

# Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is located in central Europe southeast of Germany, also bordering Austria, Poland and Slovakia. Its borders encompass roughly 79,000 sq. km., making it about equal in size to



South Carolina. The country enjoys a temperate climate with cool summers and cold, cloudy winters.

The Czech Republic, known locally as Ceska Republika or Cesko, is governed by a bicameral parliamentary democracy located in its capital city Prague or Praha. The country is divided into 13 administrative regions. It gained its freedom from the Soviet Union in 1989, and celebrated its independence on Jan. 1, 1993 when the peaceful split with its neighbor Slovakia was formalized.

Economically stable and increasingly prosperous in the post-Communist era, the Czech Republic joined the European Union in 2004 and its economic outlook is positive with a labor force of an estimated 5 million people. About 60 percent of the population works in the service sector; 38 percent in industry, and the remaining 4 percent in agriculture.

Major industries include metallurgy, machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, glass and armaments. Agriculture products produced in the Czech Republic include wheat, potatoes, sugar beets, hops, fruit, pork and poultry. Its current industrial growth rate is at 6 percent.



The country exports machinery, transport equipment, chemicals, raw materials and fuel, mainly to Germany, Slovakia, Austria, Poland, France, the UK and Italy. It imports machinery, transport equipment, raw materials, fuels, and chemicals from Germany, Russia, Slovakia, China, Poland, Italy, France and the Netherlands.