

GOVERNMENT MEASURES

For your notes

SÚKL: EMA reviewing sabizabulin for Covid-19Thursday, July 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Emergency Task Force (ETF) has begun its review of data on using sabizabulin for Covid-19 treatment. This information was provided by the State Institute for Drug Control (SÚKL). Even though the drug developer, Veru, has not yet asked the EMA for registration or an ongoing review, this assessment will help EU member states. They can consider the permission to use this therapeutic before it is registered. ■

MZ: Number of hospitalised with Covid-19 drops to 1,134Thursday, 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). ■

Government approves amended budget with CZK 330bn deficitWednesday, July 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech government has approved an amendment to the state budget for 2022. After the amendment, total budget incomes should be CZK 1,678.3bn, and total expenditures should amount to CZK 2,008.3bn. The estimated budget deficit thus totals CZK 330bn. Additional budget expenditures primarily react to the need to compensate for some negative impacts of the war in Ukraine, especially high inflation, increased energy prices, and related threats to low-income and vulnerable populations. The MPs should discuss the budget amendment in September. ■

ČLK: MZ underestimates 7th Covid-19 waveMonday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

According to the Czech Medical Chamber (ČLK), the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic is not responding to the rapid increase in the number of Covid-19 patients. The fact that, unlike a number of other European countries, there are no anti-epidemic measures in place in the Czech Republic is, according to the ČLK, an irresponsible gamble. Chamber President Milan Kubek in an open letter addressed to Minister of Health Vlastimil Válek (TOP 09) calls for an answer to the question of when the antiviral drug Paxlovid will be available in the Czech Republic. He also asks, among other things, when the obligation to wear respirators in hospitals and in public transport will be restored. ■

OpenDataLab: Number of fully vaccinated up at 6,882,685Thursday, 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 (CVUT) based on data from the Czech Ministry of Health. ■

MZ: 14,714,859 of 17,742,584 vaccine shots were ComirnatyThursday, 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). ■

APA: Government to add CZK 570m on film incentivesThursday, July 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

After talks between representatives of the Audiovisual Producers' Association (APA), the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Finance, the Czech government has decided to increase this year's funding of film incentives by CZK 570m. So far, the State Cinematography Fund had an incentive budget of CZK 800m per year. To maintain the system in the coming years, it will be necessary to increase the investment in incentives by an additional CZK 800m in 2023 and by CZK 600m in 2024. The APA added that long-term foreign, serial and feature-length film projects in the Czech Republic used many services, provided jobs to 20,000 people and spent CZK 9bn per year. Sixty per cent of this sum is spent on goods and services that are not of a film character. According to the APA, the invested means will return tenfold. In 2021, the Czech audiovisual industry got to pre-Covid figures and even exceeded the 2019 turnover. ■

MPSV: Pensioners should get at least CZK 850 more

Tuesday, July 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Based on the current development of prices and wages, the basic amount of pensions could rise by around CZK 150 from January 2023, and the percentage amount by another CZK 700 on average. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic (MPSV) informed about it. From January 2023, the old-age pension will also be increased by the so-called upbringing pension (CZK 500 for each raised child). ■

MV proposes abolishing more than 6,700 legal norms

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Through its analysis, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (MV) revealed more than 6,700 laws, decrees and government regulations that are non-functional, unused and without legal effect. However, they are formally valid and their existence makes it difficult for citizens and authorities to navigate the legal system. Therefore, the Ministry of the Interior will send a draft law for their abolition to the interdepartmental comment procedure. Among the repealed legal regulations is, for example, the 2006 Act on Unilateral Increases in Apartment Rent. ■

PRIVATE SECTOR – ACTIVITIES

VOS.health used by people in 160 countries

Wednesday, July 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The VOS.health application which helps with mental health care is used by more than 1m people all over the world. Of this number, more than 120,000 users are in the Czech Republic. CEO Jiří Diblík said that VOS.health was used by citizens of more than 160 countries in nine languages. It is so far the most frequently downloaded application for mental health in 2022 in Central Europe. Each week, the product is used by 100,000 users. The application was selected as the App of the Day among applications on AppStore within the Apple global ranking. VOS.health has now provided free-of-charge access to premium mental health care for all citizens of Ukraine and Ukrainians who live abroad. ■

Digitizer GRiT increased turnover by 40 %

Tuesday, July 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Grit increased turnover by 40 % y/y. It reported an almost fourfold increase in operating profit before tax. It is currently expanding with customers to foreign markets. Among other things with client Rohlik.cz operating in Germany, Austria and Hungary, and now in Italy, Spain and Romania. Other customers include, for example, Alza.cz and building materials vendor Prodoma. The company dealing with the digitization and automation of business processes currently has almost 3,000 customers. Branches in Brno, Opava and Nitra will be joined by others in Pilsen, Prague and Bratislava in 2022. It will recruit new employees. ■

ČPZP: Jaundice treatment costs down to CZK 124m

Tuesday, July 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The costs of Česká průmyslová zdravotní pojišťovna (ČPZP) for the treatment of hepatitis in 2021 decreased by CZK 48m year-on-year to a total of CZK 124m. As recently as 2019, they amounted to CZK 207m. Last year, 1,324 patients with this diagnosis were treated through ČPZP. In 2020, there were 1,388 people, and a year earlier, 1,673 insured persons. The spokeswoman for the insurance company, Elenka Mazurová, said that the reason for the decrease in patients and treatment costs could be the continued caution of people in social contacts after the coronavirus epidemic, as well as the adoption of the habit of increased hygiene requirements. ■

DNA ERA expanded to CR with MultiSport, eying Poland

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Slovak biotechnology startup DNA ERA has expanded cooperation with MultiSport to the Czech market. In the Czech Republic, MultiSport cardholders will also be offered additional information on metabolism, proper nutrition, injury prevention or improving sports performance. The startup reported a turnover of almost CZK 20m in 2021 and a more than 700% increase in sales. In the investment round on the Crowdfunder platform, it currently reached a volume of over EUR 500,000. As ČIANEWS already reported on the investment platform, it wants to raise EUR 1m from small and medium-sized investors in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The goal of the investment is expansion to other markets, it wants to launch sales in Poland. It is also planning the development of the platform itself or the launch of a new product line in 2022. ■

IdeaStorage & TUL develop robotic storage system

Wednesday, July 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

IdeaStorage, together with the Technical University of Liberec (TUL), has developed a robotic system for goods storage, which should help solve problems with handling goods in e-commerce, internal logistics and third-party logistics. Within two years, the technological start-up intends to deploy hundreds of robots. With this solution, it is possible to achieve up to double capacity in existing premises and fully use 90% of a warehouse's volume space. According to IdeaStorage, the enormous interest in online shopping during the pandemic resulted in companies moving online, often without paying attention to effectiveness, and now facing problems related to growth sustainability. ■

For your notes

Alza.cz opened showroom with zone for cos. in Pankrác

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Alza.cz opened a new store with a showroom in Prague's Pankrác. On site it has developed the concept of combining a specialized showroom with a large number of products in stock and a service for immediate collection. The store is mainly focused on computer technology, mobile phones and office equipment. For corporate customers, there is a separate Alza for Companies zone. In it, professional staff will provide personal consultations and advice. The branch in Pankrác replaces the branch on Budějovická Street. It has almost double the sales area. ■

DRFG: CREIF yield in 1H22 reached 2.62 pct

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Real Estate Investment Fund reported that the unit value increased by 0.43% in June 2022. The yield for 1H 2022 reached 2.62%, and for the last 12 months it was 5.25%. The fund registers occupancy of more than 98%. For example, it managed to get new tenants outside the existing sales areas, which are gas stations, car washes or chargers for electric cars in parking lots. The chief economist of the parent DRFG, Martin Šlaný, said that the income was influenced, among other things, by the indexation of rents in connection with inflation. High interest rates in CZK then motivate the fund to look for euro assets to achieve cheaper financing. ■

Charter Advisory: Fuel prices up 83 %

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS

Aviation brokerage company Charter Advisory records an increase in fuel prices of more than 83 % since the beginning of 2022. Managing director Martin Feč stated this for ČIANEWS, saying that prices rose slowly at first and it was thus possible to partially offset the increase in costs with a lower margin. But then the growing demand for private transport, especially in the Western European market, also brought an increase in final prices. M. Feč added that due to the increase in prices, people fly less, or to closer destinations where the price of flights is lower. However, the private transport market is still growing, although the pace has slowed down in the Czech Republic compared to Europe. ■

No Fluff Jobs: IT specialists want to work remotely

Friday, July 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Before the pandemic, 17% of IT professionals worked remotely. After the lifting of restrictions, 61% of respondents continue to work in this way. The No Fluff Jobs survey in Central European countries, including the Czech Republic, also shows that more than 96% of respondents want to work only remotely or in hybrid mode. 56% of workers would look for a new job if they were unable to work from home. The majority (40%) appreciate not having to commute and waste time. They also like the ability to work from anywhere outside the home (18%). For 12% of respondents, working from home is the third biggest benefit. ■

Uniqa registered 70% increase in vehicle and part thefts

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Uniqa pojišťovna registers the number of stolen cars among clients with accident insurance for 1H 2022 at a level exceeding 70 % of 2021. In case of theft of vehicle parts, customers reported 73 % of cases reported during the whole year 2021. Thieves are most interested in ŠKODA, Volkswagen and Ford brands. BMW and Audi are the most stolen premium brands. ■

Transactions with commercial property can exceed EUR 2bn

Friday, July 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The volume of transactions in the office, warehouse and retail real estate market could exceed EUR 2bn in 2022 despite the market downturn. Lenka Šindelářová from the investment department of 108 Agency said this, adding that some larger transactions currently under negotiation will probably be implemented in 2H 2022. Yield rates for all property types remain stable. The real estate advisory company continues to register a continuing trend of acquisitions of projects and land for development or properties for redevelopment. ■

Quinta-Analytica gives CZK 100,000 for therapy to VDV

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

Quinta-Analytica, a provider of services for the pharmaceutical industry, has donated CZK 100,000 to the Committee of Good Will – Olga Havel Foundation (VDV). It will be used towards movement therapy for the handicapped. In the past, Quinta-Analytica supported children with cerebral palsy and provided facemasks for homeless women during the first wave of the Covid-19 epidemic. ■

Driverama generated more than CZK 1bn in revenues

Tuesday, July 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Driverama from the AURES Holdings group reported sales exceeding CZK 1bn during the first year of operation. It has bought more than 4,000 cars so far. Of these, 32 % were sold in Germany. The remaining 68 % through companies from the group in the markets of the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. The most frequently traded car is the Volkswagen Golf with 6 % of sales. The VW Tiguan was second with 3.5 % and the Ford Kuga third with 3.1 %. ŠKODA Octavia took 5th place. The technological online platform for the retail purchase and sale of used cars in Europe currently offers more than 1,100 cars of various makes and models with an average age of up to four years. According to CEO Stanislav Gálik, due to the increasing demand, it wants to focus more on trading in cars with alternative drives. ■

For your notes

ECONOMY - CONSEQUENCES

For your notes

Business confidence down, consumer confidence record low

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The aggregate indicator of confidence in the economy, expressed as a basic index, decreased by 2.6 points m/m to 95.7 in July 2022. Business confidence fell 2.9 points to 100.2 and consumer sentiment fell 1.1 points to 73.6, the lowest since the survey began. The Czech Statistical Office informed about this, saying that in the business sphere, confidence has decreased in industry and trade. On the contrary, it increased in construction and selected services. Jiří Obst, head of the department of economic surveys, said that the decline in the industry is mainly due to the persistent lack of inputs, qualified employees and falling demand. ■

Business confidence weakened by inflation

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS

Confidence in the Czech economy experienced another drop in July, mainly due to a decline in industry and a further reduction among households, where sentiment reached the lowest level since the beginning of data monitoring, i.e. since January 2003. This was stated by the chief economist of the Czech Banking Association (ČBA) Jakub Seidler who added that a record number of households fear a worsening of their financial situation. Jana Steckerová from the Economic and Strategic Research of Komerční banka perceives that confidence is also falling among entrepreneurs, even though it is still at high levels compared to pandemic levels. She added that the mood in construction and services, on the contrary, increased. CREDITAS chief economist Petr Dufek believes that rather than a dramatic drop, it looks like a longer slowdown of the Czech economy, whose main problem now is inflation, or rather sufficient raw materials, including energy ones. ■

Fincentrum: Mortgage rates to drop only at end of 2023

Wednesday, July 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The increase of mortgage loan interest rates will continue until the end of 2023 when this trend is expected to turn. Original forecasts counted on rates beginning to drop at the beginning of next year. Fincentrum & Swiss Life Select analyst Jiří Sýkora said that the impact of increasing rates was apparent on the development of mortgage-loan instalments which had been reaching such figures that they had begun to be unaffordable even for the middle class. For persons interested in their own housing, this means putting off the purchase of real estate to later and settling for rental housing. At the beginning of July, the average mortgage loan rate was 6.24%. ■

Average price of petrol, diesel, LPG falls in 29th week

Friday, July 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The average consumer price of Natural 95 petrol in the 29th week of 2022 fell to CZK 47.18 from CZK 47.63 per litre in the 28th week. Diesel fuel decreased to CZK 47.18 from CZK 47.70/l. The price of LPG decreased to CZK 19.33 from CZK 19.47 per litre. The price of gas oil rose to CZK 27,845 from CZK 27,350 per thousand litres, according to a survey by the Czech Statistical Office. ■

PRF: Demand for offices up 41 % in Prague

Tuesday, July 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The total demand for office space in Prague increased by 41 % y/y in 2Q 2022. Companies operating in the IT field (33 %) and the pharmaceutical industry (11 %) were most interested in offices. The volume of administrative construction increased by 47 % and exceeded 216,000 m². The vacancy rate remained unchanged at 8.4 %. This was reported by the Prague Research Forum (PRF), whose members are CBRE, Colliers, Cushman & Wakefield, JLL, Knight Frank and Savills. The highest attainable rent showed growth again to EUR 25.00 to 25.50/m²/month. The rent gap between newly completed and existing buildings continues to widen. ■

Ekospol: Owners keep empty flats, rents increase on

Wednesday, July 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Owners of empty flats hold their units for when their children grow up or because of reconstruction. Others rely on a regular increase in the value of the flat that will protect their finances against inflation. This also applies now when inflation exceeded 17%. This information was provided by Ekospol who added that at the end of Q2 2022, they grew 22% year on year. At the same time, rents are on the rise. In the capital city, only during the first weeks following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, they went up by up to 15%; they have not stopped increasing. According to the Czech Statistical Office, there were 93,627 empty flats in Prague and 859,894 in the Czech Republic. ■

Household income fell real 2.3 % despite nominal growth

Tuesday, July 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Total household incomes were CZK 76.9 billion higher year-on-year in 1Q 2022. However, the sharp increase in the price level completely erased the strong nominal increase, and incomes thus fell by 2.3 % year-on-year in real terms. This follows from an investigation by the Czech Statistical Office (ČSÚ), stating that the gross added value of non-financial enterprises increased by CZK 76.5bn and increased by 4.1 % in real terms. The budget deficit of government institutions reached CZK 75.3bn, decreasing year-on-year by CZK 66.5bn. The debt of government institutions reached CZK 2,683.5bn and increased by CZK 171.0bn. ■

IRF: Demand for halls up 26 % in 2Q22

Tuesday, July 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The total area of Czech modern industrial areas in 2Q 2022 increased to 10.14 million m² (+16 % y/y). A total of 146,600 m² of warehouse space in 15 industrial parks was completed. Almost 1.27 million m² of warehouse and production space (+93 %) was under construction at the end of this period. This is according to a survey by the Industrial Research Forum (IRF), whose members are Cushman & Wakefield, CBRE, Colliers International and JLL. Gross realized demand (including renegotiations) reached 670,700 m² (+26 %). The vacancy rate fell 53 basis points to 1.5 %. The highest rent achieved was EUR 7.25-7.50/m²/month. ■

ČNB: ATM deposits reached CZK 348bn

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The volume of transactions at resident acceptance facilities with cards issued by residents increased y/y to CZK 1.8 trillion in 2021. Of this, ATM withdrawals accounted for CZK 779bn (+CZK 70bn). Deposits at ATMs (excluding electronic money transactions) accounted for CZK 348bn and point-of-sale (POS) transactions for CZK 673bn. The Czech National Bank (ČNB) informed about this, stating that the volume of transactions at resident acceptance devices with cards issued by non-residents increased to CZK 316bn (thanks to the expansion of terminals of Czech payment service providers abroad) and the volume of transactions at non-resident devices to CZK 239bn. Cash withdrawals over the counter fell to CZK 365bn and deposits to CZK 498bn. ■

ČSOB SS: 12 percent of Czechs live with their parents

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

12% of Czechs share housing with their parents, while almost 50% of them are young people under the age of 26. This follows from a survey by the Ipsos agency for ČSOB Stavební spořitelna, stating that a fifth of men who still live with their parents are worried that they will be considered mommy's boys among acquaintances. The key benefit of living with parents is that they consider saving on own housing costs, on the other hand, the biggest disadvantage is the lack of privacy and own space. As the survey further showed, 72% of adults leave the family nest before reaching their 25th birthday, among whom there are almost twice as many women as men. ■

Qerko: e-wallets used more by iOS than Android users

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Android OS users drink a quarter more beer than Apple device owners. Data from the Qerko mobile app also showed that iOS users order a third more coffee compared to Android owners. iOS users pay two-thirds more for e.g. cocktails - overall, they dominate the use of the Qerko service by more than 20 percentage points. Android OS users pay using mobile wallets (mainly Google Pay) in 50 % of cases, iOS users use Apple Pay for payment in 90 % of cases. The remaining payments mainly consist of card payments. ■

Ekospol: Flat sales in Prague down to one third

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Sales of new apartments in Prague in 1H 2022 fell y/y to 1,540 units, which is almost three times less than a year ago. This follows from the analyses of the company Ekospol. On the contrary, the average price increased by 22 % y/y to CZK 142,740 per m², mainly due to more expensive construction works and materials. While in 1H 2021 a person interested in an average apartment with an area of 55 m² paid a total of CZK 6.44m, they now pay CZK 7.85m. Sales of new apartments this year are the lowest in the last 15 years, i.e. in the entire history of monitoring the market and publishing statistics. ■

BCI: Only real-estate mutual funds grow in June

Wednesday, July 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In June 2022, there was a significant decrease in the majority of mutual funds, according to the Broker Consulting Index (BCI), with equity (-8.92%) and commodity (-10.81%) funds decreasing month-on-month. Bonds (-2.40%) and money-market funds (-0.99%) recorded a lower drop. Only real-estate funds recorded an increase, namely by 1.79%. Broker Consulting chief analyst Martin Novák said that capital markets were reacting with nervousness to the current economic situation, as the Covid-tried global economy had received another blow in the form of the conflict in Ukraine that accelerated the increase in inflation. ■

3Dwiser: 3D printing used by 6% of firms, CR 6th in EU

Wednesday, July 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The 3D printing technology is used by 6% of firms in the Czech Republic, which puts the Czech Republic sixth in the comparison of EU countries, according to a poll conducted by 3Dwiser from the Admasys International Group among companies in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. A total of 80% of the respondents who use 3D printing in some forms do so regularly. Companies that already have experience with this technology are willing to invest more in 3D printing or to start running it on their own printers. Companies that have not started using 3D printing yet are most afraid of its financial demands (33%). ■

Skanska: Flat prices in Prague up 23% in Q2 2022

Wednesday, July 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The prices of new flats in Prague stabilised in the second quarter of 2022. The current average sales price of CZK 145,783/m² is comparable to the first quarter of 2022 (up CZK 34/m²). Year-on-year, it represents a 23% increase, according to a market analysis by Skanska, Trigema and Central Group. The bid price totalled CZK 152,051/m² (up 17% year-on-year). The offer of flats increased by almost one-quarter to 4,150, which is more than 50% below the number that could sufficiently saturate demand. In total, 950 new flats were sold in the second quarter of 2022, which is one-third fewer than compared to the long-term average. This is mainly due to the lack of access to mortgage loans caused by an increase in interest rates for new loans. ■

For your notes

Předvůběh: One-fifth to cut benefits, 27% to raise wages

Wednesday, July 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

One-fifth of employers plan to limit the offer of employee benefits, according to a poll conducted by personnel agency Předvůběh.CZ among one hundred respondents from the ranks of company owners and directors. In 2022, a total of 27% of companies will increase wages for the second time because of high inflation. An additional 15% are thinking about it. At the end of 2021 or at the beginning of this year, 35% of companies raised their employees' wages. These companies consider the wage increase sufficient. An additional 15% of firms increase remuneration regularly regardless of inflation. An increase in wages does not represent a problem for 12% of employers. ■

ČMKB: Value of electricity contracts surpassed CZK 196m

Monday, July 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the 29th week of 2022, contracts for the delivery of 20,700 MWh of electricity for final consumers worth CZK 196.3m were concluded on the Czech-Moravian Commodity Bourse Kladno (ČMKB). Annual electricity contracts with delivery in 2023 at low voltage concluded trading at a rate of CZK 9,357/MWh. Two-year electricity contracts with delivery in 2023 and 2024 at low voltage were traded at a price of CZK 9,342/MWh. ■

Kiwi.com: Price of air tickets for September down by 25%

Friday, July 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Average fares for September from the Czech Republic are now 25% lower than for July. This is based on Kiwi.com data. Following record bookings in May and June 2022, traveller demand fell for the first time during July, signalling a return to traditional seasonal trends. Kiwi.com's Customer Experience Director, Eliška Rezníček Dočkalová, said that higher ticket prices, inflation and the current airport situation could be the reasons for the decline. The cancellation rate during June and July within Europe is double that of April and May. At the same time, demand for partner services such as Air Help has increased by up to 50%, depending on the type of service. ■

ČNB: Number of issued payment cards grows to 14.5 million

Friday, July 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The number of payment cards issued by Czech banks and branches of foreign banks operating in the Czech Republic grew by 702,000 y/y and will reach 14.5 million at the end of 2021. Of these, 13.1 million were debit cards. Credit cards continued to decline, falling by 95,000 to 1.4m units. The statistics were published by the Czech National Bank (ČNB). The number of ATMs operated by Czech banks increased by 164 units to 5,300. Of these, 95% were ATMs with a cash dispensing function. ■

NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

Pandemic 10th in ranking of causes of death in SR

Tuesday, July 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The number of deaths in Slovakia has been gradually decreasing for the third month already, when 4,100 persons died in June 2022. This is only 1.1% more than the five-year average for the years 2015 to 2019, before the onset of the pandemic. In two regions, however, the mortality still reached values of over 10%. The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic informed about this, stating that in June 2022 a total of 31 people succumbed to COVID-19. The pandemic thus dropped to 10th place in the ranking of the most common causes of death. ■

Allianz in SR has 52 events due to COVID during holidays

Tuesday, July 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Since May 2022, Allianz - Slovenská poisťovňa has recorded 52 claims related to the Covid-19 disease, which clients reported in connection with the holidays. Many had to cancel their vacations due to the coronavirus. In travel insurance, the insurance company covers the illness directly, as well as quarantine or early return home. Clients pay 12 euros for insurance for a week's vacation in Europe. The highest damage that Allianz is now dealing with exceeded 31,000 euros. ■

FS: Companies paid 18.2 % more in taxes in Slovakia

Friday, July 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Slovak companies paid a tax of EUR 3.2bn to the state budget for 2021. Compared to 2020 and 2019, this is an increase of EUR 500m (+18.2%). The Financial Administration (FS) records a nominal year-on-year growth of EUR 186m (+35%) in the industry sector and EUR 108m (+22.5%) in wholesale and retail trade. FS expects a further increase in the declared corporate income tax due to the fact that several entities with income from abroad have a tax return submission deadline of the end of September 2022. ■

Mood of Slovak consumers improved

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

In July 2022, confidence in industry in Slovakia fell by 0.7 pp m/m to a value of -2. In services, it decreased by 8.7 pp to 10.3 and in trade by 2.3 pp to 26.7. The seasonally adjusted indicator of confidence in the construction industry increased by 9.5 points to -4.5. According to the Slovak Statistical Office, consumer sentiment improved by 1 point to -28.8. ■

For your notes

