

Czech Republic

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Statistics of museums

2014

The museums structure according to the establisher: the government establishes 33 museums, the regions 96, municipalities and cities 276 museum institutions; 104 museums are private owned (i.e. 20% from the whole). 60 museums from that are operated by natural persons and corporate bodies (entrepreneurial subjects) and 44 by civic associations, foundations, churches et al. societies. It is necessary to notice that in practice they are many of other museum institutions belonging to the private sector that are not statistically recorded; mostly they don't appear even in the standard professional address lists. There is not known how many they are. Despite of it can be stated that the focus of the museum network in the Czech Republic from the point of view of number of them and performance consist in the museums established by the government and self-governing regions. Even the *structure in orientation and specialization of museum* institutions didn't change fundamentally in the museum network. The most numerous are the multidisciplinary (general) museums, i.e. homeland museums (approx. 60%). The most numerous specialized museums are art museums (art galleries) and arts and crafts museums (15%). The solitary memorials aimed at personalities, events or localities are represented in bigger amount as well (10%). The important group consists from museums aimed at the industry, science and technology as well (8%).

The significant indicator of the museums activity is the **extent** of their **collections and the maintenance about them**. In 2014 22,748 thousands of registration numbers were recorded. 98,7% of collection from that number was kept in the museums established by the government and self-governing regions.

As for the *acquisitions*, they were mostly small gifts and the result of the field research. The purchasing of acquisitions (which is important e.g. at the collections of art, art & craft, numismatics, and many more) was even more limited in 2014 than in the last year. The museums invested less than 2,080 thousands EUR for this purchasing

During 2014 museums provided *the conservation, preparation and preservation* of 560 thousands collecting items in total, so 22% less than in 2013.

The essential feature of the Czech museum system is the fact that *most of museums operate in objects that are registered cultural or registered national cultural landmarks or objects* and almost all of them have to been built for another function. The operation of those objects is not (on objective grounds) very economical, they demand substantially higher costs for the maintenance; they are limits here for using of effective and modern museum operation technology. On the other hand, the allocation of museum in those objects is often one of the most optimal possibilities how to make best of those objects. In 2014 the museums used 788 of such objects.

From the point of view of the outputs of the museum activities for public the most important form is their **exhibition activity** namely through the temporary exhibitions or permanent exhibitions. The museums had for disposal for their exhibition activities approximately 953 thousand square meters, The tendency of the increase of the exhibition area determined for the permanent expositions is obvious. In 2014 the exhibition area with barrier-free access redoubled (528 thousand square meters now).

Museums made accessible to the public 1,992 *permanent* exhibitions in 2014, i.e. 19 more than in 2013. The changes in their thematic structure appeared. According to the more detailed analysis 63 permanent exhibitions were abandoned and 82 of new ones were established. Most of them were in the area of science and technology (26) and of art (16).

The museums in the Czech Republic organized 4 207 *temporary exhibitions*, e.g. 104 more than in 2013 and in long-term monitoring it is the top till now. The increase of the number of exhibitions doesn't have always adequate response in the growing of the visit rate of museums. For visitors' rating it the quality of the offered exhibition events is decisive, not the quantity. In this sense the exhibitions of arts and other artistic branches dominate.

The visit rate of exhibitions in museums in 2014 was 11 651 thousand persons, which is 12, 2 visitor per one square meter and a year.

The increase of the number of *accompanying programmes* to exhibitions is evident in the statistics of the visit rate as well. 717 thousands visitors went through them (6% from the total number of visitors).

Aside from the exhibition the museums prepare other **cultural educational programmes** for the public. It was 14 416 events in 2014. The total visit rate in those cultural educational events of museums was 1 670 thousand persons in 2014; it is 12% more than in 2013.

Museums organized 691 **professional conferences and seminars** as well, substantially more as in the last year. There were 28 thousands of participants. The museums took part in the **publishing activities** as well. They publish 529 titles of publications and 151 titles of periodical magazines and similar printed matters and 16 audio-visual works.

The museums offers **services for research workers**: the loans of collections for the study purposes, offering of the professional consultations, elaborated recherche and expertizes et al. There were 73 thousands of them in 2014. They are not statistically recorded research works of museums offered to the public via internet till now. By estimation it is possible to speak about 400 thousands of occurrences from the available data.

Digitization of collections has grown up indeed in museums in the Czech Republic; anyhow we consider the digital records gathering and especially accessibility of them on internet as insufficient. There are more reasons for that status. The important role is that the mandatory national standards are not defined till now, as well the conceptual plan of data warehouse. Those are on the initiatives of the particular institutions or regions only.

Only 51 % of the total number of records of collection objects (i.e. from 22,747,552 items) was processed in the digital form. And only a bit more than a fifth of these records (21.9 %) have been made accessible on internet in the form of on-line catalogues. It represents 11.2 % from the total number of collection items only.

From the total of 509 museums 40% of them have as a part of their organization structure **the professional library** accessible to the public. Those 235 museum libraries have 8 676 thous. library units that are not a part of the museum collections.

The museums of the Czech Republic showed in total 5 956 **employees in recalculation to the full time employees** in 2014.