

## Czech Republic



The Czech economy had the proverbial “double-dip” in economic activity in the economic crisis, with a decline in economic activity beginning in the fourth quarter of 2008, followed by positive growth and then a decline again in the fourth quarter of 2009. The fall in GDP towards the end of 2008 was modest, however, and the unemployment rate was only beginning to show signs of increasing towards the very end of the year.

Despite the apparent small impact of the economic crisis visible in 2008, immigration inflows into the Czech Republic declined by some 25% in that year, with the decline showing up largely among Ukrainians and Slovaks. Since 2004, Ukraine has replaced the Slovak Republic as the main origin country of immigrants. In contrast to Ukrainians and Slovaks, immigration of Germans more than doubled in 2008, while remaining at modest levels (4 300); that of Vietnamese also increased.

The foreign population increased by almost 12% in 2008 to reach 438 000, or about 4.2% of the total population. Most of the increase occurred among dependent workers (+43 000) and persons receiving business authorisations (+8 000). Fully 60% of dependent foreign workers are employed in manufacturing and construction. The foreign labour force as a whole represents 6.9% of the total labour force.

The Czech Republic is among the OECD countries for which migration accounts for almost all of population growth. Net migration over 2007-2008 reached 0.8% of the total population, which ranks it among the highest in the OECD. Net migration at this rate would ensure a small positive growth of the working-age population over the next ten years.

The number of asylum seekers continued to decline in the Czech Republic in 2008 and at close to 1 700, stands far below the 2001 peak of 18 100. Less than 10% of asylum seekers are accorded refugee status.

As of 2009, Czech language knowledge is required in order to obtain permanent residence.

The “green card” regime for labour migration was also introduced in 2009. The green card is a dual document including both a work permit and a permit for long-term residence. It is issued to three categories of foreigners: a) qualified workers with university education and key staff; b) workers for jobs requiring the minimum level recognised by an apprentice-leaving exam; c) other workers. The validity of the green card is three years for category A and two years for the other two. The green cards are for third-country nationals. As a result of the economic crisis, however, few green cards have been issued.

Due to the crisis, a “protection period” has been introduced, granting foreign workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own 60 days to look for a new job.

The categories of foreigners who do not need a work permit to take on employment has been enlarged. It now includes persons who are systematically preparing for a future job or complete secondary or university education in the Czech Republic. Work permit requirements have also been lifted for foreigners who have a long-term work permit and live with a foreigner who has the status of long-term resident of the European Union.

Priorities have been established in 2008 to promote the integration of foreigners, particularly with regard to knowledge of the Czech language, economic self-sufficiency, orientation in society and relationships with members of the broader society.

Finally, a return programme was introduced in 2009, for immigrants who lost their jobs as a result of the economic crisis and were unable to cover the cost of travel back home. About 2 200 foreigners have taken advantage of this programme.

### **For further information:**

[www.mvcr.cz](http://www.mvcr.cz)

[www.czso.cz](http://www.czso.cz)

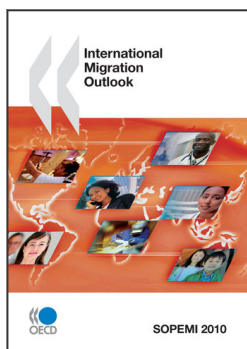
## Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

## CZECH REPUBLIC

Migration flows (foreigners)	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>National definition</i>										
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	0.6	0.4	9.9	7.5	1.4	6.7	77.8			
Outflows	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.4	0.9	2.3	3.8			
<b>Migration inflows (foreigners) by type</b>	<b>Thousands</b>		<b>% distribution</b>		<b>Inflows of top 10 nationalities</b> <b>as a % of total inflows of foreigners</b>					
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	2007	2008	2007	2008						
Work	..	..	..	..						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..						
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..						
Free movements	..	..	..	..						
Others	..	..	..	..						
Total	98.8	71.8	..	..						
<b>Temporary migration</b>	2000	2007	2008	<b>Average</b>						
				<b>2003-2008</b>						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	..	5.7	6.0	4.6						
Trainees	..	..	..	..						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..						
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..						
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..						
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..						
<b>Inflows of asylum seekers</b>	1995	2000	2007	2008	<b>Average</b>		<b>Level</b>			
					<b>1997-2002</b>	<b>2003-2008</b>	<b>2008</b>			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.4	1 711			
<b>Components of population growth</b>	1995	2000	2007	2008	<b>Average</b>		<b>Level ('000)</b>			
					<b>1997-2002</b>	<b>2003-2008</b>	<b>2008</b>			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	-1.2	-1.1	9.1	8.3	-1.7	4.2	86			
Natural increase	-2.1	-1.8	1.0	1.4	-1.8	0.0	15			
Net migration	1.0	0.6	8.1	6.9	0.7	4.4	72			
<b>Stocks of immigrants</b>	1995	2000	2007	2008	<b>Average</b>		<b>Level ('000)</b>			
					<b>1997-2002</b>	<b>2003-2008</b>	<b>2008</b>			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Foreign population	1.5	2.0	3.8	4.2	2.1	3.1	438			
<b>Naturalisations</b>	1995	2000	2007	2008	<b>Average</b>		<b>Level</b>			
					<b>1997-2002</b>	<b>2003-2008</b>	<b>2008</b>			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>	..	4.1	0.5	0.4	..	1.0	1 837			
<b>Labour market outcomes</b>	1995	2000	2007	2008	<b>Average</b>					
					<b>1997-2002</b>	<b>2003-2008</b>				
<b>Employment/population ratio</b>										
Native-born men	..	..	74.8	75.4	..	73.8				
Foreign-born men	..	..	76.6	77.5	..	71.3				
Native-born women	..	..	57.3	57.6	..	56.9				
Foreign-born women	..	..	57.7	55.4	..	52.6				
<b>Unemployment rate</b>										
Native-born men	..	..	4.2	3.5	..	5.5				
Foreign-born men	..	..	7.6	4.5	..	8.6				
Native-born women	..	..	6.7	5.6	..	8.3				
Foreign-born women	..	..	10.8	10.2	..	13.6				
<b>Macroeconomic indicators</b>	1995	2000	2007	2008	<b>Average</b>		<b>Level</b>			
					<b>1997-2002</b>	<b>2003-2008</b>	<b>2008</b>			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	5.9	3.6	6.1	2.5	1.3	5.0				
GDP/capita (level in US dollars)	6.0	3.8	5.6	1.4	1.5	4.6	20 609			
Employment (level in thousands)	0.9	-0.7	2.0	1.6	-0.6	0.9	4 987			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	4.1	8.9	5.3	4.4	7.4	6.8				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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