

GOVERNMENT MEASURES

For your notes

MF counts on CZK 270bn deficit in 1st budget draft

Thursday, September 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Ministry of Finance (MF) has prepared the first draft of the state budget for 2023 with an income of CZK 1.75tn and expenditures of CZK 2.02tn. Therefore, next year's estimated deficit could reach CZK 270bn. In the medium-term outlook, the Ministry proposes a CZK 250bn deficit in 2024 and a CZK 230bn deficit in 2025. The government will deal with the draft at its September meetings, and the budget's final parameters can still change. The government must approve it and submit it to the Chamber of Deputies by September 30, 2022. ■

API receives applications in OP TAC first 5 calls

Thursday, September 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On September 1, 2022, the Business and Innovation Agency (API) started receiving applications for a subsidy in the first five calls for proposals within the Operational Programme Technologies and Applications for Competitiveness (OP TAC). A total of CZK 10bn is allotted in calls for proposals for energy savings. Its objectives are transit to a low-carbon economy and an overall decrease in the Czech Republic's final energy consumption. For their projects, entrepreneurs can get up to 65% of eligible costs back via a subsidy, at least CZK 500,000 and at most CZK 200m. The Applications, Innovations, Proof of Concept and Innovation Vouchers – Protection of Industrial Property calls for proposals are to support companies' research, development innovations and digital transformation. In them, a total of CZK 5.25bn is available. The call for proposal was announced on August 15, 2022, by the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade, an OP TAC steering body. ■

MPO receives region applications in Obchůdek 2021+

Thursday, September 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On September 1, 2022, the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade (MPO) started receiving applications for the second call for proposals of its Obchůdek 2021+ programme. They can be submitted until October 15, 2022. The programme's objective is to contribute to preserving retail units in the countryside. Each region can get up to CZK 4m in 2022. The amount per shop has been increased to CZK 130,000. As ČIANEWS reported earlier, the Ministry increased the total allocation from CZK 39m to CZK 52m. As for inflation and energy prices, the Ministry is also asking the regions to increase subsidies for their sources. Minister of Industry and Trade Jozef Síkela (for STAN) added that with regard to the current situation, he would be glad if all regions participated in the programme. A total of 11 regions joined the first call for proposals. A total of 428 stores were supported with CZK 31m. ■

MPSV: ČR 4th in EU with CZK 177bn to help citizens

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic (MPSV) has allocated CZK 177bn to help citizens deal with the current crisis caused by Russian aggression in Ukraine. This was stated by Minister Marian Jurečka (KDU-ČSL), who said that the Czech Republic is in 4th place within the EU in terms of providing support. In connection with rising housing costs, in addition to the energy tariff, people can also apply for housing allowance online. For example, a family of four with two small children living in rented accommodation in a regional town can receive up to CZK 19,273. A single mother can get CZK 18,813. ■

Government to discuss CEB and EGAP portfolio, IRR RES

Saturday, August 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Prime Minister Petr Fiala's (ODS) government will discuss at its session on August 31, 2022, an amendment to the Export Insurance and Financing Act and a supplement to the Act on the Supreme Audit Office (NKÚ). The norm deals with the expansion of the product portfolio of the Czech Export Bank (CEB) and the Export and Guarantee Corporation (EGAP). The next item on the agenda will be a draft regulation on the determination of the internal rate of return (IRR) value for different types of renewable energy sources (RES). The cabinet will also deal with a request for the transfer of unnecessary assets that the Railway Administration has the right to manage. ■

Regional hospitals in ZLK post profit over CZK 179m

Wednesday, August 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

All four hospitals owned by the Zlín Region (ZLK) achieved the best economic performance in their history in 2021. The Kroměříž Hospital made a profit of CZK 81.93m, the Uherské Hradiště Hospital CZK 119.62m, Vsetín Hospital CZK 41.36m and the Tomáš Baťa Regional Hospital in Zlín CZK 195.11m. The results were largely influenced by the extraordinary income given by the so-called compensation decree in connection with the Covid-19 epidemic. As of June 30, 2022, the hospitals reported positive result of CZK 179.14m. ■

MF: State budget's deficit at CZK 231.1bn in August

Thursday, September 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

At the end of August, the state budget ended in a deficit of CZK 231.1bn. After adjustments for income from the European Union and financial mechanisms, as well as for expenditures for these projects, the deficit totalled CZK 218.0bn. This information was provided by the Czech Ministry of Finance (MF). In year-on-year terms, the balance for the first eight months of 2022 improved by CZK 66.9bn. Budget income grew 8.1% (up CZK 77.0 bn). Year on year, total expenditures increased CZK 10.1bn (up 0.8%). Common expenditures were CZK 6.3bn lower year on year (down 0.5%), despite the increase in living and subsistence minimum, housing benefits, extraordinary adjustment of pensions and other social benefits and expenditures related to refugee assistance. On the other hand, capital expenditures grew CZK 16.3bn (up 19.4%). ■

1st task for commissioner is to support energy industry from RRF

Wednesday, August 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Prime Minister Petr Fiala's (ODS) government established at its session on August 31, 2022 a new position of Government Commissioner for Strengthening Resilience and Modernising the Economy. The government appointed the former director of the CzechInvest agency, Tomáš Hruša, to the post. His first task will be to prepare documents for the government's decision on the possible use of a loan for the modernisation of the domestic energy sector from the European Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and to coordinate the use of money from European sources. ■

PRIVATE SECTOR – ACTIVITIES

Plzeňský Prazdroj to raise prices by 8% on Dec average

Tuesday, August 30 | ČIANEWS

Brewery Plzeňský Prazdroj will increase the price of most of its beers from October 2022. The average price increase will reach 8%, which means an increase of CZK 1.70 per pint, the brewery's spokesman Zdeněk Kovář confirmed to ČIANEWS. The reason for the price increase is the rising costs of energy and materials for the production of packaging, such as glass and aluminium. ■

CPIPG increases portfolio value to EUR 20.9bn

Thursday, September 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the first half of 2022, the value of the CPI Property Group's (CPIPG) portfolio grew from EUR 13.1bn to EUR 20.9bn. Total assets amounted to EUR 23.7bn. Net income from leases grew to EUR 263m (2021: EUR 175m). Net profit increased to EUR 276m. Consolidated adjusted EBITDA totalled EUR 261m (up 52% year on year), according to the group's non-audited results. General director Martin Němeček said that CPIPG had strengthened through acquisitions of IMMOFINANZ and S Immo. As ČIANEWS reported earlier, CPIPG increased its share in Austrian S Immo to approximately 79.2% of shares. ■

CFG's assets up 25%, profit reached CZK 87m

Tuesday, August 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Financial and investment group CFG reported gross profit of CZK 87mn for H1 2022. For the full year 2021, pre-tax profit totalled CZK 93.6m. CFG founder Martin Chovanec said that if it were not for the war in Ukraine, which sparked an inflationary spiral, the profit could have been about 10-20% higher. In the second half of the year, the group expects stronger results than in H1. For the full year, it expects to achieve a record result. CFG's assets as of 30 June amounted to CZK 1.48bn, 25% more than at the end of last year. The value of the loan portfolio reached CZK 1.46bn (+17%) and the value of the real estate portfolio reached CZK 517m (+31%). ■

SŽ to receive CZK 3bn from SFDI, also for RRF EU projects

Tuesday, August 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Committee of the State Fund for Transport Infrastructure (SFDI) has approved an increase in the budget of the Railway Administration (SŽ) by more than CZK 3bn. Subsidies for investment construction will increase by CZK 2.761bn to CZK 40.475bn. The funds for ensuring the operability of lines will also increase. The original CZK 14.385bn will increase by another CZK 650m. SŽ will use this money to continue the works covered by the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Part of the newly allocated money will also be used to deal with the consequences of unexpected events. ■

Košík.cz offers delivery in Brno, Olomouc and Zlín

Tuesday, August 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Online supermarket Košík.cz is now offering its services in Brno and its surroundings. It can also be used by households in Olomouc, Prostějov, Přerov, Kroměříž, Šternberk, Zlín, Otrokovice and Uherské Hradiště. It offers delivery of purchases within three hours of ordering. The price of free shipping varies according to the city and the delivery date. For purchases of CZK 500 or more, it will offer it for free during off-peak hours. Households will be able to choose from more than 15,000 food items, including local brands. CEO Ivan Utěšil noted, even considering fuel prices, he believes it does not make economic sense to take the car once or twice a week for a trip to the supermarket when the shopping can arrive at the doorstep. ■

For your notes

Neurology Department at FTN modernized ICU workplace

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Department of Neurology of the 3rd Faculty of Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine in the Thomayer Hospital (FTN) completed the modernization of its ICU workplace and at the same time expanded the bed capacity from four to eight beds. Suspended ramps were built here, new LED lighting and a ceiling lift for heavier patients were installed, and four modern beds for intermediate care were also purchased. The modernization was paid for from the hospital's budget. ■

MS-INVEST has final approval for Domy Ďáblická hvězdárna

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

MS-INVEST plans to complete the construction of family houses in Letňany in 2022 and to receive final building approval for the Byty Dělnická project in Holešovice. Both projects are on offer. The developer has currently received final building approval for Domy Ďáblická hvězdárna. The project created 24 family houses with layouts of 5+kk and 6+kk. 90 % of them have been sold. They will be ready for occupancy in September 2022. The company currently also offers houses in Ruzyně, the Žižkovská Pavlačka project and Byty Laudova in Řepy. In Brno, it is offering the second phase of Palác Trnitá. ■

PKP Cargo: Income up by 20 %, eastern flows weaker

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

PKP Cargo reported revenues from contracts with customers in the amount of PLN 2.45bn for 1H 2022. This represents an increase of 20 % y/y. EBITDA increased by 64 % to PLN 371.5m. EBITDA reached PLN 219.1m in 2Q 2022 alone. PKP Cargo trains transported 51 million tons of cargo, which is almost 2.5 million tons more than a year ago. Black coal (25.5 million tons) and aggregates and building materials (10 million tons) predominate in transport. Chairman of the board Dariusz Seliga said the group's activity was affected by the war in Ukraine, when sanctions against Russia and Belarus reduced the flow of goods from the east. ■

ŠKODA produces 1,216 Octavia models per day now

Thursday, September 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

At the M13 assembly, ŠKODA AUTO is manufacturing 1,216 Octavia models per day in the 35th week. Last week, 6,093 vehicles were produced, namely 4,159 Octavia A8s and 1,934 Enyaqs. This information was provided by the Odbory Kovo MB trade union, adding that the M1 was producing 1,270 Fabia cars per day the whole week. Engine production is 80 engines per week above plan. The daily plan is approximately 2,000 engines. Transmission production also exceeds plans, with 1,800 of them being made daily. PHEV battery production is at 780 batteries per day. The employees have asked whether the carmaker is considering administering the fourth dose of the Covid-19 vaccine directly in the company. ■

Odbory Kovo: Production at ŠKODA AUTO is stable

Thursday, September 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the 36th calendar week of 2022, the production situation at the ŠKODA AUTO carmaker will be pretty stable. However, according to the Odbory Kovo MB trade union, shifts may be cancelled, and operations may be restricted at PK, for instance. In the 35th week, production is running in three shifts. In vehicle production, only one shift is cancelled – the Saturday morning shift at the MB A Paint Shop. However, some other shifts in production plants in Mladá Boleslav and Kvasiny will be restricted. In the DQ 200 automatic transmission production in Vrchlábí, restricted production will affect assembly, machining, and tempering. Part of the blacksmithing will be in force in the second half of next week. ■

CS and SSČS join Grace Summer II debt relief

Wednesday, August 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Gracious Summer II campaign for clients of Česká spořitelna (CS) or construction savings bank Stavební spořitelna České spořitelna (SSČS) will take place from September 1 until November 30, 2022. It is intended for anyone who has an outstanding debt to the bank or construction savings bank that is already being enforced. If the client pays the original amount owed, the remainder of the debt, which is most often interest for late repayments, court costs or enforcement, will be forgiven. In addition to this, each debtor will have to pay CZK 1,815 to the bailiff collecting the debt. In 2021, as part of the Summer of Grace, CS forgave 425 clients more than CZK 90m. ■

Pipedrive launched Campaigns, employs 51 in Prague

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Estonian startup Pipedrive, which developed a sales CRM platform for merchants, already has 1,000 employees of 50 nationalities. Half of the management and at the same time 40 % across the company are women. Currently, the company has 10 branches in eight European countries and the USA, and 51 people work in the Prague office. In addition to the number of colleagues, Pipedrive is also expanding its portfolio of tools covering the entire sales cycle and recently launched the Campaigns marketing tool. ■

For your notes

Happenee wants to acquire 150 clients for its HR platform

Saturday, August 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Happenee offers companies a new digital platform focused on HR and candidate experience. It ensures better engagement with job seekers and their positive experiences and impressions of the entire recruitment process. The platform continues to maintain its modular nature. It adapts to the needs of the company and can be used in different ways depending on the stage the candidate is at. The company's founder and CEO, Zdeněk Hesoun, commented that the company currently has four projects in the pipeline. By the end of 2022, it wants to have 30 customers under the HR platform variant and is targeting 150 by 2023. The company's market research data shows that up to 30% of candidates do not show up for the interview at all and 20% do not start work after winning the tender. Moreover, the number of candidates per position has recently dropped by half. ■

Air Bank joins Grace Summer debt removal campaign

Saturday, August 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

As in 2021, Air Bank is joining the idea of the Grace Summer (repeated from September) with its own campaign that follows the parameters of the state campaign. Clients in distraint due to unpaid debts will be approached directly with an individual offer of a solution. It will offer to forgive part of the debt. If the client pays the full amount awarded by the court, the bank will forgive all outstanding commercial and penalty interest. The campaign aims to inspire more people to start resolving their situation. ■

Campiri has 200 partners in P2P program, offers insurance

Saturday, August 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Campiri customers have booked over 800 nights in private owners' caravans so far in 2022. More than 200 partners have joined the P2P programme. Owners who list their caravan on the rental platform can in some cases earn several hundred thousand crowns a year. Campiri has now come up with an insurance policy created in cooperation with the insurtech company Tuito, which will offer caravan owners and customers favourable conditions. For those interested in renting a caravan, this also means that they will not have to deal with additional documentation and the insurance will be included in the rental price. ■

ECONOMY - CONSEQUENCES

GDP up 3.7% y/y; GVA up 3.4%

Tuesday, August 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

GDP adjusted for price effects and seasonality rose 0.5% q/q and 3.7% y/y in Q2 2022. This is based on a refined estimate by the Czech Statistical Office. Gross value added (GVA) increased by 0.5% q/q and by 3.4% y/y. Compared to Q1 2022, the largest contributors to the GVA growth were the information and communication activities (+2.4%) and professional, scientific, technical and administrative activities (+3.5%). The largest contributors to the year-on-year GVA growth were the trade, transport, accommodation and food services (+7.7%). ■

Analysts: investment and stocks drive economy

Tuesday, August 30 | ČIANEWS

The domestic economy grew faster than expected in Q2 2022, as GDP Gained 0.5% q/q and 3.7% y/y and GPP expanded 0.5% and 3.4% q/q. This was stated by AKCENTA CZ's analyst Miroslav Novák. However, GDP at constant prices still has not returned to the level of 4Q 2019 and is unlikely to do so in H2 2022 either. CREDITAS Bank's chief economist Petr Dufek believes that the economy's y/y growth was largely driven by the inventories that companies built up in times of heightened uncertainty, with investment having an even greater impact. Jana Mücková, an economist at the LOGeco investment group, said that the economy is failing to take off because there is a problem with price growth and inflation. Patria Finance's chief economist Jan Bureš sees household demand (-0.1%) continuing to contribute negatively to the growth structure, with the third quarter-on-quarter decline in a row, so that the annual contribution of household consumption to GDP growth is virtually zero in mid-2022. ■

VRP: Debt increase to 42.4% of GDP is realistic

Wednesday, August 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Committee on Budgetary Projections (CBR) has assessed the Ministry of Finance's 2022-2023 government sector revenue projection made in August this year as realistic. According to the MF, the institutions' performance in 2022 reflects the economic consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, assistance to households and firms affected by price increases, as well as spending triggered by the Covid-19 epidemic. The department expects a deficit of 3.8% of GDP. The fiscal policy set is expected to lead to a structural deficit of 3.0% of GDP and an increase in debt to 42.4% of GDP. ■

Colliers: Commercial property investment to top EUR 9bn

Tuesday, August 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Commercial real estate investment volumes in CEE will reach a full-year volume of between EUR 9.0bn and EUR 10.0bn by the end of 2022. Colliers' regional director Kevin Turpin said that in H1 2022 alone, investments amounted to around EUR 5.3bn, up 8.5% y/y. Poland accounted for 56% of the result, followed by the Czech Republic at 16% and Hungary at 12%. Investors remain cautious given geopolitical and economic sentiment and increased costs. Domestic capital from CEE was the most active in H1 with a 40% share of total volumes. Czech (20% of intra-regional volumes) and Hungarian capital (11%) were the drivers. ■

For your notes

NKÚ: CR's debt grew the fastest, had fewest unemployed

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In its opinion on the draft state final accounts of the Czech Republic for 2021, the Supreme Audit Office (NKÚ) notes that the Czech Republic was the fastest-growing country in the European Union last year. The budget deficit of almost CZK 420bn surpassed by CZK 52bn the worst result up to that point from 2020. The share of public debt in relation to GDP increased by 4.2 pp year-on-year. The Czech Republic ranked among the countries with the lowest rate of economic growth, when its GDP grew by 3.3 % y/y. Only Slovakia and Germany reported lower GDP growth. On the other hand, the Czech Republic records the lowest unemployment rate in the EU, at 2.8 %. ■

Export Index: Czech exports value to continue growing

Thursday, September 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the coming months, the value of Czech exports should continue growing, even though the year-on-year pace should slow down to single-digit values, according to the Export Index put together by the Association of Exports and Raiffeisenbank. It is still the case that increased prices are primarily behind the increased value of the exported goods. Except for May and January, the physical export volume does not reach last year's values. At the beginning of winter, the model hints at a year-on-year decrease of up to 1% compared to previous year. ■

Employment rate again at record 75.7%

Thursday, September 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In July 2022, the employment rate in the entire population aged between 15 and 64 years in the Czech Republic totalled 75.7%, up 1.3 pp year on year. Czech Statistical Office Labour Market Statistics and Equal Opportunities department director Dalibor Holý said that this indicator equalled the record value of February 2019. The ratio of the unemployed to the economically active dropped by 0.3 pp to 2.3%. The men's unemployment rate totalled 1.8%, while it was 3.0% for women. The share of economically active persons was at 77.5% and grew by 1.1 pp compared to July 2021. Concerning the methodology, the arrival of war refugees from Ukraine has negatively impacted the trends. ■

Automotive jobs offer exceeds pre-Covid levels

Wednesday, August 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The supply of jobs in the automotive industry remains strong despite the current recession caused by parts supply shortages, the war in Ukraine and energy prices. It even exceeds the pre-Cold War situation. The job portal Profesia.cz reported that in H1 2022, the supply of vacancies was 14% higher than in the same period of 2019. Michal Novák from Profesia.cz commented that there is, however, less interest in the positions on offer, by 19%, which increases the upward pressure on wages in scarce positions. According to data from the salary portal Platy.cz, the total average salary in the industry, including bonuses and remuneration, has climbed to CZK 41,400, up 15% compared to the pre-Covid period and 8% compared to last year. ■

BC Index: Consumer loan rate exceeds 8.2%

Wednesday, August 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Interest rates in the CR rose 0.32pp m/m to an average of 8.24% in July 2022. They have risen by more than 2pp since the start of the year. This is according to the Broker Consulting (BC) Consumer Credit Index. Experts in the credit market expect the long-term trend of rising rates to continue for the next period. BC analyst Michaela Pudilová said that at a time of rising energy and food prices, it is hard for a certain group of clients to resist offers of quick cash. ■

CRIF: No. of new companies down 6.2 % in 7 months

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

A total of 1,861 commercial companies were established in the Czech Republic in July 2022, which is 53 fewer year-on-year. 947 companies ceased operations. The analysis of CRIF - Czech Credit Bureau data also shows that during the first seven months of 2022, 16,742 new companies were created (-6.2 %) and 7,976 companies closed their doors (-5.6 %). CRIF analyst Věra Kameníčková said that although the fewest companies were founded in July in the last five years, the fewest companies have disappeared since 2018. According to her, it points to the fact that despite all the economic complications, companies are not massively disappearing and their number is growing. The greatest number of new companies were established in Vysočina, the fewest in Ústecko. ■

Grafton: 78 % of employees happy with work from home

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

78 % of employees are satisfied with working from home. Roughly 39 % can no longer imagine their work without this option. As the main advantage of a home office, they most often mention saving time and money, almost 50 % of respondents also state that, thanks to working from home, they are better able to take care of the household. This follows from a survey by the staffing agency Grafton Recruitment (Grafton) in 25 countries, with the fact that, on the other hand, the disadvantages include the absence of social contact and also a greater tendency to procrastinate (41 %). The hybrid way of working is becoming the standard especially in IT, business services, media, creative professions, telemedicine and education. ■

WeDo: 24 % of people use app to monitor shipments

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Almost two thirds of online shoppers (63 %) track the status of their shipment on the delivery company's website. A total of 15 % of people track the ordered package directly on the merchant's website. This is according to the IBRS survey, the results of which were published by WeDo. WeDo CEO Daniel Mareš said that only 24 % of customers use the mobile application of one of the courier services. The range of services offered in the application practically did not offer clients anything extra until now. Interest in using apps is expected to increase as their functionality expands. ■

For your notes

ČMKB traded electricity worth CZK 526m

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the 34th week of 2022, contracts for the supply of 30,700 MWh of electricity for final customers worth CZK 526m were traded on the Czech-Moravian Commodity Bourse Kladno (ČMKB). Annual electricity contracts with delivery in 2023 at low voltage were concluded at a rate of CZK 18,862/MWh. In high voltage, they ended at the rate of CZK 16,325/MWh. ■

Kiwi: No. of foreign tourists in CR up 2.5x

Saturday, August 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

During the summer holidays of 2022, the number of foreign tourists in the Czech Republic increased by an average of 2.5 times year-on-year, even surpassing the pre-pandemic level by 91%. This is according to Kiwi.com data. Average domestic ticket prices are down by almost 20% compared to 2019. Compared to last year, they are up 41%. Almost half of tourists spent less than three days in the Czech Republic (46%), while another third extended their stay to six days (30%). Customer Experience Director at Kiwi.com Eliška Řezníček said that Europeans, Americans and Chinese are the most frequent visitors to the Czech Republic. ■

Petrol and diesel cheaper, oil and LPG more expensive

Saturday, August 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The average consumer price of Natural 95 in the 34th week of 2022 fell from CZK 40.81 to CZK 40.31 per litre compared to the 33rd week in the Czech Republic. Diesel fuel decreased from CZK 42.52/l to CZK 42.36/l. The price of LPG increased from CZK 18.44 to CZK 18.55/l. The price of gas oil, according to a survey by the Czech Statistical Office, rose from CZK 24 366 to CZK 25 760 per 1,000 litres. ■

NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

Slovak Economy Minister R. Sulík resigned

Wednesday, August 31 | ČIANEWS

Minister of Economy Richard Sulík (SaS) resigned on August 31, 2022. Jan Oravec, who is currently State Secretary, will head the Ministry of Economy after his departure. Prime Minister Eduard Heger (OĽaNO) proposed a new solution to the government crisis. It is 10 measures to help the people, which, if SaS helps to approve, Finance Minister Igor Matovič (OĽaNO) will leave the government. However, SaS is willing to negotiate on the measures only after the departure of I. Matovič. The other three SaS ministers will wait until September to resign. ■

RRZ: Sustainability of public finances in SR down

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

According to the Council for Budget Responsibility (RRZ), the long-term sustainability of public finances in the Slovak Republic has deteriorated after two years. Even before the pandemic, the indicator reached the level of high risk and showed the worst result since 2013. Even according to the calculations of the European Commission, the state of public finances in Slovakia was the worst in the EU. The situation was negatively affected by the conflict in Ukraine in particular. According to Eurostat data, public debt reached 63.1% of GDP at the end of 2021 and increased by 14.9 percentage points compared to 2019. ■

NPPC disbursed 95% of emergency aid to food producers

Friday, August 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The National Agricultural and Food Processing Centre (NPPC) has paid out almost EUR 7.52m to applicants for exceptional food aid, representing 95% of the subsidy package. So far, the NPPC has processed 413 out of 434 eligible applicants. This was announced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. ■

NBS: Banks expect GDP growth of 1.6% for Q2

Friday, August 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The National Bank of Slovakia (NBS) has published macroeconomic forecasts of selected banks for August and Q2 2022. Core inflation and HICP will reach 13.4% and 13.1% year-on-year in August, while GDP growth in constant prices for Q2 will reach 1.6%. The Q2 unemployment rate will be 6.3% and nominal wage growth will reach 7.6%. ■

NBS: Volume of housing loans in SR amounted to EUR 39.6bn

Thursday, September 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The total volume of housing loans granted in Slovakia as of July 31, 2022 reached EUR 39.60bn. Of this, construction savings loans amounted to EUR 2.22bn. Slovenská sporiteľňa had the largest share of loans provided (25.17%). It was followed by Všeobecná úverová banka (20.11%) and Československá obchodná banka (14.71%). Prvá stavebná sporiteľňa accounted for 87.08% in total construction savings loans. Wüstenrot stavebná sporiteľňa had 9.68% and ČSOB stavebná sporiteľňa had 3.24%, the National Bank of Slovakia (NBS) reported. ■

Confidence in SR down in sectors and among consumers

Tuesday, August 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The economic sentiment in Slovakia is deteriorating and fell to its lowest level in 17 months in August 2022. The biggest decline was in services, but there were also declines in construction, industry and trade. Consumers also showed a decline in optimism. The Slovak Statistical Office reported that the confidence indicator in industry fell by 6 pp m/m to -8, in services by 9.6 pp to 0.7, in trade by 3.7 pp to 23 and in construction by 7.5 pp to -12. The consumer confidence indicator fell 0.6p to -29.4. ■

For your notes

Market service price up 5.5% in SR in Q2

Wednesday, August 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Prices of market services in Slovakia increased by 5.5% y/y in Q2 2022. Quarter-on-quarter, they were 1.3% higher. The data were published by the Slovak Statistical Office. Compared to Q2 2021, prices rose the most in architectural and engineering services (+38.2%), air transport (+22.7%) and production and broadcasting of programmes (+20.4%). ■

Sociálna poisťovňa: No. of disabled women up in 1H22

Monday, August 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The number of newly reported cases of incapacity for work (PN) in Slovakia rose by almost 90,000 year-on-year to 664,210 in 1H 2022. Sociálna poisťovňa informed about this, saying that the amount is related to the increase in the number of insured persons and the spread of the pandemic. The average length of PN decreased by almost 9 days. ■

Gasoline, diesel, LPG and CNG prices up in SR

Friday, August 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The average price of Natural 95 gasoline in Slovakia decreased by 0.23% to EUR 1.730/l in the 33rd week compared to the 32nd week of 2022. Natural 98 became cheaper by 0.16% to EUR 1.929/l, diesel by 0.23% to EUR 1.769/l and LPG by 0.23% to EUR 0.870/l and CNG by 5% to EUR 1.899/kg. The price of LNG rose by 6.70% to EUR 4.062/kg. The information was provided by the Slovak Statistical Office. ■

For your notes