

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION

The Královéhradecký Region stretches over the northeastern parts of Bohemia. The international border with Poland (about 208 km) accounts for more than one third of the total borderline length of the Region. Together with the neighbouring Liberecký and Pardubický Regions it makes up a part of the territorial unit Northeast, which is one of the biggest areas of Czechia both as for area and population. The last neighbour is the Středočeský Region. Hradec Králové is urban centre of the Královéhradecký Region; it is 116 km far from the Capital City of Prague.

In the north and northeast there are Krkonoše (the Giant Mountains) and Orlické hory (the Eagle Mountains), which pass to fertile Polabská nížina (the Elbe lowland). Both mountain ranges are separated by Broumovský výběžek, which is varied as for geology and orography - it used to be a flat basin between two mountain ranges and the nature created there large rock towns; they are: the Teplice Rocks and the Adršpach Rocks, Broumov Hills, Křížový vrch (Cross Hill) and Ostaš. This area belongs to the most abundant water reservoirs of best quality in Czechia. An important part of the territory comprises of the foothills of Krkonoše and Orlické hory. Main watercourses are Labe (the Elbe) with its tributaries Orlice and Metuje. Almost the entire Region's territory falls under the basin of the River Labe, only a marginal part of the Broumovský výběžek area falls under the basin of the River Odra. The highest point of both the Region and Czechia is Sněžka (Mount Sněžka – 1603m above sea level) in Krkonoše. The lowest point is the surface of the River Cidlina on the territory of the Hradec Králové District (202m above sea level).

After the state administration reform took place (1 January 2000) the territory of the Region comprises of five districts: Hradec Králové, Jičín, Náchod, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, and Trutnov. As at 1 January 2007 borders of districts Hradec Králové and Rychnov nad Kněžnou were changed and three following municipalities: Jílovice, Ledce and Vysoký Újezd were transferred from the district Rychnov nad Kněžnou to the Hradec Králové district and the borders of administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers were put in line with borders of district territories.

As at 1 January 2003, 15 administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers and 35 administrative districts of municipalities with authorized municipal office were established in the Královéhradecký Region. Municipalities with authorized municipal office administer municipalities on the territory, which make up districts and administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers.

The area 4 759 km² ranks the Region ninth among the Czechia's Regions. The Region takes 6.0% of the total Czechia's area. Its agricultural land rank it fifth among the Regions of Czechia. As at 31 December 2024, agricultural land covered 58% of the total Region's territory and the share of arable land was 38% while forests covered 31% of the territory. As for area, the biggest district is Trutnov, which takes almost one fourth of the entire Region's territory followed by the Rychnov nad Kněžnou District with 21% and as for the three remaining districts each has about 18%.

As at the end of 2024, the Královéhradecký Region had **555,923 inhabitants**, which is 5.1% of the total Czechia's population. The most populated is the Hradec Králové District with more than 168,401 inhabitants. On the other hand, the smallest as for population is the Jičín District with 80,413 inhabitants and the Rychnov nad Kněžnou District with 80,808 inhabitants. With its 117 inhabitants per square kilometre the Region is under the national average (138 inhabitants per sq km). Population density differs also one district from another being the highest in the Hradec Králové District (189 inhabitants per sq km) and the lowest in the Rychnov nad Kněžnou District (82 inhabitants per sq km).

There is the total of **448 independent municipalities** in the Region, with **48 of them enjoying the status of town** and 13 the status of market-town. The share of urban population reached 66%. The Region's main centre is the statutory town Hradec Králové with 94,311 inhabitants followed by the second largest town Trutnov with 29,607 inhabitants and the third largest town Náchod with 19,827 inhabitants. The least urbanized is the Jičín District, in which most inhabitants live in municipalities of less than 500 inhabitants (22.5%). Within the Region, this share formed 12.5% of inhabitants. The average area of a municipality is 1,062 hectares and average population is 1,241 inhabitants per municipality.

Of all the regions of Czechia, in the Královéhradecký Region is the lowest share of inhabitants aged 15–64 (62.3%) and highest share of population aged 65+ (22.7%). Average age 44.0 years of males and females is also above the national average 43.1 years and the second highest of all the regions. The highest share of population up to 14 years of age is in the Rychnov nad Kněžnou and the Hradec Králové District. District, the highest share of inhabitants aged 15–64 was in the Rychnov nad Kněžnou District and in the highest aged 65+ in the Náchod District.

In terms of economic activities, the Region can be described as agricultural-industrial with well-developed tourism. The industry is concentrated in big towns, intensive agriculture in the Elbe lowland (Polabí). The biggest concentration of tourism in Czechia is in Krkonoše. Two thirds of the area of the Krkonoše National Park (Krkonošský národní park) lie in the Region's territory and the most valuable localities of the Park can be found namely on the Region's territory. The following belong to the protected landscape areas: Broumovsko (the Broumov area), Orlické hory and Český ráj (the Bohemian or Czech Paradise).

The Region's **gross domestic product accounts** for only 4.4% of Czechia's GDP in 2024, when converted to GDP per inhabitant it amounts to 86,6% of national average and ranks fourth in the Czechia.

According to labour force sample surveys in 2024 there is a total about **259,862 employees** in Region, 29.3% for manufacturing, 12.3% for Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 10.0% on health and social care, 7.6% on education, 6.5% public administration and defence; comp. soc. security, 5.2% on transportation and storage, 4.6% on professional, scientific and technical activities, 4.3% on construction, 3.7% on accommodation and food service activities, 3.6% for agriculture, forestry and fishing and 2.6% on information and communication.

Regarding **agriculture**, crop production focuses on cereals (wheat and barley), rape and maize, with industrial sugar beet production playing a major role, too. Animal production focuses on raising cattle and pigs. **Manufacturing** (mainly manufacture of electrical equipment, manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products, manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, manufacture of rubber and plastic products and manufacture of textiles) prevails over the other industries. However, the Region does not rank among key industrial areas – its 2024 share in sales of industrial enterprises accounted for 4.1% of the Czechia's total.

In 2024, the 1,125 statistically monitored **collective accommodation establishments** reported 1.5 million guests, including about 325,102 foreigners coming especially from Germany (33%) Poland (28%) and Slovakia (11%). The average length of stays per guest was incomplete 3.9 days. There are 61% of collective accommodation establishments in Trutnov District (there are Krkonoše - the Giant Mountains).

During the last few years, many forms of cross-border co-operation have been developed. One of them is the **Euroregion Glacensis** that had been established in 1995 as one of the Euroregions covering the Czech-Polish border areas. Many activities by voluntary unions of municipalities have been taken, when municipalities care together about their development.