

# Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

## Czech Republic

### Country Profile

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This country profile on Czech Republic is taken from the report *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* ([link](#)), which contains 51 profiles on the prison populations in the Prison Administrations of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe.

*Prisons in Europe 2005- 2015* presents data on prison populations across Europe from 2005 to 2015. It is divided in two volumes: Volume 1 presents country profiles based on several indicators concerning prison populations, and Volume 2 includes all the data used for the report. The report has been prepared by the University of Lausanne and co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Each country profile includes a Table with Key Facts about the country, which are presented in the form of several indicators referring to the latest available year and to the evolution during the latest ten years, as well as the relative position of the country (low, medium or high) for each indicator compared to the 28 member States of the European Union (“EU 28”) and the 47 member States of the Council of Europe (“CoE 47”). The classification in “low”, “medium” and “high” is based on the comparative indicators presented in Part 2 of the study. The country profile is divided in four sections and includes 8 Figures. The four sections are the following:

- Key facts
- The country in brief: This section summarizes the trends shown in the key facts from 2005 to 2014/15. It illustrates which indicators have increased, which have decreased and which have remained stable. The indicator is considered as showing a stable trend if the variation is lower than 5%.
- The country in comparative perspective: This section compares each country to the rest of the countries included in the study.

#### General comments:

This section includes eight Figures, comments to these Figures and some possible explanations of the observed trends. The eight Figures are numbered from 1 to 8 within each country profile and also include, between brackets, their absolute number from 1 to 408.

The Key facts include indicators of stock and flow. The stock indicators refer to the situation on 1st September 2015. The flow indicators refer to the situation during the year 2014. On the basis of the data included in this study, we have calculated for each indicator the average for the 10 to 11 years under study. This average is presented in the fifth column of the country profiles.

Finally, the last column of the country profiles provides a graphic indicator of the trend observed when one compares the last year of the series (2014 and 2015 respectively) to the first one (2005). The arrows included in this column reflect the evolution of the indicator according to the following table:

↔	+/- 4.9%	stable
↑	+5 to +9%	slight increase
↑↑	+10 to +19%	moderate increase
↑↑↑	+20 to +49%	substantial increase
↑↑↑↑	+50% and more	huge increase
↓	-5 to -9%	slight decrease
↓↓	-10 to -19%	moderate decrease
↓↓↓	-20 to -49%	substantial decrease
↓↓↓↓	-50% and more	huge decrease

COUNTRY PROFILE	CZECH REPUBLIC		TRENDS 2005-2015		
<b>Key Facts</b>					
	2014/15	Comparative		Evolution 2005-2014/15	
		CoE 47	EU 28	Average	% Change
Prison population rate (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 01.09.2015	197.7	High	High	194.8	↑
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	101.3	Low	Low	148.7	↓↓↓
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) – Available since 2009	79.7	Low	Low	130.3*	↓↓↓
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	19.9	High	High	16.0	↑↑↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	21.0	High	High	16.5	↑↑↑↑
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	100.4	High	High	101.9	↔
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	32.5	Low	Low	34.2	↓
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	6.9	High	High	5.7	↑↑↑
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	8.0	Medium	Medium	7.7	↓
<i>of which: in pre-trial detention</i>	29.7	Low	Medium	35.9	↓↓↓
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	9.4	Low	Low	11.8	↓↓↓
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	15.5	Low	Low	15.3	↑↑↑↑
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=12)	6.4	Medium	Medium	5.5	↑↑↑↑
<i>of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=6) – Available since 2013</i>	50.0	High	High	55.3	↓↓↓
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	1.9	Medium	Medium	1.9	↑
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	19.2	Low	Low	28.9	↓↓↓↓
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	283 200 000	NAP	NAP	293 942 686**	↔
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	45.0	Medium	Medium	36.1***	↑↑↑

\*Average calculated from 2009 to 2014

\*\* Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

\*\*\* Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

### Czech Republic in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: rate of entries into penal institutions (-45%), rate of releases from penal institutions (-38%), median age of the prison population (-7%), percentage of foreign inmates (-8%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (-32%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (-40%), percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention (-40%), and percentage of custodial staff in the total staff (-68%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: prison population rate (+6%), average length of imprisonment based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (+65%), average length of imprisonment based on stock and flow (+74%), percentage of female inmates (+48%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (+65%), percentage of suicides (+104%), ratio of inmates per staff (+8%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (+36%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: prison density (-1%), and total budget spent by the prison administration (-3%).

### Czech Republic in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Czech Republic presents:
  - **Low:** rate of releases from penal institutions, median age of the prison population, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff.
  - **Medium:** percentage of foreign inmates, percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates, rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates, ratio of inmates per staff, average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate.
  - **High:** prison population rate, average length of imprisonment based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions, average length of imprisonment based on stock and flow, prison density, percentage of suicides in pre-trial detention.
- When the percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates is calculated, the Czech percentage is low compared to the member States of the Council of Europe, but medium compared to the member States of the European Union.

## General comments

Figure 1 (81)

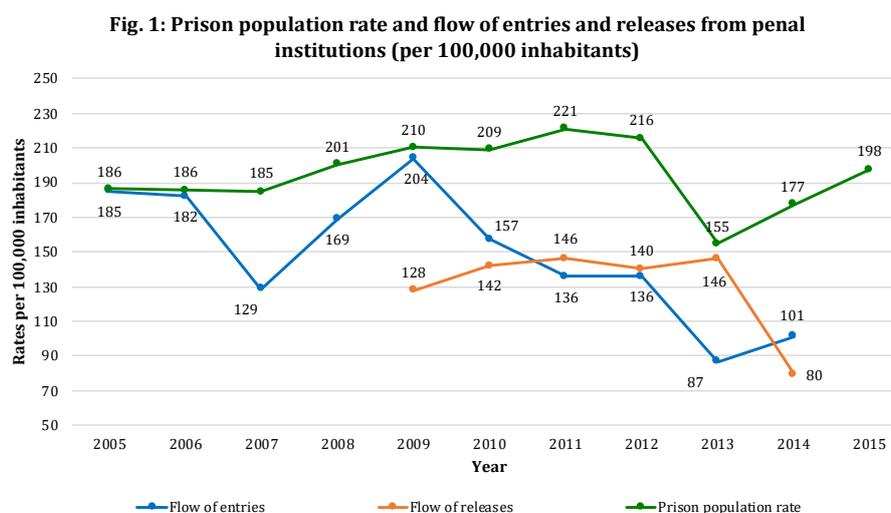


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Czech Republic (stock) increased by 6%. In 2005, the country had 186 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 198.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) decreased by 45%. In 2005, there were 185 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 101.

From 2009 to 2014, the rate of releases (flow of releases) decreased by 38%. In 2009, there were 128 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2014 there were 80.

The flow of entries and the flow of releases show dissimilar rates and trends.

According to the information collected during this research, the observed trends in Figure 1 are influenced by a new law that entered into force in 2010 and transformed some offences in petty offences or misdemeanours (for example, driving without a license is not a crime anymore). As a consequence, there was a decrease in the flow of entries into prison from 2010 to 2013. This was accompanied by an increased use of community sanctions and measures. The decrease in the number of inmates in 2013 is explained by an amnesty that released prisoners sentenced to short term imprisonment. The amnesty applied also to some convicts who had not started serving their prison sentence yet.

Figure 2 (82)

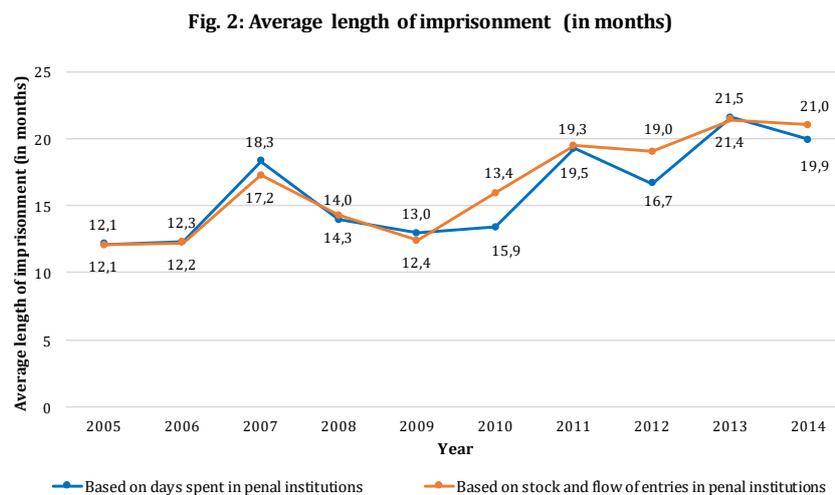


Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions increased by 65%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 12.1 months, while in 2014 it was 19.9 months.

When the average length of imprisonment is computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow, it shows an increase of 74%. According to this indicator, in 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 12 months, while in 2014 it was 21 months.

Figure 3 (83)

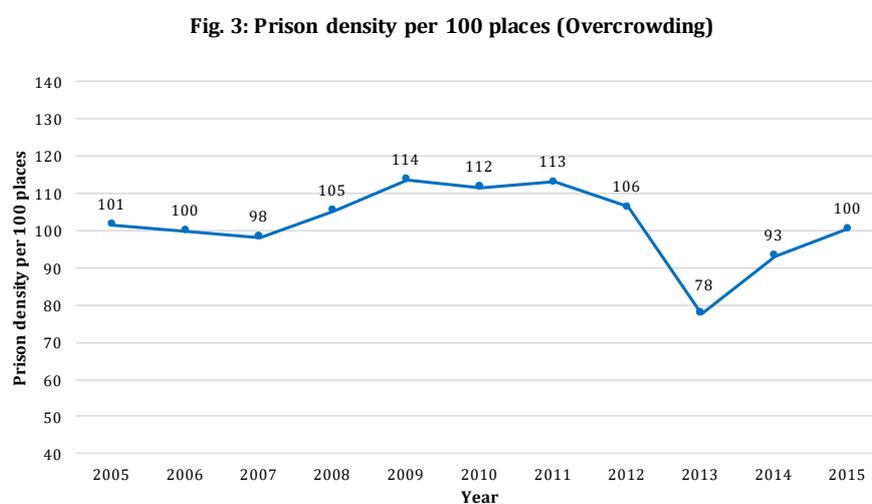


Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Czech Republic remained relatively stable. In 2005, the country had 101 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 100.

Figure 4 (84)

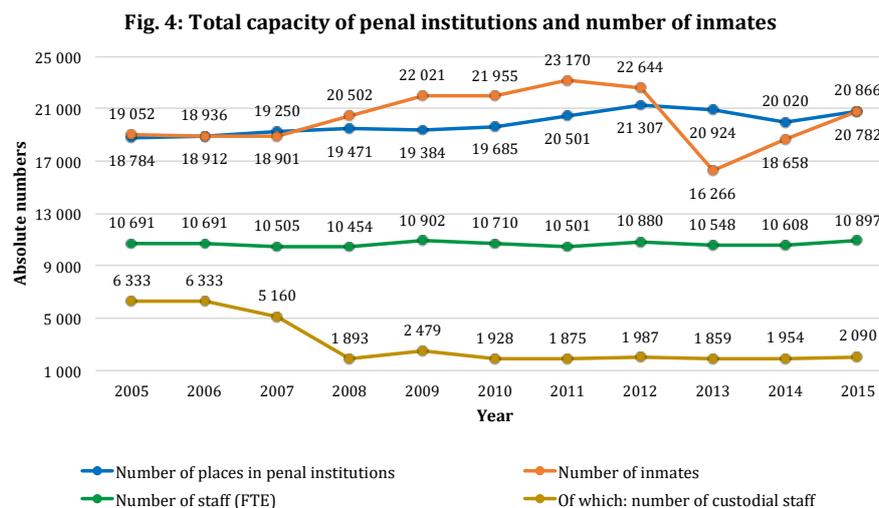


Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Czech Republic increased by 11%. In 2005, the country had 18,784 places, while in 2015 it had 20,782. According to the information collected during this research, the increase was due to construction works conducted within the existing prisons that led to an increase in the number of places available. Three additional detached prisons (Prilepy, Postorna, Visni Lhoty) were also in use when the capacity reached its peak in 2012. Following the amnesty mentioned in the comments to Figure 1, on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013, the Drahonice Prison was closed due to the decrease in the number of inmates.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of inmates increased by 10%. In 2005, the country had 19,052 inmates, while in 2015 it had 20,866.

During the same period, the total number of staff increased by 2%. In 2005, Czech Republic had in total a staff of 10,691 persons, while in 2015 it had 10,897.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of custodial staff decreased by 67%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 6,333 persons, while in 2015 it was 2,090. According to the information collected during this research, the decrease observed at the beginning of the series (mainly from 2007 to 2008) is due to a change in the methodology used to qualify the staff working in prisons as custodial or not. In the first years of the series, all the staff working with prisoners was counted as custodial staff. Since 2008, however, only the guards are considered as custodial staff. Additional information on the way staff is counted in the Czech Republic can be found in the annual SPACE reports for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Figure 5 (85)

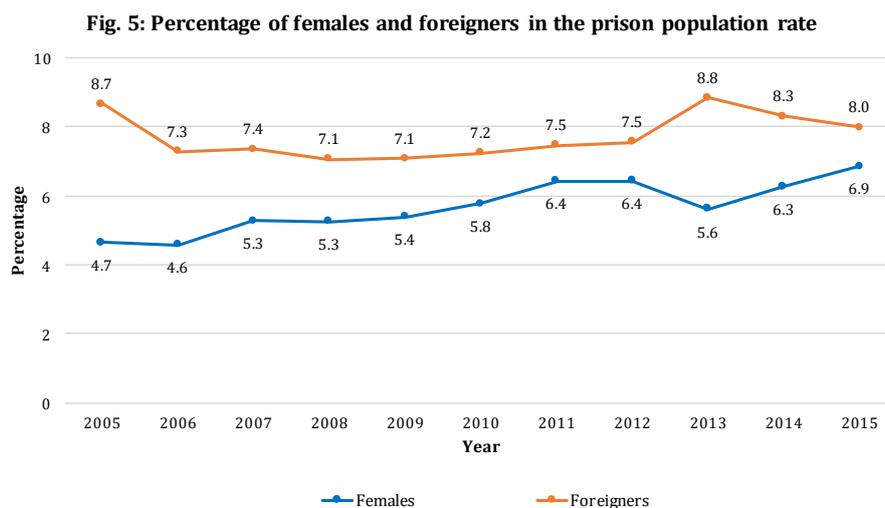


Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates increased by 48%. In 2005, 4.7% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they were 6.9%.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates decreased by 8%. In 2005, 8.7% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 8.0% of the total prison population.

Figure 6 (86)

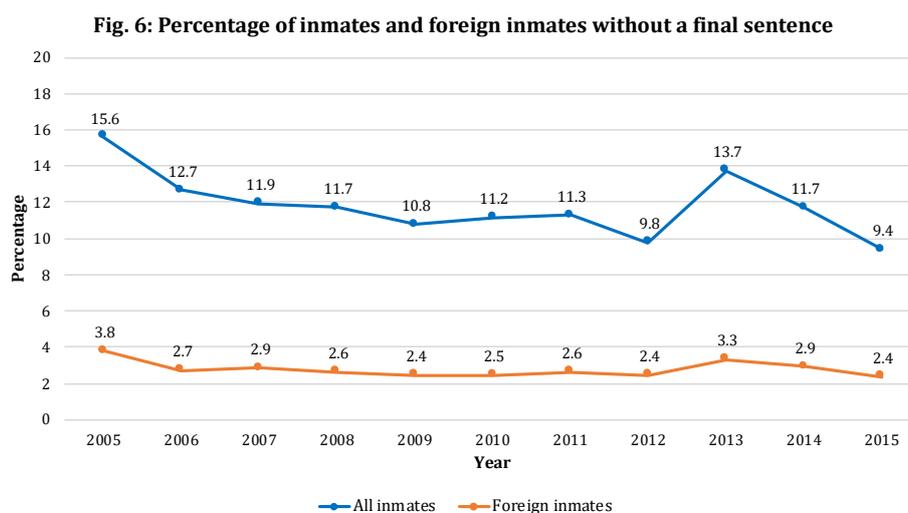


Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence decreased by 40%. In 2005, 15.6% of the inmates did not have a final sentence, while in 2015 inmates without a final sentence represented 9.4% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention decreased by 37%. In 2005, they represented 3.8% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 2.4% of them.

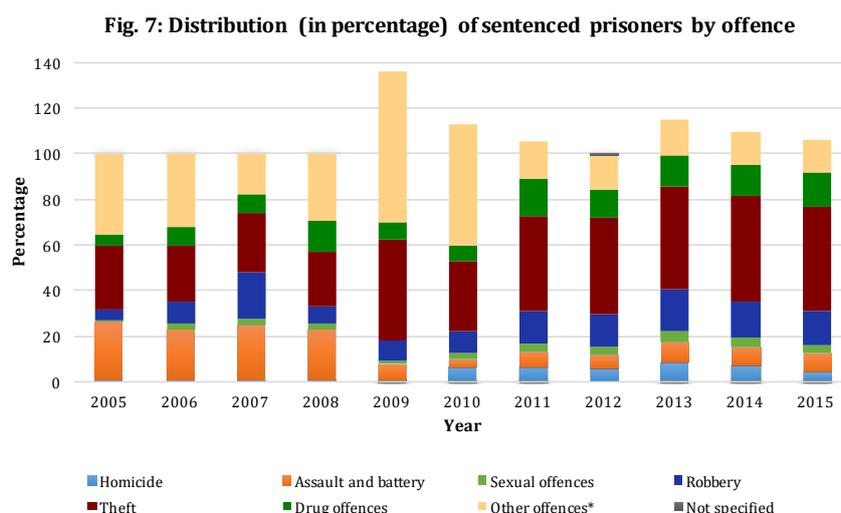
Figure 7<sup>123</sup> (87)

Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for homicide, sexual offences, robbery, theft, and drug offences have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for assault and battery as well as for other types of offences have decreased. The total exceeds sometimes 100% because the Czech Republic does not apply the principal offence rule.

Figure 8 (88)

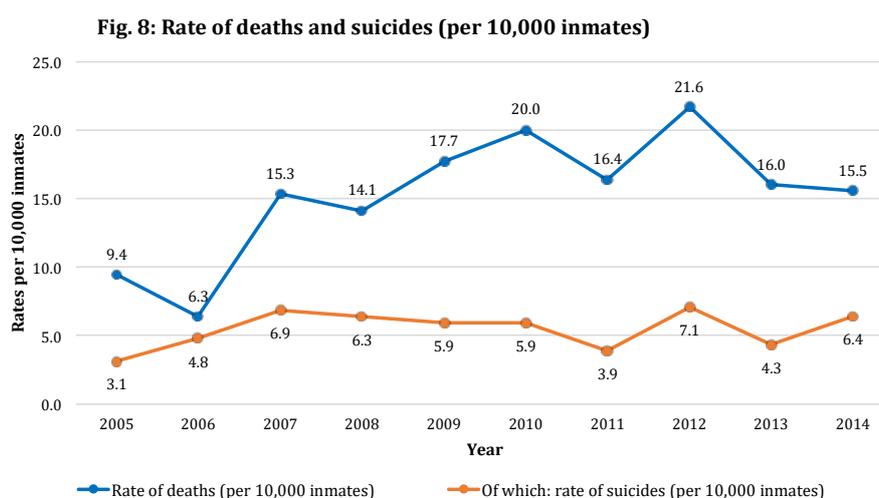


Figure 8 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the rate of deaths of inmates in penal institutions per 10,000 inmates increased by 64%. In 2005, there were 9.4 deaths per 10,000 inmates, while in 2014 there were 15.5.

Any interpretation of the rates and trends of suicides would be misleading because, from a statistical point of view, the absolute numbers are too low (between 6 and 16 suicides per year) to reach reliable conclusions.

<sup>1</sup> The figures provided by the country do not always add to 100%.

<sup>2</sup> Sexual offences include: (1) rape (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005), and (2) other sexual offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008).

<sup>3</sup> Other offences include: (1) economic and financial offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008); (2) terrorism (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (3) organised crime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (4) cybercrime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2014); and (5) other cases (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005).