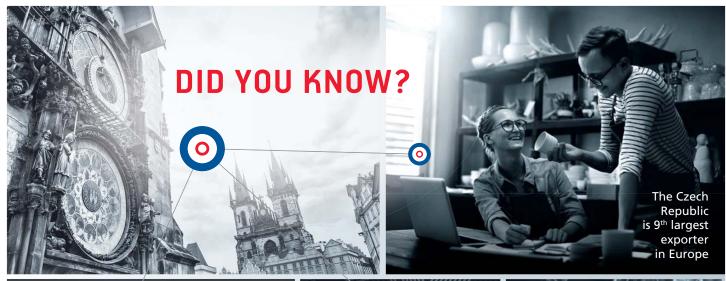


## CONTENT

DID YOU KNOW?	3
GENERAL INFORMATION	4
MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS	5
FOREIGN TRADE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC	5
BUSINESS PORTAL WWW.BUSINESSINFO.CZ/EN	7
FAMOUS CZECH INVENTIONS, DISCOVERIES AND INNOVATIONS	8
BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY	11
CZECHTRADE NETWORK SERVICES	17
REFERENCES	19
CONTACT	20





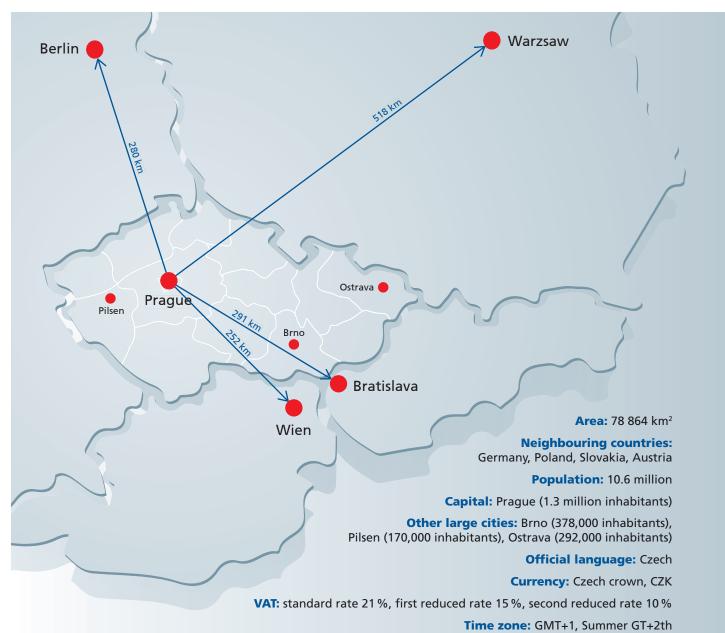








The largest producer of vinyl records in the world is the Czech company GZ Digital Media



Political arrangements: a parliamentary republic with a multiple party system

Administrative divisions: The Czech Republic is divided into 14 regions

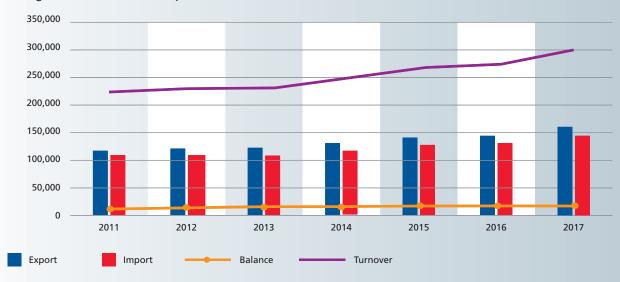
# MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Indicator		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Real GDP growth %	b	1.8	-0.8	-0.5	2.7	5.3	2.6	4.4
Real GDP growth % EU 28		1.7	-0.4	0.3	1.8	2.3	2	2.4
Real GDP per capita	e (EUR)	15,600	15,400	15,000	14,900	16,000	16,700	18,100
Total unemployment rate %		6.7	7.0	7.0	6.1	5.0	4.0	2.9
Total unemploymer	nt rate % EU 28	9.7	10.5	10.9	10.2	9.4	8.6	7.6
Inflation rate	(%. r/r. average)	1.9	3.3	1.4	0.4	0.3	0.7	2.5
CZK/EUR	(average)	24.586	25.143	25.974	27.533	27.283	27.030	26.330
CZK/USD	(average)	17.688	19.583	19.565	20.746	24.600	24.432	23.382

Source: Czech Statistical Office / EUROSTAT

# FOREIGN TRADE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Foreign Trade of the Czech Republic between 2011-2017 in mil. EUR



Source: Czech Statistical Office

# Main countries of Czech exports in 2016 - TOP 10

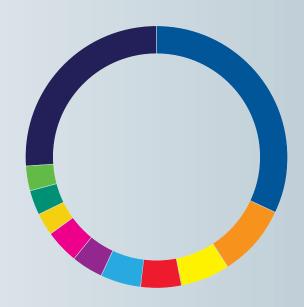
- Germany 33 %
- Slovakia 8 %
- Poland 6 %
- United Kingdom 5 %
- France 5 %
- Austria 4 %
- Italy 4 %
- Hungary 3 %
- The Netherlands 3 %
- Spain 3 %
- Others 26 %

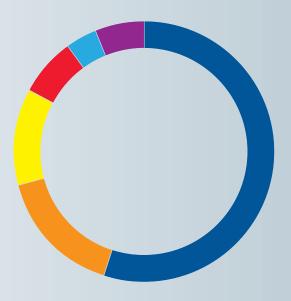
Source: Czech Statistical Office

# Commodity structure of Czech exports in 2016 - Top 5 (SITC)

- Machines and means of transport 57 %
- Market products classifired mainly by material 15 %
- Industrial consumer goods 13 %
- Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. 6 %
- Food and live animals 3 %
- Others 6 %

Source: Czech Statistical Office





# FIND MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.BUSINESSINFO.CZ/EN

The official business portal that is here to help foreign businesses navigate in the Czech business environment. Current information on its website on the conditions for doing business, investment and trade opportunities.

#### YOU WILL LEARN, FOR EXAMPLE:

- how to start a business in the Czech Republic
- how to acquire a stake in a company
- how to find a business partner for expanding or establishing a new company in CR
- how the tax system is set up in the Czech Republic
- what the investment climate is like here
- what current investment opportunities there are and much more.
- useful links and institutions in the Czech Republic
- Calendar of Events
- Online Business Enquiry (Business in the CR, Business in the EU, General enquiry)

Entrepreneurs will find on BusinessInfo.cz detailed instructions on how to set up trade for more than 180 business activities in various fields, with a particular focus on the provision of services within the EU. The instructions describe the procedure for obtaining the necessary authorisation for conducting business activities, including forms and applications.



Dittrichova 21, 128 01 Prague 2, Czech Republic info@businessinfo.cz www.businessinfo.cz/en

### FAMOUS CZECH INVENTIONS, DISCOVERIES AND INNOVATIONS

CZECH INVENTORS AND SCIENTISTS GAVE THE WORLD PLENTY OF INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND DISCOVERIES IN MANY FIELDS. SOME OF THOSE WE MENTION HERE HAVE BECOME THE WORLDWIDE BEST SELLERS AND ENTERED INTO OUR EVERY-DAY LIVES.

#### LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR

It was invented by Prokop Diviš who devoted himself to the idea of manufacturing a machine that would harness accumulated electric charge from storm clouds. The first earth-connected lightning conductor in the world was made by Diviš in the garden of Přímětice near Znojmo.

#### **PILSNER**

It is a bottom-fermented pale lager beer made according to the recipe of the city of Pilsen. It differs from other beers primarily thanks to a more pronounced hoppy flavour. The first beer of this kind was invented in 1839 by Josef Groll, a brewer of the Citizen's Brewery in Pilsen.

#### **SUGAR CUBE**

The first sugar cube in the world was invented by Jakub Kryštof Rad who was a director of the Sugar Refinery in Dačice; it was 1841 when he invented the sugar cube presser. Mass production started in 1843 when the patent was approved and the license was granted for sugar cube production.

#### **SCREW-PROPELLER**

The screw-propeller was invented by the Czech constructor Josef Ludvík František Ressel who was awarded a patent for this invention in 1827. He designed the screw-propeller's optimal shape and placed it horizontally under the stern in front of the rudder; therefore, the screw-propeller could be used both on the sea and on rivers. This invention substituted the previous paddle mechanism used in ship propulsion.

#### **KAPLAN TURBINE**

This is an invention by Professor Viktor Kaplan from 1913. It refers to a water turbine with adjustable circulating blades. It is used in particular in places where is impossible to ensure permanent flow or drift. Big Kaplan turbines are individually designed for each spot for operation with the highest possible efficiency (usually more than 90%). Kaplan turbines are widely used in water power plants worldwide.

#### **CLASSIFICATION OF FOUR BLOOD-GROUPS**

The four blood-groups were first identified by the Czech physician, neurologist and psychiatrist Jan Janský in 1907. Jan Janský is considered to be the first scientist who classified blood into four types. He did not label them with today's designations (A, B, AB and 0) but assigned them Roman numerals (I., II., III. and IV.). The classification of blood-groups in the system AB0 started to be used in the 1930s.

#### **CONTACT LENSES**

They were invented by the Czech chemist Otto Wichterle in 1961. He built his first "lense machine" from parts of a Merkur building kit and a bicycle dynamo. A year later he manufactured around 5,000 lenses. In 1965 an American company called the National Patent Development Corporation bought the licence for contact lenses production. Nowadays, contact lenses are used by millions of people all around the world.

#### **BLADELESS TURBINE**

One of the most recent Czech inventions is the bladeless (rolling) turbine. The creator is Associate Professor Miroslav Sedláček from the Czech Technical University (ČVUT) who received a nomination for the European Inventor Award 2016 in the "Research" category for his invention. The turbine has many advantages. The most important one is the fact that it can handle different gradients. (It can function with a gradient of 5 meters as well as one of 20 meters and more.) Turbine construction is very simple, and efficiency is around 40-70 %. Thanks to this discovery half of the potential hydroenergy which remains idle until now could be harnessed.

#### **NANOSPIDERTM**

This is a unique technology that makes possible the industrial production of unwoven textiles, nano-fibres (textile with a diameter 20–500 nm). It is a technology that was created thanks to the cooperation of Professor Jirsák's team and the engineer Mareš. Nano-fibres may be used for filtering in many sectors, such as medicine, the car industry, energy industry, building industry, cosmetics, environmental protection, etc. Nano-fibres are globally recognised as materials of the third millennium.

#### **CZECH TRANSPLANTATION MEDICINE**

Czech surgeons are at the top of European transplantation medicine. The first successful transplantation was performed by the oculist Eduard Konrad Zirm in 1905 in Olomouc when he made a successful transplantation of eye corneas. Bohdan Pomahač is currently a well-known Czech plastic surgeon who specialises in face transplantation. With his team he performed the first complete face transplant in the United States; this surgery was simultaneously the third complete face transplant in the world.

#### **AIR-TICKET BROWSER KIWI.COM (FORMERLY SKYPICKER.COM)**

The founder of Skypicker is Oliver Dlouhý. Unlike other browsers, it is unique in using its own algorithm, which enables users to find more convenient combinations of complicated flights from often low-cost airlines that do not cooperate together. Moreover, and in contrast with its competitors, it focuses on foreign customers. The company is labelled as a Czech miracle – within three years of its existence it has grown from scratch to a global company whose revenue can be already measured in billions of crowns.

#### **GLASS NAIL FILE**

In 1997 the Czech company Blažek Glass invented the world's first glass nail file. Currently, the company supplies these files around the globe. Customers of Blažek Glass include the most notable cosmetic companies.

# BROAD SELECTION OF PRODUCERS FROM VARIOUS BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY

- Innovative companies with unique products
- High quality production at competitive prices
- Experienced exporters with good references
- Skilled labor force
- · Flexibility and financial stability
- Strategic geographical location
- Long-term industrial tradition

#### **BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY**

#### **CAR INDUSTRY**

The Czech car industry is among the most developed branches in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. A particularly long-established tradition, broad supplier base and technical know-how have contributed to this success. More than 1.4 million road cars were manufactured in 2017 in the Czech Republic. Three producers – ŠKODA AUTO (60.7 %), HMMC (25.7 %) and TPCA Czech (14.1%) – contribute a significant share to the overall production of cars. The car industry also represents a significant portion of the overall production of the Czech Republic, accounting for almost a quarter of it as well as the same share of exports, too. 2017 was also exceptional due to the production of buses, of which more than 4,600 were manufactured. The largest bus producers are IVECO Czech Republic and SOR Libchavy. Other sectors are connected with the car industry, including the production of car bodies, frames and engines as well as the electric industry and textile industry (supply of baby car-seat covers and inside padding).

#### **AVIATION INDUSTRY**

The aviation industry of the Czech Republic focuses on two main activities. First of all, there is the production of complete aircrafts. It includes smaller aircrafts for local and regional transport, training and light combat aircrafts, sport and agriculture aircrafts, ultralight aircrafts and gliders. AERO Vodochody AEROSPACE, ZLIN AIRCRAFT and Aircraft Industries are among the main producers in this category. The Czech Republic is a world-class producer of ultralight aircrafts. A quarter of ultralight aircrafts sold in the world have been produced in the Czech Republic. Manufacturers include companies such as TL-UKTRALIGHT, ATEC and JMB Aircraft. The second segment of the aviation industry is the production of components for large transport and military aircrafts and helicopters. Czech companies supply their compounds to global aircraft producers, such as Airbus, Boeing, Embraer, Bombardier and the helicopter producer Sikorsky. Other subcontracts are transferred to producers of military aircrafts, CASA and Eurofighter. Czech companies also rank among the world leaders in aircraft safety systems – i. e. STRATOS 07 and GALAXY HOLDING.

#### **ENGINEERING INDUSTRY**

Engineering forms the backbone of the Czech economy and its manufacturing base is made up of about 70,000 companies (including metal production, foundry, electronics, machinery, production of motor vehicles and other means of transport). These companies are especially involved in the field of energy engineering, transport engineering, production of machining and shaping tools, metallurgy and production of structures and metal components. Czech engineering companies supply complete industrial equipment – i.e. turbines, machining and shaping tools, air-conditioning equipment, building machines, agriculture machines and food processing machines. ŠKODA TRANSPORTATION (transport engineering), VÍTKOVICE MACHINERY GROUP, BONATRANS GROUP, ČKD BLANSKO HOLDING, TOS Varnsdorf, TAJMAC-ZPS, TŘINECKÉ ŽELEZÁRNY, První brněnská strojírna, Wikov Industry and others are among the most significant Czech producers. The Czech Republic exports almost 90% of its engineering production, especially to EU countries, whereas its presence has also been consolidated in the Asian and Latin American markets. Production shows growth also due to new technologies, such as nanotechnologies, sophisticated electronics, automated systems and mechatronics.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES**

The environmental technological industry has been on the rise in the Czech Republic from a long-term perspective, and these modern approaches mean plenty of opportunities for Czech industry. A number of companies are involved in these sectors in the Czech Republic, and on the global level, where they offer interesting solutions. In the sector of green technologies, for instance, TEDOM is involved in manufacturing biogas stations; Aquaindustry Technologies is involved in treating waste water through the use of 3D nanotechnologies, hydroelectric plants CINK Hydro – Energy and water management alliance CWA. Furthermore, companies such as SIAG CZ (machining for wind power plants, production of towers for wind turbines), Smart Heating Technology (fully automated biomass boiler), Step TRUTNOV (boilers for straw burning), IWET (mobile water treatment system), Association of Industrial Plants Suppliers (SDIC) and others are involved in this field.

#### **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

Nowadays, the export of medical equipment from the Czech Republic has been marked by significant growth. Czech companies receive comprehensive professional orders. This sector has a high share of innovations, and many companies from this sector finance their own research and development, cooperating with scientific institutions and universities. The most significant companies in this sector include LINET, MBT technology, TSE, Meomed, Ella – CS, etc. Furthermore, when talking about new technologies, we can name Nanovia and Nanopharma, producers of nanofibers for medical purposes. The Czech Republic is also a significant producer of electron microscopes.

#### **ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

The electrical industry is one of the crucial sectors in the manufacturing industry due to the high added value of products that fall into the category of high and medium technology. In particular electrical engineering (electric engines, generators, transformers, electric switchgear systems and switch aggregates, cables and insulated wires) are produced by the electrical industry. Computer and office technology, consumer electronics, hardware and automated electronics and medical and optical equipment rank among other sectors of electrical industry production. ABB (electric installation), Siemens (electric engines), Meomed (medical equipment), Meopta-optika (optical, optomechanical and optoelectric systems) are among the most significant producers in this sector.

#### **CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY**

The chemical industry of the Czech Republic is among its main industrial branches. In 2016 of its revenue amounted to 19.2 billion EUR, and approximately 120,000 people are employed in this area. Production of basic chemical substances (64%) and production of pharmaceuticals (17%) contribute the biggest share in terms of revenue. Chemical industry products are supplied to other affiliated sectors, such as the automotive, construction, electronic, food-processing, textile industries and others. SPOLCHEMIE, Lovochemie (producer of fertilizers), SPOLANA and Synthesia (production of plastic materials and inorganic substances), PRECHEZA, Barum Continental GUMOTEX belong to the most significant producers in this sector. For instance, FATRA is engaged in production of plastic materials, and SILON produces polyester fibres.

#### **GLASS AND CERAMIC INDUSTRY**

The Czech ceramic industry has achieved an excellent reputation in the whole world thanks to its unique and top-quality hand-crafted production. The glass and ceramic industry is represented by roughly 150 companies and more than 23,000 employees (2016) working in this sector. Revenue in this sector reached over 48 billion CZK in 2016, in which flat glass represents 39 %. Glassworks in the Czech Republic produce 2,000 tonnes of flat glass and four million bottles, small bottles and flacons daily. AGC Flat Glass Czech (flat glass); O-I Manufacturing Czech Republic; VETROPACK MORAVIA GLASS (container glassware); Saint Gobain ADFORS CZ (textile fibres), KAVALIERGLASS (technical, laboratory and drinking glassware) are among the most significant producers in this sector. PRECIOSA and LASVIT are dedicated, for example, to the production of chandeliers, Crystal BOHEMIA and MOSER focus on drinking glasses. Companies JBX Retail (Jablonex jewellery) and PRECIOSA BEAUTY are famous in the jewellery sector. The most significant ceramic producers are the companies Thun 1794, Český porcelain, G.Benedikt Karlovy Vary and Manufaktura Rudolf Kämpf.

#### **FURNITURE INDUSTRY**

The Czech furniture industry benefits from the sustainability of basic material – blanks, chipboards, veneers, squared timbre etc. The crown in this sector is curved-wood furniture and also design features such as forging, clips and lockers. The sector has recorded an unprecedented growth in recent years, mainly due to exports. Metal furniture, medical furniture and upholstered furniture are exported most of all. These are in particular products with high added value. Furniture

producers often cooperate with designers and the design studios. TON (curved-wood furniture), which supplies furniture to cafés, restaurants and hotels worldwide, is one of the most notable companies in the sector. Designed upholstered furniture is produced for example by Polstrin design, MMinterier. Outdoor furniture is produced by the company TODUS, which cooperates with top-notch designers in the development of new products and supplies its products to imminent hotels.

#### **BUILDING INDUSTRY**

The building industry is one of the most important pillars of the Czech economy. It represents 7% of the production of the total Czech economy, and about 8% of all employed people work in this area. A wide range of diverse materials, products and technologies are used in the building industry. These include, for example, fasteners, insulating materials, ceramic tiles, roofing, structural frames, building chemicals, floors, windows, doors, shading techniques, building machines and many others. Czech companies involved in this sector manufacture globally competitive products. KM-Beta (roofing production), CONTIMADE (site barracks), KOMA Modular (residential, sanitary and low-energy modules), Mateiciuc (profiles, slats, tubes, plastic tubes), ISOTRA (shading equipment), LASSELSBERGER (ceramic tiles), LB Cemix (production of dry mortar and plaster mixes and stucco) and others are among the most significant producers in this sector.

#### **ICT SECTOR**

Nowadays, information technologies have a decisive effect on the economy and society as a whole. The Czech Republic has become a very desirable and sought after spot for foreign investors in this sector, especially for their development centres and IT services outsourcing. Global companies like Microsoft, DHL, SAP, ORACLE, IBM, Skype or Hewlett-Packard are among the most significant investors. Czech software companies AVG Technologies (antivirus programs), AVAST Software (antivirus programs), Bohemia Interactive (PC games) and Y-SOFT (unique press solutions), ZONER Software (SSL certificates), Safetica (software that prevents sensitive company data from leaking) are world famous. The Czech Internet browser Seznam.cz is also very famous; it is the only browser from countries using the Roman alphabet that can compete with Google.

#### **FOOD INDUSTRY**

Basic subsectors of the food industry in the Czech Republic include processing and preservation of meat and meat products (AGROFERT, Kostelecké uzeniny, Rabbit, Krahulík – Masozávod Krahulčí, Váhala etc.), processing of fruits and vegetables (Hamé, Efko, Alibona, etc.), production of dairy products (MADETA, OLMA, Mlékárna Hlinsko, etc.) and the production of mill and starch products (PENAM, Krnovská Škrobárna, Amylon, GoodMills, etc.). In the field of beverages the main sectors are brewing (Plzeňský Prazdroj, Pivovary Staropramen, Budějovický Budvar, Pivovar Svijany, Rodinný pivovar Bernard, etc.), production of mineral water and soft drinks (Poděbradka, Hanácká Kyselka, Karlovarské minerální vody, etc.) distilleries (Jan Becher – Karlovarská Becherovka, RUDOLF JELÍNEK, STOCK PLZEŇ - BOŽKOV, etc.) and viticulture (BOHEMIA SEKT, ZNOVÍN ZNOJMO, Vinné sklepy Valtice, VINSELEKT MICHLOVSKÝ, etc.).

#### **INDUSTRIAL DESIGN**

The Czech Republic has many very talented designers who succeed both at home and abroad. Among these are Jiří Pelcl, Rony Plesl, Jan Kaplický or Bořek Šípek. There is also a growing number of companies that make an effort to strengthen their competitiveness through design and cooperate with a designer to discover a new inspirational view into both existing and the latest production. Meanwhile in the past, design used to be linked with the fashion industry and luxury goods. Nowadays, it asserts itself increasingly in all branches of industry, including engineering. Many Czech companies, by far not only the large, have adopted cooperation with a designer into their business and marketing strategies. For instance, companies like SITUS furniture, JELÍNEK – furniture production, brands BOMMA and Brokis succeed in the sector of interior design. Due to design, producers of town furniture mmcité or sanitary beds by LINET are successful all over the world as well. The quality of Czech industrial design is confirmed by the Red Dot Award for designer Martin Tvarůžek who designed a machining tool for the production of the Škoda Machine Tool.

<sup>\*</sup> Take the companies listed in this brochure as a sample listing, which will help you to formulate a better picture of the specific field.



# YOUR PERFECT WAY TO FIND FIRST CLASS SUPPLIERS

#### **OUR GLOBAL NETWORK SERVICES**

CZECHTRADE IS A GOVERNMENT BUSINESS AGENCY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC. ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN CZECH AND FOREIGN ENTITIES. WHEREVER IN THE WORLD YOU ARE, THE AGENCY IS YOUR OFFICIAL CONTACT PARTNER WHEN LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED CZECH-BASED MANUFACTURERS AND SERVICES PROVIDERS.

- 20 years of professional partnership
- Free of charge, mainly bespoke services
- Over 50 offices operating worldwide
- Excellent overview of Czech manufacturers and their production potential

#### **CONNECTING CZECH & WORLDWIDE BUSINESSES VIA**

SOURCING DAYS
TRADE SHOWS
PRIVATE SHOWCASES
NETWORKING EVENTS

#### **PROVIDING**

BESPOKE SUPPLIER SEARCH TAILORED MATCHMAKING IN-HOUSE DATABASES

#### **CZECH BUSINESS PARTNER SEARCH**

Tailored solutions for your sourcing needs. If you are looking for a partner to assist you with production, you can approach our specialised team with your special request. CzechTrade will gladly help you to get in touch with relevant Czech companies.

- Personal consultation & fill in an on-line form at http://www.czechtradeoffices.com/services/czech-business-partner-search
- Facilitating access to selected Czech companies
- List of relevant businesses delivered within 2–3 weeks

#### **SOURCING DAYS** / Tailored event according to your needs

Specify your product/service requirements, define qualifications for potential supplier, and we will organise one-to-one meetings followed by company visits arrangements in the Czech Republic.

Service that saves your time:

- Precise knowledge of Czech manufacturers and their production potential
- Bespoke market screening we identify potential suppliers as per your requirement
- Suppliers shortlist after reviewing each applicant's profile select companies you wish to meet
- All-inclusive package from providing meeting rooms to accompanying you to companies premises, we cover it all
- Extra support airport transfer and hotel booking assistence as well as providing refreshments throughout the event
- Samples to be sent to your company

#### **CZECH EXPORTERS DIRECTORY**

Official on-line database of Czech exporters and the easiest tool to help you find potential business partners in the Czech Republic.

https://exporters.czechtrade.cz

#### **REFERENCES**

"On behalf of the Bravida team we would like to thank you for arranging our supplier days and taking very good care of us in Prague. We found the meetings very interesting and are now planning for the next steps."

Gabrielle Shröder, Import Manager, Bravida Sverige

"My impression from this year's Sourcing Day is much better that the last year. We met 18 companies. Although there is a lot of work ahead of us, I am sure our trip to Plzeň was not useless."

Christoph Trembaczowski, purchasing manager, STABILUS

"All preparations, planning and your splendid hospitality made for very nice working days for me and for Elena. Thank you! Many thanks for preparing all samples to us. We will make sure they will find the right Category Manager. We will now start our internal process together with our Category Managers and present all suppliers we met. We are hopeful that this will lead to future discussions with CZ companies to evaluate future opportunities. Some of the companies have already sent us e-mails!"

Gabriella Bragée, GRANNGÄRDEN

"Let me thank the foreign office of CzechTrade at Istanbul for flawless preparation and professional organisation of the business meetings in Turkey. Thanks to your team, I managed to meet all the agreed business partners. I highly appreciate the fact that managers with decision-making powers came to the agreed meetings. I have some of my own experience and know how difficult it is to organise such meetings."

Pavel Bošan, Roltechnik

"In the past, we used to be a traditional supplier of motorcycle chains to Vietnam. Together with CzechTrade, we took part in a fair in Ho Chi Min City in order to renew this tradition. We managed to get a lot of valuable contacts. Thanks to them, we have got a contract in Malaysia, and we are waiting for chain supply contracts from a Vietnamese partner worth CZK 2.5 million."

Ludmila Michálková, Production and Sales Manager of ČZ řetězy



Information and contacts for individual foreign offices can be found at www.czechtradeoffices.com

Head Office:

Czech Trade Promotion Agency Dittrichova 21, 128 01 Prague 2

Czech Republic

Phone: +420 224 907 820 E-mail: info@czechtrade.cz

