

## 15. Telecommunications

On 1 May 2005 the new Act on Electronic Communications came into force, by which the Czech Republic implemented the regulatory framework of the European Union from 2002. The electronic-communications sector in the Czech Republic has been fully liberalized. Every natural person or legal entity that fulfils the conditions stipulated by law can enter the market and provide electronic-communications services or operate a public communications network. No exclusive rights exist in the area of electronic communications.

### MOBILE PHONES

In comparison with other member states of the European Union, the Czech Republic has above-average rates of mobile-subscriber density. In comparison with the other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Czech Republic companies are among the best equipped for access to electronic-communications and information-technology services. Solely private businesses operate in the electronic-communications sector.

#### Largest Telecommunications Companies in the Czech Republic in 2017

| Company           | Revenues* (CZK) | Number of Customers** |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| O2 Czech Republic | 37,709,000      | 4,941,000             |
| T-Mobile          | 26,799,000      | 6,176,000             |
| Vodafone          | 13,312,000      | 3,780,000             |

\* thousands of CZK, For the year 2017

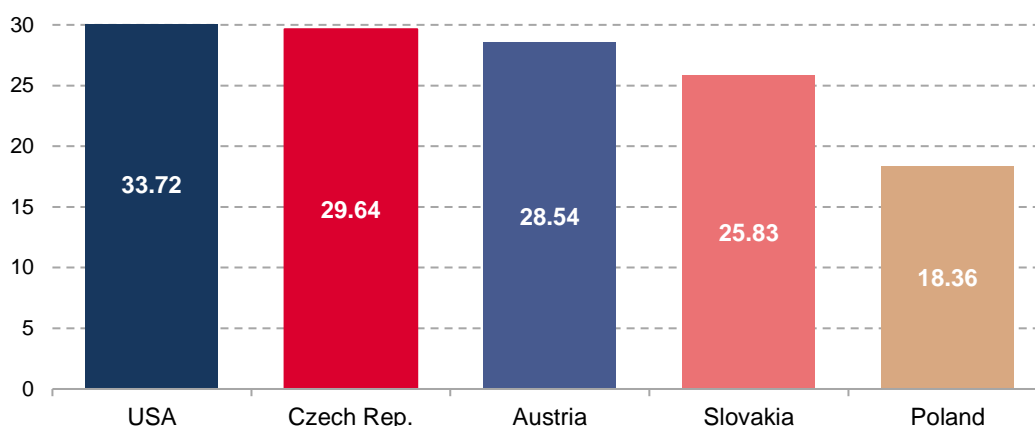
\*\* 2018

Source: Czech Top 100, ČTK (Czech News Agency), [www.t-press.cz](http://www.t-press.cz), [www.o2.cz](http://www.o2.cz), [www.vodafone.cz](http://www.vodafone.cz), 2019

### COMPUTERS AND INTERNET ACCESS

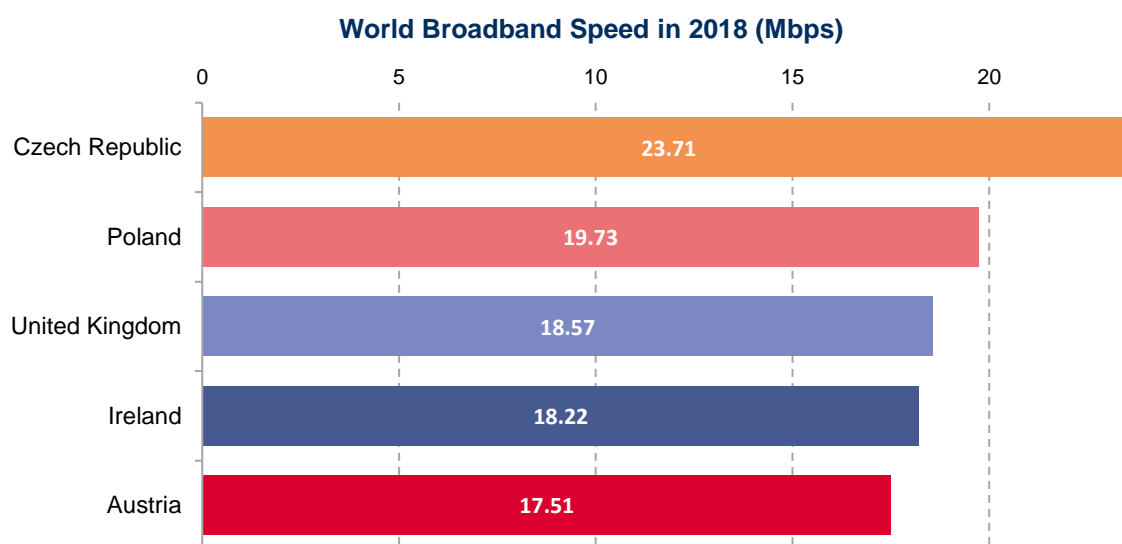
Broadband internet service has become a regular fixture in Czech households. In this respect, the Czech Republic is quickly closing the gap with the older members of the European Union. The maximum internet-connection speed is higher than 2 Mb/s in 90% of enterprises and 41% has connection speeds exceeding 10 Mb/s. Availability of fixed broadband internet access is fully comparable to that of the other EU28 countries.

#### Broadband Penetration Rate (% , year avg. 2017)



Source: OECD broadband statistics, 2019

The largest ADSL operator in the Czech Republic is O2 Czech Republic followed by three other major operators – T-Mobile, Vodafone, and CRa. ADSL technology is available in almost every area in the country. There are hundreds of Wi-Fi providers and all three mobile operators offer internet access using their networks. Everybody who wishes to have broadband internet access can get it.



**Source:** Cable - World Broadband Speed, 2019

A distinguishing feature of internet connectivity in the Czech Republic is the broad availability and use of Wi-Fi technology, which is the most popular means of internet access in households. 74% of the internet users over the age of 16 use a computer every day or almost every day.

### Communications technology

Communications technology (voice and data) meets business requirements

|                 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Czech Republic  | 8.00 | 8.19 | 7.96 | 8.38 | 7.74 | 7.27 |
| Hungary         | 7.85 | 7.73 | 7.10 | 7.01 | 6.92 | 6.80 |
| Poland          | 7.07 | 7.58 | 8.06 | 7.94 | 7.47 | 8.04 |
| Slovak Republic | 8.65 | 8.92 | 8.12 | 7.76 | 7.00 | 7.39 |

**Source:** IMD World Competitiveness Online, 2019

**Note:** IMD World Competitiveness Executive Opinion Survey based on an index from 0 to 10

### Mobile telephone costs

Monthly Blended Average Revenue per User

|                 | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017 | 2018 |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| Czech Republic  | 15.70 | 12.00 | 10.70 | 10.60 | -    | -    |
| Hungary         | 31.90 | 30.30 | 25.30 | 24.20 | -    | -    |
| Poland          | 9.40  | 8.50  | 7.00  | 7.40  | -    | -    |
| Slovak Republic | 17.30 | 16.10 | 12.90 | 12.50 | -    | -    |

**Source:** IMD World Competitiveness Online, 2019

**Note:** Monthly blended mobile average revenue per user, including post-paid and prepaid subscriptions