

Czech Republic



Population: 10,201,707 (July 2010 est.)
Population Growth Rate: -0.106% (2010 est.)
Birth Rate: 8.76 births/1,000 population (2010 est.)
Life Expectancy: total population: 77.01 years
male: 73.74 years
female: 80.48 years (2010 est.)
Literacy Rate: total population: 99%; male: 99%; female: 99%
Net Migration Rate: 0.97 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2010 est.)
Unemployment Rate: 9.3% (2009 est.)
Gross Domestic Product per Capita: \$25,100 (2009 est.)
Religions: Roman Catholic 26.8%, Protestant 2.1%, other 3.3%, unspecified 8.8%, unaffiliated 59%
Languages: Czech 94.9%, Slovak 2%, other 2.3%, unidentified 0.8%
Ethnic Groups: Czech 90.4%, Moravian 3.7%, Slovak 1.9%, other 4%
Capital: Prague¹

Trafficking Routes

The Czech Republic is a source, destination, and transit country for victims of trafficking in persons. However, according to Jitka Gjuricova, director of the Department for Crime Prevention at the Ministry of the Interior, the Czech Republic is increasingly becoming a mainly destination country.²

Men and young women trafficked out of the Czech Republic are often taken to other European countries, such as Italy, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. In 2007, a trafficking ring was caught controlling seven women who had been brought to the U.K. from the Czech Republic for commercial prostitution.³ Women brought to the Czech Republic are mostly from Moldova and the Ukraine.⁴ Others come from Bulgaria, Romania, other former Soviet countries, Vietnam, and China.⁵

¹ CIA, THE WORLD FACTBOOK 2010, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ez.html>

² Linda Mastalir, *Human Trafficking: the Czech Republic as a Destination Country*, ČESKY ROZHLAS, July, 3 2006, <http://www.radio.cz/en/article/76574>.

³, *Police Vow to Fight Sex 'Slavery,'* BBC NEWS, May 25, 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/6693079.stm.

⁴ Mastalir *supra* at 2.

⁵ Womensphere, *Human Trafficking Campaign Ends*, Jan. 26, 2008,

<http://womensphere.wordpress.com/2008/01/26/human-trafficking-campaign-ends-czech-republic/>.

Factors That Contribute to the Human Trafficking Infrastructure

The Czech Republic's geographic location makes it a link between the more impoverished Eastern European countries and the wealthier Western European nations. This also makes it a destination country because it is relatively easy for foreigners to come and find the services they seek at a lower price than in their home country. Gjuricova has cited the lower prices in the Czech Republic as one of the forces that attracts Western clients.⁶

In addition, government-led antitrafficking campaigns have not had much success. Many of the foreign workers trafficked into the Czech Republic do not trust government programs because of the political situation in their home countries.⁷

The Czech Republic's legal framework for addressing human trafficking has caused some confusion because it is not very clear. Also, it does not adequately reflect international standards.⁸

Forms of Trafficking

In the Czech Republic, the most common forms of human trafficking are commercial sex prostitution and forced labor. Prostitutes and laborers are both domestically trafficked and brought to the Czech Republic from different countries.⁹

In 2009, a domestic nongovernmental organization reported that more than 20,000 Vietnamese have arrived in the country since 2007 in order to provide cheap labor for Czech factories. The report found that many of these workers were not informed of the conditions under which they would be working and that the jobs arranged for them did not yield enough funds to repay the costs of their journey. This creates a cycle of overwhelming indebtedness that traps many newly arrived workers.¹⁰

Government Responses

Article 9 of the Czech Republic's Bill of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms prohibits forced labor and servitude. However, any definition of or penalty for forced labor is absent from the criminal code. This has caused confusion among law enforcement as to what is the national legal framework for addressing forced labor violations.¹¹ In addition, the Czech Republic has

⁶ Mastalir *supra* at 4.

⁷ PETRA BUCIKOVA, LA STRADA CZECH REPUBLIC, TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND FORCED LABOUR OR LABOUR EXPLOITATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC (2006), *available at*: http://lastradainternational.com/lsidocs/378%20LS_Czech_forced%20labour%20report.pdf.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ MICHAEL KREBS AND EVA PECHOVA, LA STRADA CZECH REPUBLIC, VIETNAMESE WORKERS IN CZECH FACTORIES- RESEARCH REPORT- EXCERPT (2009), *available at*: <http://www.mvcr.cz/soubor/la-strada-cz-vietnamese-workers-research-report.aspx>.

¹¹ Burcikova *supra* at 7.

signed many international agreements banning forced labor, but those regulations do not always correlate with national legislation.

In regard to addressing forced prostitution in the commercial sex industry, the Czech government approved a law in July 2005 that serves to help regulate prostitution. Prostitutes are now required to register for a license and only work in assigned locations. This law might make it more difficult to traffic persons into the commercial sex industry.¹² [E: has that happened? Law is almost 5 years old]

In the Czech Republic, it is difficult to prove allegations, which results in very few of the accused ever receiving a full sentencing.¹³ Recently, the government has taken steps to address the weaknesses of its human trafficking policy, and the International Labour Organization has recognized the Czech Republic for its efforts toward addressing forced labor in the country.¹⁴

Nongovernmental and International Organizations Responses

For three months in 2007, the International Organization for Migration joined forces with the Czech government through a campaign, Together Against Human Trafficking, to raise awareness of sex trafficking in the Czech Republic. The project was financed by the Interior Ministry and utilized posters and postcards to spread the message. The campaign tried to encourage tourists to call anonymous hotlines if they thought a prostitute they visited might be a victim of human trafficking. As a result, the IOM received 24 e-mails and 30 phone calls from concerned tourists, and investigations are still in progress.¹⁵

La Strada is a transnational NGO that focuses on raising preventative awareness, protecting rescued victims, and advocating at the governmental level for better enforcement of antitrafficking laws.¹⁶ Currently, the Czech branch of La Strada is focusing its projects on finding ways to ensure that action is being taken against human trafficking, promoting a multidisciplinary approach to achieving its goals, protecting the especially vulnerable populations (such as youth living in institutional care facilities and Roma women), reintegrating rescued victims into society, and other joint and regional initiatives.¹⁷

Multilateral Initiatives

In 2004, France signed the Daphne II project. Running through 2008 with a budget of 50 million euros, the program supports organizations that “develop measures and actions to prevent or to combat all types of violence against children, young people, and women and to protect the victims and groups at risk.” It is open to organizations from the 27 [E: we’ll need to be sure this

¹² Anti-Trafficking Center. , *The Czech government has approved a new law to license prostitutes*, <http://www.atc.org.yu/News/page2.html> (last visited Feb. 2, 2010).

¹³ Mastalir *supra* at 6.

¹⁴ Roger Plant, Head, Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour, Presentation to OSCE High-Level Conference: Forced Labour and Human Trafficking: The Challenges Ahead, (Nov. 7, 2005), *transcript available at*: http://www.ilo.org/sapfl/Informationresources/Speeches/lang--en/WCMS_097002/index.htm.

¹⁵ Kimberly Ashton, *Human Trafficking Campaign Ends*, THE PRAGUE POST, Jan. 23, 2008, *available at*: <http://www.thepraguepost.com/articles/2008/01/23/human-trafficking-campaign-ends.php>.

¹⁶ La Strada International, <http://www.lastradainternational.org>, (last visited Feb. 2, 2010).

¹⁷ La Strada International-Czech Republic, <http://www.lastradainternational.org/?main=lastradaoffices§ion=czechrepublic>, (last visited Feb. 2, 2010).

error wasn't repeated in other profiles]European Union member states, European Free Trade Association and European Economic Area countries, plus Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro.¹⁸
[E: pls. confirm edits—Bulgaria and Romania are listed as EEA members so should not be in this list?]

The European Commission is working with EU member states to address the issue of human trafficking in Europe. While holding the EU presidency from January to June 2009, the Czech government coordinated its efforts with other EU states and held two conferences to increase awareness of and dialogue about human trafficking.¹⁹

¹⁸ *Daphne II Programme to combat violence against children, young people and women*, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, May 2007, http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/2004_2007/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm.

¹⁹ The House of Commons of the United Kingdom, Home Affairs Committee, *The Trade in Human Beings: Human Trafficking in the UK*, 2008-09 Parliamentary Session, Report No. 6, §7 (May 15, 2009) available at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmhaff/23/2310.htm>.