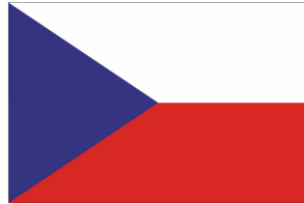




Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic



The Czech Republic and Canada

Opportunities for Cooperation

Presentation by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Canada

First meeting of the Canada - Czech Republic Parliamentary Friendship Group
during the 45th Parliament, October 21, 2025

Czechia: A Modern Partner with 1000 Years of History



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic

Christianity in 935 AD; Kingdom in 1212; Czechoslovakia in 1918; The Czech Republic in 1993; Member of NATO since 1999; OECD since 1995; EU since 2004



Quick Facts About Czechia



Located in the Heart of Europe

Accessible by plane
from most European
destinations in under
2 hours

- **Berlin** 55 min
- **Paris** 1 h 55 min
- **London** 2 h
- **TelAviv** 3 h 50 min
- **Dubai** 6 h
- **Toronto** 8h





General Information



- Population: 10.88 million
- Roughly the size of New Brunswick
- GDP per capita: \$32,000 USD (2024)
- Currency: Czech Crown (CZK)
- Capital: Prague



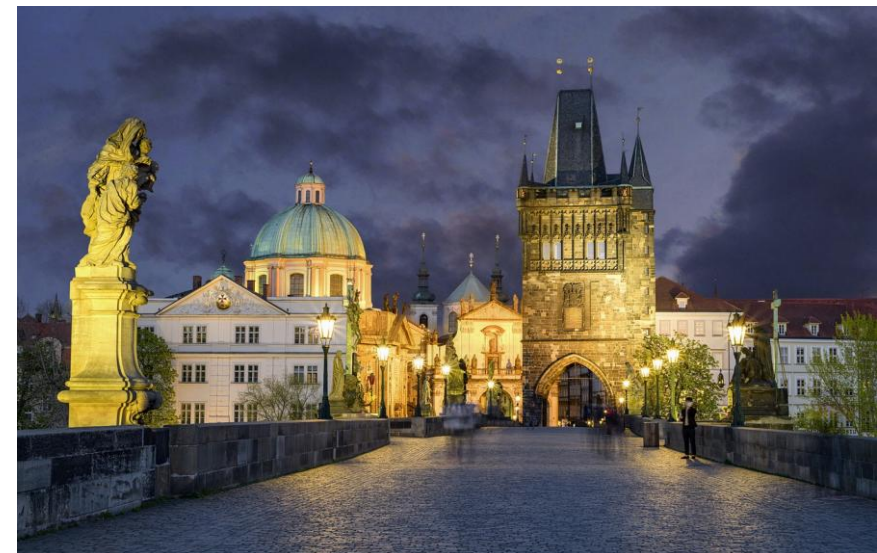
➤ Other large cities: Brno, Pilsen, Ostrava



Prague

The capital and largest city of the Czech Republic

- Population: 1.4 million
- Accounts for 27% of GDP
- Famous for architecture, museums, theaters, cinemas, galleries, and cafés
- Major Central European transport hub





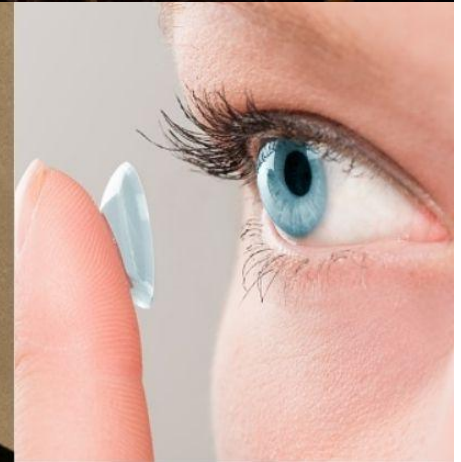
Czechia: A Nation of Culture & Science

Culture

- Franz Kafka
- Dvořák – *The Symphony "From the New World"*
- Smetana – „*My country*”

Science

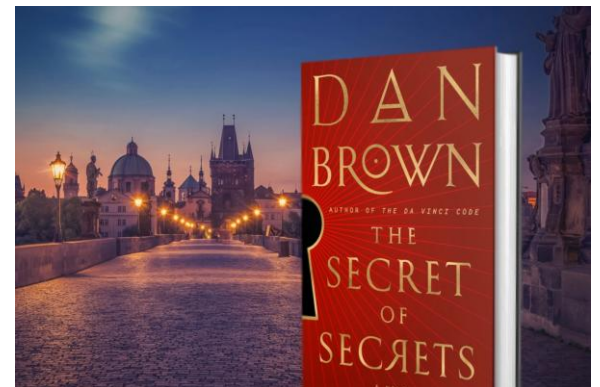
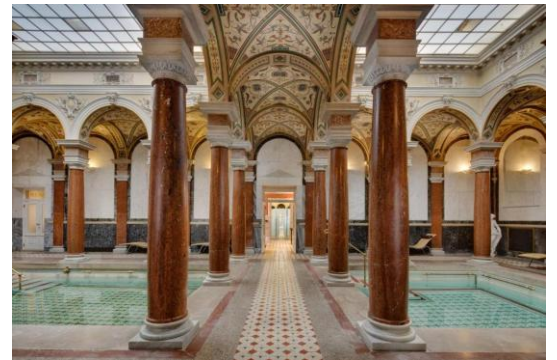
- Wichterle – contact lenses
- Prof. Holý – first HIV treatment
- 70 years of civil nuclear program





Czechia: History Meets Mystery

- 2nd highest density of castles per / km² in the world (after Scotland)
- World renowned Medical Spas
- Dan Brown's *The Secret of Secrets*
- Czech Tolar - > dollar





Tourism

- 70,000 Canadians visited the Czech Republic in 2023
 - Springboard for travel to Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, etc.
- Direct Air Canada flights between Toronto and Prague
 - 3 flights/week from June to September





Czech Diaspora in Canada

- 100,000 Canadians claim Czech or Czechoslovak ancestry

Regions with largest diaspora:

- **Ontario** – Toronto, Ottawa
- **British Columbia** – Vancouver, Victoria

Famous Canadians with Czech roots:

- Tomas J. Bařa, Otto Jelinek, Diana Krall, George Heller, Vasek Pospisil, Travis Konecny





Excellent Bilateral Relations

Over a century of diplomatic relations:

- 1920 - Czechoslovak Consulate in Montreal
- 1942 - Czechoslovak official envoy in Ottawa
- 1962 - diplomatic relationship elevated to an ambassadorial level



Milestones:

- 1990, 1999 - president Václav Havel in CA
- 2009 - Czechia leads the EU to open CETA negotiations
- 2021 - Canada Czechia Friendship Group
- 2024 - Otto Jelinek received CZ Medal
- 2025 - Group Chair John Brassard awarded the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to Diplomacy by Czech Foreign Minister

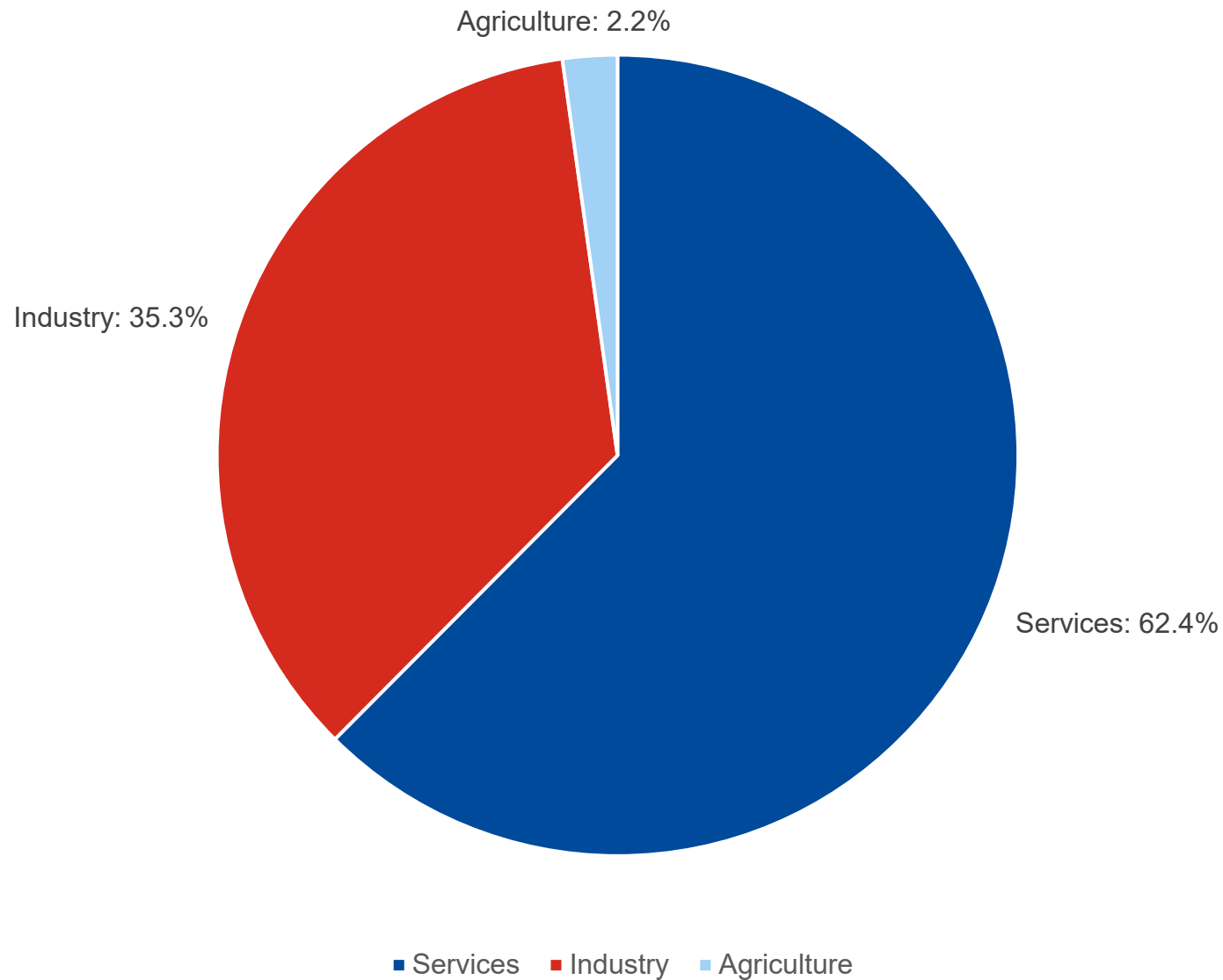




Czech Economy



Contributors to Czech GDP





Foreign Trade

Dependence on international trade

- Exports equal **80% of GDP**
- 80% of exports destined for the EU market

Largest Export Markets:

- Germany, Poland and Slovakia

Largest Import Markets:

- Germany, Poland and China





Major Czech Export Sectors

- Aerospace
- Cars & transit vehicles
- Electronics and electrical engineering
- Medical equipment
- Chemical and pharmaceutical industry





Educated and Skilled Workforce

- Strong technological potential due to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workers
- Deep integration with the EU R&D ecosystem
 - Horizon Europe
- Youth Mobility Programme: Czech Republic & Canada
- Research cooperation between Czech & Canadian Universities
 - University of Waterloo & Technical University Liberec
 - McGill University & University of Economics in Prague



The University of Waterloo and CEITEC BUT (Central European Institute of Technology, Brno University of Technology) signing an MoU supporting cooperation in nanotechnology research, mobility, and other areas of common interest.



Bilateral Trade



Trade Profile

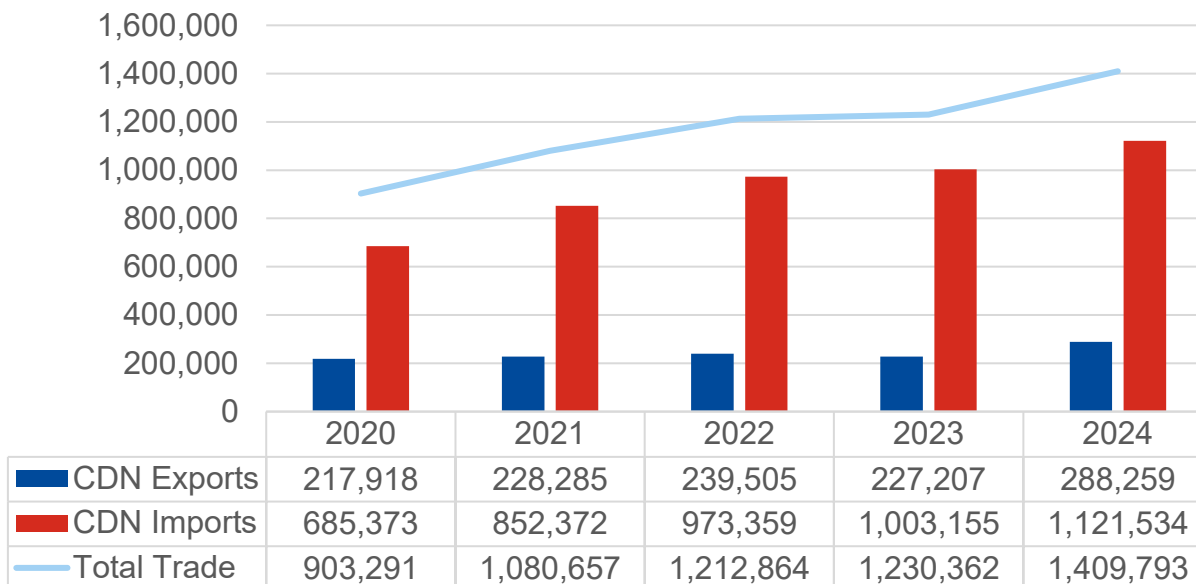
Total trade in goods (2024) = **\$1.4 billion**

- **55%** increase since 2016

Total investment (2023) = **\$713 million**

- **71%** increase since 2016

Trade in goods, CZ-CA (CAD millions)



Czech Exports

- Electronics & high-tech components
- Motor vehicle parts
- Iron and steel products

Canadian Exports

- Drugs & Cosmetics
- Aerospace components
- Coal

Source: Statistics
Canada



Czech Firms in Canada

LINET

Czechvar



**COLT
CZGROUP**



Aero



Draslovka



TŘINECKÉ ŽELEZÁŘNY



Canadian Firms in Czechia





Potential for Further Cooperation

- **Energy & mining**

- Critical minerals – Canada-EU Strategic Partnership on Raw Materials
- Mining technologies, geological exploration, cleantech and remediation, hydrogen, nuclear, smart grids, research cooperation



- **Automotive, public transit & rail**

- Electromobility, infrastructure for alternative fuels (electric, hydrogen fueling stations)
- Automotive technologies, development of autonomous and connected mobility (AI, cybersecurity)
- Public transport (electric & hydrogen buses)



Potential for Further Cooperation

- **Civil aviation industry**
 - Supply of aerospace components and production cooperation, joint research



- **ICT, electronics, cybersecurity**
 - Digital transformation in the public sector, workforce development, solutions for agriculture, healthcare and finance
 - Collaboration across government and industry to address shared cyber threats





Potential for Further Cooperation

- **Agriculture and food industries**
 - Brewing technologies, drones/smart agriculture/agri-tech
 - Joint R&D for new technologies/practices

Czechvat

BEDNAR

Farmet

- **Research, development, innovation and education**
 - Research collaboration, e.g. Horizon Europe
 - Mobility opportunities for researchers and students (+ Youth Mobility)
 - European research facilities in Czechia – superlasers EliBeamLines, BIOCEV





Two Nations (Typically) United By Hockey



Jakub Dobeš (active)
Tomáš Plekanec
Roman Hamrlík



Ondřej Pavelec
David Rittich
Michael Frolík



Radim Vrbata
Filip Hronek
Marek Malík



Kateřina Mrázová
Tereza Vanišová
Natálie Mlýnková



Carla Mcleod, Head
Coach of the Czech
Women's National Team



Tomáš Kaberle
David Kämpf
Petr Mrázek



Aleš Hemský
Ladislav Šmíd
Petr Sýkora



Dominik Hašek
Martin Havlát
Vinny Prospal



Jaromír Jágr
Jiří Hudler
Robert Reichel





Embassy Activities

- Organizing Economic Diplomacy Projects
 - Roadshows & Business meetings
 - Trade shows in Canada
 - Incoming missions to the Czech Republic
- Outreach for companies / industry associations
- CETA and free trade promotion
- R&D promotion including Horizon Europe
- Youth Mobility & Student Exchange promotion





Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic

Thank you

Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ottawa
251 Cooper Street
Ottawa, ON
www.mzv.cz/ottawa