

Moravian – Silesian Region

Main characteristics

- Skilled industrial labour force at a cost significantly less than in Western Europe
- Strong familiarity with traditional industries (steel industry, mechanical engineering, chemistry, textiles)
- Research and development facilities and institutions (information technology, biotechnology, advanced materials)
- Three universities (Technical University Ostrava, University of Ostrava, Silesian University Opava)
- Industrial zones, science-technological parks, business incubators
- High density of infrastructure
- High concentration of large cities and towns
- Total region population over 1.2 million
- Advantageous location between Poland and Slovakia
- Transit region, VI European multimodal corridor north - south, hub of road and railroad transport
- Branch offices of international banks
- Major global retail chains
- Multicultural population
- Vibrant artistic life (opera, philharmonic orchestra, several theatres and galleries)
- Intact nature within 20 minutes drive from any city in the region
- Large modern international airport with a potential for growth

The Moravian-Silesian region consists of six districts: Bruntál, Frýdek-Místek, Karviná, Nový Jičín, Opava and Ostrava with 297 municipalities administrated by local governments. There are about 1,287,000 people living in this area, representing 12.5% of the Czech population. The region represents 7% of the area of the Czech Republic. The statutory City of Ostrava is considered the natural, social and economic centre of the region.

The largest cities:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Ostrava | 323,870 inhabitants |
| Havířov | 87,756 inhabitants |
| Karviná | 66,823 inhabitants |
| Frýdek-Místek | 62,809 inhabitants |
| Opava | 62,234 inhabitants |

The Districts of the Region

Production activity in the Moravian-Silesian region constitutes over 20% of the total GDP of the Czech Republic and the region takes first place in relation to industrial development. The strong points and opportunities of the economic potential in particular districts of the region are characterised as follows:

DISTRICT OF BRUNTÁL

- 1.659 km²
- 106,054 inhabitants
- 64 inhabitants / km²

Strong points

- good conditions for tourism business
- excellent environment
- favourable location at border to Poland
- development area in the Krnov locality

Opportunities

- tourism and leisure business
- cooperation of Czech and Polish businessmen
- investment in wood-working, textile and consumer industries
- ample supply of cheap skilled labour

DISTRICT OF FRÝDEK - MÍSTEK

- 1.274 km²
- 228.848 inhabitants
- 180 inhabitants / km²

Strong points

- good level of processing industries (timber, paper)
- dominant location in European transit axis
- the Beskydy mountains with tourism and recreation functions

Opportunities

- investment in processing industries
- tourism and recreation business
- linkage to Poland and Slovakia, cooperation

DISTRICT OF KARVINÁ

- 347 km²
- 285.387 inhabitants
- 882 inhabitants / km²

Strong points

- very strong infrastructure
- good road and railway network
- favourable location at border to Poland
- good education facilities incl. a university
- available energy resources

Opportunities

- investment in manufacturing industry
- land reclamation
- linkage to Poland, cooperation
- utilization of old industrial areas and utilities

DISTRICT OF NOVÝ JIČÍN

- 918 km²
- 161.227 inhabitants
- 176 inhabitants / km²

Strong points

- ample supply of skilled labour in engineering
- advanced agriculture and food-processing
- international airport Ostrava-Mošnov
- good location in European transport network

Opportunities

- investment in food-processing and textile industries
- tourism business
- investment in business centre at Ostrava-Mošnov Airport
- utilization of duty-free zone at Airport

DISTRICT OF OPAVA

- 1.144 km²
- 182.027 inhabitants
- 159 inhabitants / km²

Strong points

- advanced agriculture
- food-processing industry
- several protected natural reservation areas
- many cultural and historical monuments

Opportunities

- investment in food-processing, pharmaceutical and consumer industries
- leisure business
- good supply of skilled labour

CITY OF OSTRAVA

- 214 km²
- 323.870 inhabitants
- 1.513 inhabitants / km²

Strong points

- centre of industry, trade and services
- big engineering, chemistry and food processing industries
- very good infrastructure
- strong institutional base for business support
- two universities

Opportunities

- restructuring of heavy industry
- connection on European highway and railway network
- several development areas in the city such as Science Technological Park
- connection on international airport Ostrava-Mosnov with duty-free zone

The Profile of Moravian-Silesian Region

The Moravian-Silesian region is located in the north-eastern part of the Czech Republic and borders Poland and the Slovak Republic. The main geographical features include the Beskydy mountains with Lysá hora (1,324 m) as their highest peak and Jeseníky mountains with Praděd (1,492 m) as the highest point. The two mountain ranges surround the Ostrava basin which lies 300 m above the sea level, providing an attractive environmental retreat for tourism and leisure all year-round, with skiing in winter and walking, camping and fishing in summer. The region has also several spa centres.

Industry

Traditionally, the Moravian-Silesian region has been the foremost industrial centre in the Czech Republic and today, a large part of the gross domestic product is produced in the region. Industry employees more than half of the productive population. The most significant sectors are coal mining, energy production and steel industries. Other important sectors include chemicals, pharmaceuticals, engineering and electronics, glass, paper and textiles. Brewing is also an important industry and some of the country's finest beers are produced in the area.

Education and training

A high quality education system exists within the region. These are three important universities including the VSB – Technical University of Ostrava, the University of Ostrava, and the Silesian University in Opava and Karviná which combined have over 20,000 students. There is a wide range of secondary industrial vocational and grammar schools operating within the region.

Transportation and communications

The industrial tradition of the Moravian-Silesian region has ensured that an advanced industrial infrastructure, which includes transport networks and support services, has evolved. This includes strong research, product development, and technical support units associated with the larger industries.

The region is bisected by major road links from Hungary to Poland and from the Slovak Republic to Germany. At present, the preparation for the commencement of construction of road of the D47 highway linking Budapest with Gdansk is a priority task in the region.

Ostrava – Mošnov International Airport, the second largest civilian airport in the Czech Republic offers regular scheduled services to Prague and Vienna. Further development of the strategically important transport centre is planned.

Ostrava City lies at the crossroads of two important international railway corridors, namely E40 from Le Havre to Lvov and E65 from Vienna to Gdansk.

Telecommunication services are being rapidly modernised and upgraded in line with international standards.

Foreign Investors

During 1995/1996, the share of foreign capital, flowing into restructuring processes and for further development of the industries in the region, was slightly above average in comparison with other regions of the Czech Republic. There are over 24 significant foreign investors, primary from U.S.A, Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Belgium in the region. Moreover, the increase of large companies such as Coca Cola, Pepsi, Philips, McDonald's and Eurotel have been evident in the region.

Autopal, s.r.o. Ford Motor Company U.S.A
Hayes Lemmerz Autokola (Nova hut) A. Hayes Lemmerz U.S.A
Tabák, a.s. Philip Morris U.S.A
Galena, a.s. Ivax U.S.A
Nová huť, a.s. IFC Kaiser U.S.A
Moravskoslezské teplárny, Teplárny Karviná Dalkia France
Czech slag The Slag Reduction Co. France
Železářny a drátovny Bohumín, a.s. Bekaert Belgium
MEZ Moravia, a.s. Siemens Germany
Biocel, a.s Stratton Investments Cyprus
Opavia, a.s. Danone-Nestlé France/Switzerland
Witzenmann Witzenmann Germany
Alpine IPS Alpine Salzburg Austria
Lemos Ostrava Italian Italy
Ostroj, a.s. – Hansen Hansen Germany

Places of interest

The Beskids are a mountain massif, connecting by its natural character five districts and crossing the borders of three states. The districts of Frýdek-Místek, Nový Jičín and Vsetín in the territory of Czech Republic, the district of Čadca, in the territory of Slovakia and the voivodship of Bialsko-Biala in the territory of Poland enjoy, thanks to the Beskids, an unusual interest of tourists.

When you come here the first time, a simple question comes to your mind: "Why are the Beskids so attractive?" The local inhabitants get absorbed in thought a bit and start talking

... about skiing, jogging paths and walking hikes, cycling, horse riding, bathing, surfing, flying and mushrooming

... about virgin forests, woods, rocks, game, mountain torrents and meadows with orchids

... about Gothic fortified castle and ruins, about Baroque and Renaissance castles, about old wooden churches and pilgrimage places

... about people, the feeling of peace and relaxation, about purity of nature and mountain air, about medicinal springs, about recovery of body and mind...

And you will fix your eyes far away at a distance and you will half-close them against the sunshine with the wish to see everything you will start your way towards the Beskids.

Chateau in Šilheřovice

Neo-classic building, rebuilt in 19th century in a neo-baroque style. Former property of the house of Rothschild together with a nearby Hunters chateau and a park (98 hectares). There is a largest golf course in Moravia with 18 holes.

Štramberk

The urban preservation of settlement round a castle with a folklore Wallachian architecture. The remains of town fortification connected to the fortification of a castle. Ruins of a guard castle from the early 13th century with a cylindrical tower, called „Štramberská trůba“.

Rožnov pod Radhoštěm

Open-air Wallachian Museum composed of three parts –Wooden Townlet, Wallachian Village and Mill Valley. Collection of more than 60 buildings of typical wooden Wallachian architecture.

Hukvaldy

Birthplace of a world-famous composer Leos Janacek (1854-1928). Dominating ruins of the castle, former seat of a large Hukvaldy dominion, memorial tablet on the wall of an old school, native house of Leos Janacek. Collection of materials related to his youth and work in a nearby memorial.

Hradec nad Moravicí

This town was founded surrounding a castle, built in late 13th century. The castle was rebuilt several times since the 16th century. It was a centre of cultural life especially the musical one. A large natural garden surrounds the castle. The musical festival Beethoven's Hradec takes place there annually.