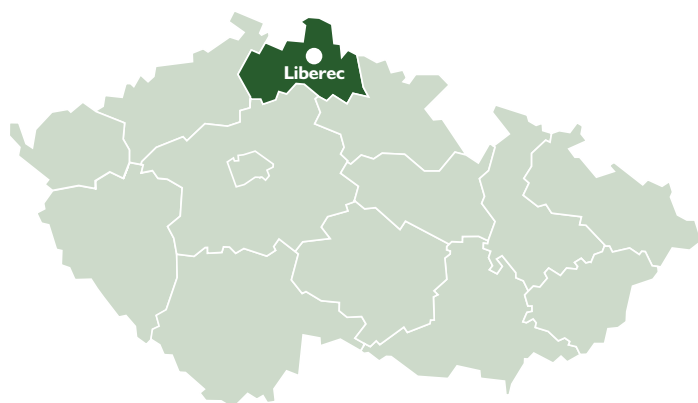


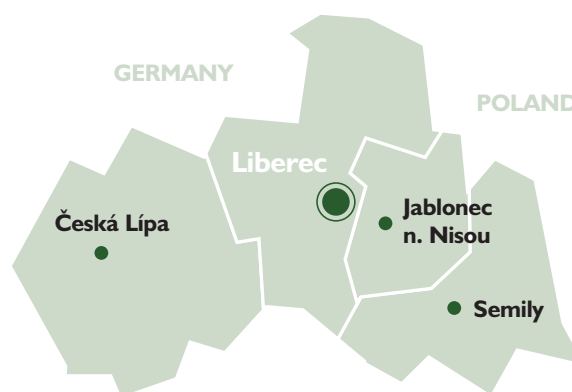
Liberec: a small region with huge potential



World-famous Bohemian crystal, nanotextiles and unique automotive components are not the only products for which the Liberec region is well known. In spite of its diminutive size, this second smallest region of the Czech Republic has great development potential and a rich industrial tradition.



The Liberec region's location within the Czech Republic



Map of the Liberec region

Basic Data

Land area	3,163 km ²
Population	430,290
Population density (pers./km²)	136
Unemployment rate (2005)	8.30%
Labour force (2006)	215,600
GDP per capita (2006)	7,800 EUR
Region capital	Liberec

Source: Czech Statistical Office 2006, City Invest Czech 2006 - 2007

Unique landscape on the border

The Liberec region borders Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany. It is neighboured by the Hradec Králové region to the east, Central Bohemia to the south, and the Ústí region to the west. The region's capital

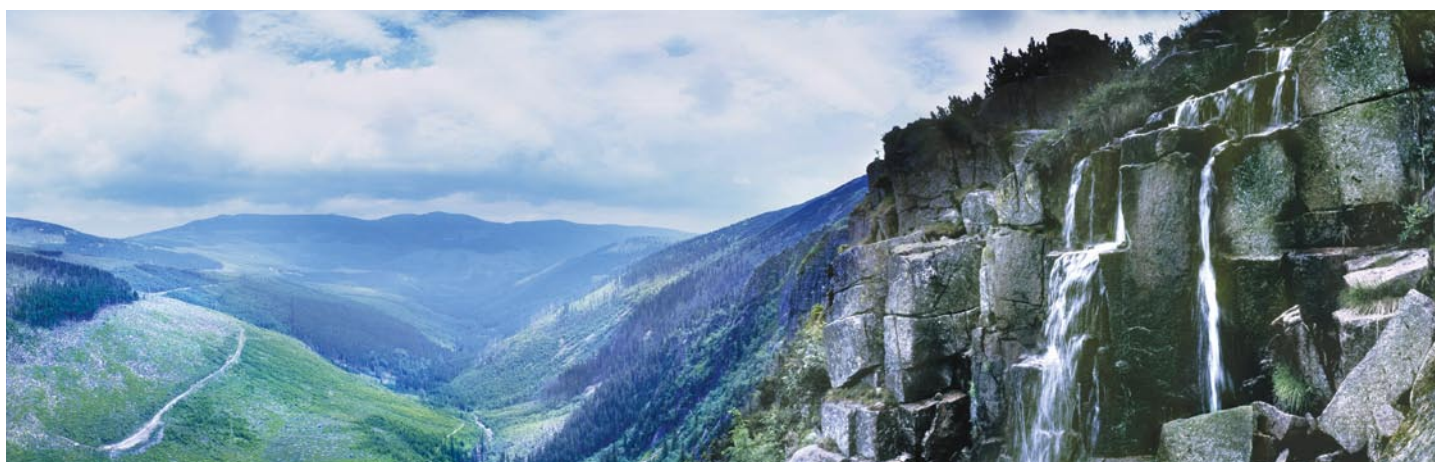
and natural centre is the city of Liberec, which has a population of nearly 100,000 and forms a single agglomeration with the nearby city of Jablonec nad Nisou.

The Liberec region's natural border is formed by the Krkonoše and Jizera Mountains. Popular among tourists, these mountains are dotted with ancient castles and chateau, giving the region a unique, romantic atmosphere. In addition to a range of other natural monuments and points of interest, the expansive Macha Lake is a very popular destination for outdoor relaxation in the region.

A powerful trio: textiles, machinery and glass

Before the First World War, the Liberec region was already the most well developed industrial area of the then Austro-Hungarian Empire, and its tradition of machinery, textile and glass production continues to this day.

The region's textile industry is now in a modern guise, which is evident in the presence of a range of advanced firms producing primarily technical and specialised textiles. For example, the companies Direct Alpine and Singing Rock focus on high-quality outdoor clothing and equipment, while



Krkonoše Mountains



Lighting fixtures from the company Preciosa - Lustry are used in many hotels, casinos and other luxurious spaces, including a wedding hall in Osaka, Japan.

Technolen produces special technical textiles. We must also mention the Liberec-based firm Elmarco, which specialises in unique nanotextiles that are able to filter out bacteria and viruses.

Glassworks in the Liberec region have been producing world-renowned Bohemian glass jewellery and crystal (Jablonec, Crystalex, Preciosa) for centuries. Near the city of Turnov, the focus in years past was always on working gemstones. Today,

this practice has a more modern, industrial form as represented by, for example, Crytur, which works artificial crystals used in lasers and electron microscopes, and the company Saint-Gobain, which machines advanced ceramics for plumbing fixtures.

Suppliers of automotive components are currently undergoing extensive development in the region. It is commonly said that it would be possible to build a complete automobile from parts manufactured in the Liberec region. The majority of local companies in this sector (Cadence Innovation, BTY plast, Fehrer Bohemia and others) primarily supply plastic mouldings. A full range of multinational companies such as Benteler, Knorr Bremse, TRW, Monroe, Denso, ArvinMeritor, Pekom Kabeltechnik and Bosch also have operations in the region. Other, smaller yet highly specialised engineering firms with their own development departments collaborate with universities and are able to provide unique, high-quality technical solutions (PSV, Krofian, Jablonecká nástrojárna, VÚTS, Litmas, EPR).

Accessibility: a key to the region's success

The Liberec region's advantageous location ensures outstanding transport accessibility. Thanks to the highway interchanges in Rumburk and Zittau, Berlin is only four hours away by bus and Wrocław, Poland, can be reached in a mere two hours. A key aspect for the region is the four-lane expressway from Prague to Liberec, by which it is possible to reach the outskirts of the capital in under an hour. This continually developing highway network is highly valued by automotive-component suppliers. It is possible to travel from Liberec to Škoda Auto's Mladá Boleslav plant in 35 minutes and TPCA in Kolín in only an hour.

A further advantage of the region is its favourable connection to the German state of Saxony with several railway interchanges (primarily Zittau, Varnsdorf) and thus the rail connection to Dresden. The railway line to Poland is also used extensively.

New spaces – new possibilities

New industrial zones covering roughly 10 hectares in Turnov, Nový Bor and Hrádek nad Nisou will be available to companies from 2009. Hrádek, which lies only a few hundred metres from the border with Poland and Germany, is a particularly appealing location. In cooperation with the Liberec region, CzechInvest has drawn up an overview of available brownfields for whose revitalisation it is possible to obtain support from EU Structural Funds. Revitalisation of two ten-hectare brownfields has also been prepared by private developers for rental production halls in Liberec and Nové Město pod Smrkem. An additional 15 hectares of very promising sites are available in the region's Liberec North industrial zone.



An employee of TRW Automotive at work

A unique centre of education and development

The Liberec region can pride itself on having excellent preconditions for the growth of research and development. A number of interesting and unique specialisations can be found among the students in Liberec and the surrounding area.

The Technical University in Liberec is the most important institute of higher learning in the region with 7,000 students attending six faculties, not only in technical fields.

The Technical University has taken part in a range of significant research projects. Its most well known patents are in materials engineering and nanotextiles. Specialists at one of the university's laboratories recently succeeded in designing a device for the production of nanofibres used in healthcare. The engineering faculty developed a special steel

🔍 Main foreign investors in the Liberec region

Name of company	Country of origin	Sector	Location
TRW Automotive	Germany, USA	Automotive industry	Jablonec n.N., Frýdlant
Benteler	Germany	Automotive industry	Liberec, Chrastava
Cutisin	Great Britain	Packing materials	Jilemnice
Bombardier Transport	Canada	Transportation equipment	Česká Lípa
Ontex	Belgium	Sanitary equipment	Turnov
Narex	Germany	Electric tools	Česká Lípa
Kontron	Germany	Software	Liberec
Cadence Innovation	Germany	Plastics, Automotive industry	Liberec
Saint-Gobain Advanced Ceramics	France	Ceramics	Turnov
Lucas Varyity	United Kingdom, USA	Automotive industry	Jablonec n.N., Liberec
Denso	Japan	Automotive industry	Liberec

coating for Škoda Auto that can be used in oil-less transmissions. Applied research conducted by the mechatronics faculty, where new production-automation technologies are developed, is invaluable for companies in the automotive sector, for example. The university is continually expanding its laboratories and plans to establish a science and technology park focused on mechanical engineering by 2010. In addition to academic research, a range of private companies is investing tremendous effort in development. The clear leader in this area is Crytur of Turnov, which manufactures monocrystal elements for laser devices and electron microscopes. Elmarco, one of the region's leading high-tech firms, is further developing nanofibre technology. The Research Institute of Textile Machines holds patents for textile machines, which it has designed and produced. Jablotron is a respected player in the area of mobile-phone technology, though it has also developed a range of unique electronic building-security solutions.



Jizera Mountains, Ještěd - TV tower with revolving restaurant

Chemistry is yet another area of innovation in the Liberec region. The company Mega, for example, produces and is further developing membranes for electrophoresis used in food production and water purification.

Diverse leisure-time opportunities

The Liberec region is rich in leisure-time opportunities. In summer, golf lovers can take advantage of the region's seven golf courses, while the city of Liberec offers an indoor golf centre for year-round enjoyment. For flying enthusiasts, eight sport airfields are available with ideal conditions for gliding. The more adventurous can try their hand at climbing the granite rocks

in the Jizera Mountains or sandstone towers in Český ráj and Českosaské Švýcarsko. The region's mountainous terrain is perfectly suited to hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.



Historical celebrations in the centre of Liberec

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From November to April, 200 km of prepared trails are available for cross-country skiers only 15 minutes from the centre of Liberec. The region also offers a wide range of downhill slopes, including the Czech Republic's longest slope (3,200 m) in Rokytnice. In 2009, the region will host the world championship in classic skiing disciplines.

Art aficionados will be enraptured by the Liberec Theatre, which has an opera ensemble and annually premieres at least ten works by international authors and composers. In addition, classical music concerts are among the region's many other cultural attractions.

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Máchovo jezero