

GOVERNMENT MEASURES

For your notes

Válek concluded CZ PRES health agenda at EPSCO

Monday, December 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Minister of Health Vlastimil Válek (TOP 09) concluded the substantive agenda of the Czech Presidency at the meeting of the Council for Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Protection (EPSCO) on December 9, 2022. As part of CZ PRES, the health ministers adopted, among other things, the regulation for health data (EHDS) and the draft regulation on blood, tissues and cells (BTC). They also adopted the Revision of the Council's recommendations on cancer screening and approved the conclusions on vaccination as a tool for disease prevention. The minister said that improving the quality of oncology care was one of the priorities of the Czech presidency. He added that the goal was, among other things, to restore citizens' trust in vaccination. V. Válek handed over the imaginary scepter to the Swedish Minister of Health Acko Aknarberg Johansson. ■

The re-elected chairman of AK M. Kuba credits the success of managing covid and the Ukrainian crisis

Thursday, December 8 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Council of the Association of Regions of the Czech Republic (AK ČR) elected the South Bohemian Region Governor Martin Kuba (ODS) as chairman of the AK ČR for the second time. For example, the association considers the increase in money for ambulances, coping with covid and the Ukrainian crisis to be a success. The new deputy chairman is the governor of the Liberec region, Martin Půta (STAN). ■

V. Válek: Shortage of Nurofen for children is Europe-wide

Wednesday, December 14 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

According to Minister of Health Vlastimil Válek (TOP 09), the problem with the lack of Nurofen in the form of syrup for children is a pan-European one, not only in the Czech Republic. The minister called on the State Institute for Drug Control (SÚKL) to act more quickly in the area of drug shortages and also to negotiate with manufacturers to deal with it. According to him, 300,000 packages of the medicine will be available before Christmas, the delivery of which was arranged on December 13, 2022. He added that the amendment to the Medicines Act, which will address their shortcomings, is in the comment process. ■

MF: CR's assets at CZK 6.6tn, covid-transfers CZK 1.1tn

Friday, December 9 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The assets of the Czech Republic, according to the consolidated financial statements, amounted to CZK 6.59tn in 2021. The Ministry of Finance (MF) reported that the state assets include mainly buildings, land, movable assets and cash. These assets reached CZK 883.4bn, which is CZK 100.7bn more than in 2020. In 2021, state assets were financed 29.1% by own capital and 70.9% by foreign sources. The significant increase in short-term receivables and payables as well as financial expenses and income was mainly related to the dramatic increase in electricity and gas prices under the CEZ Group's derivative operations. The COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increased transfer costs, which rose by 4.6% y/y to CZK 1.14bn. ■

OpenDataLab: No. of fully vaccinated people increased to 6,891,394

Thursday, December 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

As of December 14, 2022, 6,891,394 people in the Czech Republic were fully vaccinated against COVID-19, i.e., by 23 more than the previous day (64.4%; 68.0% older than five years). 6,975,828 residents received at least one dose. 4,356,448 citizens received the first booster dose. The statistics were compiled by OpenDataLab (ČVUT) based on data from the Ministry of Health. ■

MZ: Out of 18,576,404 vaccinations, 15,005,920 were Pfizer-BioNtech/Comirnaty

Thursday, December 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

As of December 15, 2022, 18,576,404 vaccinations against COVID-19 were reported in the Czech Republic. Comirnaty/Pfizer, BioNtech vaccines were administered in 15,005,920 cases. It was followed by SPIKEVAX/Moderna (1,632,951), VAXZEVRIA/AstraZeneca (886,626), Janssen (413,974), Comirnaty 5-11 (112,138) and Nuvaxovid/Novavax (11,004), according to data published by the Ministry of Health (MZ). ■

MZ: No. of people hospitalized with COVID-19 drops to 724

Thursday, December 8 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The number of confirmed cases in connection with the infection causing COVID-19 in the Czech Republic increased by 1,073 to 4,565,229 on the morning of December 8, 2022. The number of hospitalized patients decreased from 752 to 724 on December 7, 2022 compared to the previous day. Number of deaths in a week increased to 41,937 from 41,903, according to the updated data of the Ministry of Health (MZ). ■

ŠZÚ: CR on verge of respiratory infection epidemic

Monday, December 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The State Health Institute records an increase in the incidence of acute respiratory infections, including influenza, in all regions and all age groups in the 49th week of 2022. It currently reached a value of 1,754 per 100,000 persons, which represents a week-on-week increase of 20.4 %. In the case of so-called flu diseases, the infection rate increased by 112 % and it can be assumed that the number of patients will increase. The Institute further informed that it is mainly influenza type A that circulates in the Czech and European population. According to it, the Czech Republic is on the verge of an ARI epidemic. ■

PRIVATE SECTOR – ACTIVITIES

Dermacol had a turnover of CZK 500m in CR and SR

Tuesday, December 13 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Dermacol had record sales in the Czech Republic in 2022, which were 20 % higher than before the pandemic. Co-owner Věra Komárová said that the turnover on the Czech and Slovak markets reached almost CZK 500m. Sales on Amazon.com have doubled year-on-year, and the brand is expanding on the American market through a new branch. The company has expanded to Mauritius, Malaysia, Tunisia and Indonesia. Traditional export markets include Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Hong Kong or Spain. The Dermacol brand is known in more than 70 countries around the world. This year, the company invested CZK 34m in the technologies of the Cosmonde production factory and development laboratories in Brno in Lesná. ■

ŠKODA AUTO assessing position on Chinese market

Monday, December 12 | ČIANEWS

As part of its normal business processes, ŠKODA AUTO continuously reviews its position on international markets and adapts its business strategies to its development. This was stated for ČIANEWS by the head of communications Tomáš Kotera, who said that this also applies to China. The automaker is in discussion with joint venture partner SAIC Volkswagen and is evaluating how best to position the brand in the Chinese market against the background of China's transformation towards electromobility. He added that it has not yet been decided whether the strategy for the Chinese market will need to be modified. ŠKODA AUTO boss Klaus Zellmer said in an interview for the Automobilwoche website over the weekend, according to the kurzy.cz website, that the carmaker from Mladá Boleslav is considering leaving China. ■

Schneider Electric testing smart tech for buildings

Monday, December 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Schneider Electric's development and technology center in Napajedla is testing products and technologies for smart homes with a focus on efficient energy management in a new laboratory for CZK 4m. It also recently introduced a mobile application for controlling smart homes and a cloud service for the automation of homes and entire buildings, as well as a special system for energy management. The director of the center, Marek Provalil, said that the tested products have sales of EUR 100m. Production takes place mainly in Latvia, but also in Germany and Switzerland. He added that the company was experiencing shortfalls in chip deliveries, so the development center had the task of proposing changes to the electronics for several products. The adjustment averted a loss in sales of almost CZK 200m per year. Development takes place with the aim of being as sustainable as possible and ensuring maximum cybersecurity. ■

Dachser invests in warehouses, connects Poland + Belgium

Friday, December 9 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Dachser Czech Republic closes 2022 with a 17% increase in turnover compared to 2021, according to preliminary financial results. The number of shipments will reach 1.25 million and the tonnage will climb to 621,000 tonnes, up 11% y/y. Despite the turbulent year, the logistics provider has invested in expanding warehouse capacity in the Czech Republic. It has also launched seven new picking lines to Poland, Belgium and Germany. The company also grew in terms of staff, with the number of employees increasing by 9% to almost 650. Dachser also launched an emission-free supply project in Hradec Králové, where it will shut down the city centre using electric cargo bikes. ■

Daytrip's turnover grows, wants to expand

Thursday, December 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Daytrip platform registers a turnover for 2022 of over CZK 480m. The turnover for the pre-pandemic year 2019 was already surpassed in September. Since its establishment seven years ago, it has transported 700,000 passengers, more than 200,000 of whom in 2022. Due to the ongoing interest from investors, Daytrip continues expanding its services to other countries. As ČIANEWS reported earlier, Daytrip received CZK 150m from Euroventures and J&T Ventures and Nation 1 VC funds in February 2022 for development and expansion. Among other things, it plans to hire more team members, especially to develop the platform. Daytrip connects passengers with a network of more than 5,100 drivers in 90 countries. It provides door-to-door transportation by a private car. ■

Prague Airport defends ACI accreditation

Wednesday, December 14 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Prague Airport has renewed its ACI Airport Health Accreditation, awarded by the global industry association Airports Council International (ACI), for the next twelve months. The ACI evaluates airports on a criteria-by-criteria basis and assesses the protective measures and other tools they use to combat coronavirus. Jakub Puchalský, a member of the board of directors of Prague Airport, said that despite the gradual relaxation of protective measures when travelling, the company still pays attention to the set processes and measures and as an example he mentioned the recommendation to use a respirator in closed areas of the airport. ■

For your notes

Liberty Ostrava to raise wages by 9.5%; pay bonus

Friday, December 9 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Liberty Ostrava's management and trade unions have concluded an amendment to the collective agreement for 2023, which will see wages increase by 9.5% from January. Two further increases will take place on April 1 and July 1 next year. All other pay and benefits will remain in place. The company will also pay an extraordinary bonus of EUR 10,000. The company will pay an extraordinary bonus of CZK 10 per employee. Sandip Biswas, interim general manager of the metals division, said that after negotiations with the unions, the company can start focusing on its readiness to take advantage of the recovery in demand and on implementing its decarbonisation plans. ■

Agrokomplex exhibition centre fully open after Covid break

Friday, December 9 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE, Agrokomplex in 2022 has fully reopened after a two-year covid break. From December 7 to 10, 2022, the international Agrosalon exhibition of agricultural technology is taking place here. From December 9, Agrokomplex offers the exhibition Taste of Slovak Christmas: Christmas with the Quality Mark, where 54 exhibitors will present Slovak products to visitors. This was announced by the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MPRV SR). In August 2022, Agrokomplex traditionally hosted the 47th edition of the international exhibition of agriculture and food industry, which was visited by 82,000 people. ■

ECONOMY - CONSEQUENCES

Analysts: Energy is a pro-inflationary risk, rates will decrease

Monday, December 12 | ČIANEWS

Housing is once again behind the November price increase. Petr Dufek, the chief economist of CREDITAS Bank, stated this, adding that further food price increases also contributed to the pace. Trinity Bank Chief Economist Lukáš Kovanda believes that inflation should be expected to return to 18% in January and added that the base interest rate should fall below 7% in 2H 2023. Jakub Seidler, Chief Economist of the Czech Banking Association, stated that the pro-inflationary risks are mainly related to the more noticeable prescription of high energy prices in the final prices. On the contrary, a significantly stronger recession can be an anti-inflationary risk. BHS Chief Economist Štěpán Křeček observes that people react to the situation by reducing consumption, which should help curb new inflationary pressures. ■

CBRE: Investments in property will fall to EUR 1.9bn

Wednesday, December 14 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The total volume of investment in Czech commercial real estate in 2022 will reach EUR 1.8 - 1.9bn, which represents a year-on-year decline of 5-10%. This is based on CBRE's analysis, adding that 1Q was very strong in terms of investment activity (EUR 1bn). Since 2Q, a number of upcoming transactions have been revalued or put on hold. The cooling was caused by the uncertain economic outlook and rapidly rising financing costs. Yields or prime yields on Czech real estate have risen by 25-75bps since 1Q22, depending on the segment. Tighter lending conditions and a moderate economic outlook will continue to have a negative impact on investment for the rest of the year and into 1H 2023. Rising construction costs and extraordinary indexation in 2023 will drive rental growth, but property market values will stagnate. In 2023, CBRE expects a further year-on-year decline in investment volumes of 5-15%. ■

Bolt Food app: Interest in food delivery continues to grow

Thursday, December 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In recent weeks, the Bolt Food app conducted a survey among its users in the Czech Republic. The questionnaire in the Czech version was completed by 2,000 respondents. Three out of four (76%) order food through the app no more than once a week. One fifth order it two to three times a week, and less than 2% do it daily, or several times a day. A total of 31% of Bolt Food users regularly have their lunch delivered to work. According to the rating of the restaurant within the application, 32% of respondents know what to do, and another 54% at least pay attention to the number of stars. Younger age groups predominate among the respondents, one third of them are aged between 20 and 29, and another third between 30 and 39. More than two-thirds of those surveyed (67%) have been using the Bolt Food app for more than six months, while 17% have only been using it for a few weeks. ■

CBRE: Interest in offices up 10%, leases increasing

Thursday, December 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The demand for office leases in Prague grew by 10% year on year between the first and third quarters of 2022. At the same time, it was 27% better when compared to the pre-pandemic year 2019, according to the information from an analysis conducted by CBRE, adding that it was driven mainly by IT companies (31% of the demand). In 2023, a slowdown is expected. The leasing activity is already letting up. The vacancy rate was stable and is currently at 8.1%. A total of 192,000 m2 of new office premises are under construction, of which 136,000 m2 should be completed in 2023. In combination with the slowing demand, an increase in the vacancy rate is expected. Premium lease has grown 10% since the end of 2021, and during 2023 further growth will slow down. ■

AURES: Czechs save almost 5 years for used Octavia

Tuesday, December 13 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech households save four years and eight months for an average Škoda Octavia. This was reported by AURES Holdings, the operator of the AAA AUTO and Mototechna car center network. More and more Czech drivers choose to buy a used car, and more often they see the car as an investment. The general director and chairman of the board of directors, Karolína Topolová, said that car prices will probably increase in 2023. The company is already registering a growing interest in buying cars even before the increase in price. She added that more and more customers are supplementing the missing funds with a loan. ■

For your notes

SAS: AI and synthetic data integration to grow in 2023

Tuesday, December 13 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Global fluctuations have fueled the dynamic development of innovation in analytics and artificial intelligence (AI). In 2023, SAS Institute expects a continuation of business transformation driven by market and technological changes. Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer Bryan Harris said the changes will also affect traditional industries. With digital innovation, the amount of data will grow beyond human capacity. In 2023, organizations will focus on synthetic data generated by algorithms. A move of the operation of analytical tools to cloud computing is also expected. More than 83,000 people, companies and institutions in 147 countries are currently using the SAS solution. ■

CzechTourism: No. of tourists in hotels up to 1.3 million

Friday, December 9 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In October 2022, 1.3 million people visited hotels in the Czech Republic, up 23% y/y; 51% of the guests were from abroad. This was reported by CzechTourism based on data from the Czech Statistical Office, adding that there were 8% fewer visitors to hotels in October 2019 compared to the same period before the wedding. The largest number of visitors were Germans, whose number increased by 5% compared to October 2019 to 192,000. Germans were followed by Slovaks (61,000, +22%) and Poles (44,000, +24%). ■

NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

Slovak government supported APDTS digitization plan

Wednesday, December 14 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On December 14, 2022, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved with a note the draft Action Plan for the Digital Transformation of Slovakia (APDTS) for the years 2023 - 2026. According to the plan, digital transformation is the highest priority, which was also highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic as a necessity for the rapid fulfillment of the digital ambitions of the Slovak Republic. The successful implementation of the proposed measures requires the cooperation of public administration bodies, civil society, socio-economic partners and EU member states. APDTS is divided into four areas: digitization of the wider economy, digital infrastructure, supporting the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital society. ■

Industry in Slovakia down 2.6%, energy production up 28%

Friday, December 9 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Industrial production in Slovakia fell by 2.6% y/y in October 2022. The result was mostly influenced by a 28% fall in output in electricity, gas and steam supply, with the second most significant impact coming from growth in mining and quarrying (+2.84 pp), which improved the October balance sheet of Slovakia's slowing industry. On a month-on-month basis, output rose by 1.3%. The Slovak Statistical Office reported that production declined by 3.2% y/y in 10M 2022. ■

Sales of industry in SR up 7 pct

Tuesday, December 13 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Sales in industry in Slovakia in October 2022 increased by 7% year-on-year. A positive result was recorded by 13 of the 16 monitored sectors. The result was most significantly influenced by sales growth in the production of metals (+21.1%), means of transport (+9.2%) and electrical equipment (+28.6%). A more significant decrease was recorded in the supply of electricity and gas (-17.8%). Sales in the construction industry decreased by 2.5%. In summary, for the ten months of 2022, sales grew by double digits in transport and storage (+25.6%) and in information and communication activities (+14.6%). Industry grew by 7.7% and construction fell by 2.5%. The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic informed about it. ■

Employment in SR grew in most sectors

Tuesday, December 13 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Employment in Slovakia in October 2022 increased year-on-year in seven out of ten monitored sectors. The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic informed about this, stating that a more significant growth (+11%) was seen in the accommodation sectors and restaurant and hospitality activities. The number of employees also grew in information and communication activities (+4.1%) and transport and storage or retail trade (+2%). A decrease was reported by selected market services (-1.7%). From the beginning of 2022, employment increased year-on-year in nine monitored sectors, especially in accommodation (+9.3%). The decline in industry continued (-0.7%). ■

No. of visitors to accommodation facilities in SR up 60 %

Monday, December 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The total number of visitors to tourism accommodation facilities in Slovakia in October 2022 increased by almost 60% year-on-year to 449,000 guests. Compared to October 2019, this is a decrease of 21.6%. Guests spent more than 1.1 million nights in tourism facilities. The average length of stay was 2.5 nights. In total, 4.1 million visitors stayed in tourism establishments from January to October 2022. The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic informed about it. ■

For your notes