



## Trade deficit increased to CZK 22.8bn in July

Tuesday, September 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech foreign trade balance in current prices ended in July 2022 with a deficit of CZK 22.8bn. It grew by CZK 12.4bn y/y. The Czech Statistical Office reported on this, stating that the balance was aggravated by a larger deficit in trade with oil and natural gas (by CZK 24.6bn). The balance with EU states improved by CZK 21.4bn. The trade deficit with countries outside the Union increased by CZK 33.6bn. Exports increased by 10.2 % to CZK 333.4bn and imports by 13.8 % to CZK 356.3bn. ■

## LI: CR is 17th in economic freedom, Slovakia 54th

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

The Czech Republic once again ranked 17th out of 165 countries and territories included in the annual Economic Freedom of the World 2022 report published by the Liberal Institute (LI) in cooperation with Canada's Fraser Institute. The ranking is based on data from 2020 and thus captures the impact of pandemic-related restrictions. LI Director Martin Pánek said that although the Czech Republic was ranked in the same position, the absolute score for economic freedom had fallen slightly. Hong Kong and Singapore topped the list. Germany, which neighbours the Czech Republic, ranked 25th, Austria 33rd, Slovakia 54th and Poland 80th. ■

## Unemployment reached 3.5%, 80,600 Ukrainians work

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

The Labour Office (ÚP) registered a total of 251,753 job seekers as of August 31, 2022, 11,047 more than in July and 16,136 fewer than last year. The share of unemployed persons rose to 3.4%. This is up 0.1p month-on-month and down 0.2p year-on-year. At the end of the month under review, 80,676 persons from Ukraine with temporary protection were working in the Czech Republic. The domestic unemployment rate was the lowest in the EU, at 2.3% in July, according to Eurostat data. The EU average is 5.9%. ■

## Analysts: Unemployment to rise to 4% in winter

Thursday, September 8 | ČIANEWS

Based on August's developments and after taking into account the arrival of citizens from Ukraine, it seems that the domestic labour market is starting to cool down, although so far these are only relatively mild signs. Czech Banking Association's chief economist Jakub Seidler commented on the statistical data that this was understandable given the economic slowdown in the second half of the year. CREDITAS chief economist Petr Dufek added that despite the worsening economic situation, the rise in unemployment will not be as dramatic as after the global financial crisis. First of all, companies will reach for agency (foreign) workers. At the same time, we will probably see a further significant decline in the number of vacancies on offer and probably an increased interest in retirement. Raiffeisenbank analyst Vratislav Zámeš expects unemployment to rise to 4% in the winter, when the Czech Republic may enter a mild technical recession. He added that even so, the labour market will remain very tight and unemployment will average 3.6% for the whole of next year. ■

## Mastercard: Retail to gain 10% with school-year start

Wednesday, September 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

A 9.5% year-on-year increase in total retail revenue in the Czech Republic compared to 2021 can be expected with the start of the school year, both as a result of growing prices and because of higher consumer demand, according to the SpendingPulse survey by Mastercard. E-commerce revenue should slow down slightly by 0.5% during the post-holiday shopping season, i.e., between August 15 and September 16, 2022. Yet, it will still be higher than in the same period of 2019, namely by 18.5%. Spain (up 13.1%) and the United Kingdom (up 9.6%) are also expecting a substantial increase in revenue. ■

## Accenture: Employees & clients change faster than firms

Wednesday, September 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 88% of the cases, managers believe that customers and employees are changing at a faster pace than firms are capable of adapting. This was shown by a poll conducted by Accenture among 25,000 consumers in 22 countries of the world. Two-thirds of people (67%) expect firms to understand their changing needs and wishes in an era of turbulent changes more and to address them effectively. As a result of external pressures, 61% of the respondents often change their priorities. An increase in prices during recent purchases has led 65% of consumers to choose cheaper brands. ■

## Analysts: Costly mortgages make properties cheaper

Tuesday, September 6 | ČIANEWS

The July performance of the construction industry can hardly be evaluated positively. The industry is going through a downturn as a result of high prices for materials and labour, forcing companies and the public sector to reassess previous contracts. In response to statistical data, CREDITAS chief economist Petr Dufek said that the basic prerequisite for further development will be the ability to draw money from EU funds, including the so-called recovery fund. Komerční banka economist Kevin Tran Nguyen added that weaker demand is also reflected in a cooling mortgage market, with average real wages down 9.8 %, while average mortgage offer rates are already hovering around 6.28 %. The chief economist of BH Securities, Štěpán Křeček, stated that the cooling demand on the real estate market leads to the fact that the sale of real estate is increasingly difficult. Expensive mortgages also cause prices on the real estate market to stagnate or even fall slightly. ■

For your notes

## CzechInvest: Half of municipalities in CR support entrepreneurship

Friday, September 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Half of the municipalities support entrepreneurship, but only a third meet with entrepreneurs en masse, and almost three quarters of the municipalities would like a new investor or further development of those already settled. This results from mapping, the so-called passportization, which was processed by the CzechInvest agency on the basis of a European grant in 2021. The Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Petr Očko, who is currently in charge of managing CzechInvest, stated that the goal of passportization is the creation of a relevant basis for strategic planning development of municipalities and for locating suitable companies and investments. ■

## LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

### MŽP: Emission regulation to save 200m m3 of gas in crisis

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

The Czech Ministry of the Environment (MŽP) is issuing an amendment to the emissions regulation. Should states of emergency be declared in the power industry, it will enable the extended operation of lignite-powered heating plants whose operation would otherwise not be possible as of January 2023. Furthermore, it will allow the extension of some combustion sources used only as backups or in peak times. This should save approximately 200m m3 of natural gas for household use. Minister of the Environment Anna Hubáčková (for KDU-ČSL) said that this was a crisis measure that did not change anything with regard to the long-term commitments to restrict emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases. The regulation will be published in the Collection of Laws on September 5, 2022, and will come into effect one day later. However, under a recommendation by the European Commission, its effect is time limited until May 2024. ■

### NÚKIB: NIS2 Directive will increase number of obliged persons

Friday, September 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The National Office for Cyber and Information Security (NÚKIB) in connection with the expected directive of the European Union to ensure a high common level of cyber security in the EU - the NIS2 directive - has published the most important topics related to it on the new website nis2.nukib.cz. According to the authority, publication of the final version of the NIS2 directive is expected in 4Q 2022. The transposition period is then set at 21 months. The Czech Republic should thus have a new framework of obligations introduced in the legislation roughly in the middle of 2024. The most significant changes include the expansion of the number of obligated persons who will have to deal with cyber security, to an estimated at least 6,000. The regulation will also cover, among other things, a wider spectrum of industries. ■

### MPs okay deployment of Czech soldiers on NATO borders

Wednesday, September 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Chamber of Deputies has approved a proposal for the Czech Ministry of Defence forces and means to be active in foreign operations until 2024, with an outlook for 2025. The approved proposal includes the presence of NATO states' armed forces in the territory of the Czech Republic in 2023 and 2024. The priority is to strengthen the defence of NATO's eastern border. Defence Minister Jana Černochová (ODS) said about the deployment of Czech troops that the document counted on 1,362 soldiers, excluding Iraq, EU training missions and Mali. The estimated funding volume necessary for next year's foreign missions is approximately CZK 1.4bn. ■

## SUBSIDIES, INVESTMENTS, EU MARKET

### Government approves TRANSPORT 2030 programme

Wednesday, September 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The government has approved the TRANSPORT 2030 programme to support applied research and innovations in the transport area with an estimated budget of CZK 1.95bn. This information was provided by the Czech Ministry of Transport. Between 2023 and 2030, the programme would support applied research crucial for the further development of the entire transport sector. The research will focus primarily on innovations in low-emission mobility, automation and digitalisation, and cross-sector topics of sustainability and access to transport and services. ■

### MZe supports water sector with CZK 4.6bn, incl. 66 WWTPs

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

The Ministry of Agriculture (MZe) has provided CZK 4.6bn in support from national and European sources for water supply systems, sewerage systems, wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs), anti-flood or anti-erosion measures and other water management structures in 2021. In the water sector, the planning for the period up to 2027 was completed. 10.076 million inhabitants (96% of the total) were supplied with drinking water from water supply systems. Water consumption per person per day was 93.2 litres (+2.1 litres y/y). The length of the water supply network reached 80 197 km (+1093 km). 9.174 million inhabitants lived in houses connected to the sewerage system (87.4% of the total). 66 new WWTPs were built with the help of aid. There are currently a total of 2,861 in the Czech Republic. ■

For your notes

## MMR to give CZK 2.55bn to municipalities

Wednesday, September 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

As part of the amendment to the 2022 state budget, a CZK 2.55bn increase in the budget for the Czech Ministry of Regional Development (MMR) was approved in the first reading. The largest part will go to municipalities to help fight the energy crisis. The Restoration of Municipal and Regional Property after the Natural Catastrophes programme will get CZK 700m. The Ministry counts on approximately CZK 1.3bn towards the Regional Development Support programme, from which more than CZK 975m will go to projects aimed at reconstructing public buildings. The Ministry will provide an additional CZK 500m to support housing development. ■

## Creative Dock buys IdeaSense, other European firms

Wednesday, September 7 | ČIANEWS

During the past 12 months, Creative Dock has spent EUR 55m to acquire four European companies: Switzerland's Spark Works, Germany's Rohrbeck Heger and FoundersLane, and Czech IdeaSense. This information was confirmed to ČIANEWS by Creative Dock PR manager Tomáš Kolder, who added that the company was now working on their integration. IdeaSense clients can now use services from the entire Creative Dock portfolio, such as know-how related to innovation ecosystems and digital transformation. IdeaSense experts will contribute to the group with their experience in innovation design and market research in the areas of production, telecommunications and the construction sector. ■

## Kofola increases H1 revenue to CZK 3.72bn

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

In the first half of 2022, the Kofola Group increased its revenue by 25.8% year on year to CZK 3.72bn, a historical record. However, the high increase in revenue was accompanied by significantly growing costs related to energy, material input and wage costs. Operating profit dropped by 19%, while EBITDA decreased by 11% to CZK 418m. Concerning this development, the Group's management adjusted the estimate of the annual EBITDA target to between CZK 1.08bn and CZK 1.15bn. It will also propose to the general meeting to lower the dividend to CZK 11.30 per share. Revenue totalled CZK 2.12bn (up 31.9%) in the Czech Republic and amounted to CZK 865.9m (up 17.0%) in Slovakia. As a result of the conflict in Ukraine and higher prices of many commodities, the company increased the prices of its products. ■

## ČD Cargo transported 32.5 mln tons, invested CZK 2.2bn

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

ČD Cargo posted a pre-tax profit of CZK 214m for H1 2022 according to IFRS. The company reported that it maintained the positive result despite the growth of almost all cost inputs and despite the impact of the conflict in Ukraine. The company and its subsidiaries contributed a profit after tax of CZK 126m to the result of the ČD Group. ČD Cargo transported 32.5 million tonnes of goods under its own licence, up by 1.4 million tonnes y/y. Traction energy costs rose by more than CZK 400m. The growth was mainly in lignite shipments, which, together with other commodities such as fuel, offset the decline in shipments for the car industry. Participation in joint transports abroad, especially in Austria, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary, also contributed to the result. Capital expenditures in H1 amounted to almost CZK 2.2bn. ■

## PPF & Home Credit complete HCFB sale, leave Russia

Wednesday, September 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

PPF and Home Credit have announced their departure from the Russian banking market. Both companies have completed the sale of their 100% share in Russia's Home Credit & Finance Bank (HCFB), including some subsidiaries. A group of individual investors has taken full control over HCFB. The PPF Group further stated that the transaction was in accordance with regulatory conditions valid in the Russian Federation and was correctly done to ensure continuity for HCFB's employees and clients. ■

## Avast shares end at BCPP, replaced by NortonLifeLock

Wednesday, September 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Prague Stock Exchange (BCPP) has announced that it will suspend the trading of AVAST (ISIN GB00BDD85M81) shares on the Free Market as of September 8, 2022. Furthermore, as of September 12, 2022, the shares will be excluded from trading. After the merger, the Free Market will accept NortonLifeLock (ISIN US6687711084) shares for trading, which are distributed to investors as part of the consideration for AVAST shares. As ČIANEWS reported earlier, the UK regulator Competition and Markets Authority published a final report from its review of the Avast-NortonLifeLock merger on September 2, 2022, according to which the transaction would have no impact on the competition. As a result of this conclusion and based on a schedule published by Avast, it can be expected that a court verdict will be issued about the transaction on September 9, 2022, which will thus complete it effective from September 12, 2022. ■

## Datlowe supplied HAIDi technology to Austrian BHS Ried

Tuesday, September 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Healthtech Datlowe has started cooperation with the Austrian private hospital network Vinzenz Gruppe. It put the HAIDi technology into operation as part of a pilot project at the Krankenhaus der Barmherzigen Schwestern Ried (BHS Ried), which is part of the network. The technology provides hospitals and other facilities with the help of artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to provide effective data analysis of medical records and thus helps in the prevention of hospital infections. It is currently deployed in 18 hospitals, including the Trnava University Hospital. Datlowe's goal is to expand to other European countries. ■

For your notes



## MŽP plans other boiler subsidies for socially weak

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

On August 31, 2022, the Ministry of the Environment (MŽP) ended the acceptance of applications in the 1st call for boiler subsidies for low-income households in the OP Environment 2021–2027. A total of 16,779 households submitted an application to replace their old boiler with a biomass boiler or heat pump (or a gas boiler purchased or bindingly ordered by April 30, 2022) for a total of CZK 2.52bn. Minister of the Environment Anna Hubáčková (for KDU-ČSL) said that in November 2022, the Ministry wants to announce another round for the regions. The Ministry will also negotiate the possibility of supporting the replacement of gas boilers with the European Commission. It could be available in 2023. ■

## Thimm Obaly ups sales by 9.5%

Monday, September 5 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Packaging company Thimm Obaly increased sales by 9.5% y/y in 2021. Approximately 36% of sales are steadily accounted for by exports. Products are mainly destined for Germany. The annual report also shows that net sales increased y/y from CZK 1.60bn to CZK 1.68bn. Profit after tax amounted to CZK 36.26m. ■

## PKP Cargo invested in vehicles, buildings and TAF TSI

Friday, September 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 2021, PKP Cargo International invested in the reconstruction of the railway rolling stock. It also started IV. stage of the completion of the Paskov railway terminal or renovated buildings in the Muglinov area. The development of the TAF TSI application to ensure data communication between individual entities on the railway within EU countries was also finalized. The annual report also shows that work has also begun on the project to equip rolling stock with the ETCS system. Net turnover reached CZK 3.51bn. ■

## CUPRA ups no. of engines offered for Leon

Monday, September 5 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The CUPRA brand has expanded the Leon range to include petrol engines with power outputs of 110 kW (150 hp) or 140 kW (190 hp). The powertrain range will thus be almost identical to the CUPRA Formentor model range. Equipment levels have also been optimised. The range is now divided into the CUPRA and CUPRA VZ trim lines. The new engine range is already available for new orders and the first cars will be at dealerships in October 2022. ■

## Skanska Reality rebrands, aims for carbon neutrality

Monday, September 5 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Skanska Reality will change its name to Skanska Residential from September 2022. The company has surpassed the mark of 9,000 apartments sold in 25 years in the residential development sector on the Czech market. During 2022, the group was unified on a global level under a new corporate identity with a single brand and graphic design. With the new identity, the company intends to focus on achieving carbon neutrality in 2045. By 2030, Skanska wants to reduce its carbon footprint by 70% compared to 2015. ■

## Kühne + Nagel had turnover of CZK 6.8bn; fulfills Net Zero Carbon

Wednesday, September 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Kühne + Nagel expects a profit of CZK 500m in 2022. The company stated this in its annual report for 2021. It will implement new projects in contract logistics this year. It plans to develop both sea, air and land transport, with the decisive share of profitability to be held by sea transport, followed by air transport. After the pandemic, Kühne + Nagel returned to its Net Zero Carbon strategy, which has reduced CO2 emissions by 27% since 2010. For the year 2021, the company reported a turnover of CZK 6.76bn and an operating profit of CZK 608.88m. ■

## LOM plans acquisition of further clients

Tuesday, September 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 2022, LOM PRAHA will focus mainly on the H-1 helicopter project. It also plans modernization and software connections on various platforms, including solutions to development tasks not only for the Army of the Czech Republic. Within the Tactical Simulation Center, the main task is to resume training courses interrupted due to the pandemic. Furthermore, maintaining and expanding the long-term high level of training for existing clients. The goal is also the acquisition of new customers, including the presentation of the F-16 cockpit, especially for the Polish, Slovak, Greek, Bulgarian, Romanian and Belgian air forces. It follows from the annual report published in the commercial register that the company reported a turnover of CZK 1.44bn and an operating profit of CZK 14.57m for 2021. ■

## Doosan Škoda Power expanded its portfolio

Tuesday, September 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Doosan Škoda Power will invest primarily in the area of increasing productivity and the quality of work results. The annual report further states that the engineering firm expanded its portfolio and supplies for new areas in 2021. The growth dynamics were negatively affected by the continuing epidemic situation in the world, rising prices of materials and transport, as well as the global political situation related to the war in Ukraine and the EU's relations with Russia. Net turnover last year reached CZK 3.36 billion. The profit after taxation amounts to CZK 49.61 million. ■

## Wizz Air to fly from Prague to Bucharest twice a week

Thursday, September 8 | ČIANEWS

Prague Airport will offer additional flights to Bucharest from December 2022. Wizz Air will fly from the Czech capital to the Romanian capital twice a week, every Monday and Friday. The route will be operated by Airbus A321 aircraft. ■

For your notes

## ČD asks train suppliers, repairers to keep commitments

Wednesday, September 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Up to one-year delays in fulfilling supplies, a high fault rate of new and modernised rolling stock, and delayed repairs lower the quality of travelling by rail. Czech Railways (ČD) has repeatedly asked its suppliers to adopt measures to fulfil their commitments. According to ČD, this applies to the Siemens-Škoda consortium, the Škoda Group, the Polish company PESA, and Slovak companies ŽOS Zvolen and ŽOS Vrútky. ČD deputy board chairman and deputy general director for servicing Michal Kraus said that ČD had to pay out compensation to passengers and was being contractually fined for non-adherence to standards because of missing trains. He added that the company was ready to take additional legal steps and, if necessary, to terminate contracts. ■

## TRENDS, DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

### Cebia expands into Romania with Autotracer

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

Cebia, a company that specialises in used car history checks, is expanding its services abroad. It has launched a full version of Autotracer in Romania under the name Cebia Car History and plans to expand to other European countries in the coming months. Cebia CEO Martin Pajer said that more than a million used cars are resold in Romania every year, with a similar fraud rate to the Czech Republic. The Autotracer system can be used to find out whether a car has a falsified odometer, has been crashed, the year of manufacture, the country of origin, or whether it is stolen or burdened with financing. ■

### CS: Seed Starter program expands to Slovakia

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

Slovak startups can now join the Seed Starter programme, which has been running for over two years under the umbrella of Česká spořitelna (CS). Slovenská sporiteľňa is launching the programme in the neighbouring country with the aim of contributing to the development of the local startup scene and supporting the development of technological innovation. The ambition is to invest up to EUR 5m in the coming years in young companies in the so-called seed phase. Similar to the Czech Republic, startups from the Slovak Seed Starter portfolio will benefit from cooperation with partners Unicorn Attacks and USMAC. In addition, the Silicon Valley Camp acceleration programme has been created for the most promising ones. ■

### Dynabook cooperates with Bosch

Sunday, September 4 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Dynabook Europe continues to implement a pilot European enterprise project in which Bosch ČR has implemented dynaEdge technology. The unique enterprise solution for assisted reality is a custom comprehensive system based on Dynabook smart glasses and mini-computers with an easy-to-implement Windows OS and applications that evaluate data sent to the cloud on-site. The company also delivered 430 Dynabook Portégé X30L-J-166 laptops with high-end security features to the Chamber of Deputies in 3Q 2021 based on a tender. ■

### Globus customers can take their purchases away in ECO box

Wednesday, September 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In addition to reusable bags, Globus also sells a box made of recycled paper. The crate for CZK 24.90 can hold a 20 kg purchase and is intended for repeated purchases. More than 10,000 pieces were sold in the first days. More than 500,000 DuraBag bags made of 80% European recycled material were sold in ten months. ■

### Passengera digitises ocean catamaran, trains in CEE

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

Passengera will supply an infotainment system, internet connectivity and a management and monitoring system (MMS) for luxury catamaran manufacturer Austal. It will provide services through Passengera's G7 multiservice gateway, which it also uses on trains. The high-speed vessel will transport passengers between the Bora Bora archipelago and Tahiti in French Polynesia. The new technology company is also providing internet connectivity on 111 trains in Hungary and Croatia. Specifically, 21 trainsets will be operated by the Croatian state carrier Hrvatske Željeznice Putnički Prijevoz (HŽPP), as well as 90 carriages for the Hungarian carrier Magyar Államvasutak (MÁV). In connection with the growth of orders, the company is expanding its team, especially with developers. ■

### Moore CZ: 4 % of cos. in CR use AI, CR is 18th in EU

Tuesday, September 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Republic is in 18th place in the ranking of EU countries in the share of companies using artificial intelligence. Denmark ranked first with 24 %, the lowest usage (1 %) was reported by Romania. In 2021, 4 % of companies in the Czech Republic used AI, in the EU it was roughly 8 %. The consultancy-audit and technology group MOORE Czech Republic further informed that within the EU, the Czech Republic ranked 9th in the share of companies using the Internet of Things (31 %). The average for the entire Union is 29 %. AI or the Internet of Things is key in automation and digitization. Technologies affect economic growth, the competitiveness of companies and also the labor market. Moore Technology CZ partner Miloslav Rut marks the inclusion of AI development in the National Recovery Plan as a step in the right direction. The question is whether companies have sufficiently developed projects in this area and can use the support. ■

For your notes

## NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

For your notes

**SEPS increases capacities between Slovakia and Ukraine**Tuesday, September 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Transmission system operators from continental Europe are increasing the volume of commercial cross-border capacity allocation on the profile with Ukraine. The Slovak Electricity Transmission System (SEPS) informed about it. As of September 5, 2022, the trading capacity for all daily auctions organized on profiles between Ukraine/Moldova and the transmission systems of Europe will be increased from 250 to 300 MW. The commercial capacity for the auction on the profile Ukraine - Slovakia increases from 125 to 150 MW in certain hours for both import and export directions. ■

**KRUK invested PLN 8m in CR and Slovakia in H1**Thursday, September 8 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

KRUK Group recorded a net profit of PLN 489m for H1 2022, up 24% y/y. EBITDA grew by 19% to PLN 908m. Portfolio investments increased by 18% to PLN 757m. The nominal value of debt portfolios purchased was PLN 4.7bn. KRUK also invested in Italy, Spain, Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Investments in the Czech and Slovak markets amounted to PLN 8m. ■

**MŽP SR to spend EUR 30m to cut old houses' energy consumption**Thursday, September 8 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Slovak Ministry of the Environment (MŽP SR) and the Slovak Environmental Agency have announced the first two calls from the Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan for owners of older houses. The total allocation amounts to EUR 30m. State support of EUR 14,000 and EUR 16-19,000 will be provided to reducing energy consumption by 2050. The reduction in consumption is expected to be 40% compared to 2020. Emissions are expected to fall by 79% over the same period. ■

**NBS approved measures regarding statements of traders**Tuesday, September 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Banking Council of the National Bank of Slovakia (BR NBS) discussed and approved a draft measure on the submission of statements by securities traders. The measure establishes the method of collecting reports, the models, reference data and sending dates of which are regulated in special EU regulations. The measure becomes effective on the day of its announcement in the interests of its earliest possible application. ■

**Investment activities lag behind 2019 in SR by 10%**Tuesday, September 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Gross capital formation in 2Q 2022 reached 6.1 billion euros. Its main component in current prices was EUR 4.9 billion, up 10.9% year-on-year (+0.4% at constant prices). The Statistical Office (ŠÚ) of the Slovak Republic informed about this, stating that the most funds, almost 23%, were invested by companies from the real estate segment. The second highest volume of investment, more than a fifth, was directed to industrial production. Investments here were 9.8% higher year-on-year, but fell by 18% compared to 2019. The third highest share of investments went to transport and storage, with a year-on-year increase of 18.1%. Investments in trade were 18.6% higher year-on-year. Health care and social assistance decreased by 5.8%, education by 23.2% and financial and insurance activities by 38.8%. Overall, during 1H, gross capital formation reached 11.2 billion euros, 5.9% more year-on-year. Compared to 1H 2019, the rate of investment activities lagged behind by almost 10.1%. ■

**PMÚ SR approved concentration of Vivalo Santé Investissement with Primerosalud**Thursday, September 8 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Slovak Antimonopoly Office (PMÚ SR) approved the direct exclusive control of Vivalo Santé Investissement over Primerosalud and thus also the indirect control over the Ribera Group. The companies are active in the field of healthcare. The decision is valid from September 6, 2022. ■

**PMÚ approves ČEZ's takeover of ŠKODA JS + Middle Estates**Thursday, September 8 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Slovak Antimonopoly Office (PMÚ) has approved the concentration consisting in the acquisition of direct and exclusive control by ČEZ Group over ŠKODA JS and Middle Estates. The office focused on those activities in which the companies overlap or are related to each other and have a relation to the territory of the Slovak Republic. The authority concluded that the merger would not impede effective competition in the relevant market. ■