

# Report on the Situation in the Czech Republic for CECIP 75<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## 1. Introduction

This report is submitted on behalf of the Czech Weighing Association (UVV ČR) for the General Assembly of CECIP. Its purpose is to provide an overview of the Czech Republic's economic landscape in 2023/2024, with a special focus on the weighing industry and its regulatory and business context.

## 2. Economic Overview 2023/2024

The Czech Republic experienced moderate economic recovery in 2023 following a period of inflationary pressures and energy market volatility in 2022. GDP growth for 2023 was estimated at approximately 1.1%, with projections for 2024 indicating a further increase towards 2.5%, supported by recovering domestic demand and stable export performance.

Key economic indicators:

- **GDP growth (2023):** ~1.1%
- **Expected GDP growth (2024):** ~2.5%
- **Public debt-to-GDP ratio:** Stabilized at ~44%
- **Budget deficit:** Slightly improved, remaining under 3% of GDP.
- **Inflation (2023):** Average 10.7%, expected to decline in 2024.

The Czech economy continues to be export-driven, heavily integrated into EU value chains, especially in the automotive, electronics, and engineering sectors. Structural challenges include labor shortages and the need for innovative investment.

## 3. Foreign Trade Trends

Foreign trade remains a cornerstone of the Czech economy. In 2024, total exports increased by 4.3% year-on-year, driven by strong demand for industrial machinery, vehicles, and precision equipment. Imports rose by 3.1%, partially due to energy prices and strategic component sourcing.

The Czech Republic's main trading partners are:

- **Germany (32%)**

- **Slovakia (8%)**
- **Poland (7%)**
- **Austria and France (5% each)**

Trade with non-EU countries also rose, particularly with the United States and South Korea.

#### 4. Inflation and Unemployment

Inflation in the Czech Republic was among the highest in the EU in early 2023, averaging 10.7%. However, monetary tightening by the Czech National Bank (CNB) and easing energy prices contributed to a gradual decline. Inflation in 2024 was averaging around 3%.

Unemployment remained low throughout 2024:

- **Unemployment rate (2023):** ~2.7%
- **Unemployment rate (2024):** 2.5–2.8%, depending on regional industrial performance.

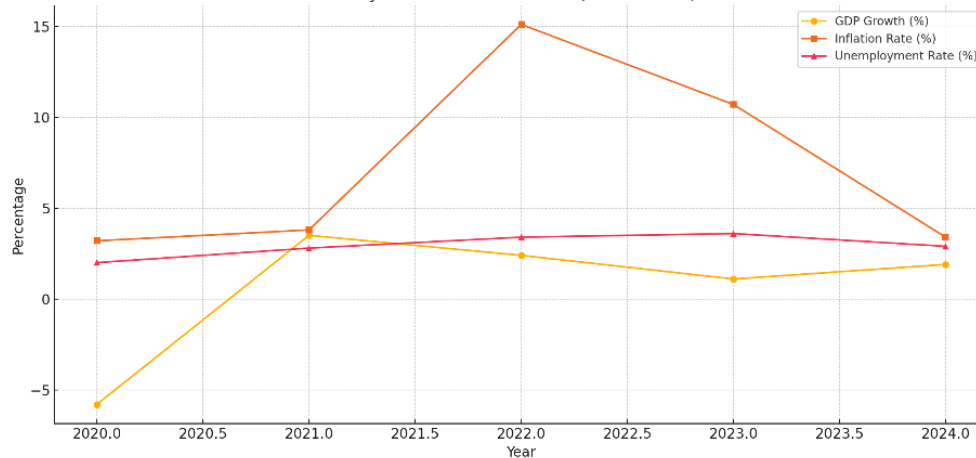
#### 5. Main Business Region

As a relatively small and industrially concentrated country, the Czech Republic sees the bulk of its business activity across the entire territory. Key industrial clusters include Prague, Brno, Plzeň, and Ostrava, though weighing technology is distributed across multiple regions depending on sectoral focus.

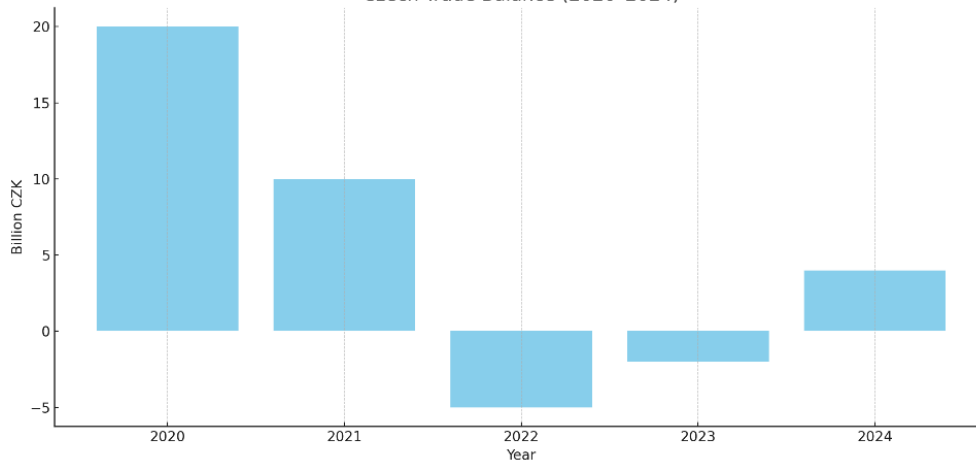
#### 6. Key Economic Indicators

Indicator	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
GDP Growth (%)	-5.8	3.5	2.4	1.1	1.9
Inflation Rate (%)	3.2	3.8	15.1	10.7	3.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	2.0	2.8	3.4	3.6	2.9
Trade Balance (Billion CZK)	20	10	-5	-2	4
Average Gross Monthly Wage (CZK)	34,000	35,500	38,800	41,500	44,200
Industrial Production Index (2020=100)	100	105	107	108	111
Export Volume (Billion CZK)	3,800	4,100	4,500	4,900	5,200

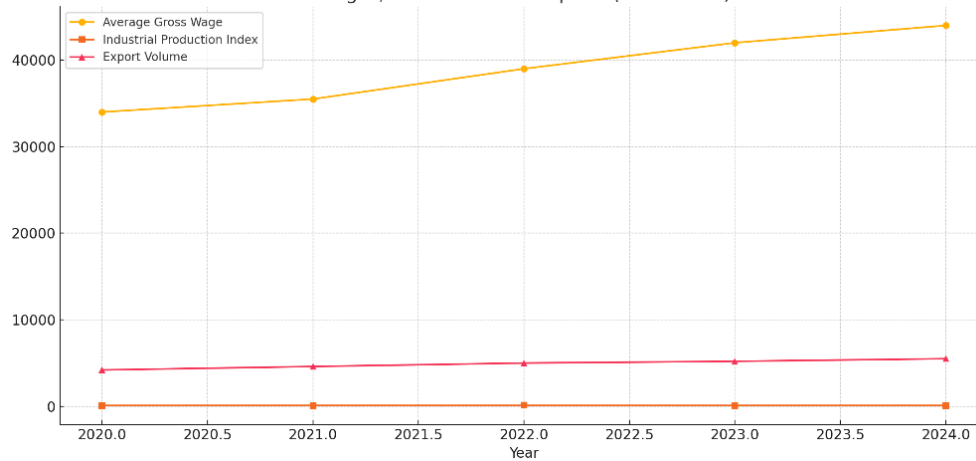
Key Economic Indicators (2020-2024)



Czech Trade Balance (2020-2024)



Wages, Production and Exports (2020-2024)



## 7. Czech Weighing Industry and UVV ČR

The weighing industry in the Czech Republic is represented by the Czech Weighing Association (UVV ČR), which brings together more than 20 member companies representing the most important companies on the Czech market. The Czech weighing industry is an integral part of the country's industrial sector, contributing significantly to both domestic and international markets.

### UVV ČR Overview:

- **Establishment and Role:** The Czech Weighing Association (UVV ČR) serves as the representative body for the Czech weighing industry. It advocates the interests of its members, facilitates collaboration, and ensures adherence to both national and international standards.
- **Activities:** UVV ČR actively participates in legislative processes, provides expert consultations, and organizes events to promote industry development. It also collaborates with European counterparts to harmonize standards and practices.
- **Membership:** The association comprises a diverse membership, including manufacturers, producers, service providers, and software developers, reflecting the multifaceted nature of the weighing industry in the Czech Republic.

### Main Activities of the Czech Weighing Industry Association (UVV ČR) in 2024

- Organization of the **74th CECIP General Assembly in Prague**
- Multiple **training sessions** for UVV ČR members and other stakeholders in the field of **NAWI and AWI**
- A **professional conference** titled “*The Digital Age of Weighing*” with broad participation from Czech industry.
- **Research Project under the 2024 Metrology Development Program carried out in cooperation with the Czech Metrology Institute (CMI):**  
Development and advancement of new control methods for specific applications based on the use of automatic weighing instruments in the regulated field of metrology, with a focus on **front-end wheel loaders** and **refuse collection vehicles (RCVs)**.

## 8. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Czech Republic continues to maintain a stable economic position in Central Europe despite the challenges brought by global supply chain disruptions, energy instability, and post-pandemic inflation. Key economic indicators from 2020 to 2024 show gradual recovery and resilience, especially in areas such as industrial production and export volumes.

The Czech weighing industry remains an important part of the national economy, with a strong orientation towards innovation, digitalization, and compliance with EU technical standards. The UUVV ČR, representing over 20 active companies in the field, has played a pivotal role in aligning Czech practices with European legal and technical frameworks.

### Recommendations for the Czech Weighing Sector:

- **Focus on Digital Transformation:** Continued investment in intelligent weighing systems, data integration, and software solutions will be essential to maintain competitiveness.
- **Legislative Readiness:** UUVV ČR members should prepare for changes stemming from the planned amendments to the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID), especially in relation to digitalization and sustainability.
- **Export Development:** Czech manufacturers should seek to expand into high-growth international markets beyond the EU, including India, Southeast Asia, and Latin America, where demand for robust industrial and rail weighing systems is increasing.
- **Standardization and Collaboration:** Strengthening cooperation with EU bodies and CECIP working groups will support the harmonization of calibration, verification, and conformity assessment processes.
- **Workforce and Skills:** Companies are encouraged to cooperate with technical universities and vocational schools to ensure a pipeline of skilled technicians and engineers.

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President

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