

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION

Administrative breakdown

Prague is a statutory town. It is administered by the Prague City Assembly, the Prague City Council, and the Prague City Hall. Prague is divided into 22 administrative districts for the execution of the state administration. From the point of view of self-government it consists of 57 autonomous city sections with own elected bodies.

Spatial development

Prague Castle was founded in the second half of the 9th century when independent settlements began to develop under its protection in the surrounding area. These settlements grew to constitute independent towns of Prague: Staré Město (the Old Town), Malá Strana (the Lesser or Little Quarter), Nové Město (the New Town), and Hradčany (the Castle District). The four still independent towns were joined into the town of Prague in 1784. The other four towns were attached in 1850, 1883, 1884 and 1901 (Josefov, Vyšehrad, Holešovice-Bubny, and Libeň, respectively). The Act of 6 February 1920 established the Great Prague (other 39 nearby municipalities were joined). Further territorial growth took place in 1960, 1968 (attachment of 21 municipalities of the Středočeský Region), 1970. The last spatial growth was carried out in 1974 (30 municipalities of the Středočeský Region were attached).

Population

Prague's population (all that calculated for the same territory) increased 4.7 times from the first census (1869 – 270 389 persons) to 2011 Census (1 268 796 persons). Since 2011, Prague's population was increasing every year (except 2013). Prague had 1 324 277 persons as at 31 December 2019. Now, Prague's population grows both from natural change of population and migration. However since 1993 there was every year decrease of population (due to low immigration and natural decrease of population). This stopped in 2002, when population started to grow again. In 2006, it was for the first time after 1975 when the number of births was higher than the number of deaths and positive natural increase was recorded.

A high migration volume is characteristic for the migration situation in Prague. It is caused by frequent labour mobility of foreign nationals, that moves in Prague because of work. The persons in productive age prevails among them. The highest migrational increase in Prague was reported in 2007, when the migrational inflow was 19.2 persons per 1 000 population. Since 2007 it was gradually decreasing. In 2019 Prague's migrational gain was 9,8 persons per 1 000 inhabitants.

The age structure of population is changing. Children has 16%, people in productive age has 65% and people aged 65+ has 19% share on total population. Higher number of people aged 65+ than children was first recorded already in 1995. The life expectancy is increasing, men and women in Prague has the highest life expectancy of all regions. In 2019, the life expectancy at birth for women was 83.05 years and 78.37 years for men.

Economy

Prague makes constantly about a quarter of the national gross domestic product (GDP). The value of GDP for Prague in 2018 was by 7% higher compared to 2017. In 2018, gross domestic product per capita reached 1 056 761 CZK. This is 2 times higher than the Czech republic value.

A higher level of GDP production is typical for metropolises. It is influenced by many factors: a lot of out-of-Prague workers generate value added in Prague, businesses have their seats located and registered in Prague, subsidiaries of multinational companies are located there, central bodies of the public and private sectors are concentrated in the City. Prague exceeds the national level less as for the net disposable income of households, which is the value, that a household can use for savings or consumption (it is higher by 32% of the CR average per capita in 2018).

Prague is the services oriented economy. Services in Prague makes more than 80% of value added since 2000. In 2018 services created 84% of value added in Prague (value for the Czech republic is 62 %). Most of employed persons are working in service sector as well (83% of employed in Prague).

Construction

In construction, an influence of a crisis was reflected in 2009. Value of construction work according to delivery contracts in Prague was gradually decreasing since 2010. Upturn was the year 2014, when the value began to grow again. In 2019, construction work in the value of CZK 65,4 billion was realized in Prague.

Number of dwellings started decreased due to economic crisis year-on-year the most in 2010 (by 50%). Number of dwellings completed decreased the most in the following year 2011 (by 43%). The upturn came in 2015. Since 2015, the number of dwellings started varies between 2,7 and 6,5 thousand dwellings a year and number of dwellings completed varies between 5,2 and 6,1 thousand a year. In 2019 total 6 487 dwellings were started and 6 002 dwellings were completed. Housing construction has moved from Prague to its surroundings in the Středočeský Region.

Labour market

Prague is the largest regional labour market in the CR. Characteristic features of existing development are high localization attractiveness of Prague's labour market and Prague's ability to cover increased demand. Prague's labour market was able to absorb almost all labour force released in the process of transformation. Job vacancies in the Capital City of Prague are opportunities also for inhabitants from wide surroundings, virtually the whole CR and the foreigners.

According to results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census the number of jobs held in Prague as at 26 March 2011 was nearly 701 thousand and the number of employed inhabitants of Prague was by 118 thousand lower. It means that 118 thousand persons commuted to Prague from the other regions. Labour force in Prague has significantly higher professional skills compared to other Regions. 45% of the employed are persons with university education (in the CR it is 25 %). Also wages in Prague reach higher values than in other Regions. In 2019, the average gross monthly wage in Prague (full-time equivalent) was CZK 42 553 according to preliminary data, while the Czech Republic's average was CZK 36 336.

Prague has the lowest unemployment rate of all Regions of the CR. The lowest unemployment rate was reached both in Prague and the entire Czech Republic in 2007. Afterwards, due to a recession, there was an increase in the unemployment and since 2013 there was the decrease again. In 2019, the unemployment rate was on the historic minimum. At the end of 2019, the percentage of unemployed persons was 1.90 %. The total number of job applicants according to labour offices' registry decreased (compared to 2018) by 2.8 % to 16 298 job applicants. The number of job vacancies has again increased to 67 323.

Tourism

Tourism is an important part of Prague's economy. 8.0 million guests were accommodated in Prague's collective accommodation establishments in 2019. The year-on-year increase was 2 %. An absolute majority of Prague's visitors consists permanently of tourists from abroad (85% of all accommodated guests). As for guests from abroad, prevailing are Germans. Guests from the United States of America were the second largest group; guests from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ranked third. In 2019, the number of collective accommodation establishments on the territory of Prague increased to 817. Number of beds in these establishments increased year-on-year by 1.4% to 94 444 beds. Nearly a half of beds used in Prague's accommodation establishments are in the hotels of the highest category. The average length of stay of one visitor is permanent, in 2019 it was 3,3 days. The share of tourism on gross value added was 3,7 % in 2018 and the share on employment was 7,7 % according to tourism satellite accounts.

Education and Health

Schools, in particular universities, serves not only the population of Prague, but also people from the other regions of the CR. Number of pupils and students on different types of schools are influenced by the previous demographic development. Prague has the highest number of grammar schools and secondary technical schools of all the Regions. Prague's secondary schools represented in the 2019/2020 school year approximately 14 % of all secondary schools in the Czech Republic (185 secondary schools with 62,4 thousand students in full-time studies (excluding conservatoires; including schools established by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Defence). As for higher education, Prague's position is absolutely unique. There were 29 universities in Prague, at which more than 112,2 thousand students were studying in all types of studies. It is 39% of all university students in the Czech Republic.

Also health establishments are concentrated on the territory of the Capital. They are mainly specialized and often also research establishments, which, however, serve to patients from all over the Czech Republic. Stable one fifth of all physicians working in the CR are employed there. In 2019, there were 27 hospitals with nearly 9,8 thousand beds. In Prague, relative indicators from health per 1 000 population are permanently the highest of all Regions.

Transport

Prague is the central point of transport links both for the surrounding Středočeský Region and the Czech republic as a whole (commuting to work, schools, for shopping, culture or health facilities). So called Pražský okruh (Prague Ring road) is to lead the transit transport out of the City's inhabited areas. Less than half of the Prague Ring Road is in operation yet.

Prague has the highest number of registered cars among Regions of the CR (719,4 cars per 1 000 inhabitants) and this number still grows. Prague has relatively well functioning public transport. Backbone underground system (metro) is over 65 km long and a network of tram railways is 143 km long. In 2019, 1 420 million passengers used public transport. Most frequently, passengers use the underground (37%), trams (32%), and buses (30%).

Prague is also an important international railway node. Prague Main Station underwent a total reconstruction in 2011. Both the railway transport and the bus transport is included in the Prague Integrated Transport System (PID). Currently, 770 municipalities of the Středočeský region (even the more distant as Čáslav or Rakovník) are integrated in the Prague Integrated Transport. 1 400 millions of passengers used the services of PID lines.

Air transport of freight as well as passengers is provided particularly by international airport Vaclav Havel Airport Prague (former Praha-Ruzyně). In 2019, 17,9 million of travellers were checked in, which was by 6% more than in 2018. 71 airlines offer their services there and connect Prague with 165 destinations all over the world.

Environment

Prague belongs to the most affected Regions as for its air quality. Air quality in Prague is influenced the most by traffic and electricity and heat generation. The heating plant in Malešice and a cement factory in Radotín are the biggest air polluters. Specific emissions of carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides per area from transport in Prague are 10 times higher than is the Czech republic average.

City sections of Prague

City sections are very heterogenous governmental units. There are city sections, which have a distinct character of an urban centre (Praha 1) or, on the contrary, suburban areas (Praha-Benice). They differ in the level of urbanisation, population density, quality of technical infrastructure, and socio-economic structure of population. As for the number of inhabitants, these city sections are also very different. While four city sections exceed 100 000 population (Prague 4, Prague 6, Prague 8, and Prague 10), ten city sections have less than 2 000 population, of which two have less than 500 population (Praha-Nedvězí and Praha-Královice).