

Czech Republic
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Statistics of museums
2023

The structure of museums by founder: The government operates 26 museums, the regions 93, and municipalities and cities operate 252 museum institutions. Additionally, 105 museums are privately owned, which represents 22% of the total. Of these, 51 museums are operated by individuals or corporate entities, and 54 are run by civic associations, foundations, churches, and other societies. It should be noted that many other museum institutions, both private and public, are not included in official statistics; most do not even appear in standard professional directories. Their exact number is unknown. Nevertheless, it can be said that the core of the museum network in the Czech Republic, in terms of both number and performance, consists of museums established by the government and self-governing regions.

The structure of museum orientation and specialization has not changed significantly in recent years. The most common type of museums are multidisciplinary or general museums, such as local history museums (approximately 50%). The most numerous specialized museums are art museums (art galleries) and arts and crafts museums (13%). There are also many memorial museums dedicated to specific individuals, events, or locations (6%). An important group of museums focuses on industry, science, and technology (10%).

A key indicator of museum activity is the size and care of their **collections**. In 2023, there were 25,47 million registered collection items, with 98,6% of these held by museums established by the government and self-governing regions.

Regarding **acquisitions**, most were small gifts or the result of field research. The purchase of acquisitions, which is important for collections such as art, arts and crafts, numismatics, and others, increased in 2023 compared to previous years. Museums spent more than 8,64 million EUR on acquisitions.

In 2023, museums carried out **conservation, preparation, and preservation** work on 302.000 collection items, a 12% increase compared to 2022.

One distinctive feature of the Czech museum system is that **many museums operate in buildings that are registered cultural or national cultural landmarks**, most of which were originally built for other purposes. The operation of these buildings is, for objective reasons, not very economical, requiring significantly higher maintenance costs and limiting the use of modern, efficient museum technologies. However, using these historical buildings as museums is often the best way to preserve and utilize them. In 2023, museums operated in 878 such buildings.

From the perspective of museum activities for the public, **exhibitions - both temporary and permanent - are the most important**. Museums had approximately 1,099 million square meters of exhibition space in 2023, which increased compared to previous years. The amount of barrier-free exhibition space also increased, reaching 644.057 square meters in 2023.

In 2023, museums offered 2.294 **permanent** exhibitions, 56 more than in 2022, with most focusing on archaeology and history (24%). Museums in the Czech Republic also organized 3.480 **temporary exhibitions**, 76 more than in 2022. This number is comparable to data from 2003. Most temporary exhibitions (75%) were organized by museum staff, with art and artistic branches dominating (34%).

The number of visitors to museum exhibitions in 2023 reached 12,842 million, averaging 12 visitors per square meter per year. Attendance nearly doubled compared to 2020 and 2021, returning closer to pre-COVID levels. Foreign visitors accounted for 10% of total attendance.

In 2023, museums held 20.880 **accompanying programs** for exhibitions and expositions, attended by 1,006 million people.

In addition to exhibitions, museums also offer other **cultural and educational programs** for the public. In 2023, there were 10.096 such events, attended by 1,421 million people - 6% more than in 2022. Stage performances accounted for 25% of the events, and lectures made up 37%. While lectures were the most common, stage performances had higher attendance.

Museums also organized 758 **professional conferences and seminars** in 2023, significantly fewer than in previous years, with 33.628 participants in total. Museums were also **active in publishing**, producing 552 publications, 175 periodicals, 101 audiovisual works, and 2.140 electronic documents, including those available online.

Museums offer various **services for researchers**, such as collection loans, professional consultations, research, and expert evaluations. In 2023, they provided 57.286 such services. Most museums have websites, which received more than 19,448 million visits in 2023. Visits to online museum catalogues made up 2% of this traffic, online library catalogues 6%, virtual exhibition tours 1,6%, and digital research reports and other documents 0,5%.

Digitization of collections in Czech museums has progressed significantly, even though no mandatory national standards or central data warehouse exist yet. These efforts are driven by individual institutions or regions. In total, 71,5% of all collection records (25,47 million items) have been digitized, although only 13% of these records are accessible online, representing just 9% of all collection items.

Of the 492 museums in the Czech Republic, 37% have a public-access **professional library** as part of their organizational structure. These 225 museum libraries hold 9,384 million library units, which are not part of the museum collections.

In total, Czech museums employed 6.615 **full-time equivalent staff** in 2023.