



# CZECH



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic  
Těšnov 65/17, 110 00 Prague, Czech Republic  
tel.: +420 221 811 111

e-mail: [info@mze.cz](mailto:info@mze.cz), [www.eagri.cz/en](http://www.eagri.cz/en)

ISBN : 978-80-7434-601-9

AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SECTOR  
WATER MANAGEMENT  
FORESTRY



**CZECH AGRICULTURE,  
FOOD SECTOR,  
WATER MANAGEMENT  
AND FORESTRY**



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

# FACTS ABOUT THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**Currency**  
**Czech crown**  
(koruna – CZK)

**Capital: Prague**  
**1,335,084** inhabitants  
(as at 1 January 2021)

**Political system**  
**parliamentary  
democracy**

**Lowest point**  
**Elbe at Hřensko**  
(115 m above sea level)

**Area**  
**78,870** km<sup>2</sup>

**EU member**  
**since 1 May 2004**

**Highest point**  
**Sněžka**  
(1603 m above sea level)

**Length of state  
borders**  
**2,327** km

**Time zone**  
**Central  
European Time**

**Location**  
**49°30'N, 16°E**

**Population**  
**10,701,777**  
(as at 1 January 2021)

**Population density**  
**136** inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>

\* 1 EUR = 24.5 CZK (exchange rate of ECB to 18th of July, 2022)

Source: ČSÚ (Czech Statistical Office, CZSO)



## WHAT THE CZECH REPUBLIC GAVE THE WORLD

- leaf lightning conductor, compass, sugar cube, ship's propeller, soft contact lenses, beer, Remoska, the word "robot", Laterna magika, Švejk
- leaf Emperor Charles IV, Peter Parler (architect and builder), Antonín Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana (composers), Alphonse Mucha (painter), Tomáš Baťa (entrepreneur), Emil Zátopek, Věra Čáslavská, Martina Navrátilová and Jaromír Jágr (athletes), Miloš Forman (director), Jan Hammer (musician), and Antonín Holý (scientist)

## WHAT THE CZECH REPUBLIC GAVE AGRICULTURE

- leaf Brewing – thanks to hops and malt
- leaf Sugar industry – thanks to sugar beet
- leaf Gregor Johann Mendel, founder of the science of genetics
- leaf Julius Stoklasa, agricultural chemist, biologist, physiologist, and populariser of the use of new knowledge in practice
- leaf František Král, founder of the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology
- leaf František Bílek, founder of Czech hippology and zootechnics, who regenerated the Kladruber and the Przewalski's horse

# CZECH AGRICULTURE

---





# KEY FIGURES FOR CZECH AGRICULTURE



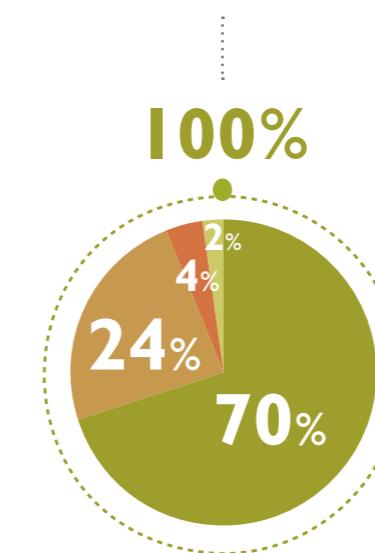
**4.2** million ha  
Agricultural land



**2.7** million ha  
Forestland



**133** ha  
Average farm size



● Arable land

● Permanent grassland

● Permanent crop

● Gardens

**2,932,000** ha

**1,023,000** ha

**73,500** ha

**172,000** ha

## Organic farming

15% of all agricultural land is organically farmed.

The Czech Republic is **among the 15 countries** in the world with the highest proportion of organically farmed land relative to total agricultural land.

Within the EU, the Czech Republic ranks **fourth**.

4,665 organic farmers



# ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR CZECH AGRICULTURE



CZK **19.8** billion

Value of agricultural production



CZK **-36.8** billion

Agrarian trade balance



**98,800**

Number of agricultural workers

## Business structure in agriculture

<b>Total</b>	<b>47,160</b>
Total individuals	<b>42,037</b>
Total legal entities	<b>5,123</b>
limited liability companies	<b>3 455</b>
public limited liability companies	<b>741</b>
cooperatives	<b>516</b>
other	<b>373</b>

Share of agriculture in **GDP 1.79%**

# CZECH AGRICULTURE

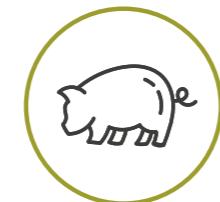
Agriculture and food production is a traditional sector within the national economy.



**1,404,000** pcs  
Cattle



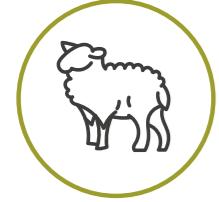
**3,182** million litres  
Milk



**1,499,000** pcs  
Pigs



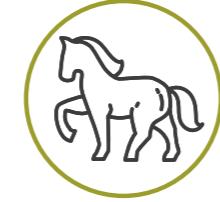
**24,247,000** pcs  
Poultry



**204,000** pcs  
Sheep



**29,000** pcs  
Goats



**97,000** pcs  
Horses



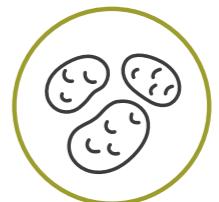
**20,000** t  
Fish



**321,000** t  
Fruit



**311,000** t  
Vegetables



**831,000** t  
Potatoes



**8,127,000** t  
Cereals



**1,347,000** t  
Oilseeds



**92,000** t  
Legumes



**506,000** t  
Sugar



**5,925** t  
Hops



**90,000** t  
Vines



**4,997** t  
Honey



**4,200,000** ha  
Agricultural land



**2,677,000** ha  
Forestland

Note: annual production in 2020

# CROP PRODUCTION

---

Cereals are the most important group of crops in the Czech Republic, covering more than half of the area under cultivation. Oilseeds are also important.

We are the world's largest producer of fine aroma hops and the world's leading producer of poppy seeds.

Pulses, sugar beet, potatoes, hops, fruit, vegetables, and vines, as well as medicinal and root plants, flowers and nursery crops, are also cultivated in the Czech Republic.





# CEREALS

Cereals are the most important group of crops in the Czech Republic. They cover more than half of the area under cultivation. The most important cereal grown in the Czech Republic is winter wheat, accounting for around 60% of the supply of all cereals. It is an important export crop. Exports of cereals exceed imports into the Czech Republic tenfold.



**1.345** million ha

Harvested area



**8.127** million t

Production



**156%**

Self-sufficiency



**3.221** million t

Exports

## Harvested areas of cereals

Wheat	<b>799,000 ha</b>
Barley	<b>332,000 ha</b>
Maize	<b>87,000 ha</b>
Oats	<b>47,000 ha</b>
Triticale	<b>42,000 ha</b>
Rye	<b>31,000 ha</b>
Other cereals	<b>7,000 ha</b>

## Cereal production

Wheat	<b>4.9 million t</b>
Barley	<b>1.9 million t</b>
Maize	<b>826,000 t</b>
Triticale	<b>213,000 t</b>
Oats	<b>183,000 t</b>
Rye	<b>172,000 t</b>
Other cereals	<b>14,000 t</b>



# OILSEEDS

Oilseeds play an important role among crops grown in the Czech Republic because of their good commercial exploitation both domestically and abroad. Their cultivation benefits from favourable climatic conditions and the large-scale production technologies used. The most important export commodities are rapeseed, mustard seed, and poppy seed.



**450,000** ha

Harvested area



**1.348** million t

Production



**110%**

Self-sufficiency

## Poppy seed

The Czech Republic is **the world leader** in poppy seed cultivation. The EU has recognised the quality and proven origin of poppy seed by granting it a protected geographical indication.

Poppy seed worth more than CZK 1 billion is exported from the Czech Republic to Russia, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Germany, Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Belarus, and the Netherlands, from where it is also exported on to countries such as the US and Canada. White poppy seeds are also grown.

The poppies grown in the Czech Republic are cultivated for food production, not for use in pharmacy (these have a higher content of morphine alkaloids). Even so, the Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority still runs checks on the alkaloid content of blue and white poppy seed varieties grown in the Czech Republic.

**40,000** ha

Harvested area

**29,000** t

Production

**19,000** t

Exported



**Český modrý mák**  
(Poppy Seed)



## LEGUMES

Pulses are an important source of protein for the feed and food industry. One of their important benefits is the ameliorative and fertilising effect they have on soil. This makes them irreplaceable in the sowing practices of conventional farming and in organic farming as an excellent precursor crop.

In the Czech Republic, peas are the most widely grown legume, accounting for around 90% of the cultivated area, followed by lupins and broad beans.



**37,000** ha

Harvested area



**92,000** t

Production

### Peas

**33,000** ha

Harvested area

**85,000** t

Production

**126%**

Self-sufficiency



## SUGAR BEET, SUGAR

Many of the basic principles and technological processes used in sugar production worldwide are of Czech origin. Sugar from sugar beet started to be produced in the territory of what is now the Czech Republic in 1810. The Czech Republic is on a par with the most advanced EU countries in most of its harvesting and production parameters. The Czech Republic's seven sugar factories produce around 506,000 tonnes per year.



**57,000** ha

Area harvested  
for sugar



**506,000** t

Sugar production



**140%**

Self-sufficiency



**350,000** t

Imported



**461,000** t

Exported



# POTATOES

There is a long tradition of potato cultivation and processing in the Czech Republic. The production of potato starch, widely used in the food, paper, and textile industries, is also important. In the Czech Republic, around 20% of total harvested area is in the household sector.



**30,000** ha

Production area



**831,000** t

Production



**81** %

Self-sufficiency



**67** kg/person/year

Consumption



# HOPS

The Czech Republic is **one of the world's three largest hop producers**. As over 80% of Czech hops are exported, they also form the basis of quality for beers around the world. The Czech Republic also has the largest area of a single variety in the world, its Žatecký poloraný červeňák being an indigenous variety with unique characteristics and quality. The Czech Republic was the first country in the EU to register an EU geographical trademark: the protected designation of origin Žatecký chmel.



**4,966** ha

Harvested area



**85%**

Žatecký poloraný  
červeňák  
(Czech cultivar)



**124**

Hop growers



**5,925** t

Production



**4,794** t

Exported  
(Germany, China,  
Japan,)

**Žatecký chmel**  
(Hops)





# FRUIT

There is a fine tradition of fruit growing in the Czech Republic. Fruit trees have been planted in gardens, parkways, avenues, and in large fruit plantations. The main species of fruit grown in the Czech Republic are apple, cherry, plum, apricot, pear, cherry, and currants.

Besides building drip irrigation systems, the Czech Republic is also focusing on the planting of new orchards. As a result, the number of older orchards is decreasing and the proportion of young orchards just coming into bearing is increasing.

Traditionally, many people grow their own fruit, with self-supply accounting for around 30% to 40% of total fruit production in the Czech Republic.

The total area of orchards, including extensive orchards, avenues, and allotments, is 15,999 ha



**321,000 t**

Production



**35–45%**

Fruit self-sufficiency



**45–55%**

Self-sufficiency  
in table apples



**88 kg/person/year**

Consumption

## Total fruit harvest (t)

Apples	<b>209,000</b>
Common plum	<b>32,000</b>
Pears	<b>18,000</b>
Currants	<b>12,000</b>
Other plums, damsons, greengages	<b>9,000</b>

**Chelčicko-Lhenické  
ovoce (fruit)**





# VEGETABLES

In recent years, the area under vegetable cultivation has stabilised after a previous decline, as has the area used to grow marketable forms of vegetables. In contrast, the area under cover for growing fast-growing vegetables is increasing significantly. In particular, Czech producers grow flavourful varieties of tomatoes in different shapes and sizes, which are able to compete with imported tomatoes throughout the year.



**15,111** ha

Growing area



**311,000** t

Production



**93** kg/person/year

Consumption



**38%**

Self-sufficiency

## Harvested area of vegetables (ha)

Onions	<b>2,233</b>
Carrots	<b>1,178</b>
Cabbage	<b>1,168</b>
Pickling cucumbers	<b>1,036</b>
Tomatoes	<b>900</b>
Garlic	<b>683</b>

**Area under cover** **95** ha

**65** ha

Tomatoes

**7** ha

Cucumbers

**Všestarská cibule** (onion)  
**Nošovické kysané zelí** (sauerkraut)





# VINES, WINE

The Czech Republic is part of Central Europe's northern wine-growing region. The variability of weather conditions and the diversity of soils give Bohemian and Moravian wines their original character, which is particularly evident in the production of special-attribute wines.

The Czech Republic is a country with a rich varietal range. It grows varieties that are widespread all over the world, but also those planted only in certain areas. It even boasts varieties developed locally – Pálava and Moravian Muscat, or, from the blue varieties, André and Cabernet Moravia.

The quality of Czech and Moravian wines is reflected in the success they enjoy around the world. Domestic winemakers win about a thousand medals from various competitions every year, and some of their wines are also on the menus of top foreign Michelin-starred restaurants.



**17,925** ha

Area of planted  
vineyards



**90,000** t

Production  
of wine grapes



**20** l/person/year

Consumption



**30%**

Self-sufficiency

## Most commonly cultivated white varieties

Grüner Veltliner

Müller-Thurgau

Riesling

Welschriesling

## Most commonly cultivated blue varieties

St Laurent

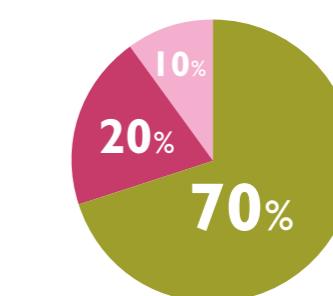
Blaufränkisch

Zweigeltrebe

Pinot noir



## Composition of wine production



- white wines
- red wines
- rosé wines

# MEDICINAL, AROMATIC, AND CULINARY PLANTS

The Czech Republic has a long tradition of cultivating these plants. This is also an opportunity to diversify agriculture.

Medicinal, aromatic, and culinary plants have been important in human history and are now enjoying a renaissance. They are used directly, whether for healing or in the production of spices and teas, in the pharmaceutical and food industries, in cosmetics, and in the production of herbal liqueurs. Because of their diversity, a single species may be both an aromatic and a medicinal plant, some are vegetables, and others are ornamental in form.

The most important is caraway, a significant export commodity.

There is widespread amateur cultivation.



**5,657** ha

Growing area



**4,000** t

Production



**1,292** t

Caraway exported  
(worth CZK 43 million)



**Český kmín** (cumin)

**Chamomilla bohemica** (chamomile)



# FLOWERS AND ORNAMENTAL TREES

Ornamental horticulture, encompassing flowers and ornamental plants, and both ornamental and fruit nurseries, is an important non-food component of plant production in the Czech Republic.

These traditional Czech horticultural industries account for approximately 3% of total domestic agricultural production and are among moderately growing sectors in this area.

Floriculture enterprises specialise in growing balcony, bedding, and pot plants for the domestic market. An increasing number of products from ornamental horticulture and nurseries are being used in urban greenery projects and in the restoration and maintenance of the Czech landscape.



**CZK 4** billion

Value of production



**CZK 13** billion

Consumption

**291** ha

Flowers  
and ornamental plants  
growing area

**1 674** ha

Area of ornamental  
and fruit nurseries

# LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

---

Livestock production is structured around cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep, and goats. Beekeeping is also important, as is fish, horse, and rabbit breeding.





# CATTLE, BEEF

The Czech Republic is self-sufficient in beef production, which has long been driven mainly by domestic demand and by opportunities to export beef and, in particular, live cattle.

The Czech Fleckvieh is a traditional Czech mixed breed of cattle. It currently makes up approximately half of the total cattle population in the Czech Republic.



**1.4** million pcs

Cattle

of which total cows **586,000**

- of which meat breeds **226,000**
- of which dairy/milking cows **360,000**



**73,000** t

Beef production



**9** kg/person/year

Consumption



**124%**

Self-sufficiency



# MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS

The dairy sector is a source of regular income, creates rural job opportunities, and contributes to landscape maintenance and soil improvement.



**3** billion l/year

Milk production



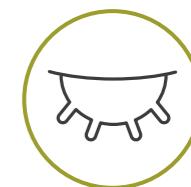
**262** kg/person/year

Consumption of dairy products (excluding butter)



**133%**

Self-sufficiency



**8,471.4** l/head

Average annual milk yield

## Dairy production

Drinking milk	<b>608 million l</b>
Yoghurt	<b>130 million l</b>
Cheese	<b>122 million t</b>
Dairy cream	<b>64 million l</b>
Other fermented products	<b>55 million l</b>

**Olomoucké tvarůžky** (ripened cheese made from non-fat curd with a characteristic taste and aroma, usually in the form of discs)

**Jihočeská Zlatá Niva** (ripened cheese with blue mould)

**Jihočeská Niva** (ripened cheese with blue mould)





# PIGS

Traditionally, the most popular type of meat in the Czech Republic is pork. On average, 33 piglets are reared per sow per year, making the Czech Republic one of the most advanced breeding countries in the European Union.

The Prešvice pig is a native Czech breed of pig. Today, it is considered a gourmet delicacy, with a wider layer of fat and more pronounced reticulation at the edge. This makes it much more tender and succulent when cooked.



**1.5** million pcs  
Pigs



**211,000** t  
Pork production



**43** kg/person/year  
Consumption



**52%**  
Self-sufficiency

**Pražská šunka** (Prague ham)

**Liptovská saláma/Liptovský salám** (salami)

**Tradiční Lovecký salám /Tradičná Lovecká saláma** (salami)

**Spišské párky** (sausages)

**Tradiční Špekáčky** (sausages)



\*granted meat products made from pork and beef



# POULTRY AND EGGS

Poultry meat and eggs are traditional and popular products in the Czech Republic, mainly because they are affordable and easy to cook. Consumption of poultry meat is growing faster than any other meat, and the popularity of eggs is also increasing.

## Poultry



**24.2** million pcs  
Poultry



**265,000** t  
(live weight)  
Production

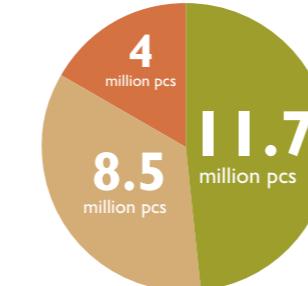


**28** kg/person/year  
Consumption



**65%**  
Self-sufficiency

## Eggs



● Chickens for fattening  
● Hens  
● Other poultry



**2.3** billion pcs  
Egg production



**261** eggs/person/year  
Consumption



**82%**  
Self-sufficiency



# SHEEP AND GOATS

The main product of sheep farming in the Czech Republic is lamb. Breeding is centred mainly on breeds with meat yields, followed by those with combined yields. Mutton is more of a complementary meat on the Czech market, and is reserved mostly for festive occasions.



**233,000** pcs

Sheep and goats

- Sheep 204,000
- Goats 29,000



**97%**

Self-sufficiency



**3** million l

Sheep and goat milk production

- Sheep's milk 350,000 l
- Goats 2,7 million l

\* 2019 figures



**354** t

Sheep and goat cheese production



Share of organically farmed animals in the total for the Czech Republic

\* 2019 figures

**39%**

Sheep

**31%**

Goats



# HORSES

The Czech Republic is a country that has a tradition of horse breeding. The horse population here has been steadily increasing since 1997. Although horses are classified as livestock under breeding law, their primary use is changing to that of a companion for leisure purposes.



**97,000**

Horses

## Genetic resources of the Czech Republic

**Kladruber**

**Bohemian-  
Moravian  
Belgian**

**Silesian  
Noriker**

**Hucul**

## Kladruby nad Labem

The Kladuby nad Labem National Stud Farm, among the oldest stud farms in the world, is run by the Ministry of Agriculture as one of its subordinate organisations.

It is home to the oldest native Czech horse breed, the Kladruber, which has been bred for more than 400 years and is the only horse in the world reared specifically to pull the carriages of emperors and kings.

In recognition of its uniqueness, the Kladuber has been named a national cultural monument, making it the only living creature in the Czech Republic to enjoy conservation protection. It is also protected by the FAO, a specialised agency of the United Nations.

Since 2019, the Landscape for the Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses in Kladuby nad Labem has been a UNESCO site.

## Kladuby nad Labem National Stud Farm    500 horses

It continues to play its original role

at the royal court in Denmark  
at the royal court in Sweden



## BEEKEEPING

In the Czech Republic, beekeeping is one of the most important branches of agricultural production. This is mostly a pursuit for small-scale beekeepers keeping up to 15 bee colonies, ensuring optimally distributed pollination of the landscape, while at the same time providing ideal conditions for the production of regional food and an opportunity to offer regional bee products. Beekeepers also benefit from the fact that they are organised into associations. There are then 109 larger beekeeping enterprises looking after more than 150 bee colonies each. These are regional centres for the promotion of modern methods and rationalisation in beekeeping.



**694,000**

Bee colonies



**4,997 t**

Honey production



**| kg/person/year**

Consumption



**64,105**

Total number of  
beekeepers

# FOOD INDUSTRY

---



# FOOD PRODUCTION

The Czech Republic produces high quality food that is safe for consumers. The Czech food industry and its products have a long tradition that builds on the craftsmanship and skill of previous generations. As such, producers large and small have much to live up to and are pushing Czech food production ever higher with new, modern concepts.

Consumers can find their way around the range of food on offer by referring to quality labels (Klasa, Regionální potravina, and Česká potravina). Farmers' markets, farm shops, and local produce are supported.



In the Czech Republic, as in the EU as a whole, the production of food, including beverages, is a key sector of the manufacturing industry. Some food businesses are directly linked to primary agricultural production, while others are involved in handling the resulting products at a later stage.

The Czech Republic is aiming to strengthen its food self-sufficiency in the main commodities that are natural for domestic agricultural production.

Food production is an important employer in many regions.

The largest number of employees can be found in the production of bakery and pastry products.

## Czech food sector in numbers

**Share of food sector in GDP** **2.16%**

**Number of businesses** **8,770**

Bakeries, confectioners, pastry shops	3,930
Meat	2,180
Milk	160
Other	2,500

**Number of jobs** **95,400**

Bakeries	29,430
Meat	19,750
Milk	8,310
Other	37,910



# BEVERAGE PRODUCTION

The production of alcoholic beverages in the Czech Republic is dominated by beer, which also includes the production of malt. The Czech Republic is also known far beyond its borders for the production of herbal liqueurs and fruit spirits, which have a long tradition here.

The production of soft drinks and mineral waters includes flavoured or sweetened beverages, mineral waters, and other bottled waters.



**2,400**

Businesses



**16,500**

Jobs

## Malt production

The Czech Republic is one of those countries with a long-standing tradition of malt production. It is among the largest exporters in the EU. Most of the malt, 96% to 97%, is of the Czech Pilsner type, which is highly specific and very difficult to replace in the production of pale Pilsner-type beers. Maltings produce around 550,000 tonnes of malt per year, half of which is exported.





## Czech beer

This is a particularly important export commodity. Its renown abroad fuels exports not only of the beer itself, but also of brewing technology and raw materials required in beer production.

The history of Czech and, indeed, world brewing began in Plzeň in 1842. The unique bottom-fermented pale lager from this West Bohemian town gave its name to the world's best-selling type of beer (Pils, Pilsner). Thanks to its uniqueness, the whole world knows it as Pilsner Urquell. Czech beer has been granted a protected geographical indication.

**České pivo**

**Černá Hora**

**Březnický ležák**

**Brněnské pivo/Starobrněnské pivo**

**Znojemské pivo**

**Chodské pivo**

**Budějovické pivo**

**Budějovický měšťanský var**

**Českobudějovické pivo**



**20** million hl/year

Total beer production



**135** l/person/year

Consumption



**5.1** million hectolitres

Total beer exported

### The Budějovický Budvar national enterprise, an all-Czech brewery

The water extracted by the company in České Budějovice has excellent qualities for the brewing of lager as it is soft and free of chemical impurities. It needs no further treatment other than filtration through sand filters to remove any physical impurities.

**1.73** million hl/year

Beer production



Exported to **80** countries

### Microbreweries

Microbreweries are usually products of tradition, enthusiasm, and a love for beer. Their numbers are growing in the Czech Republic and have reached almost 500. Microbreweries combine beer production with direct sales, often in their own restaurants. They often also focus on individual specialities, with brewers inventing new styles or taking inspiration from global trends. Flavoured beers are also popular.

To be classified a microbrewery, beer production must be no more than 10,000 hl per year. The average microbrewery's output is considerably lower at 950 hl per year. Altogether, microbreweries produce 400,000 hl of beer per year.



# BAKERY AND CONFECTIONERY PRODUCTS

The Czech Republic produces a wide range of regional bakery and confectionery products, rusks and biscuits, a number of which have been granted a protected geographical indication.

This is a key sector of the food industry because it has many businesses employing a lot of people.



**3,930**

Businesses

Bakeries, confectioners,  
pastry shops



**29,430**

Employees

Bakeries

**Mariánskolázeňské oplatky** (wafers)

**Hořické trubičky** (rolled wafers)

**Pardubický perník** (gingerbread)

**Lomnické suchary** (rusks)

**Karlovarské trojhránky** (triangular wafers)

**Karlovarský suchar** (rusks)

**Štramberké uši** (biscuits)

**Valašský frgál** (tart)

**Karlovarské oplatky** (wafers)



# PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PRODUCTS



## Klasa

One of the ways in which producers can be made more competitive is through the national KLASA label, which is awarded by the Minister of Agriculture to the best quality food and agricultural products and remains valid for three years.

The label has not only become a matter of prestige for its holders, but has also gained the trust of the country's consumers. The KLASA label can be found on the packaging of over 900 products made by more than 200 producers.



## Regionální potravina

The Regionální potravina ("Regional Food") label is awarded to the best quality products from each region that excel in quality and stand out from the usual products on the market. Once awarded, it remains valid for four years. It might be granted for a traditional recipe typical of the region, an original production process, or the use of specific regional raw materials. With short distribution routes from producer to consumer, these products are fresher, taste better, and smell better.

The project promotes local food producers and is a form of support for local farmers, food manufacturers, and tourism.

Only small and medium-sized enterprises can seek the label.

More than 500 products made by 350 producers currently bear the Regionální potravina label.



## Česká potravina

This label ("Czech Food") alludes to the place of origin of a food. It is a voluntary label for products that

meet two basic requirements: they must be made in the Czech Republic and a specified proportion of their ingredients must be domestically sourced.



## Bio

A national label that must be affixed to organic food produced in the Czech Republic. This food must also bear the European logo

# ORGANIC FARMING AND ORGANIC FOOD

---





# ORGANIC FARMING AND ORGANIC FOOD

In the Czech Republic, organic farming mainly involves the extensive farming of beef cattle, goats and sheep in areas that are less favourable for agriculture. The slow but steady growth of areas under crop production is a positive trend.

With a share of 15% in total agricultural land, the Czech Republic is among the 15 countries in the world with the highest proportion of organically farmed land relative to total farmland. Within the EU, the Czech Republic ranks fourth.

By 2027, it is projected that farmers in the Czech Republic will be farming organically on 22% of agricultural land.



**4,665**

organic farmers



**865**

organic food  
producers



**CZK 8 billion**

Total organic  
food sales



**CZK 5 billion**

Consumption



## National logo

The national logo, emblazoned with the words “Produkt ekologického zemědělství” (“Product of organic farming”), is used to label all organic food and organic products produced and certified in the Czech Republic.



## European logo

All organic products produced from the European Union must be labelled with the EU's organic logo.

# WATER MANAGEMENT

---





# WATER MANAGEMENT

The Czech Republic is known as the “roof” of Europe. Water flows from this country into three seas. The Elbe River drains into the North Sea, the Morava River and other tributaries of the Danube into the Black Sea, and the Oder River and its tributaries, including the Lusatian Neisse, empty into the Baltic Sea.

The basic hydrographic network consists of more than 100,000 km of watercourses.

Water management in the Czech Republic is an important sector with a long tradition. The most important tasks are to ensure that the population is supplied with drinking water (e.g. by connecting water supply systems), to retain water in the landscape, to manage water efficiently, and to bring it to where it is most needed.



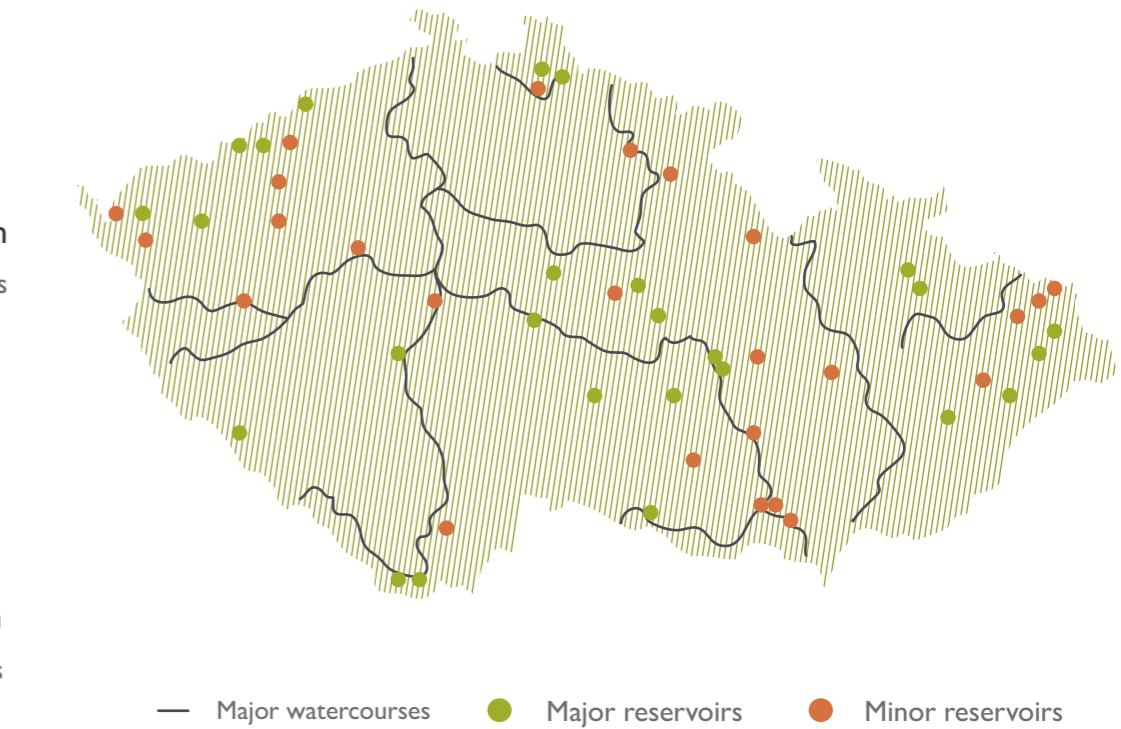
**16,378 km**

Major watercourses



**82,563 km**

Minor watercourses



— Major watercourses

● Major reservoirs

● Minor reservoirs



# RESERVOIRS

Reservoirs, whether natural or artificial, are part of the country's cultural landscape. The oldest ponds were built as early as the end of the first millennium. Pond-building then picked up considerably during the reign of Charles IV in the 14th century. However, the golden age of pond-building is considered to be the 16th century.



**165**

Major reservoirs



**25,000**

Minor reservoirs

The largest surface area of water in the Czech Republic is the Lipno Reservoir, which covers an area of 4,870 ha and has a volume of 309.5 million m<sup>3</sup>.

The Orlík Dam is the largest in terms of volume, at 716.5 million m<sup>3</sup>.



# FISHING AND FISH FARMING

Fisheries in the Czech Republic can be divided into production fisheries (aquaculture) and the management of fishing grounds (recreational fishing). This is an area of traditional and successful livestock production for the country.

The most important component of aquaculture is traditional fish farming, which, besides producing fish, plays an essential ecological and landscape-forming role.

Pond farming is based on fish farming in ponds, mainly in rural areas, and to a lesser extent in specially designed facilities.

The main fish producers are members of the Czech Fish Farmers Association, and their activities account for up to 90% of the marketable fish produced in the Czech Republic.

The main fish farmed in the Czech Republic, by some distance, is the Eurasian carp, more than half of which is exported abroad.



**20,400 t**

Production of marketable fish

of which carp 17,400 t



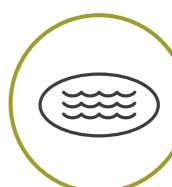
**6 kg/person/year**

Consumption



**24,000**

Ponds and water reservoirs  
of which for fish farming 42,000 ha



**52,000 ha**

Surface area

Recreational fishing in the Czech Republic is allowed at approximately 2,000 fishing grounds covering an area of around 42,000 ha. Recreational fishing is highly organised, with approximately 320,000 anglers who are members of associations in the Czech Republic.

**Pohořelický kapr** (carp)



**Třeboňský kapr** (carp)



# FORESTRY

---

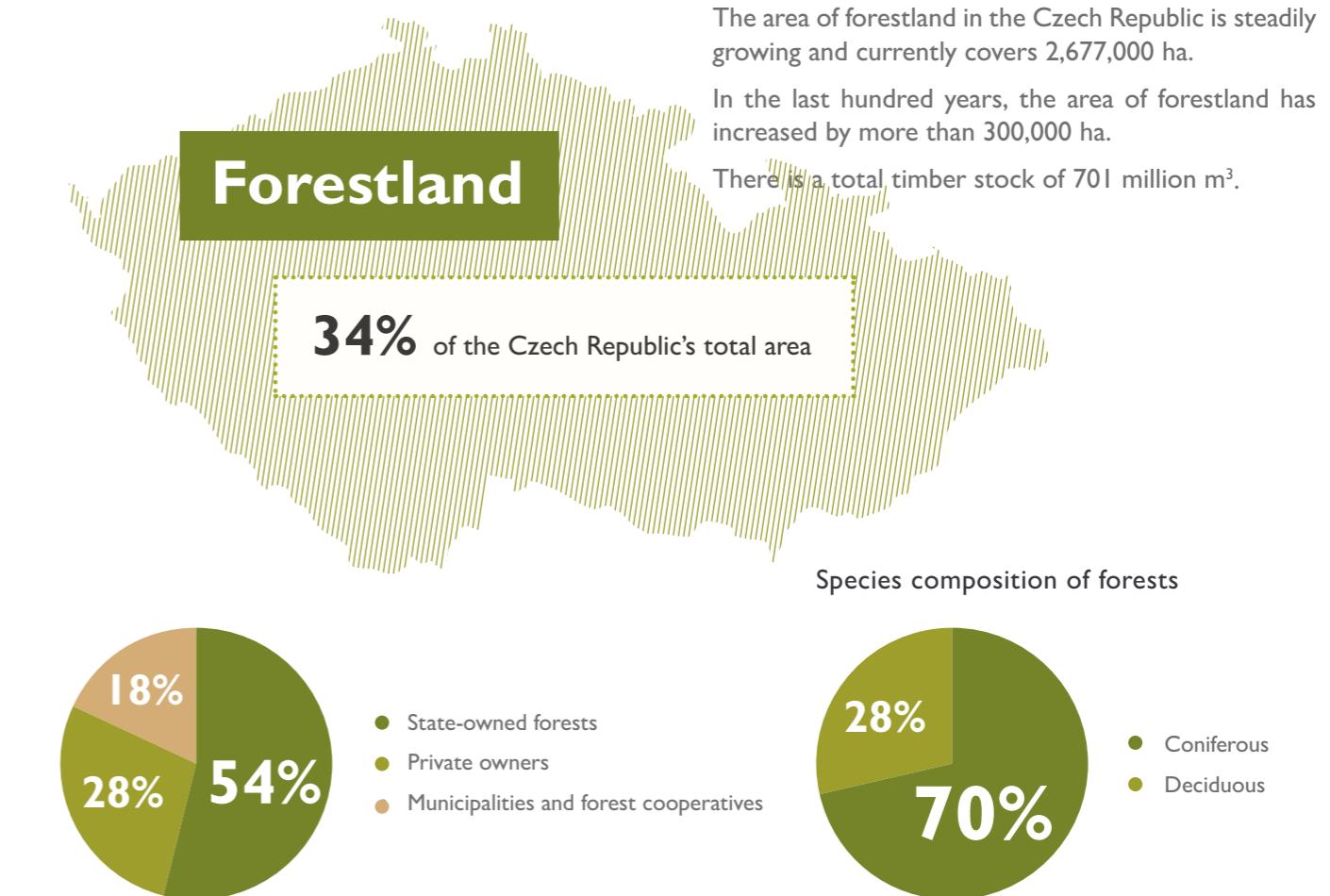




# FORESTRY

The Czech Republic has comparatively high forest cover and a rich forestry tradition. Forests currently cover more than one third of the country's total territory.

The total area of coniferous trees is decreasing, while the share of broadleaved trees, especially beech and other deciduous trees, is increasing. This reflects foresters' ongoing efforts to achieve the optimal species composition of woodland.





# HUNTING

There is a long history and rich tradition of hunting in the Czech Republic. As early as 1573, the Bohemian Diet adopted a resolution on the protection of hunting, linking hunting rights to land ownership and laying down conditions for the protection of game.

Planned and sustainable game management is a natural element of rural life and part of the Czech Republic's national intangible cultural heritage.

## Czech hunting preserves centuries-old traditions such as

- bugling during hunts and hunting festivals
- hunting attire with elements of uniforms dating back to the 16th century
- hunting language preserves expressions that are centuries old and is included in hunting tests

Falconry, i.e. the art of breeding, protecting, training and hunting birds of prey, has been on the Czech Republic's List of Intangible Assets of Traditional and Folk Culture since 2009. Czech hunting contributed significantly to its inclusion on the UNESCO list a year later.

## Hunting is carried out

by around 90,000 hunters over an area of approximately 6,850,000 ha.

## Every year

around 350,000 cloven-hoofed game animals are hunted in 5,700 hunting grounds.

## Hunting of the main game species (shooting and trapping)

Pheasant	<b>331,700</b>
Mallard	<b>207,000</b>
Wild boar	<b>161,700</b>
Roe deer	<b>105,700</b>



**Text Authors:** A collective of authors from the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic

**Photos:** Apart from the names shown in italics, all photographs are from [www.shutterstock.com](http://www.shutterstock.com).  
The name is the user name on this website. The page number is given in parentheses

Cover: N K

DaLiu (6), Zdenek Fiamoli (8, 9), VOJTa Herout (10), MEE KO DONG (12), Dmitry Rukhlenko (16, 17),  
Arbaz shoukat (18), Český modrý mák z.s (20), Andrei Lagunov (22), Bits And Splits (23), nednapa (24),  
Stone36 (25), Arina\_C (26), Ana Blazic Pavlovic (28), P-Kheawtasang (30), Olesya Myzzz(32),  
Serhii Brovko (33), Anton Havelaar (34, 35), Tomas K (36, 37), Stepanek Photography (38), Kira Kutscher (40),  
PhotoSongserm (42), Evgenyananiev (44, 45), Beneda Miroslav (46), kosolovskyy (48, 49), beatsI (50, 51),  
Budějovický Budvar, n. p. (54, 55), Jag\_cz (56), Jana Kubistová - JANAKA (58), Krasula (62, 63), zedspider (65),  
homas Dekiere (66, 67), Alexandre Valade (68), karybo (70, 71), Rostislav Stefanek (72), Jrck (74, 75),  
Krasula (76), Martin Prochazkacz (78)

**Sources:** Zpráva o stavu zemědělství za rok 2020 (Report on the state of agriculture in 2020), Zemědělství 2020 (Agriculture 2020), Zpráva o stavu vodního hospodářství za rok 2020 (Report on water management in the Czech republic in 2020), Zpráva o stavu lesa a lesního hospodářství v roce 2020 (Information on Forests and Forestry in the Czech Republic by 2020), Panorama potravinářského průmyslu 2019 (Information on food industry 2019)

**Note:** All the published data refer to 2020, unless otherwise stated.