans during [the Holocaust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Holocaust).[[80]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-80) There were approximately 4,000 Jews in the Czech Republic in 2005.

 Estimates of Czech [fertility rate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_fertility_rate) in 2012 are among the lowest in the world at 1.27 children per woman.[[83]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-83) Immigration increased the population by almost 1% in 2007.

At the turn of the 20th century, Chicago was the city with the third largest Czech population,[[88]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-88) after [Prague](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prague) and [Vienna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna).[[89]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-89) According to the 2006 US census, there are 1,637,218 Americans of full or partial [Czech](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_American) descent.[[90]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-90)

### Religion[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=20)]

*Main article:* [*Religion in the Czech Republic*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_the_Czech_Republic)

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| **Religion in the Czech Republic (2011)**[[91]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-Czech_Statistical_Office-91) |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Undeclared |    | 45.2% |
| Irreligion |    | 34.2% |
| Roman Catholicism |    | 10.3% |
| Other religions |    | 9.4% |
| Protestantism |    | 0.8% |

The Czech Republic has one of the least religious populations in the world. Historically, the Czech people have been characterised as "tolerant and even indifferent towards religion".[[92]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-92) According to the 2011 census, 34.2% of the population stated they had no religion, 10.3% was Roman Catholic, 0.8% was [Protestant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestant) (0.5% [Czech Brethren](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Church_of_Czech_Brethren) and 0.4% [Hussite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussite_Church)), and 9.4% followed other forms of religion both denominational or not (of which 863 people answered they are [Pagan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neopaganism)) 45.2% of the population did not answer the question about religion.[[91]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-Czech_Statistical_Office-91)

According to a [Eurobarometer Poll](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurobarometer) in 2010,[[94]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-EUROBAROMETER-94) 16% of Czech citizens responded that "they believe there is a God" (the lowest rate among the countries of the European Union),[[95]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-95) whereas 44% answered that "they believe there is some sort of spirit or life force" and 37% said that "they do not believe there is any sort of spirit, God or life force".

## Culture[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=21)]

### Music[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=22)]

*Main article:* [*Music of the Czech Republic*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_the_Czech_Republic)

Music in the Czech lands has its roots in more than 1,000-year old [sacred music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacred_music). The first surviving references [Lord, Have Mercy on Us](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord%2C_Have_Mercy_on_Us) come from the end of the 10th century and in the [traditional](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_music) folk music of [Bohemia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemia), [Moravia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravia) and [Silesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silesia) and in the long-term high-culture classical music tradition. Since the early eras of artificial music, Czech musicians and composers have often been influenced by genuine folk music. Notable Czech composers include [Antonín Dvořák](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton%C3%ADn_Dvo%C5%99%C3%A1k), [Bedřich Smetana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bed%C5%99ich_Smetana), [Gustav Mahler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav_Mahler) (he was born and grew up in the Czech lands), [Adam Michna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Michna), [Jan Dismas Zelenka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Dismas_Zelenka), [Josef Mysliveček](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_Myslive%C4%8Dek), [Leoš Janáček](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo%C5%A1_Jan%C3%A1%C4%8Dek), [Josef Suk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josef_Suk_%28composer%29), [Bohuslav Martinů](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohuslav_Martin%C5%AF), [Erwin Schulhoff](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erwin_Schulhoff) and [Petr Eben](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petr_Eben).

### Literature[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=23)]

*Main article:* [*Czech literature*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_literature)

[Czech literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_literature) is the literature written by [Czechs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czechs), mostly in the [Czech language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_language), although other languages like [Old Church Slavonic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Church_Slavonic), [Latin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin) or German have been also used, especially in the past. Non-Czech inhabitants of the [Czech lands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_lands) who had written in German and other languages, such as [Franz Kafka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_Kafka), are usually excluded from the corpus of Czech literature, regardless of their own national self-identification.[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)]

A famous antiwar comedy novel [*The Good Soldier Švejk*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Good_Soldier_%C5%A0vejk) by [Jaroslav Hašek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaroslav_Ha%C5%A1ek) is the most translated Czech book in history..

### Art[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=26)]

The Czech Republic is known worldwide for its individually made, mouth blown and decorated art glass and crystal. One of the best Czech painter and decorative artist was [Alphonse Mucha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alphonse_Mucha) (1860–1939) mainly known for [art nouveau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_nouveau) posters and his cycle of 20 large canvases named [The Slav Epic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Slav_Epic), which depicts the history of Czechs and other [Slavic peoples](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavic_peoples). [The Slav Epic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Slav_Epic) can be since 2012 seen in Veletržní Palace of [National Gallery in Prague](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Gallery_in_Prague), which manages the largest collection of art in the Czech Republic.

### Cuisine[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=27)]

Czech cuisine is marked by a strong emphasis on meat dishes. Pork is quite common; beef and chicken are also popular. Goose, duck, rabbit and wild game are served. Fish is rare, with the occasional exception of fresh [trout](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trout) and [carp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carp), which is served at Christmas.

[Czech beer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_beer) has a long and important history. The first brewery is known to have existed in 1118 and the Czech Republic has the highest [beer consumption per capita](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_beer_consumption_per_capita) in the world. The famous [Pilsener](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilsener) style [beer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beer_in_Czech_Republic) originated in the western Bohemian city of [Plzeň](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plze%C5%88), and further south the town of [České Budějovice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%8Cesk%C3%A9_Bud%C4%9Bjovice), known as Budweis in German, lent its name to its beer, eventually known as [Budweiser Budvar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budweiser_Budvar).

Unique Czech dishes include roast pork with bread dumplings and stewed cabbage *Vepřo-knedlo-zelo*, roast sirloin beef with steamed dumplings and cream-of-vegetable sauce [*Svíčková na smetaně*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sv%C3%AD%C4%8Dkov%C3%A1_na_smetan%C4%9B), tomato sauce *Rajská* or dill sauce *Koprovka*, roast duck with bread or potato dumplings and braised red cabbage, a variety of beef and pork goulash stews [*Guláš*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gul%C3%A1%C5%A1), fried cheese [*Smažák*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sma%C5%BEen%C3%BD_s%C3%BDr) or the famous potato pancakes [*Bramboráky*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brambor%C3%A1ky), besides a large variety of delicate local sausages, wurst, pâtés and smoked meats and other traditional local foods. Czech desserts include a wide variety of whipped cream, chocolate and fruit pastries and tarts, crepes, creme desserts and cheese, poppy seed filled and other types of traditional cakes [*buchty*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buchteln) and [*koláče*](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kol%C3%A1%C4%8D&action=edit&redlink=1).

### Sports[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Czech_Republic&action=edit&section=28)]

Sports play a part in the life of many Czechs, who are generally loyal supporters of their favorite teams or individuals. The three leading sports in the Czech Republic are [ice hockey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice_hockey), [football](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football) and [sport shooting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sport_shooting),[[98]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-ihned_2010-98) with the first two drawing the largest attention of both the media and supporters. Tennis is also a very popular sport in the Czech Republic.

Sport is a source of strong waves of patriotism, usually rising several days or weeks before an event. The events considered the most important by Czech fans are: the [Ice Hockey World Championships](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice_Hockey_World_Championships), [Olympic Ice hockey tournament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice_hockey_at_the_Olympic_Games), [UEFA European Football Championship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_European_Football_Championship), [UEFA Champions League](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League) and qualification matches for such events.[[99]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic#cite_note-99) In general, any international match of the Czech ice hockey or football national team draws attention, especially when played against a traditional rival.

The favourite Czech individual or group sport is [hiking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiking) mainly in Czech mountains. Even one meaning of the word "tourist" in the Czech language is a trekker or a hiker. It is ideal sport also for beginners, because thanks to the more than 100 years long tradition, there is a unique system of the trekkings markers, one of the best in Europe. It contains the net around 40 000 km perfectly marked short or long distanced trails crossing the whole country and all Czech mountains - not only in [Šumava](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian_Forest) Mountains, but also in [Vysočina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian-Moravian_Highlands), [Krušné hory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ore_Mountains), [Jizerské hory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jizera_Mountains), [Beskydy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravian-Silesian_Beskids), [Jeseníky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesen%C3%ADky), [Orlické hory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orlick%C3%A9_hory) and [Giant Mountains - Krkonoše](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krkono%C5%A1e).