***2 AREA AND CLIMATE***

***Methodological notes***

*Czechia is a land-locked country with the area of 78 871 square kilometres lying in the central part of Europe in the middle of the Northern Temperate Zone of the Northern Hemisphere. The country has borders with Germany (818.9 km), Poland (795.8 km), Austria (460.4 km), and Slovakia (251.8 km). The values come from the latest measurements and are valid as at 16 February 2025. With the population of 10 909 500, Czechia ranks 9th among 27 countries of the European Union according to data of Eurostat (as at 1 January 2025).*

*Since 1 January 2000, Czechia has a new territorial structure; current Districts make up 14 Regions, including the Capital City of Prague*, *which forms a separate* Hl. m. Praha *Region. Activities of the former district offices (authorities) were terminated at the end of 2002 and a significant part of their powers was delegated to 205 municipalities with extended powers, which began to function on 1 January 2003.*

*The Act No 51/2020 Sb, on the Administrative Territorial Structure of the State and amending certain related acts, newly determines that the territory of Czechia is subdivided into administrative districts of Regions, which consist of administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers (except for the Capital City of Prague). Administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers are specified by listing of municipalities and military districts. Districts are also determined by those administrative districts (in the Capital City of Prague, a city district called “*obvod*” in Czech is on the level of a District (called “*okres*” in Czech).*

*Following this Act, the Ministry of the Interior issued decrees, which define administrative districts. In relation to it, the territory of the following Districts changed with effect from 1 January 2021:* Nymburk*,* Kolín*,* Domažlice*,* Plzeň-jih*,* Semily*,* Jablonec nad Nisou*,* Vsetín*, and*Zlín*. Territories of the following administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers also changed:* Český Brod*,* Lysá nad Labem*,* Turnov*,* Jablonec nad Nisou*,* Havlíčkův Brod*, and*Jihlava*. Contrarily, on the level of Regions, no changes to their territory occurred.*

*The main European watershed separating the basins of the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, and the Black Sea passes through the territory of Czechia. The mountain of* Klepáč *(altitude 1 144 m) located in the massif of* Králický Sněžník *is the divide node of the three seas. The major rivers are as follows: the*Labe *River (370 km), the*Vltava *River (431 km), and the* Ohře *River (254 km) in Bohemia, mainly the*Morava *River (269 km) and the*Dyje *River (194 km) in South Moravia, and the*Odra *River (135 km) and the*Opava *River (131 km) in the north of Moravia and in Silesia.*

*In terms of physical geography, Czechia lies on the boundary of two different mountain systems, which differ in their age as well as their geological and geomorphological evolution. The western and the central part of Czechia 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 their current appearance in the Tertiary era (the mountain range of* Beskydy*), projects into the eastern part of the country. The boundary between the two mountain systems is filled with a belt of valleys.*

*The climate of Czechia 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 climate of Czechia is strongly influenced by the country’s altitude and its geographical relief: 52 817 km2 (66.97%) of the country’s territory are located at an altitude of up to 500 m, 25 222 km2 (31.98%) lie at an altitude from 500 to 1 000 m, and only 827 km2 (1.05%) are at an altitude above 1 000 m. The average altitude of Czechia is 430 m.*

*Also wild fauna and flora species that exist in the territory of Czechia bear evidence of the mutual penetration of principal directions, in which wild fauna and flora species spread across Europe. Forests, mostly coniferous, cover approximately 34% of the total area of Czechia.*

*The soil mantle also features considerable variability in terms of both – the soil texture composition and the distribution of respective soil types. Brown soils are the most frequent soil type in Czechia.*

*\* \* \**

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

– [www.csu.gov.cz/territory-settlement-structure](https://csu.gov.cz/territory-settlement-structure)

*or on websites of other institutions at:*

– [www.chmi.cz/?l=en](http://www.chmi.cz/?l=en) *– Czech Hydrometeorological Institute*

– [www.vugtk.cz/en/](http://www.vugtk.cz/en/) *– Research Institute of Geodesy, Topography and Cartography (a public research institution, v.v.i.)*

**Zeměpisné zajímavosti Česka v roce 2024**

*Geographic features of Czechia in 2024*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Zeměpisná zajímavost / *Geographic feature*** | | **Hodnota/*Size*** | **Lokalita*/Locality*** |
| Největší obec  *Largest municipality* | Praha | 1 384 732 obyvatel/  *inhabitants* | hlavní město  *Capital City* |
| Nejmenší obec  *Smallest municipality* | Vysoká Lhota | 15 obyvatel/  *inhabitants* | okres Pelhřimov  Pelhřimov *Distric*t |
| Nejvýše položené sídlo  *Highest settlement* | Filipova Huť | 1 093 m n. m.  *altitude 1 093 m* | okres Klatovy  Klatovy *District* |
| Nejníže položené sídlo  *Lowest settlement* | Hřensko | 130 m n. m.  *altitude 130 m* | okres Děčín  Děčín *District* |
| Nejvýše položený bod  *Highest point* | Sněžka  *Mount* Sněžka | 1 603 m n. m.  *altitude 1 603 m* | pohoří Krkonoše  Krkonoše *Mountains* |
| Nejníže položený bod  *Lowest point* | výtok Labe u Hřenska  *Discharge of the* Labe *River near* Hřensko | 115 m n. m.  *altitude 115 m* | okres Děčín  Děčín *District* |
| Nejhlubší propast  *Deepest chasm* | Hranická propast  Hranická *Abyss* | 519,5 m1)  *519.5 m1)* | okres Přerov  Přerov *District* |
| Největší národní park  *Largest national park* | Národní park Šumava  Šumava *National Park* | 680,6 km2  *680.6 km2* | pohoří Šumava  Šumava *Mountains* |
| Největší chráněná krajinná oblast  *Largest protected landscape area* | CHKO Beskydy  Beskydy *PLA* | 1 160 km2 | pohoří Beskydy  Beskydy *Mountains* |
| Nejdelší řeka  *Longest river* | Vltava  Vltava *River* | 431 km | Čechy  *Bohemia* |
| Největší plocha povodí  *Largest catchment area* | povodí Labe  Labe *River catchment* | 51 103,9 km2  *51 103.9 km2* | Čechy  *Bohemia* |
| Největší jezero  *Largest natural lake*  max. hloubka */ maximum depth* | Černé jezero  *Lake* Černé | 18,47 ha  *18.47 ha*  39,8 m / *39.8 m* | pohoří Šumava  Šumava *Mountains* |
| Největší rybník  *Largest manmade lake*  max. hloubka */ maximum depth* | rybník Rožmberk  *Lake* Rožmberk | 489 ha  10 m | okres Jindřichův Hradec  Jindřichův Hradec *District* |
| Největší přehradní nádrž  *Largest dam reservoir*  max. hloubka */ maximum depth* | přehradní nádrž Lipno  Lipno *Dam Lake* | 4 870 ha  25 m | pohoří Šumava  Šumava *Mountains* |
| Nejteplejší minerální pramen  *Hottest thermal spring* | Vřídlo  Vřídlo *Spring* | 72 °C | Karlovy Vary |
| Nejvyšší denní maximální teplota vzduchu  *Highest daily maximum air temperature* | Strážnice, 14. 8. 2024  Strážnice, *14 August 2024* | 37,1 °C  *37.1 °C* | okres Hodonín  Hodonín *District* |
| Nejnižší denní minimální teplota vzduchu  *Lowest daily minimum air temperature* | Kvilda-Perla, 17. 1. 2024  Kvilda-Perla, *17 January 2024* | -24,0 °C  *-24.0 °C* | okres Prachatice  Prachatice *District* |
| Nejvyšší denní úhrn srážek  *Highest daily precipitation* | Švýcárna, 14. 9. 2024  Švýcárna, *14 September 2024* | 385,6 mm  *385.6 mm* | okres Šumperk  Šumperk *District* |
| Nejvyšší výška sněhové pokrývky  *Deepest snow cover* | Blatný vrch, 17. 1. 2024  Blatný vrch*, 17 January 2024* | 170 cm | okres Klatovy  Klatovy *District* |

1) dosud největší potvrzená hloubka k 1. 8. 2022 *1) The deepest point recorded so far as at 1 August 2022.*