

GOVERNMENT MEASURES

For your notes

CR unveils healthcare protection from cyberattacks in UN

Saturday, July 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

At the Protecting the Healthcare Sector from Cyber Harm seminar held at the UN building in New York, the Czech Republic presented specific recommendations to protect medical facilities against cyberattacks. The compendium results from an international project of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MZV), the National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NÚKIB), the non-profit organisation CyberPeace Institute, and Microsoft. The Ministry further stated that publishing the compendium contributed to the discussion on countries' responsible behaviour in cyberspace. ■

MZ: Number of hospitalised with Covid-19 drops to 1,134

Thursday, July 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On July 28, 2022, the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the Czech Republic grew 2,979 day-on-day to 3,978,708. As of July 27, 2022, the number of hospitalised Covid-19 patients dropped 24 day-on-day to 1,134. The number of deaths in one week increased from 40,378 to 40,434. This information stems from updated data published by the Czech Ministry of Health (MZ). ■

OpenDataLab: Number of fully vaccinated up at 6,882,685

Thursday, July 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

As of July 28, 2022, 6,882,685 persons in the Czech Republic (64.3%; 67.9% older than five years of age) were fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Their number grew 124 day-on-day and 751 week-on-week. At least one shot was administered to 6,968,474 persons (65.1%; 68.8% over five years of age). A total of 4,265,586 citizens had their booster shot. The statistics were processed by OpenDataLab (ČVUT) based on data from the Czech Ministry of Health. ■

MZ: 14,714,859 of 17,742,584 vaccine shots were Comirnaty

Thursday, July 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

As of July 28, 2022, 17,742,584 vaccine shots against Covid-19 were administered in the Czech Republic. Compared to the previous day, the number of shots grew 7,754. There were 14,714,859 shots of the Comirnaty/Pfizer, BioNtech vaccine administered, followed by SPIKEVAX/Moderna (1,608,241), VAXZEVRIA/AstraZeneca (887,442), Janssen (413,308), Comirnaty 5-11 (109,313), and Nuvaxovid/Novavax (9,223), according to statistics published by the Czech Ministry of Health (MZ). ■

CZ PRES leads REPowerEU review in reaction to invasion

Friday, July 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech EU Presidency (CZ PRES) is leading talks about reviewing a directive about the Recovery and Resilience Facility within the context of the REPowerEU plan, which became of key importance after the Covid-19 pandemic because of the Russian aggression and the need to divert from Russian energy. The talks focus on options for funding sources and finding a suitable allotment key to distribute additional financial means among individual member states. From its presidency position, the Czech Republic is actively striving for the lowest possible administrative burden on individual member states and the highest possible degree of flexibility in drawing support to implement the measures quickly. ■

State to give CZK 66bn to people because of energy prices

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

From October 2022, for 12 months, the state will help people and firms with energy prices with CZK 66bn. This information was provided by Finance Minister Zbyněk Stanjura (ODS), adding that this year the amount would total CZK 16.8bn, and next year it would be CZK 49.2bn. It will not matter whether one heats with electricity, gas, central heating, or a boiler house. The package includes an energy tariff compensating gas and electricity (CZK 27bn), waiver of renewable energy sources support (CZK 23bn), support of the district-heating industry (CZK 10bn) and boiler houses (CZK 4bn) as well as compensations to firms (CZK 2bn). The government will decide with its decree on specific amounts and timing for the compensation. ■

President signed act introducing economical tariff

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

President Miloš Zeman signed the law introducing the so-called economical tariff. It is intended to help households reduce payments for electricity, gas and heat. The tariff should take the form of a subsidy from the state budget, which will be received by energy suppliers, who will reduce payments to households by the amount of this subsidy. The amendment to the Energy Act signed by the President is to enter into force the day after its announcement in the collection of laws. The government will then adopt a regulation setting the amount of the contribution. ■

MŽP to spend CZK 1bn from NPO on municipal energy savings

Monday, August 1 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (MŽP) allocated more than CZK 1bn from the National Renewal Plan (NPO) for municipalities for energy savings in public buildings. Municipalities can also use the funds for rainwater management or photovoltaics on roofs. Support in the order of tens of millions will also be distributed to environmental education, domestic waste water treatment plants or research and strengthening of drinking water sources. Minister Anna Hubáčková (for KDU-ČSL) said that today's energy crisis affects everyone without distinction. According to her, energy savings and the use of renewable resources represent reliable ways to reduce overall consumption. ■

Senate to discuss beneficial owners' registration bill

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

A plenary session of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic will start on August 10, 2022. The agenda includes draft bills on plastic products and protocols about Sweden's and Finland's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The Senators will also focus on a draft bill on the registration of beneficial owners, on services of video-sharing platforms, and on supporting research, experimental development and innovations. ■

MV: Police to get CZK 900m from EU, also for cyber-crimes

Friday, July 29 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Police will get CZK 900m from the Operational Programme Internal Security Fund, managed by the Czech Ministry of the Interior (MV), to strengthen its specialised investigations, among other things into cyber-crimes. Police officers will use the funding in the 2021-2027 programming period. The programme's other fundamental objectives include strengthening international police cooperation in connection with terrorism and serious organised cross-border criminal activities, not only between EU member-state forces but also with third countries. ■

JHM started building ZZS JMK departure base in Mikulov

Monday, August 1 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The South Moravian Region (JHM) has started building the South Moravian Region Medical Rescue Service (ZZS JMK) exit base in Mikulov. The cost of the construction for CZK 82.3 million is covered by a loan from the European Investment Bank. JHM Hejtman Jan Grolich (KDU-ČSL) further stated that the region is building six new bases in 2022. The station is designed in a passive energy standard using two photovoltaic power plants. The first will supply the normal operations of the base and the second will power heat pumps using heat from deep wells. ■

PRIVATE SECTOR – ACTIVITIES

Avast donated USD 600k to Moonshot Platform

Monday, August 1 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Avast Foundation supported the Digital Movement Moonshot Platform with a sum of USD 600,000. The project, which was created in response to the effects of the pandemic crisis, is thus being transformed into an international platform with the ambition of reaching up to 1 million people from various countries, including the Czech Republic. The movement connects startups and nonprofits with investors and other partners and helps them find solutions to problems across disciplines. ■

ČD, trade unions agree on a 5.2% wage increase

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech Railways (ČD) and trade unions have concluded a company collective agreement valid from January 1 to December 31, 2023. To the employees, the deal guarantees an extraordinary one-off bonus of CZK 7,500 in 2022 and a 5.2% increase in tariff wages as of next year. All other stipulations and employee benefits, such as the length of working hours and various forms of benefits, including supplementary pension insurance, remain preserved. The reason for the new contract is the management's effort to mitigate the impact of inflation on ČD employees. ■

RSTS provides CZK 8.2bn in loans, posts CZK 327m profit

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the first half of 2022, Raiffeisen stavební spořitelna (RSTS) provided its clients with new loans worth CZK 8.2bn, which is comparable to the first half of 2021. The number of valid building-savings contracts totalled 585,000. The building savings bank is making up for the decreasing demand for mortgage loans with an increased interest in renovation loans. Apart from RSTS loans, the offer includes consumer loans from Equa bank. In the monitored period, the company brokered these loans worth almost CZK 185m to its clients. The building savings bank's total assets grew 0.40% to CZK 76bn. Its net profit was 56% higher and amounted to CZK 327m. ■

KB Group provides CZK 769bn in loans

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The total volume of loans provided by the Komerční banka (KB) Group increased 8.7% year on year to CZK 769.4bn in the first half of 2022. The volume of regular client deposits grew 2.7% to CZK 1.02bn. The volume of client assets in mutual funds, pension savings and life insurance was 4.8% higher and amounted to CZK 205.6bn. The group served 2.26m customers, which was approximately 12,000 more than a year ago. Komerční banka alone had 1.65m clients, up 29,000. The number of clients with the Mobilní banka application increased by 119,000 to 1.1m. Compared to the first half of 2021, which was affected by pandemic-related restrictions, KB's yields grew 29.5% to CZK 19.2bn. ■

For your notes

ČS' profits up to CZK 11bn, loans reached CZK 902bn

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Česká spořitelna (ČS) reported an unaudited consolidated net profit of CZK 11.0bn as of June 30, 2022. Compared to 1H 2021, it increased by 67.0 %. The higher operating result of CZK 14.8bn (+43.7 %) reflected the development after the pandemic and was also supported by the dissolution of provisions for risks. The consolidated balance sheet increased by 12.3 % to CZK 1.84bn. The gross volume of client loans increased by 9.9 % to CZK 902.4bn. The volume of loans to corporate entities rose by 8.2 % to CZK 324.9bn, thanks to increases in small and medium-sized enterprises (+12.6 %), large corporations (+5.0 %) and corporate subsidiaries (+24.9 %). The total number of clients was 4.5 million (+43,000), of which roughly 2 million used e-banking. ■

OKD yields CZK 9.2bn, coal price indices break highs

Saturday, July 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 2021, OKD posted a net profit of CZK 216.8m. Its EBITDA exceeded CZK 2bn before extraordinary operations related to reserve creations. The production volume of the mining company grew almost 104,000 tonnes year-on-year to 2.47m t of coal. Revenue from the sale of own products and services increased by CZK 3bn to CZK 9.24bn. Board chairman Roman Sikora said that the company's operations were affected by the pandemic in 2021 as well. Coal prices stagnated, and demand for steam coal started to increase only in May. He added that coal price indices gradually grew and started breaking their record highs in September. ■

PDS: Real estate portfolio value up to CZK 4.3bn

Thursday, August 4 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The market value of the real estate portfolio of the Prague Development Company (PDS) as of April 1, 2022 was estimated by Knight Frank at CZK 4.30bn. PDS owns 683,000 m2 of land in Prague. In 2021, the lots were valued at CZK 2.94bn. The regular market valuation serves as a basis for strategic decisions made by the city of Prague. It will also serve as a basis for negotiations on the financing structure for the implementation and operation of urban rental housing projects that the PDS is preparing. PDS CEO Petr Urbánek expects the market value of the portfolio to increase by several billion korunas after the completion of important milestones in the preparation of projects, especially in the Palmovka and Nové Dvory locations. ■

ČS with Albert and Globus stores launch Moneyback program

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Česká spořitelna (CS) offers users of George mobile banking the opportunity to use the Moneyback discount programme. When paying by card at Albert and Globus retail chains, clients will receive 15% of the amount spent back to their account. The money will be credited to the account within 10 days in the following month. The maximum amount of cashback is CZK 500 per month. The aim of the programme is to help clients save money at a time of rising prices. ■

Wizzair to renew Prague-Luton route

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS

The carrier Wizzair will once again fly from Prague to London's Luton Airport from the winter season. It will offer daily flights with an A321 aircraft for 230 passengers. The company ended the previous operation on this line on March 13, 2020 due to the beginning of the pandemic. ■

Erste Group achieved a net profit of 1.14 billion euros

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 1H 2022, Erste Group recorded an increase in operating income of 10.3% to 1.86 billion euros and a net profit of 1.14 billion euros. Net interest income increased by 15.9% to EUR 2.84 billion thanks to continued solid loan volume growth, especially in the corporate segment and mortgages, as well as further interest rate increases in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania. Net income from fees and commissions increased by 10.5% year-on-year to 1.21 billion euros. ■

Ostrava handles 72,669 passengers, 6,983 t of cargo

Friday, July 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Leoš Janáček Ostrava Airport handled 72,669 passengers (up 234% year on year) in the first half of 2022. A total of 6,983 tonnes of cargo was transported, of which more than 1,200 t in June alone. Flights from Ostrava head to 16 summer destinations in Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Spain, Egypt and Tunis. In addition, regular flights to London (twice a week) and Warsaw (five times a week) are operated there. General director Jaromír Radkovský said the financial result was CZK 14m higher than planned. ■

ECONOMY - CONSEQUENCES

Economy up 3.6%; construction, services do well

Friday, July 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

According to preliminary estimates, the Czech Republic's gross domestic product (GDP), adjusted for price influences and seasonality, increased 0.2% quarter on quarter and 3.6% year on year in the second quarter of 2022. This information was provided by the Czech Statistical Office, adding that final-consumption expenditures and gross-capital creation supported the year-on-year increase. The sectors of commerce, transport, accommodation and hospitality contributed towards it in particular. The construction sector and the majority of service sectors also did well. However, the negative influence of foreign demand remained. ■

For your notes

S&P: PMI fell to 46.8 points due to low demand

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the Czech Republic fell m/m to 46.8 from 49 points in July 2022, indicating the largest decline in the health of the Czech manufacturing sector since June 2020. The S&P Global survey also shows that a reduction in production volume contributed to the overall slowdown. The decline was the biggest in more than two years. Companies that recorded it justified this by weakening demand and a reduction in spending by customers due to strong inflation. At the same time, new orders fell, the fastest since May 2020. Demand was dampened by the limited purchasing power of customers, and some clients postponed orders. ■

MF: Budget deficit reached CZK 192.7bn at end-July

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS

The management of the state budget ended at the end of July 2022 with a deficit of CZK 192.7bn. After adjusting for income from the European Union and financial mechanisms, as well as for expenditures on these projects, the deficit amounted to CZK 186.0bn. The Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic (MF) informed about this, stating that the year-on-year improvement of the balance by CZK 86.7bn is primarily due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 epidemic. Tax revenues increased by more than 17 % year-on-year. High prices affected spending on pension valorization, housing benefits and material hardship or the refugee crisis. Minister Zbyněk Stanjura (ODS) stated that the state funds for transport infrastructure and the environment received more than CZK 10 billion more than last year. ■

MF: Since EU accession, CR gets CZK 1tn more than paid in

Friday, July 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the first half of 2022, the Czech Republic's income from the EU budget exceeded its contributions by CZK 15.8bn. After including income from the Next Generation EU (NGEU) package, they exceeded them by CZK 23.5bn. During the first six months of 2022, the Czech Republic received CZK 48.4bn from the European Union's budget. Contributions amounted to CZK 32.5bn. Since it acceded to the EU in 2004, the Czech Republic has paid CZK 775.9bn into the EU budget and has received approximately CZK 1.75tn. The positive balance of the Czech Republic's net positions in relation to the EU budget is thus CZK 977.3bn. After including income from the NGEU, revenue has totalled CZK 1.78tn, and the positive balance has exceeded CZK 1tn. ■

Unemployment in CR fell to 2.4 %

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The employment rate in the entire population aged 15 to 64 in the Czech Republic reached 75.5 % in June 2022 and increased by 1.3 pp year-on-year. The data was published by the Czech Statistical Office. The share of the unemployed to the economically active decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 2.5 %. The unemployment rate for men was 1.9 %, for women 3.2 %. The share of economically active persons was at the level of 77.6 % and compared to June 2021 it increased by 1.0 pp. According to Eurostat data, which monitors the development in the age group of 15 to 74 years, the unemployment rate in the Czech Republic was 2.4 %. ■

Employment grows to 5.16m thanks to service revival

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Total employment in the Czech Republic grew 123,200 persons year on year to 5.16m in the second quarter of 2022. Czech Statistical Office Labour, Migration and Equal Opportunities department head Marta Petráňová explained that employment increased mainly in commerce and accommodation. This confirms the revival of services that were restricted a year ago because of the pandemic. The total number of unemployed dropped by 28,700 and totalled 125,700 persons. The general unemployment rate in the age group between 15 and 64 years decreased by 0.6 pp to 2.4%. The number of economically inactive persons dropped by 82,900 to 3.55m. ■

D&B: 20% firms from Brno, 18% from Prague face bankruptcy

Thursday, August 4 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The largest number of risk-taking companies in the Czech Republic is in the Brno area (20%) and in Prague (18.3%). The results are based on the Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) scoring model. These firms are more likely to default on their trade obligations, have a higher probability of future deterioration of their financial situation, higher credit risk and the threat of bankruptcy in the next 12 months. D&B analyst Petra Štěpánová added that the national average is 14.7%. Almost 400,000 companies were assessed. The highest share of stable companies with a minimum probability of bankruptcy has a registered address in the Ústí nad Hradec Králové region. ■

SDA: Passenger car registrations down 14% in July

Thursday, August 4 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Total passenger car registrations in the Czech Republic from January to July 2022 fell by 14.36% y/y to 112,364 units. In July alone, they fell by 26.93%. Of these, ŠKODA (31.78%) accounted for the largest market share, followed by Hyundai (10.23%) and Volkswagen (8.30%). The best-selling cars were the Škoda OCTAVIA with 7,239 units, the Škoda FABIA with 6,925 units and the Hyundai i30 with 5,054 units. In terms of business classes, SUVs topped the list with 49,957 registered vehicles (44.46%). In terms of fuel, petrol led the way with 66.26%, while diesel accounted for 24.75%, the Automobile Importers Association (SDA) said. ■

For your notes

NRB supported firms with CZK 12.9bn

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The National Development Bank (NDB) provided support to businesses in H1 2022 with CZK 12.9bn in guaranteed or directly provided loans. A further CZK 232m was provided to travel agencies as a so-called participation guarantee. This is a 40% year-on-year increase in standard (i.e. non-covenant) support. NRB provided a further CZK 222m to regions, towns and municipalities for the construction of public infrastructure. Nearly 2,400 projects were supported, 90% of which were carried out by small enterprises. The NRB has seen the strongest demand for its Expansion Guarantee (CZK 7.5 billion) and Guarantee 2015 to 2023 (CZK 3bn) products. Interest in programmes to finance energy-saving projects increased by almost 40%. Businesses have already drawn down CZK 60m from them. Approximately 30 more applications are currently in the pipeline, amounting to almost CZK 100m. ■

ÚOHS: Demands for higher food prices comes from suppliers

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The demand for higher food prices is primarily from suppliers facing increased production costs, especially energy and vehicle fuel. This result comes from a poll conducted by the Office for the Protection of Competition (ÚOHS) focused on the sources of price increases in the agricultural and food chain. The second main source is the uncertainty of some sub-markets where psychological concerns about shortages caused by the war in Ukraine result in certain commodity types being scarcer and thus more expensive. The pressure to increase prices is lower on suppliers from abroad than on Czech suppliers. ■

Savills: Real estate investments down to EUR 252m in Q2

Thursday, August 4 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The total volume of real estate investment in the Czech Republic decreased by 41% y/y in Q2 2022, according to a Savills research. Yields for prime office space are 4.50%. For industrial space it is 4.25%, for shopping centres 6.0% and for premium business units 4.75%. The return rate for residential space is 4.25%. During H1 2022, 22 transactions were completed in the real estate market. The average value was EUR 52m. In the same period of 2021, 28 transactions were completed for an average value of EUR 26m. ■

Savills: Real estate investments grow to EUR 1.15bn

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Investments in the real estate market in the Czech Republic grew 60% year on year to EUR 1.15bn in the first half of 2022. Savills senior research analyst Lenka Pechová said domestic investors contributed the most to the total transaction volume after acquiring real estate worth more than EUR 607m (53% of the total volume). European investors follow them with a 36% share. The biggest transaction of the second quarter of 2022 was the acquisition of commercial real estate, prevalently consisting of Tesco business units, by Adventum. The value of the portfolio part located in the Czech Republic was between EUR 50m and EUR 70m. During the transaction, Adventum was represented by Savills. ■

CBA: Population owes banks CZK 2tn+ for the first time

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Despite the waning mortgage wave in June 2022, the total volume of loans to the population will exceed CZK 2tn for the first time in the history of the Czech Republic. This is a year-on-year increase of CZK 161.7bn. The Czech Banking Association (CBA) reported this on the basis of data from the Czech National Bank (CNB). Household deposits rose by CZK 120.7bn to CZK 3.09tn. The resulting balance between deposits and loans fell month-on-month from May's CZK 1.094tn to CZK 1.089tn. The stock of corporate loans rose by 7.7% y/y to CZK 1.22tn. Corporate deposits with banks fell by more than 2.5% to CZK 1.323tn. The resulting balance ended at CZK 101.6bn. ■

108 Agency: Offer of vacant warehouses drops to 1%

Saturday, July 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the second quarter of 2022, the offer of vacant warehouses and production premises in the Czech Republic dropped to 1%. An analysis conducted by 108 Agency implies hints at the cooling of the ongoing very strong demand. In the second quarter, a so-far largest lease within one hall on the local market occurred, with a non-public distribution company leasing 233,698 m² at the Panattoni Park Cheb. At the same time, the level of 10m m² of modern industrial areas for lease in the Czech Republic was exceeded at the beginning of June. The average lease is currently EUR 5.50 per m². There are 1.29m m² of new premises in the implementation stage now. ■

MF holds equity in 33 companies

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of Finance held equity interests in 33 companies as of July 31, 2022. It holds half or more of the shares in 13 companies. Of these, it holds a 100% stake in nine companies, including ČEPRO, Letišti Praha, MERO ČR, PRISKO and Export Guarantee and Insurance Company. The ministry's stake in ČEZ Group totals 69.78%. ■

D&B: 13,193 entities active in tourism

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

There are a total of 13,193 entities operating in the Czech Republic in the field of travel agencies, guide services and in the segment of other reservation and related activities. Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) data showed that in 2017 there were more than 12,000 such entities. This is the highest number in history. However, in the case of natural persons, roughly half of them do not carry out entrepreneurial activities. While between 2014 and 2019, in the case of legal entities, more than 100 companies were founded each year, in 2020 and 2021 only about half as many were founded. The self-employed business base also showed a similar development. ■

For your notes

Vehicle-fuel prices in CR drop in 30th week

Friday, July 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Compared to the 29th week, the average consumer price of the Natural 95 petrol in the Czech Republic dropped from CZK 47.18/litre to CZK 46.16/per litre in the 30th week. Diesel oil's price decreased from CZK 47.18/litres to CZK 46.48/litre. The price of LPG lowered from CZK 19.33/litre to CZK 19.19/litre. According to a survey conducted by the Czech Statistical Office, the price of gas oil dropped from CZK 27,845 per 1,000 litres to CZK 26,659 per 1,000 litres. ■

Rents in CR rose by up to 19%

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS

Rents are rising sharply, even reaching new records, selection is falling and apartments are quickly disappearing from the supply, Lidové noviny reports. According to data from the Bezrealitky portal, rents in Prague have risen by 15% y/yo CZK 306 per m2. The exception is the Moravian-Silesian region, where rents have remained essentially unchanged. Rents are now catching up with the sharp rise in property prices. In the Czech Republic, they have risen at one of the highest rates in Europe. Now the situation is turning around. ■

Ekospol: Flats in new projects are getting smaller

Saturday, July 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Whereas larger flats in the layout of three rooms and a kitchenette prevailed in new residential projects ten years ago, smaller, one- and two-room flats dominate now. According to information provided by Ekospol, an ever-higher number of buyers prefer the final unit prices with the increasing prices of new flats. Investors also prefer smaller flats, as they are more suitable for sub-leasing and offer a faster yield. ■

Central Group: Rents will catch up with mortgage payments

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The volumes and numbers of new mortgages for H1 2022 fell by more than one third, in June 2022 by roughly 60%. This follows from ČBA Hypomonitor data. Central Group anticipates that demand for rental housing after the holiday season will be boosted by students, which will put pressure on further rapid rental growth. Leases often contain an inflation clause, so rents are expected to rise significantly, while new apartments will see a slowdown in price growth. Mortgage payments and rents will therefore come closer together. The information was published by Central Group. ■

MZe: 785,500 ha of cereals harvested, i.e. 60.5% of area

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Farmers in the Czech Republic have harvested a total of 785,500 ha of cereals as of August 1, 2022. This represents 60.5% of their area. In year-on-year comparison, this year's harvest is thus significantly faster. Winter wheat is harvested on 64.2% of the area and spring barley on 55.9%. The total cereal yield has increased slightly compared to last week to 6.13 t/ha. The harvest is most advanced in the Zlín Region (93.8%), while the Karlovy Vary Region is the most delayed (17.9%). The average rapeseed yield as of 1 August was 3.32 t/ha. This was reported by the Ministry of Agriculture (MZe). ■

OTE: 12,049 customers changed their gas supplier

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

12,049 customers changed gas suppliers in July 2022. Of these, 17 large customers, 80 medium customers, 1,083 small customers and 10,869 households. In the same period in 2021, 15,720 clients switched suppliers. This follows from the data of the market operator OTE. In total, 171,423 customers switched suppliers in the first seven months of 2022. ■

ČMKB: Electricity contracts exceeded CZK 912 million

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the 30th week of 2022, contracts for the supply of 88 thousand MWh of electricity for final customers worth CZK 912.2 million were concluded on the Czech-Moravian Commodity Bourse Kladno (ČMKB). Annual electricity contracts for delivery in 2023 at high voltage were traded at a price of CZK 10,363/MWh. ■

NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

SR received EUR 398.7m from Recovery Plan

Friday, July 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The National Implementation and Coordination Authority (NIKA) at the Government Office of the Slovak Republic has received the first payment under the Recovery and Resilience Plan. After deducting the aliquot part of the advance, Slovakia received EUR 398,700,990. In total, Slovakia requested a payment worth EUR 458m. ■

For your notes

