

How maternity and parenthood are supported in the Czech Republic

Leaves

- *Maternity leave (mateřská dovolená)*
- *Paternity leave (otcovská dovolená)*
- *Parental leave (rodičovská dovolená)*

Sickness insurance benefits

- *Maternity benefit (peněžitá pomoc v mateřství, PPM)*
- *Pregnancy and maternity compensatory benefit (vyrovnávací příspěvek v těhotenství a mateřství, VPTM)*
- *Paternity benefit (otcovská)*

State social support benefits

- *Birth grant (porodné)*
- *Parental allowance (rodičovský příspěvek, RP)*
- *Support for student parents (podpora studujícího rodiče – hlídačkovné)*

Leaves

Maternity leave (mateřská dovolená)

is granted for **28 weeks**, or 37 weeks in the case of the birth of two or more children. It usually **begins 6 weeks before the expected date of birth, but no earlier than 8 weeks before.**

Paternity leave (otcovská dovolená)

is granted for the duration of the paternity benefit period, which is **2 consecutive weeks to be taken within the first 6 weeks after the child's birth.**

Parental leave (rodičovská dovolená)

is granted to the mother after the end of maternity leave and to the father from the day the child is born. It is granted for the period requested by the employee, but **no longer than until the child reaches 3 years of age.**

Important: These types of leave are not social benefits. They are unpaid leave provided to employees under the Labour Code.

Sickness insurance benefits

Tady se potkává svět

The right to receive benefits depends only on the general conditions. Neither citizenship nor the type of residence permit in the Czech Republic affects entitlement to these benefits. The right to receive benefits arises from participation in the sickness insurance system.

Maternity benefit (peněžitá pomoc v mateřství, PPM)

This benefit compensates for the loss of income during the period when a woman is unable to work due to the late stage of pregnancy and the care of her newborn child.

Conditions for receiving the benefit:

- *Caring for a newborn child* - the benefit is paid **for 28 weeks**, or 37 weeks in the case of twins or multiple births. Payments **begin 6–8 weeks before the expected date of birth**, as determined by a gynaecologist.
- *Sickness insurance coverage on the first day of receiving the benefit*
 - **Employees** are covered if they work under:
 - an employment contract (HPP) or an agreement to perform work activities (DPČ) with a monthly income of at least CZK 4,500;
 - an agreement to complete a job (DPP) with a monthly income of at least CZK 12,000.

Protection period

You may still qualify for the benefit if your maternity leave begins during the protection period. The protection period **lasts 180 days after the end of sickness insurance**. If the insurance period was shorter than 180 days, the protection period is equal to the duration of the last insurance period.

- **Self-employed persons (OSVČ)** participate in sickness insurance voluntarily. If no sickness insurance contributions have been paid, there is no entitlement to the benefit.
- *Minimum insurance period*
 - at least **270 calendar days** of sickness insurance **during the previous 2 years**;
 - for self-employed persons, at least **270 calendar days during the previous 2 years**, including **at least 180 calendar days during the last year** before the benefit begins.

How to apply

- **The gynaecologist** issues an identification number of the confirmation of the expected date of birth..
- **Employees** inform their employer about the start of maternity leave and provide the identification number.
- **The employer** submits the required documents to the Czech Social Security Administration (ČSSZ).
- **Self-employed persons** submit the application themselves via the ČSSZ ePortal.

Processing time: up to **1 month**.

Benefit amount: **70% of the reduced daily assessment base**

Paternity benefit (otcovská)

The benefit is intended for fathers who want to take care of their child during the first weeks after birth, as well as for persons who have taken a child under 7 years of age into their care.

The benefit is provided **for 2 consecutive weeks** (it cannot be divided into individual days). It can only be received during paternity leave, which must be taken within the first 6 weeks after the child's birth.

Conditions for receiving the benefit:

- the father is registered in the child's birth certificate;
- the father participates in the sickness insurance system on the first day of paternity leave;
- for self-employed persons - voluntary participation in sickness insurance for at least 3 months before the start of the leave.

How to apply

- **Employees** inform their employer about their intention to take paternity leave.
- **Self-employed persons** submit the application themselves via the ČSSZ ePortal or at a ČSSZ office.

Processing time: up to **1 month**.

Benefit amount: **70% of the reduced daily assessment base**.

Pregnancy and maternity compensatory benefit (vyrovnávací příspěvek v těhotenství a mateřství, VPTM)

The benefit is intended only for **women employed under an employment contract (HPP)** who have been temporarily transferred by their employer to another, lower-paid job due to pregnancy or maternity.

Benefit period:

- during pregnancy - until the beginning of the **6th week before the expected date of birth**;
- after childbirth - until the end of the **9th month after birth** and during breastfeeding.

Conditions for receiving the benefit:

- pregnancy or breastfeeding and temporary transfer to a lower-paid job;
- participation in the sickness insurance system on the day the benefit starts.

Processing time: up to **1 month**.

State social support benefits

The type of residence permit affects the right to receive these benefits.

Birth grant (porodné)

This is a one-time payment to help cover costs related to the birth of a child.

Conditions for receiving the benefit:

- the child is the **first or second child** in the family;
- the family income in the previous calendar quarter did not exceed **2.7 times the family's living minimum**.

The benefit is available to:

- third-country nationals with permanent residence or long-term residence (usually after 1 year of residence in the Czech Republic, except special long-term residence);
- EU citizens and their family members;
- persons with international protection and applicants for international protection (after 1 year of residence in the Czech Republic).

How to apply

Tady se setkává svět

- online via the Jenda portal;
- in person or by post at the Labour Office of the Czech Republic (Úřad práce).

Processing time: up to **30 days**.

Benefit amount:

- **CZK 13,000** - for the first child;
- **CZK 10,000** - for the second child.

Parental allowance (rodičovský příspěvek, RP)

This is a monthly benefit paid to a parent who personally and properly takes care of the youngest child in the family.

Conditions for receiving the benefit:

- ***Child's age:***
 - children born from 1 January 2024 - until the child reaches 3 years of age;
 - children born before 31 December 2023 - until the child reaches 4 years of age.
- ***The parent must personally care for the child:***
 - the parent may work or study if another adult provides childcare;
 - a child under 2 years old may attend a nursery, kindergarten or similar childcare facility for a maximum of 120 hours per month.

The benefit is available to:

- third-country nationals with permanent residence or long-term residence (usually after 1 year of residence in the Czech Republic, except special long-term residence);
- EU citizens and their family members;
- persons with international protection and applicants for international protection (after 1 year of residence in the Czech Republic).

How to apply

- online via the Jenda portal;

- in person or by post at the Labour Office of the Czech Republic (Úřad práce).

Processing time: up to **30 days**.

Benefit amount:

- **CZK 350,000 (CZK 700,000 for twins or multiple births)** - for children born from **1 January 2024**;
- **CZK 300,000 (CZK 450,000 for twins or multiple births)** - for children born before **31 December 2023**.
- **CZK 400,000 (CZK 800,000 for twins or multiple births)** - for children born from **1 January 2027**.

The parent chooses the monthly amount of the benefit. If a daily assessment base (DVZ) can be determined for at least one parent, the monthly amount may exceed CZK 15,000 (within the legal limit). If no DVZ can be determined, the maximum amount is **CZK 15,000 per month**.

The monthly amount can be changed **once every 3 months**.

After the birth of another child, the right to parental allowance for the older child ends. Under certain conditions, the remaining amount can be paid as a **one-time payment**.

Support for student parents (podpora studujícího rodiče – hlídačkové)

This is a benefit that helps cover the costs of childcare while a parent is studying.

Conditions for receiving the benefit:

- the student parent is entitled to **the parental allowance**;
- it is their first university or higher professional school (VOŠ) programme in the Czech Republic;
- they are studying within the standard study period (+ a maximum of 1 additional year for university studies);
- the parent is considered a dependent child (under 26, the age limit does not apply to first-time doctoral studies).

The benefit is available to:

- third-country nationals with permanent residence or long-term residence (usually after 1 year of residence in the Czech Republic, except special long-term residence);
- EU citizens and their family members;
- persons with international protection and applicants for international protection (after 1 year of residence in the Czech Republic).

How to apply

- online via the Jenda portal;
- in person or by post at the Labour Office of the Czech Republic (Úřad práce).

Processing time: up to **30 days (up to 60 days in complex cases)**.

Benefit amount:

In 2026 – **CZK 7,467 per month**.

The amount corresponds to one third of the minimum wage. It does not depend on the applicant's income or the income of their household.