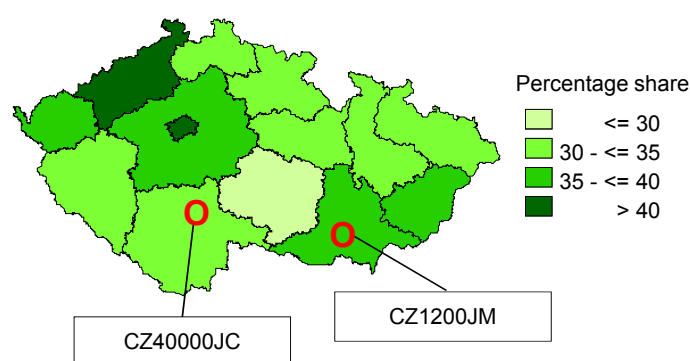


# Arable farming in Czech Republic

The Czech Republic (CZ) is a landlocked country with moderate climate, which at the same time varies locally during the year. Its territory is surrounded by mountains, with colder and more humid weather than in other parts of the country. While the country's long-term average precipi-

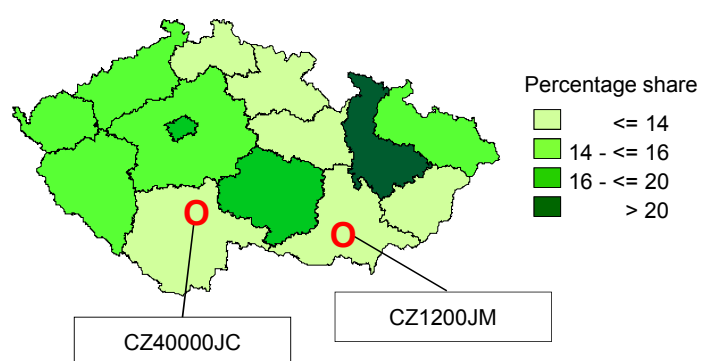
tation per year is around 674 mm, precipitation in regions with higher altitude exceeds 1,000 mm. The long-term average temperature across the country is around 16 °C during summer months and -1.7 °C during winter months.

## Percentage share of wheat acreage per arable land per region, 2011



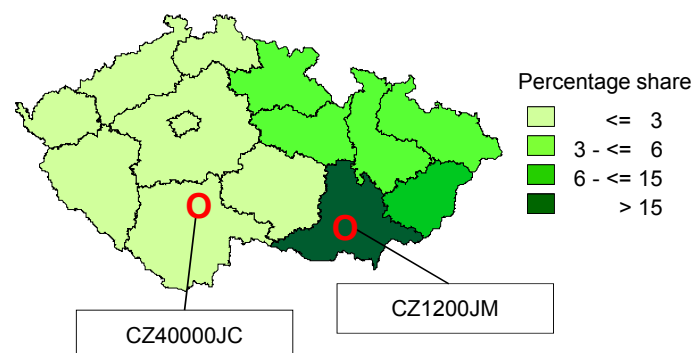
Source: Czech statistical office (2011)

## Percentage share of barley acreage per arable land per region, 2011



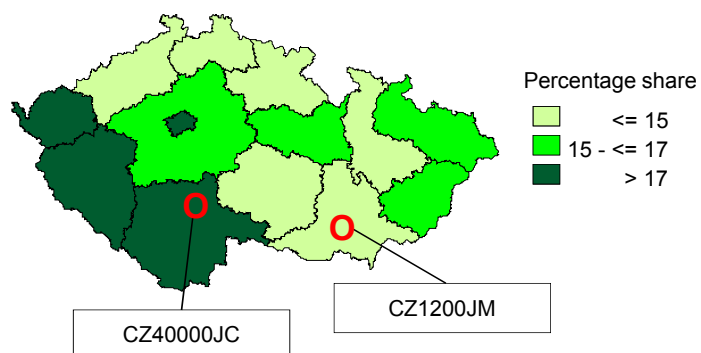
Source: Czech statistical office (2011)

## Percentage share of corn acreage per arable land per region, 2011



Source: Czech statistical office (2011)

## Percentage share of rape acreage per arable land per region, 2011

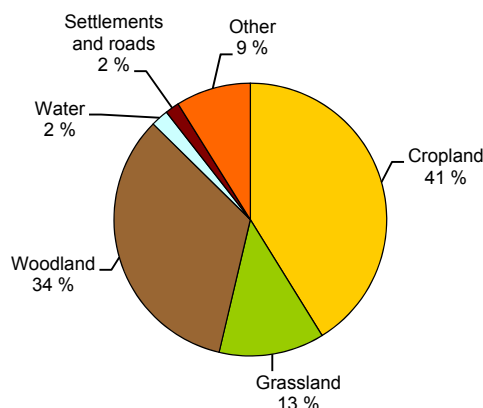


Source: Czech statistical office (2011)

Wheat is grown rather evenly across the Czech Republic. In most regions its share in the arable land ranges between 30 % and 40 %. Barley usually occupies around 15 % of arable land which does not differ much among the regions. Due to favorable conditions corn cultivation

mainly takes place in the southern part of Moravia, where the share on arable land equates to 15 %. Green maize on the other hand, is dominating in the Bohemia region to the west. Rape growing predominates in the southwestern part of the country, obtaining a share of over 16 %.

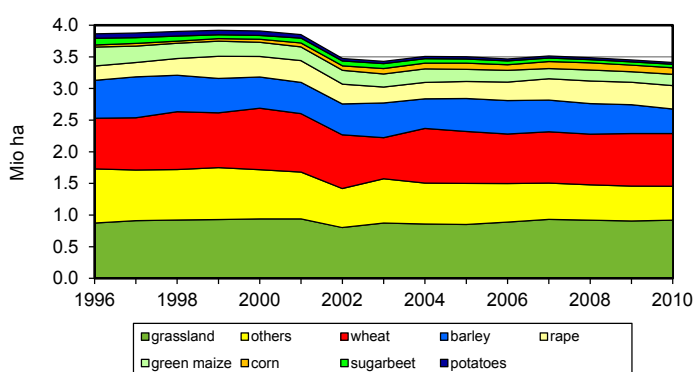
## Land use in Czech Republic 2010



In total, the Czech Republic comprises around 7.89 million hectares. Based on 2010 data, the agricultural land covers around 4.2 million hectares, with 71 % being cropped and 23 % used as grassland. One third of CZ's total area is forested.

Source: Czech office for surveying, mapping and cadastre

## Agricultural land use in Czech Republic

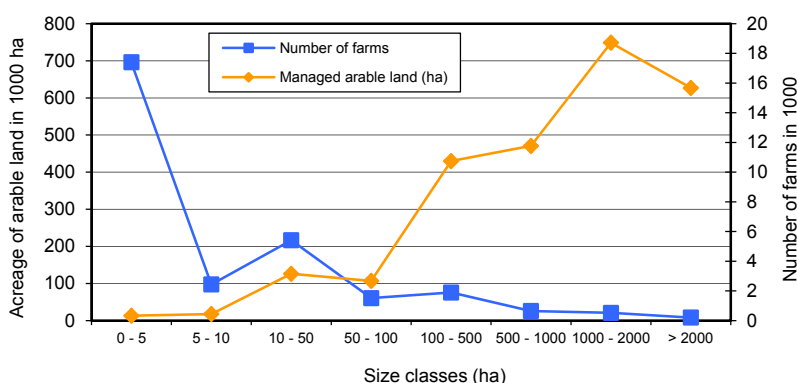


Source: ČSÚ (Czech statistical office) 2011, LPIS (Land Parcel Identification System) 2011

The figure on the left shows the utilization of agricultural land with the specific crops. The drop in utilized agricultural area (UAA) in 2002 is due to changes in the method of collecting the statistical data.

Between 1996 and 2010, the five most important crops (wheat, barley, rapeseed, green maize and corn) covered 51 - 56 % of UAA. Despite a declining UAA during recent years, the share of these main crops slightly increased. Based on 2010 data, winter wheat is the grain with the highest acreage and production (0.79 million ha and 4.0 million t) followed by barley (0.39 million ha and 1.6 million t) from which 2/3 is planted as spring variety. Since 2004 rape has increased its acreage by about 42 % and corn by about 15 %. Due to sugar refinery privatization and its closing, sugar beet production significantly fell compared to 1996 (acreage: -50 %; production: -30 %). Potatoes acreage is falling even further. Green maize significantly declined compared to 2004, because of strong livestock reduction (utilisation for biogas reduces the fall).

## Number of farms and managed arable land in the Czech Republic 2010



Source: Czech office for surveying, mapping and cadastre

Family farms, are not a typical form of farming in the Czech Republic. Instead, the Czech agricultural structure can be termed as bipolar. On the one hand, 84 % of all agricultural holdings, having less than 50 ha each, cultivate together only 6.2 % of the total arable land. On the other hand, more than 70 % of agricultural land is used by holdings of legal persons which had an average size of 750 ha in 2010. Their average size significantly declined compared to 1995. By contrast, the average size of natural persons increased to 36 ha in 2010.

An increasing share of holdings of limited liability companies is predicted for the future, while the share of cooperatives and natural persons shall

decrease. The dynamic of the structural change however slowed down in recent years.

In 2010, only 23 % of the agricultural area was owned by farmers. It is characteristic, that holdings of legal persons use predominantly rented land (87 %), whereas natural persons rent only 55 %. The price of agricultural land is significantly lower than in the former EU-15, the land rent is lower as well. However, the trend for both indicators is increasing.