

Czech Republic

Recent policy developments

- The National Development Priorities to guide the use of European Cohesion Policy for the 2014-2020 period include: i) increasing the competitiveness of the economy (e.g. reducing the gap with the EU average); ii) developing core infrastructure; iii) improving the quality and efficiency of public administration; iv) promoting social inclusion, the fight against poverty and the health care system; v) integrated regional development.
- The urban dimensions to the 2014-2020 Regional Development Strategy highlight the importance of considering cities in the context of functional urban areas, including the concept of urban-rural linkages.
- The 2010 Principles of Urban Policy note the importance of urban policy for regional development in a holistic manner (multisectoral), the use of towns as development poles in a territory, and attention to the environment and sustainable urban development.
- There is an increasing focus on improving capacity at sub-national level, as well as in improving the use of information technologies for monitoring and evaluation processes of regional policy.

Government structure	Municipal-level governments	Intermediate-level governments	Regional or state-level governments
Unitary	6 253		14

Regional development policy

Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Ministry of Regional Development
Regional development framework	The 2014 National Development Priorities of the Czech Republic guide the use of EU25 Cohesion Policy.

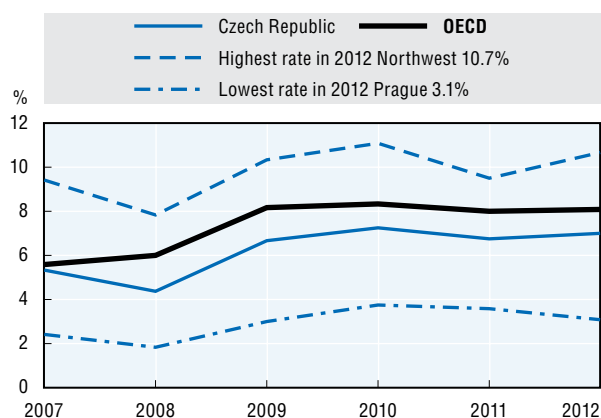
Urban development policy

Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Ministry of Regional Development
Urban policy framework or strategy	The first urban policy framework, the Principles of Urban Policy (<i>Zásady Urbánní Politiky</i>) from 2010, outlines several goals for urban development and its role in regional development.

Rural development policy

Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Regional Development
Rural policy framework or strategy	Rural development policy is defined in the Czech National Strategy Plan (NSP) for Rural Development, with a single Rural Development Programme (RDP) covering the whole country. The strategy for rural development is based on increasing economic growth, job creation and sustainable economic development.

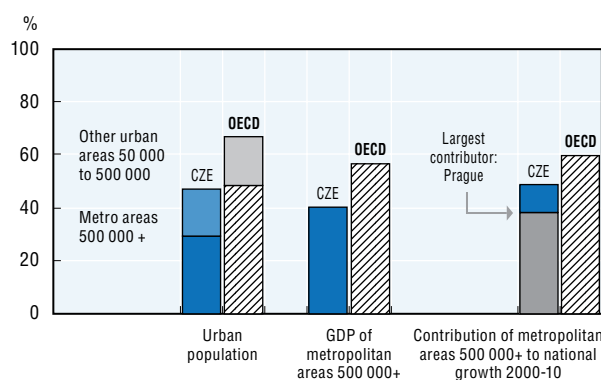
Regional disparities in unemployment trends



Unemployment rates varied from 3% in the region of Prague to 11% in Northwest. Since 2008, the youth unemployment rate has increased in all regions, reaching 28% in Northwest.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933107522>

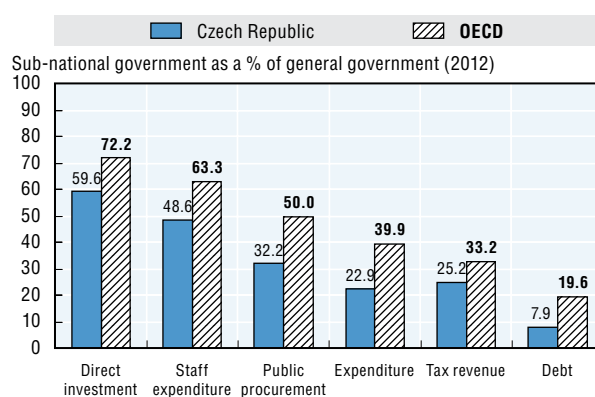
The importance of urban areas



In the Czech Republic, 47% of the population lives in cities of different sizes. The share of population in metropolitan areas (urban areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants) is 29%, compared to 49% in the OECD area.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933107541>

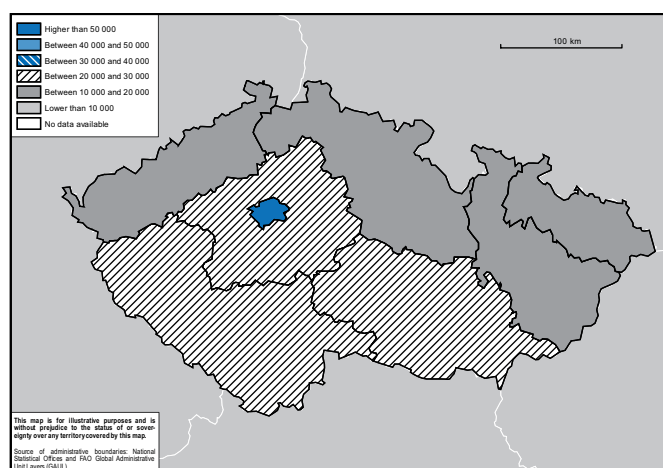
The role of sub-national governments in public finance



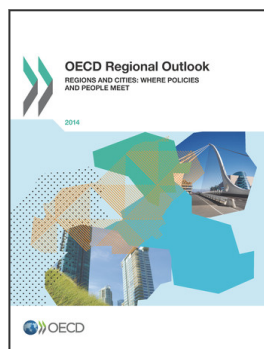
Education and economic affairs are the two largest spending items for SNGs in the Czech Republic: together they represent 40% of sub-national expenditure, compared to 41% in the OECD area.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933107560>

Regional differences in GDP per capita levels



The Czech Republic had the 8th largest regional disparities in GDP per capita in OECD countries in 2010. All regions in the Czech Republic grew in the previous decade at higher rates than the OECD average. Regional growth varied from +4.8% annually in Prague to +2.2% in Northeast.



From:

OECD Regional Outlook 2014

Regions and Cities: Where Policies and People Meet

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264201415-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2014), "Czech Republic", in *OECD Regional Outlook 2014: Regions and Cities: Where Policies and People Meet*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264201415-20-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.