

Czech Republic



General Information



Population

10 672 118 (World Bank 2022)

10 519 913 (STAT CZ 2022)



Immigration

105 888 (Eurostat 2019)

69 201 (STAT CZ 2021)



Emigration

1 026 108 (UN Emigration Stock 2020)

19 232 (STAT CZ 2021)



Working-age population

6 766 557 (World Bank 2022)

6 654 200 (STAT CZ 2022)



Unemployment rate

2.2 % (World Bank 2022)

3.3 % (STAT CZ 2022)



GDP

290 565 654 835.8 current prices USD (World Bank 2022)

282 340 000 000 current prices CZK (STAT CZ 2021)



Refugees and IDPs

Refugees:

37.075 (UN Refugee Stock mid-2020)

191 (STAT CZ 2021)

Asylum seekers:

1.354 (UNHCR mid-2020)

1.411 (STAT CZ 2021)



Citizenship

By Birth: No

By Descent: Yes

Dual Citizenship: No

Years of Residency: 5



Territory

78 867 km² (CIA World Factbook)

Migration Authorities

Responsible Body

Ministry of Interior

Line Ministries

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Agencies

Directorate of the Foreign Police Service

National Criminal Police and Investigation Service (NCOZ)

Coordinating authority for border control and migration management

Key Policy Documents

Migration Strategy of the Czech Republic

Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreigners in the Czech Republic and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended Act No. 274/2021 Coll.

Act No. 221/2003 Coll., on Temporary Protection of Foreigners

Act No. 191/2016 Coll., on the Protection of the State Border of the Czech Republic and on Amendments to Related Acts

Decree No. 220/2019 Coll., on annual quotas determining

the maximum number of visa applications for third-country nationals to stay for more than 90 days

Relevant Publications

Life of foreigners in the Czech Republic 2021

Country profile- Czech Republic 2021

Foreigners of Czech Republic 2021

Quarterly report on migration 2022

Annual reports on migration and asylum

Report on the situation regarding migration and integration of foreigners on the territory of the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is a country of immigration, emigration and transit; however, in-migration is two to three times larger than out-migration. As of 2014, positive net migration represents a primary component of population growth. In 2022, the population of the Czech Republic amounted to over **10.5 million** persons, slightly declining from the peak of **10.7 million** recorded in 2020.

Immigration to the Czech Republic has considerably grown since the mid-1990s and especially since the accession of the country to the Schengen area. While in **1995** the number of foreigners coming to the country reached only some 6.000, in **2007** the number surpassed the 100.000 mark. In 2020, the inflow has declined due to the COVID-19-related travel restrictions, as well as the amendment of the law on the residence of foreigners. However, the flow has fully recovered in 2021, exceeding the 2019 figure and approaching **70.000** persons.

Over the past decade Ukrainians, Slovaks and Vietnamese accounted for over 50% of the total number of foreigners residing in the country. In **2021**, Ukrainians held nearly 30% of all residence permits, followed by Slovaks with 17% and Vietnamese with 10%. The majority of permits held by all three nationalities are long-term and over half are permanent. Other important origin countries include Russia and Romania. In terms of reasons, economic migration accounts for 27%, followed by family reunification and educational migration. The situation with new resident permits follows the long-term trend. In 2021, the Czech Republic issued **58.600** long-term residence permits, with 58% of them granted to Ukrainians, followed by citizens of Russia and Kazakhstan.

The Czech Republic supports legal economic immigration through several government regulations and decrees. Economic programs apply to all categories of employees and researchers. In 2021, the number of foreign workers increased by 9% year-on-year to **701.830**, of whom **401.376** came from EU countries - namely Slovakia, Poland and Romania. The majority of non-EU workers come from Ukraine, Russia and Vietnam. The economic migration from Ukraine is driven by the challenging economic and political situation on the Ukrainian side and the demand for flexible labour on the Czech side. The linguistic and geographical proximity of the region also plays its role, as also the case for Slovak migrants. Since **2019**, the Czech Republic is implementing four migration programmes based on preferential selection, establishing by government decree annual quotas for the recruitment of foreign workers to increase the economic benefit for the Czech Republic. Non-EU workers most often enter the labour market based on the **Employment Card (14.6%)**, the **Employment Permit (5.8%)**, or the **Blue Card (0.2%)** for highly qualified workers. The number of foreign entrepreneurs is also growing, with a year-on-year increase of 4.7%.

Up until 2022, migration in search of international protection to the Czech Republic remained limited and refugees corresponded to around 2% of the total number of legally residing foreigners. In addition, the approval rate of applications for international protection was overall low. In **2015**, 1.525 asylum seekers were registered in the Czech Republic, with the highest number of international protection statuses granted to persons from Syria (130), Ukraine (181), and Cuba (54). In 2021, the country registered **1.411 applications** for international protection, while the number of positive decisions granting either refugee status or subsidiary protection stood at just over 300. However, this situation

rapidly changing due to the war in Ukraine. In the first quarter of 2022, the Czech Republic recorded a **drastic increase** in the total number of immigrants, and a two-fold increase of applications for international protection given the flow of persons fleeing war-affected Ukraine. As of 22 August 2022, the country hosted over **415.000** Ukrainian nationals under temporary protection.

Since joining the Schengen area in 2007, the Czech Republic faced a gradual increase in the number of irregular migrants. In 2015, during the so-called migration crisis, the number of irregular migrants exceeded 8000, the majority of whom were nationals of Syria, while before 2015 most irregular migrants were coming from Ukraine. In 2021, the country saw a record number of **10.835** irregular migrants, 97% of whom were persons who stayed illegally in the country. Some 50% of them were nationals of Ukraine, followed by 15% Moldovans and 5% Afghans. In the same year, the Czech Republic detected **1.330** transit migrants, representing a three-fold increase compared to 2020 and an overall record since 2016.

Emigration from the Czech Republic has been increasing since the country joined the European Union. Over the past decade, an average of **21,000** Czech nationals have left the country per year. However, in many cases these flows are temporary, comprising of people leaving to accumulate **financial capital, improve their language skills or gain foreign experience**. Traditional emigration countries for Czechs include the UK, Germany and Austria. According to UN DESA, the same countries along with Slovakia host the most populous Czech communities abroad, while the overall size of the Czech diaspora exceeds 1 million persons.

The **Migration Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic of 2015** represents the key document on migration. The strategy contains 7 policy areas, such as supporting the integration of foreigners, ensuring the fight against illegal migration, supporting the external dimension of migration policy, protecting free movement within the Schengen area, supporting legal migration, and fulfilling the Czech Republic's European and international commitments.

In the field of asylum and irregular migration, the country has long taken a position in coordination with other V4 countries, what is also reflected in the ongoing negotiations on the new EU **Pact on Migration and Asylum**. V4 countries support solidarity and financial and technical assistance, but have rejected mandatory quotas. The Czech Republic has also included the topic of the revision of migration and asylum policy as one of the main topics of its Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2022, with an emphasis on the negotiation of the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum. The country advocates for voluntary solidarity, the strengthening of the EU's external borders and better return policy. It also manages the migration debate with regard to Ukraine, which is one of the main priorities of its Presidency.

The Czech Republic is a party to several migration dialogues and the founding member of the Prague Process. The country voted against the Global Compact for Migration in 2018. In January 2022, the government of the Czech Republic approved the update of the Policy for the Integration of foreigners 2022.