

GOVERNMENT MEASURES

MZ: Number of COVID-19 patients in hospital down to 983

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

As of August 18, 2022, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Czech Republic grew 2,403 day-on-day to 4,020,351. As of August 17, 2022, the number of people in hospital dropped 69 to 983. In one week, the number of deaths increased from 40,627 to 40,687. This information stems from updated data published by the Czech Ministry of Health (MZ). ■

Government registers bill establishing Digital Agency

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic has included in the register a bill amending certain acts in connection with changes in the scope of competence in the field of information and communication technologies. It was submitted by Deputy Prime Minister for Digitalisation and Minister for Regional Development Ivan Bartoš (Pirates). The law transforms the Administration of Basic Registers and some departments of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic into an independent institution - the Digital and Information Agency (DIA). Of this, CZK 140m will be financed from the National Recovery Plan. The number of positions at the CRC and within the DIA departments will increase by 168. Given the expected savings, Bartoš expects a full return on investment within 18-24 months. ■

Vysočina region will apply for subsidy from MPO Shops program

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Vysočina Region will once again apply for a subsidy for rural stores from the Shop 2021+ program of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic (MPO). In 2022, CZK 4m will be distributed to support the preservation of food and general merchandise stores in municipalities with 501 to 3,000 inhabitants. The collection of applications was tentatively scheduled from October 24 to 31, 2022. For municipalities with up to 500 inhabitants, the region announced its own Rural Services grant program in the spring of 2022. Through the Vysočiny Fund, it sent CZK 7m to save small rural shops. ■

Prague to help with housing and foster parents with therapeutic services

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Sociální nadační fond hl. m. Prahy has started receiving subsidy applications from the Housing Support Program and the Foster Care Support Program. The goal of the fund is to provide financial assistance to Prague citizens who, for various reasons, find themselves in a difficult social situation, but cannot use other sources, either state or municipal aid. As part of the Housing Support Program, you can apply, e.g., for costs associated with obtaining an apartment or for the prevention and repayment of housing-related debts. The foster care support program is intended, among other things, for therapeutic services, relief from child care, leisure activities, legal services, assistance with managing care for children dependent on the help of another person or an education allowance. ■

MZ: 14,801,755 of 17,839,340 vaccine doses Comirnaty

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

As of August 18, 2022, 17,839,340 doses of vaccine against COVID-19 were administered in the Czech Republic. Compared to the previous day, the number was higher by 6,136. A total of 14,801,755 doses of Comirnaty/Pfizer, BioNtech vaccine were administered, followed by 1,616,687 doses of SPIKEVAX/Moderna, 887,522 doses of VAXZEVRIA/AstraZeneca, 413,502 doses of Janssen, 109,860 doses of Comirnaty 5-11, and 9,722 doses of Nuvaxovid/Novavax. These figures were published by the Czech Ministry of Health (MZ). ■

OpenDataLab: Number of fully vaccinated now 6,885,372

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

As of August 18, 2022, 6,885,372 persons in the Czech Republic (64.3%; 67.9% of people over five years of age) were fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Day-on-day, their number grew 160; week-on-week, it increased 928. At least one dose of vaccine was administered to 6,971,018 persons (65.1%; 68.8% over the age of five). A total of 4,286,136 persons had their booster. The statistics were processed by OpenDataLab (ČVUT) based on data provided by the Czech Ministry of Health. ■

MZe and EU will help farmers in crisis

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic (MZe) has approved the rates for exceptional support in selected sectors. A total of CZK 831m is intended to help farmers in a crisis situation and to strengthen the self-sufficiency of sensitive sectors. These include mainly pig, poultry, and dairy cattle farming, as well as apple and potato growing. Of the total amount, CZK 554 m will come from national sources and CZK 277m from EU funds. The subsidies will help farmers to mitigate the damage caused by rising input prices, such as rising energy, feed, and fuel prices. ■

For your notes

ČNB keeps interest rates unchanged

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech National Bank's (CNB) Bank Board left interest rates at their current level. The two-week repo rate remains at 7%, the discount rate at 6%, and the Lombard rate at 8%. Five members of the board, Aleš Michl, Eva Zamrazilová, Oldřich Dědek, Jan Frait and Karina Kubelková, voted in favour of the maintenance. Marek Mora and Tomáš Holub voted in favour of the 1 bp rate increase. The decision was based on the macroeconomic forecast, which shifts the monetary policy horizon to 18 to 24 months into the future due to cost pressures in an environment of high uncertainty. Inflation is expected to be around 20% in autumn 2022, falling to around 2% within a year and a half. ■

Government will discuss draft agreement within tripartity

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The government of Prime Minister Petr Fiala (ODS) will discuss the draft government agreement of the Economic and Social Agreement Council of the Czech Republic for the year 2023 on August 17, 2022. The government also has on its agenda the guidelines for the provision of support by the Support and Guarantee Fund for Agriculture and Forestry under the Operation 2022 programme - reduction of the principal of the loan and the guidelines for the provision of support under the Operation - Food Producers programme - reduction of the principal of the loan. ■

PRIVATE SECTOR – ACTIVITIES

BIOCEV: Czech leukaemia treatment wants testing in Europe

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Based on a five-year-long clinical trial, a team of scientists and physicians from the BIOCEV Centre, Charles University's First Faculty of Medicine, and General University Hospital in Prague has published a new approach to treating acute leukaemia. Their innovative method combines two drugs that have significantly prolonged patient survival when administered simultaneously. Because of anaemia, these patients are less resilient to bacterial and viral infections, for instance, pneumonia. The treatment can be immediately applied in practice. The team is now discussing expanding the trial to the European level. ■

UNIQA reports 130 claims for Covid on holidays

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Between January and July 2022, UNIQA recorded almost 130 travel insurance claims in connection with Covid-19 abroad. In the first three quarters of 2021, the number totalled 160. Whereas last year and two years ago, the assistance service often dealt with clients' testing and medication needs as well as hospitalisation and subsequent repatriation back to the country, this year's needs seem to be restricted to testing and subsequent quarantine after a positive test result. So far, average costs in 2022 do not exceed CZK 30,000. ■

Campiri targets Spain, interest in caravans doubles

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Campiri, an operator of a digital platform for caravan rental in the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Greece and soon in Spain, registered more than twice the interest in the sale of caravans in the first half of 2022. At the end of June, the value of reservations exceeded CZK 50m. In this country alone, the company rented 2.3 times more vehicles. In terms of the number of rental days, the increase is threefold. In addition, Campiri can add 1,000 rent days in Poland, Slovakia and Greece. As a result, the number of vehicles offered on the platform grew from 250 to 650. ■

HB Reavis leased 160,000m²; portfolio reached EUR 3.6bn

Monday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

HB Reavis, which builds offices supporting wellbeing and productivity in Europe, reported an operating profit of EUR 442m for 2021. The company informed about this, saying that although the closing of deals cooled down for a certain period during the coronavirus crisis, interest in offices that put people and their needs in the foreground grew. HB Reavis leased roughly 160,000 m² of area last year, which was the second most successful result in the company's history. The value of the group's portfolio reached EUR 3.6bn at the end of last year. A smaller portion remains in land and projects under construction, and approximately EUR 2bn is in ready, income-generating real estate. In Slovakia, the group plans to start residential construction, but this will be a marginal activity and rather an exception to the portfolio. The net asset value for 2021 reached EUR 1,896.9m. The return for the company's shareholders was 27.1%. ■

Kovo unions: ŠKODA AUTO operations without restrictions

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

All main operations of ŠKODA AUTO in Mladá Boleslav, Kvasiny and Vrchlabí will operate in three shifts and practically without restrictions in the 33rd week of 2022. Kovo MB Trade Unions informed about it. Only at the MB A paint shop, within the framework of the 17-shift system, the Saturday morning shift is expected to be cancelled, and the Saturday night shift will be in a limited mode. There will also be limited production mode in the press shops on some shifts. Shifts are also canceled on Monday for EA 211 engine assembly and PHEV battery assembly. ■

For your notes

VIG's prescribed premium in CR over EUR 1.1bn in H1

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the first half of 2022, the Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) posted a 17.0% year-on-year increase in total prescribed premium to EUR 1.106bn. Its pre-tax profit dropped 3.1% to EUR 93.9m. In expanded CEE, including Slovakia, the Group posted a total prescribed premium at EUR 1.722bn (up 20.3%). The VIG Group increased the premium sum by 11.6% to EUR 6.44bn. Pre-tax profit grew 10.3% to EUR 277.3m. The combined-ratio indicator improved by 0.9 pp to 94.3%. ■

Rossmann introduces self-service checkouts

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Rossmann reported a year-on-year increase in net sales from CZK 3.77bn to CZK 4.22bn for 2021. Sales growth was supported by the digital loyalty programme, modernisation and expansion of stores and the introduction of new ranges. Profit after tax exceeded CZK 107m. The drugstore chain also reported in its annual report that it implemented self-service checkouts with cashless payment options in selected stores. It has launched an e-shop app offering, among other things, pickup of goods at selected stores within 2 hours. Rossmann has a total of 155 stores in the Czech Republic and abroad, serving 15 million customers a year. It is modernising the existing ones and at the same time looking for additional premises in new locations. ■

AYETO eco sells products online in dm and at Rohlík.cz

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

AYETO eco, a Czech brand of ecological cleaning products, is now available at the dm drogerie markt online shop and Rohlík.cz online supermarket. The goal of these partnerships is to strengthen brand awareness and reach out to customers who have learned to shop more online during the pandemic. The brand has been on the market since March 2022. Its products, respecting nature and contributing to sustainability, consist of raw materials certified by the French organization ECOCERT. ■

tesco will allocate CZK 3.15m among beneficial projects

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Tesco will allocate CZK 3.15m among the 70 winning projects of the You Decide, We Help programme, which are considered by customers to be the most beneficial for local communities. The chain has increased the amount for the winners to CZK 45,000. The projects focus, among others, on the support and education of children, disadvantaged citizens or the environment. ■

ECONOMY - CONSEQUENCES

Prices in industry grow by 27%, in agriculture by 40%

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Agricultural producer prices in the Czech Republic increased by 39.8% y/y in July 2022. Industrial producers have increased by 26.8%. Industrial producer prices excluding energy rose by 18.0%. Construction work was 13.0% more expensive and market services for businesses 6.3% more expensive. Czech Statistical Office data also showed that month-on-month prices in agriculture fell by 3.6% and in services by 0.8%. In contrast, prices rose in industry (+0.3%) and construction (+1.0%). According to Eurostat data, industrial producer prices were 36.1% higher y/y in EU countries in June. ■

UniCredit Real estate market tension indicator at -3.3 %

Monday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In August 2022 the UniCredit Real estate market tension indicator increased by 36 points to -3.33 %. According to UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia economist Jiří Pour, investments in residential real estate have become a little less profitable for the second month in a row. The gross rental yield at the level of regional cities of the Czech Republic rose by another 7 points month-on-month to 3.70 %, as strong month-on-month rent growth continued, while apartment prices practically stagnated. The bank expects that real estate prices will on average stagnate or decline in the order of pp units in 2H 2022. ■

GP: CR is in European average in number of terminals

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Republic ranks among the European average in the availability of payment terminals, with approximately 27 devices per 1,000 inhabitants. Greece and Spain are the leading tourist destinations. Germany is the worst performer. This is based on data from Global Payments (GP) and Mastercard. While previously Czechs preferred to pay in cash, today 99% of payments are already contactless. GP economist Ondřej Stříbrský said that a quarter of these payments are made via mobile or watch. Around 60% of contactless payments are made via Apple Pay, 35% via Google, and the remaining 5% via Garmin. ■

C&W: Prague hotels' revenue per room increased fivefold

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Revenues per available room (RevPAR) in Prague hotels increased fivefold year-on-year to EUR 73.5 in June 2022. This is the highest increase in Europe and a value 19% lower compared to the pre-crisis year of 2019. STR data was analyzed by Cushman & Wakefield (C&W). Occupancy exceeded 69%, compared to 19% last year. Compared to 86% occupancy in June 2019, it is still almost 17 percentage points less. The average achieved price per room was EUR 106, which is EUR 45 more y/y, and at the same time the same as before the crisis. ■

For your notes

CENDIS: Sales of OneTicket grow by 75% in summer

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

OneTicket rail ticket sales increased 75% to 270,219 from June to the end of July 2022. This was announced by CENDIS director Jan Paroubek. Nearly 2.7 million passengers have bought OneTicket since the project was launched in December 2020. 51% of people buy the single ticket at the ticket office. 25% of passengers buy via e-shop or mobile app. The option to buy a ticket from a conductor is used by 20%, with the rest coming from ticket machines on trains or in stations. ■

RRF: 21,600 m2 of offices under construction in Ostrava

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The total area of modern office space in Ostrava at the end of 1H 2022 was 219,100 m2. The only project under construction is Organica with an area of 20,600 m2. Gross take-up reached 5,400 m2, a year-on-year decrease of 71%. This is based on data from the Regional Research Forum (RRF), whose members are CBRE, Colliers, Cushman & Wakefield, JLL and Knight Frank. The vacancy rate rose 231 basis points to 8.3% compared to 2H 2021. The highest achievable rent increased to between EUR 13.00 and EUR 13.50 per m2 per month. ■

ČLFA members provide CZK 36.4bn for acquisition of cars

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 1H 2022, member companies of the Czech Leasing and Finance Association (ČLFA) provided CZK 36.4bn in financing to clients for the acquisition of road vehicles. This represents a year-on-year increase of 5.9%. Of the total volume, CZK 21.55bn went to the acquisition of passenger vehicles (-1.1%). Clients purchased a total of 24,907 new cars thanks to the financing. For the acquisition of machinery and equipment, ČLFA members provided CZK 16.35bn, up 23% y/y. ■

ČMKB: Diesel traded in week 32 fell below CZK 27/l

Monday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Daily diesel contracts on the fuel market of the Czech-Moravian Commodity Exchange Kladno were traded at an average price of CZK 26.97/l in the 32nd week. A total of 61,000 liters of diesel worth CZK 1.67m were traded. The average price of one liter fell by 7 % week-on-week. ■

Natural 95 became cheaper to CZK 42.81/l, diesel to CZK 44.01/l

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The average consumer price of Natural 95 gasoline in the 32nd week of 2022 compared to the 31st week in the Czech Republic fell from CZK 44.85 to CZK 42.81/l. Diesel fuel became cheaper from CZK 45.39 to CZK 44.01/l. The price of LPG decreased from CZK 18.97 to CZK 18.59/l. According to the investigation of the Czech Statistical Office, the price of gas oil fell from CZK 26,803 to CZK 24,368/1,000 liters. ■

NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

MF SR expects public administration at -4.9% of GDP

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (MF SR) expects the management of the public administration budget in 2022 at the level of EUR -5.2bn for 1H 2022, which represents -4.9% of GDP. According to the MF SR, this corresponds to the level of the approved public administration budget for this year. The most significant risks remain the situation associated with the war conflict in Ukraine, the arrival of a potential autumn wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, or expenses associated with inflation, especially energy prices. ■

Slovak GDP grew by 1.7% in 2022

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Gross domestic product (GDP) at constant prices in SR in 2Q 2022 grew by 1.7% y/y. Seasonally adjusted, it increased by 1.6%. At current prices, GDP was created in the volume of EUR 26.45bn, which represents a year-on-year increase of 9.9%. The growth of the Slovak economy was mainly supported by domestic consumer demand. The Statistical Office of the SR informed about it. ■

Year-on-year inflation in SR accelerated to 12.8%

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In July 2022, consumer prices in Slovakia increased by 12.8% year on year. In June, this figure was at 12.6%, the Slovak Statistical Office reported. The average annual inflation rate reached 8.0%. ■

Value of orders in industry in SR fell by 1.4%

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The value of new orders in industry in Slovakia decreased by 1.4% y/y to EUR 5.6bn in June 2022. After taking seasonal effects into account, it decreased by 1.1% m/m. The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic informed about it. Compared to June 2021, orders were mainly lower in the production of computer, electronic and optical products, as well as in the production and processing of metals. ■

For your notes

MF SR: Electricity consumption in down in week 32

Monday, August 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Due to high commodity prices, electricity consumption in Slovakia has been at its lowest levels since 2015 since the end of June 2022 (aside from 2020, when it fell with the first pandemic wave). In the 32nd week, it fell to 2731 MWh. In the 29th week, it amounted to 2849 MWh. In the 2015-2021 range, it ranged from 2993 to 3202 MWh in the same week. The Ministry of Finance (MF) of the Slovak Republic further informed that the decrease can also be observed in the data of industrial production, which was 5.7% lower year-on-year in June. ■

ÚDZS: Health insurance companies in SR in the red

Monday, August 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The finances of all three health insurance companies operating on the Slovak market ended in a loss at the end of June 2022. The General Health Insurance Company (VŠZP) reported a loss of 131.4 million euros, Dôvera 44.78 million euros and Union 2.02 million euros. The Office for Health Care Supervision (ÚDZS) informed about it. The result of public health insurance VŠZP was -88.0 million euros. In the case of Dôvera -10.51 million euros and for Union 11.51 million euros. ■

LPS SR: Flight frequency more than doubled

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the first seven months of 2022, 236,371 aircraft flew through the airspace of the Slovak Republic. This is 117% more year-on-year. All categories grew - arrivals, departures, overflights and domestic flights. The Flight Services of the Slovak Republic (LPS SR) informed about this, saying that it was close to pre-covid numbers. The airport recorded the most arrivals and departures (2,143) in July, which represents just under 8% less traffic compared to July 2019. Airports managed by LPS SR in Bratislava, Košice, Poprad, Žilina, and Piešťany were mostly used by the airlines Ryanair, Wizz Air, European Air Transport, Austrian Airlines, and Smartwings. ■

Gasoline, diesel and LPG cheaper in SR, CNG and LNG unchanged

Friday, August 12 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The average price of Natural 95 gasoline in Slovakia fell by 2.46% to EUR 1.784/l in the 31st week compared to the 30th week of 2022. Natural 98 became cheaper by 2.51% to EUR 1.98/l, diesel by 2.20% to EUR 1.82/l and LPG by 2.02% (EUR 0.873/l). The prices of CNG (EUR 1.999/kg) and LNG (EUR 2.862/kg) remained unchanged compared to the previous week. The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic informed about it. ■

For your notes

Lined area for taking notes.