

The EURASIA CENTER

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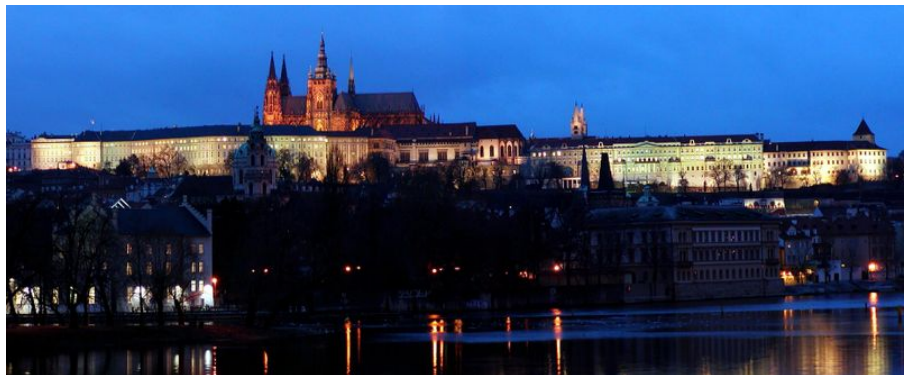
Czech Republic: Environmental Overview

Path to EU Accession:

After almost a century of political instability and turmoil, Czechoslovakia gained freedom through the "Velvet Revolution". Yet, 4 years (in 1993) later, the nation split up into Czech Republic and Slovakia. In 1999 the Czechs joined NATO and 5 years after that in 2004 joined the EU. In a little over 15 years the country has been able to make a transition from communism to capitalism. As a result of this it has become the most stable and prosperous of all the former Communist nations in Europe. The country now ranks in the top 40 in terms of the highest GDP. Prague has become a tourist hotspot making up over 5% of the country's GNP.¹ While this country is becoming a prominent nation, air and water pollution still hurt the country's health and drinking water.²

Demographics:

- The Czech Republic has a population of 10,228,744 according to July 2007 estimates. In this country of a little over 10 million, 90.4% of the people are Czech, 3.7% are Moravian, and 1.9% are Slovak.³ The



The Prague Castle stands majestically in nighttime Prague.

- number of Vietnamese has risen from 421 to 17,462 making them the 4th largest minority group in the nation according to the 2001 census.⁴
- Organized religion in the Czech Republic is not as big compared to other European nations. Only 26.8% of the population call themselves Roman Catholic, while 2.1% call themselves Protestant. The majority of the population describe themselves as unaffiliated.⁵

Picture Above: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Hradcany_vecer_-_Praha.jpg

¹ "Czech Republic" [Wikipedia](#).

² "Country Profiles: Czech Republic" <<http://www.fao.org/gtos/cee/COUNT1.html>>

³ "Georgia." [2006 CIA World Factbook](#)

⁴ <<http://www.czso.cz/sldb/sldb2001.nsf/tabx/CZ0000>>

⁵ "Georgia." [2006 CIA World Factbook](#)

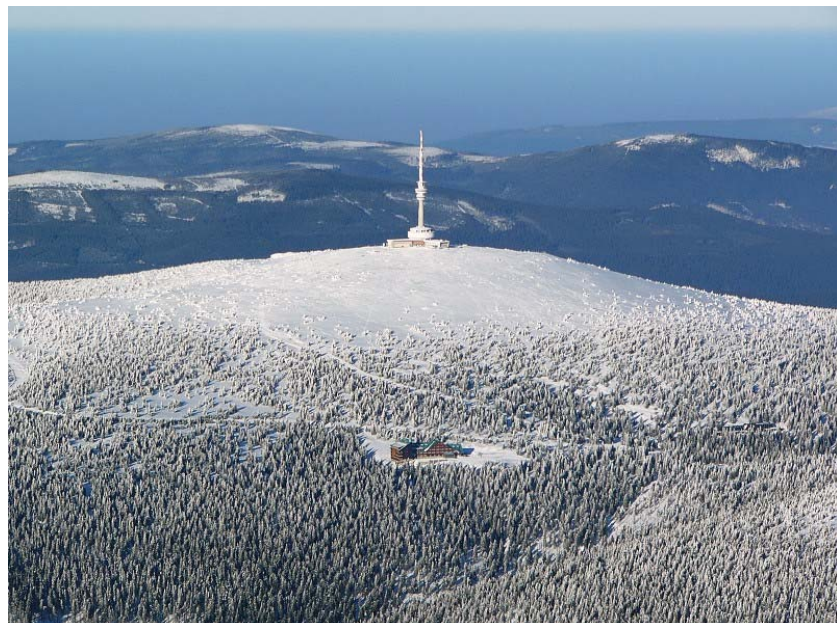
- Life expectancy at birth is 73.14 years for males and 79.88 for females. The population is on the decline with a population growth rate of -0.071%.
- The age composition of the population is as follows: 0-14 years: 14.1%, 15-64 years: 71.2%, and 65 years and over: 14.7%.⁶

Education:

- The literacy rate for males and females is at 99%.⁷
- Basic school education is divided in two stages: grades 1-5 and 6-9. The length of the program is 9 years. Secondary education is made up of 3 different types of schools: secondary general, secondary technical and secondary vocational. Higher education is divided between non-university (which offers only bachelor study programs) and university institution (offers the traditional bachelor, master, and doctoral study programs).⁸
- Education in the Czech Republic is state-controlled and free till the university level. The student-teacher ratio in 1999 was 17:1 at the primary level.⁹
- The government spends approximately 4.2% of its GDP on education.¹⁰

Geography/Natural Resources:

- The Czech Republic is a landlocked country located in Central Europe. It shares its borders with Germany, Poland, Austria, and Slovakia.
- The Czech Republic maintains a land area of 77,276 square kilometers, making it slightly smaller than South Carolina. Its water area is only 1,590 square kilometers.¹¹
- The country's natural resources include coal, timber, uranium and magnesite, and lignite.¹²



An aerial view of Praděd exhibits the beauty of the mountains in the Olomouc region of Eastern Czech Republic.

Picture Above: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Praded_letecky_pohled_01.jpg

- Georgia is estimated to have 17.25 billion barrels of oil reserves and 3.964 cubic

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 "Structure of Education System in the Czech Republic" <<http://www.euroeducation.net/prof/czechco.htm>>

9 "Czech Republic- Education" <<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/Czech-Republic-EDUCATION.html>>

10 Ibid.

11 "Geography of the Czech Republic" [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_the_Czech_Republic).

12 "Czech Republic (09/07)" [US Dept. of State](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3237.htm). <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3237.htm>>

meters of natural gas reserves.¹³

Agriculture:

- The agricultural sector accounts for 3.5% of this nation's GDP and employs about 4% of the active population.¹⁴
- In Czech Republic's agricultural market, 25% of the farmland is cultivated by individuals, nearly 40% is owned by corporations, and the rest (35%) is by cooperatives.¹⁵
- The country's principal crops are wheat, barley, rye, oats, and corn. The Czech Republic also is the second largest producer of hops after Germany.¹⁶

Relevant Environmental Laws and Regulations:

Kyoto Protocol

- An international agreement in which adherents voluntarily sign up to limit their carbon emissions in an effort to reduce global warming. Additionally, nations can buy and sell emission credits in order to fulfill their pledge.
- Georgia is a non-Annex I country, so it is not required to lower its carbon emissions. However, it ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 1999.



The Charles Bridge, a host to 30 statues, was completed in the 15th century.

Picture Above: <http://www.alovelyworld.com/webtche/htmgb/prag11.htm>

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

- The objective of this act is to stop the loss of wetlands. It recognizes that problem the loss of wetlands will cause in the future. It also identifies the importance of the ecological functions that the wetlands provide, not only recreationally but economically, culturally, and scientifically.

13 "Economy of the Czech Republic" [Wikipedia](#).

14 "Czech Republic Information" [Fita](http://www.fita.org/countries/czech.html) <<http://www.fita.org/countries/czech.html>>

15 "Czech Republic: Agricultural and Forestry" [Britannica](#).

16 "Czech Republic: Agriculture" <<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/Czech-Republic-AGRICULTURE.html>>

- The act was opened for signature as of early 1971 and was put into force on December of 1975. 123 Nations so far have ratified this document including Greece.¹⁷

Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions

- It is also known as Air Pollution- Sulphur 94
- Its goal was to continue to reduce sulphur emissions and transboundary fluxes.
- It was put into force in 1998 after it was introduced for signature in 1994.
- 22 nations have ratified it but, 5 have not. The Czech Republic is one of the 22 that have ratified the act.¹⁸

Current Funding Projects:

Developing the Danube River Basin Pollution Reduction Program.

- Leading Agency is the United Nations Development Program. The countries part-taking in this program are: Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.
- The goal is to increase public awareness for solving the Danube's environmental problems which will go a long way in protecting the Black Sea environment.
- The 7.79 Million dollars being investing in this project also calls for developing solutions for the protection of the river basin.¹⁹

Acknowledgements:

Research and Data Development Provided by: Ankit Sheth, Research Assistant

Under the Supervision and Coordination of: Dr. Samuel Lee Hancock, CM, Executive Director

¹⁷ "Environmental Agreements" <http://www.interopp.org/htm/env_agreements.htm#e0035>

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ "Developing the Danube River Basin Pollution Reduction Programme" <http://www.iwlearn.net/iw-projects/Fsp_112799467365/view?searchterm=>>