

## Czechia

<b>Country name</b>	Czechia
<b>State title</b>	Czech Republic
<b>Country name in official language</b>	Česko [ces] <sup>1</sup>
<b>State title in official language</b>	Česká republika [ces]
<b>Name of citizen</b>	Czech
<b>Official language</b>	Czech
<b>Script</b>	Roman
<b>ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)</b>	CZ/CZE
<b>Capital</b>	Praha (Prague)
<b>Population</b>	10.9 million (EU data)
<b>Area</b>	78,871km <sup>2</sup>

### Introduction

Czechia is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It shares borders with Germany to the west, Austria to the south, Slovakia to the east, and Poland to the north. Its central location has long made it a crossroads of European trade, culture and politics. The country's landscape is characterized by rolling hills, river valleys, and forested highlands, with Prague, its capital, lying on the Vltava River.

Czechoslovakia was formed after the First World War and was split into two nations in 1993: Slovakia and Czech Republic. The short name, Czechia, was officially adopted by the Czech government, the UN and other foreign governments in 2016, this short name being for informal contexts, as France for the French Republic. The reception and take-up of the short name was initially rather mixed and quite slow; however, it has gradually become more widely used.

### Geographical names policy / recommended sources

Czech uses the Roman script and PCGN recommends using Czech names from official sources for HMG products. The [ČÚZK Geoportal](#) is maintained by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (ČÚZK) and can be considered the best available source for official geographical names. Diacritical marks

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<sup>1</sup> ISO 639 codes are given for the languages mentioned in this Factfile.

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are essential for correct spelling and pronunciation, and these should be retained in formal and cartographic usage.

Czechia contributes actively to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, and maintains [Toponymic Guidelines](#), which include detailed language, orthography and other place-name information.

As described in the Toponymic Guidelines, municipalities with more than 10% minority population may use official bilingual names under certain conditions: the only municipalities to meet these are some 30 Polish-minority municipalities within Frýdek-Místek district in Moravskoslezský kraj (Moravian-Silesian region). According to the 2024 Toponymic Guidelines, few of the qualifying municipalities use bilingual names for official purposes, though if these are seen on official products (notably none are shown in the Geoportal), they can be reflected for HMG purposes.

### Languages

Czech [ces] is the only official language in Czechia. It is a West Slavic language, closely related to Slovak [s/k] and Polish [po/], both of which are recognised as minority languages in Czechia<sup>2</sup>. Other languages with native speakers numbering over 10,000, according to the 2021 Census, are German [deu] and Ukrainian [ukr].

### Inventory of Characters (and their Unicode encodings)<sup>3</sup>

**Czech** contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Upper-case character	Unicode encoding	Lower-case character	Unicode encoding
Á	00C1	á	00E1
Č	010C	č	010D
Ď	010E	ď	010F
É	00C9	é	00E9
Ě	011A	ě	011B
Í	00CD	í	00ED
Ň	0147	ň	0148
Ó	00D3	ó	00F3
Ř	0158	ř	0159
Š	0160	š	0161

<sup>2</sup> Recognised national minorities in Czechia are: Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Greek, Hungarian, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, Serbian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

<sup>3</sup> See [www.unicode.org](http://www.unicode.org)

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Upper-case character	Unicode encoding	Lower-case character	Unicode encoding
ř	0164	ř	0165
Ú	00DA	ú	00FA
Ů	016E	ů	016F
Ý	00DD	ý	00FD
Ž	017D	ž	017E

*Map of Czechia*



*Map produced by PCGN for illustrative purposes only, and is not to be taken necessarily as representing the views of the UK government on boundaries or political status.*

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### Administrative structure

Czechia is divided into 13 regions (*kraj*) and one capital city (*hlavní mesto*) at the first-order administrative level. The regions are sub-divided into districts, though these no longer have administrative function. The districts are subdivided into municipalities, which form the second level of administration across the country.

Czechia's [Toponymic Guidelines](#) include a complete listing of the regions and districts.

<b><i>Administrative division</i></b>	<b><i>ISO 3166-2 code</i></b>	<b><i>Administrative centre</i></b>	<b><i>Centre location</i></b>
Jihočeský kraj	CZ-31	České Budějovice	48°58'09"N 14°28'39"E
Jihomoravský kraj	CZ-64	Brno	49°11'45"N 16°37'45"E
Karlovarský kraj	CZ-41	Karlovy Vary	50°14'04"N 12°52'11"E
Kraj Vysočina	CZ-63	Jihlava	49°23'54"N 15°35'14"E
Královéhradecký kraj	CZ-52	Hradec Králové	50°12'44"N 15°49'41"E
Liberecký kraj	CZ-51	Liberec	50°46'12"N 15°03'38"E
Moravskoslezský kraj	CZ-80	Ostrava	49°49'42"N 18°15'28"E
Olomoucký kraj	CZ-71	Olomouc	49°35'52"N 17°16'04"E
Pardubický kraj	CZ-53	Pardubice	50°01'24"N 15°46'43"E
Plzeňský kraj	CZ-32	Plzeň	49°45'02"N 13°22'29"E
Praha, Hlavní město	CZ-10	Praha	50°05'15"N 14°25'17"E
Středočeský kraj <sup>4</sup>	CZ-20	Praha	50°05'15"N 14°25'17"E
Ústecký kraj	CZ-42	Ústí nad Labem	50°39'56"N 14°01'55"E
Zlínský kraj	CZ-72	Zlín	49°13'50"N 17°40'15"E

<sup>4</sup> Though Praha (Prague) forms its own administrative unit, the city also serves as the seat of Středočeský kraj (i.e. Central Bohemian region), which encircles Prague.

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## Other Significant Locations

Recommended Name	Other names	Location	Feature Type
<i>Bohemia</i> <sup>5</sup>	<i>Čechy</i>	50°00'N 15°00'E	Geographical/historical region
Černé jezero		49°10'45"N 13°10'57"E	Lake
Labe	Elbe ( <i>German, and often conventionally in English</i> )	50°10'15"N 14°44'16"E	River (Czechia; Germany)
Krkonoše	Karkonosze ( <i>Polish</i> )	50°46'02"N 15°37'20"E	Mountain range (Czechia; Poland)
Morava	March ( <i>German</i> )	48°10'27"N 16°58'32"E	River (Czechia; Slovakia; Austria)
<i>Moravia</i> <sup>6</sup>	<i>Morava</i>	49°30'N 17°00'E	Geographical/historical region
Ohře	Eger ( <i>German</i> )	50°31'44"N 14°08'11"E	River (Czechia; Germany)
Sněžka		49°47'32"N 16°23'43"E	Mountain (Czechia's high point: 1603m)
Šumava		48°58'37"N 13°37'59"E	Mountain range
Vltava		48°58'29"N 13°33'39"E	River

## Useful references

- BBC Country Policy: [Czech Republic country profile - BBC News](#) (no longer updated)
- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/czechia/>
- Czech Statistical Office: [Czech Statistical Office | Statistics](#)
- Czechia Demographic Yearbook 2024: [Czech Demographic Handbook - 2024 | Products](#)
- Czechia Geoportal: [ČÚZK Geoportal](#)
- Czechia Toponymic Guidelines: [Toponymic guidelines of the Czech republic.aspx](#)
- Ethnologue: [www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com) (for information on languages)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP) entry for Czechia: [CZ - Czechia](#)

<sup>5</sup> Though not needed for HMG products, this name is an important geographical and historical reference for Czechia. Encompassing the western part of the country, the Czech name for Bohemia is *Čechy*.

<sup>6</sup> Though not needed for HMG products, this name is an important geographical and historical reference for Czechia. The Czech name for Moravia is *Morava*. The remainder of the country not covered by Bohemia and Moravia is the north-eastern belt of Czech Silesia (*České Slezsko*).

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- Omniglot: [www.omniglot.com](http://www.omniglot.com) (for information on languages and scripts)
- PCGN Country Names list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/country-names>
- Unicode: [www.unicode.org](http://www.unicode.org)
- US Board on Geographic Names Geographic Names Server:  
<https://geonames.nga.mil/geonames/GNSHome/index.html>

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[www.gov.uk/pcgn](http://www.gov.uk/pcgn)  
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